couldn’t have been a more beautiful scene in early October—snow on the mountaintops, Lake Tahoe glistening in the background, and RTA members and friends networking, sharing ideas, and enjoying one another’s company at the Hyatt Regency Incline Village in Nevada for RTA’s Annual Symposium & Technical Conference.

The following photo essay describes the important time many in our industry had learning first-hand the most up-to-date information pertinent to making the best use of treated wood crossties.

Those who came know this is a must-attend annual business conference. If you missed it, be sure to join us in Tampa, Fla., next year. Meanwhile, review the photos on the pages that follow.

These and other photos from the conference were taken by Gary Coleman of Coleman Photography and can be accessed and purchased online at http://www.photoreflect.com/pr3/thumpage.aspx?e=8307824.

**Putting Tournament**

![Mike Goldston of Brewco, left, and Ryan Lakes of Tolko Industries.](image1)

Kenny Dailey of Boatright Industries, left, and Charlie Crosby of Norfolk Southern using a two-handed putter built by Bill Moss of MiTek.

From left, Robert Pierce of Lee Consulting with Bryan Borovec and Vint Jones of Pacific Alaska Lumber and Tony Helms of Thompson Industries.

**Spouse Breakfast & Thunderbird Tour**

The Tahoe Queen was the site of the ladies’ luncheon on Thursday.

The ladies enjoy breakfast while the “ghost” of Mark Twain entertains.

Outside the six-acre Thunderbird Lodge located on the shore of Lake Tahoe.
President’s Reception

From left, Rhonda Hatfield-Jeffers, Kevin Jeffers, and Stacey and David Hatfield.

Bob Sleeker of Savage Transportation with John Jacobsen and Mike Walczak of Kansas City Southern.

New AREMA President Bob Verhelle and wife Jan with Chuck Emely and Jim Gauntt.

Chad Rolstad of BNSF with Ted and Myrna Pollard of Gemini Forest Products.

Gary Williams with Jim Burkert of Koppers Inc.

Paula Rogers, left, and Tommy Harris, right, of Gross & Janes with Jeffrey Nelson of BNSF.

JoJo and Kim Sigurdson of Aboriginal Cogeneration.

From left, Jeff and Samantha Lloyd of Nisus Corporation with Jeff & Patti Parrett of Wheeler Lumber.

Greg Grissom with Ed Groves of TTCI.

Mike Poor with Matt Yost.

Mark and Jeri Huston of BNSF with Jim Hansen of RailWorks and Kevin Flaherty of Holland LP.


RTA First Lady Kathleen Broadfoot, left, with Josie Cunningham.

Michael Hoffman of KMG-Bernuth with Bruce Emberly of Canadian National Railways.

President’s Reception
President's Reception

Poo and Irene Chow of the University of Illinois with Ted and Eriko Nakanishi of Arkansas Steel.

Ray Stackhouse, left, with Wes Piatt and Jan Williams.

Sue McGinley, Rhonda Dodson and Susan Tomlinson with Koppers' George and Sally Caric.

From left, John Reaves, Buster Jullian and Chris Smith of Asphalt & Fuel Supply.

Lance and Lisa Pleasants of CSX with John Heller of Koppers Inc., center.

Bryan Borovec of Pacific Alaska Lumber with Sherry and Mike Poor of Thompson Industries.

Business Luncheon

Luncheon speaker Bruce Vincent of Alliance for America addresses a packed room.

Bruce Vincent with Creosote Council's Dave Webb.

From left, Bill Moss, Skipper Beal and Terry Good enjoy the presentation.

From left, Emily Halstead and Laura Knothe of Rocky Mountain Timber listen intently.

Thursday Business Session

Ken Laughlin of Pacific Wood Preserving.

Tom Mitchell of KMG-Bernuth hears a "big catch" story from Jeff Miller of Treated Wood Council.

Mike Goldston, left, of Brewco and Shane Garrett of Brewer Inc.
Thursday Business Session

Gary Hunter of Union Pacific always stresses “safety first” in his yearly conference briefing.

Attendees listen to Beth Ann Bovino of Standard & Poor’s.

Tony Helms of Thompson Industries.

The Short Line Session speakers listen to a presentation made by Union Pacific’s Paul MacDonald.

RTA’s Jim Gauntt fields questions during the Engineered Wood Solutions panel.

Dr. Terry Amburgey makes a vendor-mercial presentation for Wood Care Systems.

Dave Koch, left, and Jeff Parrett of Wheeler Lumber.

Brian McElwain of P&G Manufacturing gives another well-received vendor-mercial.

Jeff McCracken of Norfolk Southern.

Awards Banquet

Buddy Downey, left, and Tony Chambers, right, escort Broad Axe award winner Harry Bressler up to the stage to accept his plaque.

Harry Bressler accepts his award from President Jeff Broadfoot.

Branding Hammer Award winner Bruce Emberly, right, was escorted to the stage by John Giallonardo, back, and Jeff Broadfoot.

Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra impersonators pose with Ted and Eriko Nakanishi.

Jim Hansen and Rigi Chackanad pose for a quick picture.

Mike Poor, left, and Jeff Broadfoot, right, of Thompson Industries pose with Silver Saw Award winner Richard Shields.

Jim Gauntt and Jeff Broadfoot pose with Carmen Trevizo, winner of the RTA Award of Merit.

Elaine Floresca accepts one of two American Express gift cards awarded during the conference.
Sinatra and Monroe reminisce about old times.

Rocky Mountain Tie and Timber

Darrell Smith of Conrad Forest Products and Colin McCown of AWPA in front of Arch Chemical’s display.

Outgoing RTA Executive Committee members Rob Churma of Canadian Pacific, left, and Bill Moss of MiTek Industries, center, were recognized by RTA President Jeff Broadfoot for their years of service on the committee.

The Andrew Sisters pay tribute to the Boogie Woogie Bugle Boys of Company B.

Fritz Horn and George Caric are locked in a heated debate over the best Sinatra song!

The RTA ladies chorus line sways to “New York New York” sung by Sinatra himself.

Harry Bressler and Gary Ambrose enjoy the evening’s festivities.

Jeff Broadfoot sings a duo with none other than Marilyn Monroe.

Monroe with the First Lady and President of RTA.

Rhonda and Gene Dodson of North American Tie and Timber.

The banquet guests dance to the sounds of the Big Band era.

Exhibitors & Vendors

P&G Manufacturing

Rocky Mountain Tie and Timber

Wheeler Lumber Co.

Darrell Smith of Conrad Forest Products and Colin McCown of AWPA in front of Arch Chemical’s display.
A Special Thanks To RTA’s 2011 Sponsors & Exhibitors

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- **D.R.I.P.S. LLC**
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- **Mellott Wood**

### Conference Gifts
- **Conference gift**
- **Silver golf**
- **Conference programs**
- **Bronze golf**
- **Banquet bar and gold golf**
- **Special golf prizes and bar, bronze golf**
- **American Express card giveaway**
- **Bronze golf**
- **Special conference gift**
- **Gold golf**
- **Silver golf**
- **Co-sponsor Thursday business luncheon**
- **Friday business session coffee break**

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### Sponsorship Details
- **Sponsors’ gifts**
- **Bronze golf**
- **Thursday afternoon refreshments**
- **Conference photography**
- **Thursday morning coffee break and silver golf**
- **Event transportation, AMEX gift card**
- **Bronze golf**
- **Friday Continental breakfast**
- **Co-sponsor Thursday business luncheon, spouse favors and silver golf**
- **Thursday Continental breakfast, silver golf and name badges**

### Vendor-mercial Sponsors
- **Brewco Inc.**
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