



## RTA 2018 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point  
Bonita Springs, Florida  
October 22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>



### Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:30 am **RTA Golf Tournament**  
*Raptor Bay Golf Club*

9:00 am Air Boat Tour for Attendees during Golf Outing (See Below)

3:00 - 6:00 pm RTA Guest Sponsored Hospitality Suites

5:30 - 7:00 pm RTA President's Reception

### Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

7:45-8:00 am **RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION AND WELCOME**

8:00-8:30 am **Keynote – Ronald Batory, FRA Administrator**

8:30 - 9:00 am **Tony Hatch, ABH Consulting**

9:00 - 10:15 am **Economic Impact Ssession**  
**Chuck Baker** – Executive Director, NRC for PwC  
**Brent McClendon** – NWPCA  
**Mike O'Malley** – RSI

10:15 – 10:45 am **Networking and Exhibition BREAK**

10:45 – 12:00 pm **Procurement Session**  
**Dana Cole, Moderator**, Hardwood Federation  
**Philip Fischer**, Maley & Wertz Hardwood Lumber  
**Larry Jones**, IndusTree Companies  
**Derek Douthit**, Douthit Lumber  
**Paul Gaines**, Madison County Wood Products

12:00 - 2:45 pm **RTA Working Luncheon** (Continues with no break into next session)  
*with Keynote Address, Scholarship Presnetations, and Mini-Workshop*  
**Jon Mackay, State of the US and Global Economies** – Schroders  
**Tim Young**, University of Tennessee

2:45 - 4:30 pm **Class 1 Engineering & Environmental Forum**  
**James Kessler**, Sr. VP North Carolina RR Co. & AREMA President  
**Jim Holder**, Union Pacific  
**Matt Hammond**, AVP & Chief Engineer-System Maintenance & Planning, BNSF  
**Tod Echler**, AVP Engineering, CSX Transportation  
**Michael Singelyn**, Sr. Mgr. Engineering, Canadian National (invited)  
**3-Minute Vendor-mercials will occur during this session**



## RTA 2018 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE...Continued

### Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

6:50 - 10:50 pm      **Annual RTA Banquet & Awards**  
                                 **"A BLACK TIE/FORMAL EVENT"**  
                                 (DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM w/ Awards at ~7:20 pm)



### Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

7:45 - 9:15 am      **Research Session** (20-minute slots & Q&A)  
                                 **Maureen Hodson**, EHS Support  
                                 **Patrick Stark**, Creosote Council Worker Exposure Study  
                                 **Jeff Lloyd**, Nisus  
                                 **Tony Chambers**, ABC Tie Tech International, LLC

9:15 - 11:00 am      **AAR Update & Biochar Technologies for Ties**  
                                 **Bob Fronczak**, AAR  
                                 **Charles Hegberg/Mike McGolden**, Biochar Consultant/CoalTec Energy  
                                 **Henry Brandhorst**, CHZ Technologies

11:00am - 12:45pm      **Railroad Purchasing Forum** (Could start early if time allows)  
                                 **Kristine Storm**, Genesee & Wyoming (Presenter/Moderator)  
                                 **Cory Thomas**, BNSF (invited)  
                                 **Nate Irby**, Union Pacific  
                                 **Erin Carson**, CSX Transportation  
                                 **Scott Feldman**, Norfolk Southern  
                                 **Bill Blaise**, Kansas City Southern (invited)  
                                 **Hamza Founane**, Canadian National  
                                 **Wade Ostrander**, Canadian Pacific



## Attendee/Spouse Activities

The **Golf** tournament and **Air Boat** tour are on Tuesday, October 23rd. The **Naples Botanical Garden Visit**, and **Limited Glass Blowing Activity** are on Wednesday, October 24th (during the Business Sessions). All of these activities are optional and require additional registrations. **All events have minimum participation requirements** and maximums may apply in some cases.

## OCTOBER 23, 2018

### **Optional - RTA Golf Tournament – Raptor Bay Golf Club**

**8:30 am -3:00 pm on October 23, 2018**

**\$225 pre-event - \$275 at event**

Each hole of the Raptor Bay Golf Club was carefully created to blend with the environment, leaving a beautiful course with natural surroundings. Under the guidance of Audubon International, they have developed an ecological design that preserved the most valuable habitats on-site and restored nearly 25 acres of wetlands. With no residential sites on the property, the natural surroundings encourage the appearance of protected wild creatures including the American Bald Eagle, Great Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets and even the very shy Whooping Crane. The tournament quality course features wide fairways with one height of cut throughout and five sets of tees to give players of every level a memorable outing.



### **Optional – Air Boat Tour (with Lunch)**

**(Minimum 20 – Maximum 40)**

**9:45 am – 2:45 pm October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**\$185 pre-event - \$225 at event**

You'll experience an adventure aboard exclusive nature-based airboats. You'll glide through Lake Trafford in the northeastern portion of the Everglades, exploring areas accessible only by air boat, while a knowledgeable guide provides a brief narration about the natural and human history of the area. Keep an eye out for gators, native birds, and other swamp creatures. Have your cameras ready for some fantastic photo opportunities and guaranteed alligator sightings. **NOTE:** This is a different excursion than the tour operated in 2016, so even previous airboat tour attendees will find this adventure an exciting and completely new experience.



## OCTOBER 24, 2018

### Option 1 – Exclusive Glass Blowing Experience – Shopping & Lunch on your Own **\$295pp pre-event (no at-event registration)**

9:30 am – 4:00 pm (optional early return on your own for first group of 6 attendees)

(Minimum 6 – maximum 12)

**Must register by August 25<sup>th</sup> to attend.**

Experience the art of glass in motion with Chihuly trained artist, Conrad Williams. A Florida native, he has been creating with glass since 1998. After receiving his BFA from California College of the Arts in glass and sculpture, he settled in the Northwest after completing a yearlong internship with Ben Moore and Dale Chihuly. Shortly after the birth of their first son, Conrad and his wife Erin returned to their hometown, Naples, FL to pursue their creative endeavors.



You will learn the basic steps it takes to make an ornament or paperweight. You will be introduced to the tools and equipment and given a brief history of glassblowing. With Conrad's help, you will shape, cut and blow out your form. You will be able to select from a variety of colors. Lessons include all the materials you need to create your work.

Conrad's studio will accommodate 6 people at a time, so while one class is creating their own personal glass works of art, the other will be able to enjoy the shopping and dining located in Venetian Village.



## OCTOBER 24, 2018 (continued)

### Option 2 – Private Guided Tour of the World Class Naples Botanical Garden followed by Naples Shopping & Lunch on your Own

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Cost \$125 pp Pre-Event

\$175pp at Event

Light Continental Breakfast at hotel at 8:30am

(minimum 20 – maximum 50 for the Botanical Garden Tour)

**Naples Botanical Garden** is a world class paradise that combines delightful cultivated tropical gardens with beautifully restored natural habitats. A guide will take visitors through seven different gardens.



- **The Asian Garden** is divided into various botanical zones and outdoor rooms of cultural diversity.
- **The Brazillian Garden** has a bold vibe with a Burle Marx ceramic mural as its centerpiece.
- **The Caribbean Garden** gives visitors a prism of landscapes found throughout the islands.
- **The Children's Garden** contains flowers, butterflies, tree houses and babbling streams.
- **The Florida Garden** has beautiful grasses and wildflowers indigenous to Florida. –
- **The Preserve** is an unspoiled habitat for hundreds of species of plants and animals.
- **The Water Garden** is the heart of the Botanical Gardens.
- **The River of Grass** is filled with water lilies, lotuses and papyrus with a small island in the middle of the pool. Performances on the boardwalk stage delight visitors who can watch from all sides.



### Followed by Shopping and Lunch on your own at:

**5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South:** An irresistible mix of glamour and laid-back ease. Historic and modern architecture blend together in eclectic sophistication, while tropical blooms and lush greenery grace the pedestrian-friendly promenades. Each storefront is filled with wonderful finds and delights for hours of shopping pleasure.

One of the nation's most exclusive addresses, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South stretches from Tamiami Trail to the Gulf of Mexico in Old Naples, and is home to upscale fashion and jewelry, spas, one-of-a-kind gifts, artwork, home décor, fine dining, and entertainment – everything discerning residents and visitors have come to expect of Naples.



# RTA Banquet Black Tie 100<sup>th</sup> Conference Centennial Celebration

**7:00 pm – 11:00 pm on October 24**

## **Banquet and President's Reception Entertainment**

Vocalist Extraordinaire **Jean Frye Sidwell** & Acoustic/Piccolo Bassist, Composer, and Producer **Chris Sidwell** will perform during the *President's Reception* and also during dinner at the Banquet on Thursday evening. Jean is truly a jazz singer's, jazz singer. Partnered with husband, Chris, she is co-creator & co-owner of Pacific Coast Music, an independent record label. With the overwhelming success of her CD's and Pandora Radio Station, Jean is recognized as an international recording artist. Chris has produced and recorded multiple CDs under the successful record label that he co-owns with wife Jean.



**Rocky LaPorte** – With his unmistakable accent and his hilarious and endearing delivery, Comedian Rocky LaPorte is becoming more popular by the day. His performance on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” brought him a standing ovation, and he’s been featured on his own “Comedy Central Presents” special.

Rocky's opened for the likes of, Louie Anderson, Garry Shandling, Drew Carey, Tim Allen, Hootie and the Blowfish and the Righteous Brothers, just to name a few. He's done an enormous amount of charity work for St Jude's for Children, N.F.L. Charities, Homeless shelters, cancer research and Police and Fire Dept fundraisers. Rocky has won numerous awards for his clean corporate-client-friendly humor.

**Top 5:** Last Comic Standing 2014 – NBC

- ☐ **Winner:** Stand Up of the Year Award – Las Vegas Comedy Festival
- ☐ **Winner:** Johnnie Walker National Comedy Search, Hollywood

