

Annual Tie Grading Seminar *Scheduled For Alabama*

The Railway Tie Association (RTA) will hold its 22nd Annual Crosstie Grading Seminar July 20-22, in Montevallo, Ala.

Fieldwork, including the Species Identification and Crosstie Grading Derby, will take place at the Seaman Timber Company site in Montevallo.

“The RTA Education Committee continues to make this event a great learning opportunity for tie graders and railroaders alike,” said RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt, who will serve as one of three instructors. “Each presentation has been revisited with an in-depth look at its content and value. Add these classroom hours to the hands-on work with full-sized ties, and attendees get the best of both worlds as it relates to understanding tie specifications and tie inspection.”

Instructors for the course will also include Terry Conners, Jimmy Watt and Jeff Morrell.

Conners, an associate extension professor at the University of Kentucky, holds a bachelor of science degree in forest products from Pennsylvania State University, a master’s degree in wood science from the University of

Massachusetts, and a Ph.D. in forestry and forest products from Virginia Polytechnic and State University.

Jeff Morrell, a researcher at Oregon State University in the Department of Forest Products, holds a bachelor’s degree in forest biology from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York, a master’s degree in plant pathology from Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D. in forest pathology and mycology from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York.

Jimmy Watt, owner of The Crosstie Connection in Austinville, Va., performs crosstie inspections for Class 1 and short line railroads as well as for treating facilities and railroad contractors. Formerly quality assurance engineer for Norfolk Southern, Watt is also a past chairman of AREA Committee 30 – Ties and Wood Preservation. Watts holds a bachelor of science degree in forestry



Students at RTA's Tie Grading Seminar will receive both classroom and in-the-field instruction. The event will be videotaped this year to create teaching modules.

from North Carolina State University.

Jim Gauntt, executive director of RTA, is a 29-year veteran of the wood preserving industry, having worked as director of product acceptance for Osmose Wood Preserving Company and vice president of sales for Randall Brothers. He is also the published author of numerous articles, papers and publications, and a speaker on the topic of wood preserving and tie industry subjects.

The cost of the seminar is \$495, which includes the price of the seminar, take-home materials, Sunday night reception, and lunch on Tuesday.

Attendees should arrange for their own accommodations by the June 15 deadline through the Holiday Inn Express – Pelham by calling (205) 987-8888. Ask for the RTA room block to receive the negotiated \$99 per night rate (plus 14 percent tax). The rate includes a complimentary deluxe breakfast bar each morning.

For more information, contact Debbie Corallo, RTA administrator, at (770) 460-5553 or dcorallo@rta.org. A complete agenda is available online at www.rta.org.



CROSSTIE GRADING SEMINAR

JULY 20-22



✂ Cut Here

Yes, I will be attending the **2008 TIE GRADING SEMINAR**

Please call the **Holiday Inn Express – Pelham, AL** location at **205.987.8888** to make your hotel reservations. The Railway Tie Association negotiated rate is **\$99/night + 11.50% tax**, and our room block will be lifted **June 15th**!

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TYPE OF BUSINESS _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL TIME _____

PLEASE NOTE: THE SPECIAL BONUS SESSION BEGINS AT 1:00 PM ON SUNDAY, JULY 22nd SO PLEASE KEEP IN MIND WHEN MAKING YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

PAYMENT TYPE

CHECK (make payable to Railway Tie Association)

VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER

NAME ON CARD AND BILLING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE:

TOTAL PAID _____

CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

SECURITY CODE _____

*3- or 4-digit validation code from back of card

Please include \$495 REGISTRATION FEE with this form and mail or fax to RTA, 115 Commerce Dr., Suite C, Fayetteville, GA 30214 • Fax 770.460.5573