

# RTA Photo Contest Tells Story Of The Sawmill Operation

Members' Photos Tell The 'From Tree-To-Track' Story

**R**esponse to the Railway Tie Association's (RTA) First Annual Photo Contest has been terrific, with photos submitted that have absolutely amazed the judges.

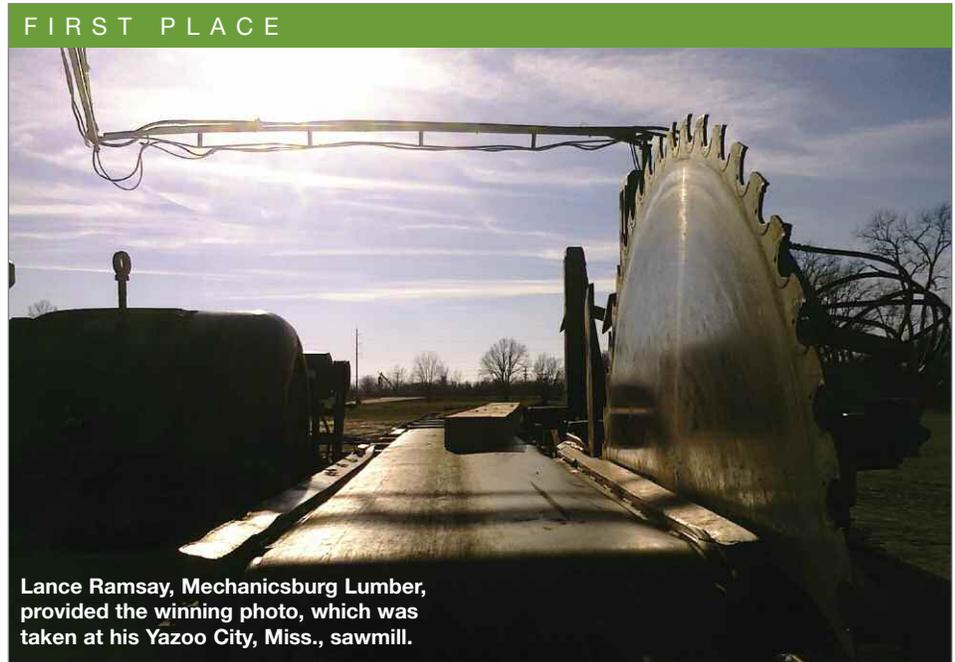
Winners, honorable mentions, and even RTA Executive Committee photos submitted just for fun for the first phase of the "From Tree To Track" photo contest highlighted the early life of the wood crosstie—seedling to mature tree to harvesting to transporting to a sawmill. If you missed the publication of the winning photos in the March/April issue of *Crossties*, log on to [www.rta.org](http://www.rta.org) for a review.

The installment of the contest featured in this issue focuses on the sawmill operation. Photos submitted for inspection phase 1 would show logs sorted by species and grade as they arrive at the sawmill; inventory phase 1 would show logs at the sawmill for up to four months; processing phase 1 would depict logs sawn into rough products; end inspection phase 2 would depict the sawyer determining what products to cut from the log, other log products or center of the log products.

We hope you will enjoy seeing these photos just as much as we did!

## First Place Winner

The winning photo was taken by Lance Ramsay with Mechanicsburg Lumber depicting a portable sawmill in the fore-



**Lance Ramsay, Mechanicsburg Lumber, provided the winning photo, which was taken at his Yazoo City, Miss., sawmill.**

ground at his Yazoo Sawmill in Yazoo City, Miss. Ramsay used an HP WebOS Pre+ phone to take the photo.

Yazoo Sawmills cuts Cypress, Red Oak, White Oak, Ash, Poplar, Hickory, Pecan, Gum, Honey Locust and Sassafras, and manufactures lumber in thick-

ness of 4/4 up to 16/4. The company also manufactures board road, crane mats, pipeline skids and other wood products



**Donnie Ellis, Thompson Industries, took second place for his photo depicting a sawmill blade with dust flying.**

used in the oil and gas industries. For his winning photo, Ramsay will receive an e-gift card of \$125.

 To view hi-res winners' photos, go to [www.rta.org](http://www.rta.org).

## Contest Deadline For July/August Issue

The "Untreated Tie Phase of the Wood Crosstie Story" is the theme of the next portion of the photo contest. Photos submitted for this phase of the contest must illustrate the untreated tie phase of a wood crosstie and should show portions of the process such as transport to the treating plant, plant inspection or preparation for treatment. ■

*Submissions must be made by July 22. Good luck!*

### Second Place

Winning \$75 e-gift card for his second place photo is Donnie Ellis of Thompson Industries for his photo depicting a sawmill blade with dust flying. The photo was taken at the Strickland Lumber Company in Bald Knob, Ark., with a Kodak EZ Share camera.

Thompson Industries Inc. ranks as one of America's leading producers of pressure-treated wood railroad products.

Headquartered in the beautiful Ozark region of northwest Arkansas, the company owns and operates a wood processing and treating plant in Russellville, Ark.

At Thompson's facility, green and seasoned wood is treated with preservatives to produce crossties, switch ties, crossing timbers, bridge ties and timbers, track panels, and specialty timbers. Primary customers of these products are Class 1, regional, short line, commuter, and transit railroads; railroad contractors; and manufacturing and construction industries.

### Honorable Mentions

Anthony Brewer of Thompson Industries was awarded a \$25 honorable mention prize for his photo of the sawmill setup.

The photo was taken at the Ralph Largent Sawmill in Erin, Tenn., using a Kodak EZ Share camera. As a footnote, Ralph Largent won RTA's Silver Saw Award in 1997.

Also honored for his unique photo is Jesse Beal of Thompson Industries. The photo shows an end of a tie being trimmed at the Stucker Brothers Lumber Co. in Grandin, Mo. The camera Beal used was a Kodak EZ Share C195. Beal said the sawmill, owned by Steve and John Stucker, is one of three at the location.

"This is a very clean and organized operation located 20 miles west of Poplar Bluff, Mo.," Beal said.

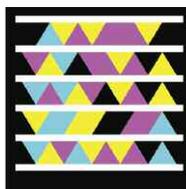
### HONORABLE MENTIONS



Photos taken by Anthony Brewer (top), Thompson Industries, and Jesse Beal (bottom), Thompson Industries, received honorable mentions in the contest.

### Executive Committee Submission Just For Fun

Executive Committee Member Skipper Beal of Beal Lumber Co. Inc., based in Prosperity, S.C., found some historic photos that are shared on page 14. *More Photos* ►



The third phase of the "From Tree-To-Track" photo contest is the untreated tie phase of the wood crosstie. Log on to [www.rta.org](http://www.rta.org) for full details. Scan the tag at left to go directly to the page from some mobile devices once you've downloaded the FREE Microsoft Tag Reader app.

RTA EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE  
SUBMISSION



These three photos are all from Beal Lumber Company sawmills. This one was taken in 1950. The workers are using cant hooks at a steam-powered (“Push-Hard”) mill on Wadmacon Island, Santee Delta, in Georgetown County, S.C.



More recently, Beal Lumber cut this cottonwood in 1997 at their band saw operation in Little Mountain, S.C.



This band mill was cutting big cypress logs in the mid 1950s in Andrews, S.C.

WHERE AM I?

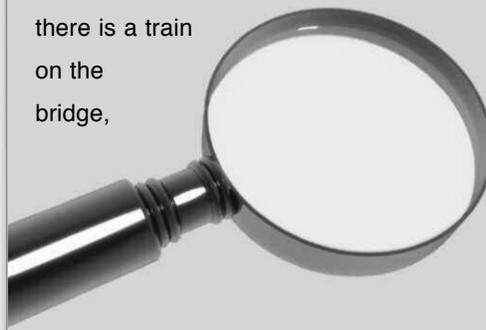


## Play Detective & Win!

Kristin Gauntt, daughter of RTA Executive Director Jim Gauntt, recently took a new sales position that required relocation to...ah, now, not so fast—can't give you too many clues. Along the way, she snapped this photograph.

We had so many quick responses to the last Mystery Photo contest that we decided to give you minimal help with this one.

Best we can do is tell you that it was taken in America, there is a train on the bridge,



that it was a mostly sunny day (wink, wink), and the wind appears to be from the south southwest (or so it seems to us). Have fun, detectives, and be the first to tell us where this was taken (be specific) and her direction of travel at the time the photograph was taken.

E-mail your responses to [ties@rta.org](mailto:ties@rta.org). First one to respond with the correct answer will win an item from the RTA Logo Shop.

The winner of the March/April issue “Mystery Photo” Contest was Mike Poor of Thompson Industries.

Following close behind were runners up Robert Kollmar of New Orleans Public Belt Railroad and Olivia Burgess of Stella Jones in Fulton, Ky. ■