



RTA Annual Conference
Loews Ventana Canyon
Tucson, Arizona
October 15 - 18



Tuesday, October 15th

- 1:00 - 3:00 pm RTA R&D Committee Meeting
 3:00 - 5:00 pm RTA Executive Committee Meeting
 6:00 - 8:00 pm RTA Executive Committee President's Dinner

Wednesday, October 16th (optional activities)

- 8:30 am - 2:30 pm RTA Golf Tournament
The Lodge at Ventana Canyon
 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Jewelry Making at Tohono Chul
 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Desert Jeep Excursion
 3:00 - 6:00 pm **RTA Guest Sponsored Hospitality Suites**
 5:30 - 7:00 pm **RTA President's Reception**

Thursday, October 17th

- 7:30-7:45 am **RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION AND WELCOME**
- 7:45-8:30 am **Special Presentation** by Victoria Wilcox, Georgia Author-of-the-Year
RTA Time Machine - Connecting Two Centuries: Guns, Gamblers & Railways
- 8:30 - 9:30 am **Economic/Trade/Policy Session**
 Tony Hatch, ABH Consulting
 Tiffany Smith, Senior Policy Advisor for Mayer-Brown LLP
- 9:30 - 10:00 am **Networking and Exhibition BREAK**
- 10:00 am - 11:30 **Hardwood Resources/Procurement Session**
 Dana Cole, **Moderator**, Hardwood Federation
 Dr. Matthew Pelkki, University of Arkansas-Monticello
 Joe Conway, Ozark Wood Fiber
 Tommy Battle & Craig Miller, Battle Lumber Company
 Claire Getty, Thompson Appalachian Hardwoods
- 9:30 am - 2:30 pm **Guest Event - Best of the Barrio Tour (optional)**
(This takes place during the business session for spouses or guests who would like to attend)
- 11:30 - 12:00 pm **Networking and Exhibition BREAK**
- 12:00 - 2:15 pm **RTA Working Luncheon** with Keynote Address, Scholarships, & Mini-Workshop
(Continues with no break into next session)
 Keynote - **Jack Hellmann**, Chairman, President & CEO, Genesee & Wyoming
 California Disposal Laws **Dallin Brooks** Western Wood Preservative Institute
 Industry Update **Christy Sammon**, GoRail

Thursday, October 17th

2:15 - 4:15 pm

Class 1 Engineering & Research Forum (20-minute slots & Q&A)

3-Minute Vendor-mercials will occur during this session

Edward Sparks, Asst. Chief Engineer of Structures for CSX, AREMA President
Rachel Beck, Sr. Manager Engineering Methods & Research, Union Pacific
Matt Hammond, AVP & Chf. Engineer-System Maint. & Planning, BNSF
Tod Echler, AVP Engineering, CSX Transportation
Stephen Smith, Stephen Smith Consulting,
“Societal Benefits of Creosote-Preserved Wood

BIG CHANGE for 2019!

You Spoke, We Listened – You Asked for More Networking Time, We Found a Win-Win Solution for All
BANQUET RE-VAMP for 2019 - join us for...

Turquoise & Tapas - “Awards With a Twist” - A Grand Reception

Reserve a dinner table to enjoy ample portions of Western cuisine for the 3-hour event OR just mix & mingle with small bites & beverages until after the awards at 6:15 pm. Then enjoy your separate plans. It’s your choice!

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Grand Awards Reception & Tapas

Tables may be reserved for the entire evening or simply mix & mingle to enjoy
Creative Southwestern Cuisine Specialties

DOORS OPEN Promptly AT 5:30 PM - **Awards 6:15-7:00 pm**

More food music, networking & fun continues until...
...OR make outside dinner plans after 7:00 pm



Friday, October 18th

7:30 - 10:30 am

Research Session (20-minute slots & Q&A)

Matt Konkler Oregon State University,

Nicholas Skoulis, Creosote Council

“Accurately Predicting Dermal Absorption in Humans to Assess the Potential Risks when coming in Contact with Creosote and/or Creosote Treated Wood”

Maureen Hodson & Monica Meyer, EHS Support

Sam Minton, BNSF, & Tony Mauricio, Georgetown Rail, *“Wooden Crosstie Life Expectancy on the BNSF”*

Robert Fronczak, Association of American Railroads, *AAR Tie Survey*

Dr. Michael Liesenfelt, Georgetown Rail,

“Complete Machine Vision Inspection of Newly Fabricated Railroad Timber”

Dr. Tim Young, University of Tennessee

“Driving Costs Down with Data & Analytics”(30 minutes)



10:30am - 12:30pm

Railroad Purchasing Forum (15-minute slots plus Q&A)

Kristine Storm, Genesee & Wyoming (Presenter/Moderator)

Erin Carson, CSX Transportation

Anthony Weiss, BNSF

Nate Irby, Union Pacific

Bill Blaise, Kansas City Southern

Maya Ramadan, Canadian National

Wade Ostrander, Canadian Pacific

Optional Attendee & Spouse Activities

The Golf tournament, Offroad Tours and Southwest Jewelry Making at Tohono Chul are on Wednesday, October 16th. The Best of the Barrio Experience on Thursday, October 17th 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 16, 2019 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Optional - RTA Golf Tournament -

The Lodge at Ventana Canyon

\$245 pre-event - \$275 at event

The Mountain course has made a name for itself due to one hole: the short, par-3 third that plays from an elevated tee box next to boulders, over a ravine to a small green 100 yards away tucked between boulders. The remainder of the course isn't that dramatic, but is a gently rolling test of golf with a collection of water hazards and desert lining most fairways. It's not uncommon to see wildlife at Ventana Canyon, including deer, coyote, quail, red-tailed hawks, bobcats, rabbits and roadrunners.





Optional - Private Jeep Excursion into the Sonoran Desert

(Minimum 5 - Maximum 30)

9:30am - 2pm October 16, 2019

Pre-event Cost is \$150 - At the Event \$175

(Boxed or other Lunch Included)

Experience the desert first-hand! Our knowledgeable guides will lead you through the plants, animals, and history that make the Sonoran Desert unique. On the way you will learn about the life of the giant saguaro cactus, visit a thousand year-old Hohokam Indian occupation site, and see bountiful desert wildlife. Our guides will even bring along a critter or two.

Optional - Jewelry Making & Lunch at Tohono Hills

(Minimum 25 - Maximum 30)

Pre-event Cost is \$245 - At the Event \$275

9:30am - 2pm October 16, 2019

Last year we went glass-blowing with a Chihuly artist and this year we expand on the idea by joining 2 of the Southwest's coolest jewelry makers to learn how to make earrings and necklaces with turquoise, agates and other gems. Better yet we do it with brunch and bottomless Prickly Pear Mimosas & Prickly Pear Margaritas at the stunning gardens of Tohono Chul. Learn the process, then grab a bite and make your own exactly the way you want to. Afterwards, visit the Palo Verde and Hummingbird Gardens or visit the Gift Shop before wearing your new creation back to Ventana Canyon. If you want to explore the entire gardens (on your own) or even take a docent tour that's an option. Transportation, cuisine & beverages plus the class, hands-on instruction and help, plus all that's required to make your own jewelry is included for this special day in the desert Southwest.



Optional - Private Best of the Barrio Tour (Min. 6 - Max. 45)

A Culinary Romp thru the Authentic Mexican Cuisine of Tucson. This occurs during the main business session on Thursday

9:30am - 2pm October 17, 2019

Pre-event Cost is \$125 - At the Event \$150

You will ride aboard one of our luxury vehicles through Tucson's Barrio while getting an insider's look at each location and their recipe for success. With tastings ranging from handmade pastries/tortillas (behind the scenes bakery tour), carne asada, Sonoran hot dogs, chicken quesadillas, grilled shrimp and even more delights, you will not go back hungry. This combination of cuisine, history, and fun has already proven to be a winner with RTA attendees, worldwide visitors and locals alike. RTA's most popular tour in 2015 it is a Tucson Weekly "Best of Tucson" Award winner. In 2012, it inspired Visit Tucson's international marketing campaign, "The Best 23 Miles of Mexican Food", which proudly declares that the "Best 23 Miles of Mexican Food" north of the border is to be found in Tucson."



RTA 101st Conference Centennial Celebration - Grand Reception/Buffer

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm on October 17th

Entertainment
Gabriel Romo

Returning to delight attendees at this year's event is Latin guitarist Gabriel Romo. His unique style, influenced by Jose Feliciano, and talent delights audiences throughout the Southwestern U.S. and especially in his hometown of Tucson, AZ.

