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

Tuesday, October 15th
12:00-1:00 pm Tie Recovery Task Force Meeting
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)
8:00 am - 2:30 pm RTA Golf Tournament
The Lodge at Ventana Canyon
9:15 am - 2:30 pm Jewelry Making at Tohono Chul
9:15 am - 1:30 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 am 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, & Committee Reports
(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
Dean Dalquist, General Director Maintenance Support, 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 which begin 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)

10:30 am - 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, Jeep Tour and Southwest Jewelry Making at Tohono Chul are on
Wednesday, October 16th. The Best of the Barrio Experience is 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 personalized jewelry 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 and 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/Buffet  

**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.