

# Register Now For RTA's 100th Annual Conference In Tropical Bonita Springs, Florida



Bonita Springs Beach



Conference attendees engage industry experts who provide critical information on issues that are currently impacting or could impact the future of the wood tie industry. Pictured here is AAR Assistant VP Environment and Hazmat Bob Fronczak.

## Registration is now open for the 2018 edition of the Railway Tie Association's Symposium & Technical Conference.

Slated for Oct. 22-25, the conference will return to the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, Fla.

The conference will bring those in the railroad and wood tie industries together to network, exhibit their latest products and services, learn from experts on a variety of topics, hear updates on the latest purchasing plans by the Class 1 railroads, receive status reports on major railroad engineering projects, and learn more about current research and development initiatives.

To confirm your registration, log onto <https://www.rta.org/2018-conference> or complete the registration form that follows in this issue and email it to [ties@RTA.org](mailto:ties@RTA.org) or fax it to (770) 460-5573.

**The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point** Overlooking Estero Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point

is located on 26 beautifully landscaped acres that were designed as a haven for recreation and relaxation.

The coastal, resort-styled hotel in southwest Florida blends state-of-the-art business facilities with a refreshing and modern resort environment.

There are many fun and unique features to explore, including the pool and water park. The water park features a lazy river, water slides and a relaxing lagoon-like atmosphere.

Raymond Floyd-designed Raptor Bay Golf Club, where RTA members will participate in the annual golf tournament, is an 18-hole course named as the world's first Audubon International's Gold Signature Sanctuary Certification.

The Stillwater Spa and Salon invites guests to indulge in services that will renew and rejuvenate mind, body and spirit. An on-site gym is open 24 hours a day, with personal trainers available by appointment.

Five distinctive restaurants and bars ensure there is never a reason to go hungry!

## Day 1

### Relax & Connect With Colleagues

Following Committee meetings on Monday Oct. 22, on Tuesday, Oct. 23, attendees can connect with old friends or make new ones as they participate in the golf outing at Raptor Bay Golf Club. Making this golf course special is its design that encourages the appearance of protected wild creatures such as the American Bald Eagle, Great Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets and Whooping Cranes.

Or, if you prefer, enjoy an airboat tour and lunch, where guests will glide through Lake Trafford in the northeastern portions of the Everglades. A guide will point out wildlife and provide a brief narration of the area's history.

The evening will be capped off with the annual RTA President's Reception, where attendees will enjoy a bite to eat, beverages and music.

## Day 2

### Getting Down To Business

Wednesday, Oct. 24, will begin early with the RTA General Business Session and welcome, followed by a keynote address from Tony Hatch of ABH Consulting, who will provide an informative briefing on railroad capital expenditures.

Hatch's presentation will be followed by information from affiliated association executives who will discuss the legislative importance of economic impact data.

Following a networking and exhibition break, Dana Cole of the Hardwood Federation will moderate a procurement session in which several sawmill owners will



A bald eagle sighting would not be unexpected during the RTA Conference at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, Fla.



Raptor Bay Golf Club

provide their insights.

RTA's annual working luncheon will feature RTA Awards and a keynote address from Jon Mackay of Schroders, a multinational asset management firm.

The business for the day will conclude with a comprehensive Engineering Forum, during which Class 1 railroad engineers will update attendees on major projects that either have impacted or likely will impact RTA members.

The evening will turn to networking, fun and recognition during the Annual RTA Banquet and Awards Recap. A black tie affair, the banquet will be a celebration of RTA's 100th conference.

Vocalist Jean Frye Sidwell and acoustic/piccolo bassist, composer and producer Chris Sidwell will perform during the reception and during dinner. Entertainment will be provided by Rocky LaPorte, a comedian who has performed on the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno," been featured on his own "Comedy Central Presents" special, and opened for a variety of celebrated comedians.

## Day 3

### Research, Tie Disposition & Purchasing Plans

Thursday's business sessions will focus on research, tie disposition and railroad purchasing.

First up is the Research Session, where attendees will hear the latest developments

in recent worker exposure studies and other projects impacting the industry.

Later, attendees will hear from experts like Bob Fronczak of the Association of American Railroads on efforts related to tie disposal and biochar innovations.

Last but not least, is the Railroad Purchasing Forum, a standing-room-only session, which will be the first instance many will hear the Class 1 railroads' tie purchasing plans for the coming year. It is during this session that the names of a member who is present at the end of the conference will be drawn out of a hat for a substantial gift card award.

"It truly pays to stay until the end," said RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt, adding, "We are looking forward to this conference being our most informative yet. Our lineup of presenters and exhibitors will provide attendees with the most up-to-date information on research and development, economic issues affecting our industry, railroad purchasing and engineering plans, and so much more. This conference is also the perfect opportunity for attendees to enjoy face time with one another and grow more connected not only professionally but also personally. We hope colleagues will turn into friends, and are looking forward to seeing as many RTA members in Bonita Springs as possible for a fun and enlightening conference."

Register now using the form included on page 23 or online at [www.RTA.org/2018-conference](http://www.RTA.org/2018-conference). ■



#rta2018 for 2018 Conference Tweets

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

- 7:45-8:00 am** RTA GENERAL BUSINESS SESSION AND WELCOME
- 8:30-8:45 am** Keynote – Tony Hatch, ABH Consulting
- 8:30-10:00 am** Legislative Importance of Economic Impact Data  
Chuck Baker, Executive Director, NRC  
TBD, PWC  
Brent McClendon, NWPCA  
Mike O'Malley, RSI
- 10:00-10:30am** Networking and Exhibition Break
- 10:30-12:00pm** Procurement Session  
Dana Cole, Moderator, Hardwood Federation  
Philip Fischer, Maley & Wertz Hardwood Lumber  
Darrel Beasley, Beasley Forest Products (invited)  
Larry Jones, IndusTree Companies  
Derek Douthit, Douthit Lumber (invited)  
Paul Gaines, Madison County Wood Products (invited)
- 12:00-2:30pm** RTA Working Luncheon  
with Keynote Address, Past President Comments, Awards  
Jonathan Mackay, State of the U.S. & Global Economies
- 2:30-3:00pm** Networking and Exhibition Break

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

- 3:00-5:00pm** Engineering Forum  
James Kessler Sr., VP North Carolina RR Co., AREMA President  
Jim Holder, AVP, Union Pacific (invited)  
John Cech, AVP & Chief Engineer, BNSF (invited)  
Randy Bowman, Engineer Track & Materials, NS (invited)  
Tod Echler, AVP Engineering, CSX Transportation (invited)  
Michael Singelyn, Sr. Mgr. Engineering, Canadian National (invited)  
Vendor-mercials: 3-Minute will occur in this session

### 7:15-10:00 pm Annual RTA Banquet & Awards Recap

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 8:00-10:15 am** Research Session  
Tim Young, University of Tennessee  
Lou Honary, University of Northern Iowa (tentative)  
TBD, Koppers  
Patrick Stark, On Behalf Of Creosote Council  
TBD  
TBD
- 10:15-10:45am** Legislative and Tie Disposition Efforts  
Bob Fronczak, AAR  
Chuck Ludwig, CHZ Technologies  
Charles Hedberg, Biochar Consultant (tentative)  
TBD
- 10:45-12:15 pm** Railroad Purchasing Forum  
Kristine Storm, Genesee & Wyoming (Presenter/Moderator)  
Cory Thomas, BNSF (invited)  
Nate Irby, Union Pacific  
Erin Carson, CSX Transportation  
Scott Feldman, Norfolk Southern (invited)  
Bill Blaise, Kansas City Southern (invited)  
Bruce Emberly, Canadian National (invited)  
Rob Churma, Canadian Pacific (invited)



### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR ATTENDEES AND SPOUSES/GUESTS. THESE EVENTS REQUIRE ADDITIONAL REGISTRATIONS.

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 (both during the business sessions and luncheon). All of these activities are optional and require additional registrations.

#### 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 (Minimum 20 – Maximum 40)**  
**9:00 am – 3:00 pm October 23rd**  
**\$185 pre-event - \$235 at event**

You'll experience an adventure aboard our nature-based airboats. You'll glide through the Lake Trafford in the north-eastern portion of the Everglades. You'll explore areas only accessible 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.

#### OCTOBER 24, 2018

**Optional Exclusive Glass Blowing Experience**  
**\$295 pre-event no at-event**  
**10:00 am – 2:00 pm (Minimum 6 – maximum 12)**

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, 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, the other will be able to enjoy the shopping and dining located in Venetian Village.

**Optional - 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 pre-event - \$175 at Event, Light Continental Breakfast at hotel at 8:30am (minimum 20 – maximum 50)**

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
- The Brazilian Garden
- The Caribbean Garden
- The Children's Garden
- The Florida Garden
- The Preserve
- The Water Garden

#### OCTOBER 24, 2018

**RTA Banquet Black Tie 100th Conference Celebration**  
**7:30 pm – 10:15 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. Due to 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 CD's 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 well known 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 also 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



# SYMPOSIUM & TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Join Us In Bonita Springs, FL | Oct. 23-25, 2018

## Registration For The 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

NOTE: CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES COVER ALL MEETINGS, BUSINESS LUNCHEON, PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION, AND ANNUAL BANQUET. Please complete both the registration AND golf/activities form if you want to play in the golf tournament or attend the optional events



#rta2018 for 2018 Conference Tweets

### Reserve Your Hotel:

#### Hyatt Regency Coconut Point

Make your reservations now!

#### Reserve Online At:

<https://book.passkey.com/event/49413935/owner/20806/home>

The room block expires Sept. 30, 2018.

Room Block Only Guarantees Rate. **ROOM BLOCK DOESN'T GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY SO BOOK EARLY!**

Make hotel reservations under the RTA Room Block by calling 888.421.1442.

RTA Room Block Rate is \$195 + tax per night.

### Reserve Your Space:

#### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

(Golf registration form is at the bottom)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

TO APPEAR ON BADGE

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE USE ADDRESS ON CARD

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Business) Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Check All Fees That Apply.

Yearly Membership fees must be paid in advance.

	Fees For Early Reg. (Before 9/1/18)	Fees For Late Reg. (After 8/31/18)
<input type="checkbox"/> Producer, Supplier, Contractor & Consulting Member	\$595	\$645
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member	\$355	\$405
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member—Railroad, Government & Academic	\$625	\$675
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member—Other	\$975	\$1025
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse Participation (Fee to attend any conference events.)	\$295	\$345

(Full refund (minus \$50 admin fee) until 9/19/17. Half refund until 10/1/17. No refunds after 10/1/17)

### Optional Events

OCTOBER 23 (All 10/31/17 tours include transportation & lunch)

	Advanced Registration	On Site Registration
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament (Fill out form below.)	\$225 pp	\$275 pp
<input type="checkbox"/> Airboat Tour with Lunch	\$185 pp	\$235 pp

OCTOBER 24

<input type="checkbox"/> EXCLUSIVE Glass Blowing Experience w/Shopping (MUST Pre-Register at least 60 DAYS before conference)	\$295 pp	
<input type="checkbox"/> Naples Botanical Garden Tour w/ Special Presentations	\$125 pp	\$175 pp

\*\*\*\*Minimums & Maximums Are In Effect So Advanced Registration is Necessary\*\*\*\*  
Tours are not guaranteed to run if minimums are not met.

TOTAL PAYMENT (Include spouse fees & any optional tours or golf fee) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Type:

CHECK  CREDIT CARD

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name On Card \_\_\_\_\_

3 digit CVC on back of card \_\_\_\_\_

4 digit CVC on front of AMEX \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip/Postal Code if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Presenters and attendees who are RTA members need to check the box that corresponds to their membership type and submit that fee.

### RTA GOLF REGISTRATION PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM PER GOLFER

#### Raptor Bay Golf Club

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 • RTA Tournament - Shotgun start format (\$225 each player).

Contact golf shop at (858) 451-8100 for club rentals.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

If you have preferred playing partners for main tournament list them below (Each must register separately.)

1. Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Preferred Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Preferred Partner: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Preferred Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with all registration fees to:

#### Railway Tie Association

115 Commerce Dr.,  
Suite C  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

(P) 770-460-5553

(F) 770-460-5573

To submit form electronically,  
e-mail to:

**ties@rta.org**