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# CONVERSATIONS 2017

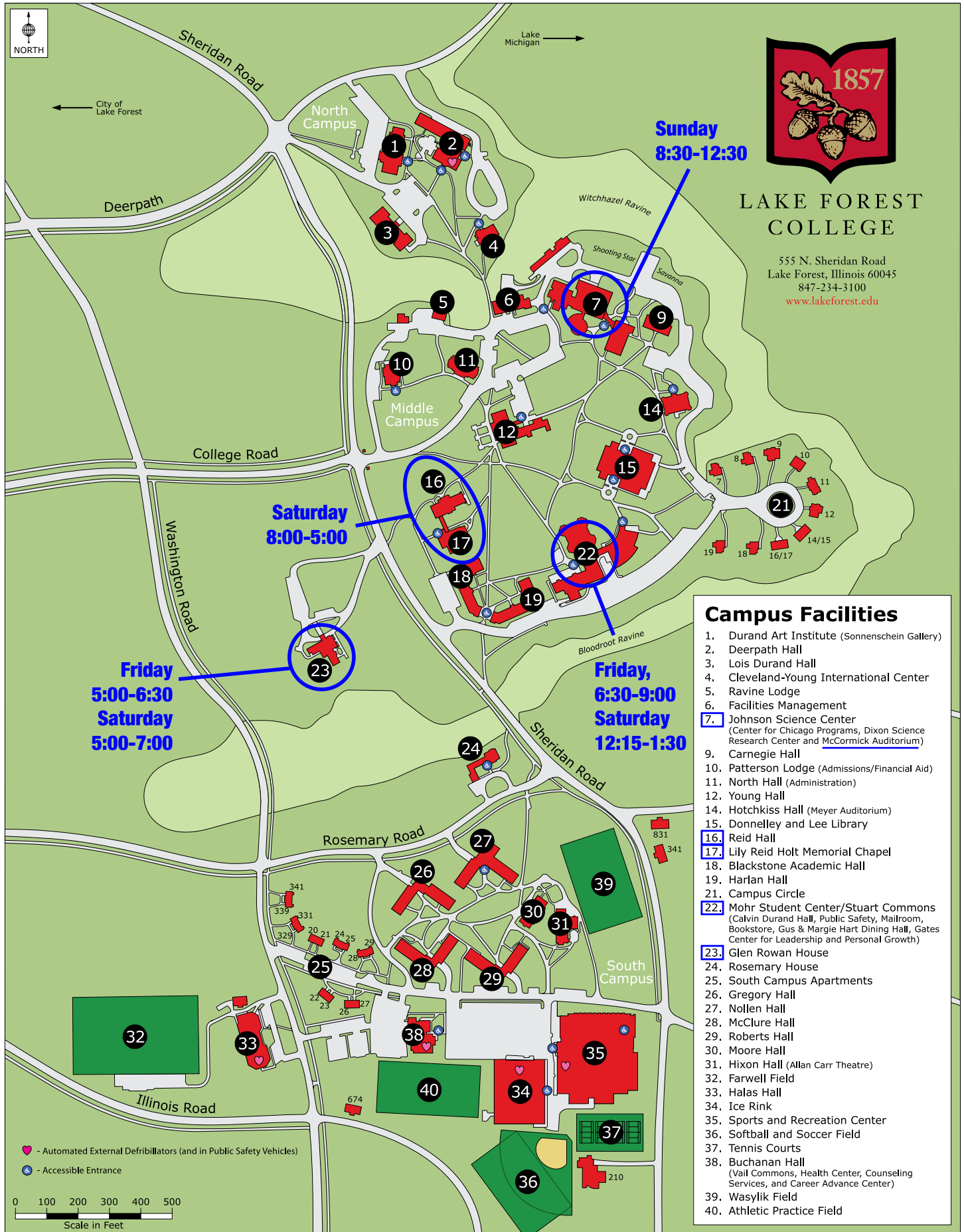
April 28-30, 2017, on the campus of co-host Lake Forest College  
The Center for Railroad Photography & Art's fifteenth annual conference

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**CRP&A** | CENTER FOR RAILROAD  
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART  
313 Price Place, Suite 13, Madison, Wisconsin, 53705-3262  
608-251-5785 | [info@railphoto-art.org](mailto:info@railphoto-art.org) | [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org)

# Campus Map



## LAKE FOREST COLLEGE

555 N. Sheridan Road  
 Lake Forest, Illinois 60045  
 847-234-3100  
[www.lakeforest.edu](http://www.lakeforest.edu)

**Sunday**  
 8:30-12:30

**Saturday**  
 8:00-5:00

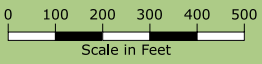
**Friday**  
 5:00-6:30  
**Saturday**  
 5:00-7:00

**Friday,**  
 6:30-9:00  
**Saturday**  
 12:15-1:30

### Campus Facilities

1. Durand Art Institute (Sonnenschein Gallery)
2. Deerpath Hall
3. Lois Durand Hall
4. Cleveland-Young International Center
5. Ravine Lodge
6. Facilities Management
7. Johnson Science Center  
 (Center for Chicago Programs, Dixon Science Research Center and McCormick Auditorium)
9. Carnegie Hall
10. Patterson Lodge (Admissions/Financial Aid)
11. North Hall (Administration)
12. Young Hall
14. Hotchkiss Hall (Meyer Auditorium)
15. Donnelley and Lee Library
16. Reid Hall
17. Lily Reid Holt Memorial Chapel
18. Blackstone Academic Hall
19. Harlan Hall
21. Campus Circle
22. Mohr Student Center/Stuart Commons  
 (Calvin Durand Hall, Public Safety, Mailroom, Bookstore, Gus & Margie Hart Dining Hall, Gates Center for Leadership and Personal Growth)
23. Glen Rowan House
24. Rosemary House
25. South Campus Apartments
26. Gregory Hall
27. Nollen Hall
28. McClure Hall
29. Roberts Hall
30. Moore Hall
31. Hixon Hall (Allan Carr Theatre)
32. Farwell Field
33. Halas Hall
34. Ice Rink
35. Sports and Recreation Center
36. Softball and Soccer Field
37. Tennis Courts
38. Buchanan Hall  
 (Vail Commons, Health Center, Counseling Services, and Career Advance Center)
39. Wasyluk Field
40. Athletic Practice Field

♥ - Automated External Defibrillators (and in Public Safety Vehicles)  
 ♿ - Accessible Entrance



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## Conference Patrons

John Arbuckle, Ronald L. Batory, Gregory J. Beirise, Bill and Kate Botkin, Jeff Brouws, Norman Carlson, David Corbitt, Jim and Lynn Fox, Bon French, Todd Halamka, Nona Hill and Clark Johnson, Hank Koshollek, Al Louer, Brian Matsumoto, David W. Mattoon, John and Linda Mellowses, Gregory P. Molloy, Peter Mosse, Steve Mueller, Ron Perisho, Don Phillips, David and Sandra Plowden, Kenneth Rehor, Michael Schmidt, David Styffe, Thomas Szczesniak Jr., Richard Tower Jr., Michael R. Valentine, Anonymous

## Conference Volunteers

Drayton Blackgrove, Jeff Brouws, Mary and Norman Carlson, Alexander Benjamin Craghead, Bon French, Dick Gruber, John Gruber, Nona Hill, Sharon Hill, Kevin P. Keefe, John Kelly, Hank Koshollek, Al Louer, Jeff Mast, Colleen O'Keefe, Jordan Radke, Michael Schmidt, Michael R. Valentine, Otto M. Vondrak

## Front Cover

Adam Normandin  
*Ride*, 2012  
Oil and acrylic on panel  
30 x 40 inches

# Railroads and Jazz

Paul Wertico's Off the Rails Trio featuring David Cain and John Moulder



Grammy-winning jazz takes center stage to kickoff Conversations 2017 on Friday, April 28. Paul Wertico, a lifelong railfan and seven-time Grammy-winning drummer is assembling his “Off the Rails Trio” featuring David Cain on saxophone, keyboard, as well as spoken word; and John Moulder on guitar. They will play a special, multimedia concert of railroad-themed songs after dinner on Friday evening in Calvin Durand Hall.

# Schedule

## Friday

*Glen Rowan House, no. 23 on campus map*

5:00 P.M. Doors open, reception, exhibition by David Styffe on display

*Move to Calvin Durand Hall, Mohr Student Center, no. 22 on campus map*

6:30 P.M. Dinner

7:30 P.M. Opening remarks and raffle drawing for Jeff Mast print and *Twelve Twenty-Five* book

7:45 P.M. Railway & Locomotive Historical Society's Fred A. and Jane R. Stindt photography award

8:00 P.M. Paul Wertico's Off the Rails Trio featuring David Cain and John Moulder

9:00 P.M. Conclusion

## Saturday

*Reid Hall and Lily Reid Holt Memorial Chapel, nos. 16 and 17 on campus map*

8:00 A.M. Doors open, pastries and drinks available, *Wood Lounge*

Presentation of photographs by conference attendees on repeat, *chapel*

8:30 A.M. Welcome, Scott Lothes, Center for Railroad Photography & Art

8:45 A.M. Katherine Botkin, *What I Did for Love*

9:30 A.M. James J. Reisdorff and Jean Bublely, *Granger Route: The Photography of Esther Bublely*

10:15 A.M. Break, *Wood Lounge*

10:45 A.M. Alan Miller, *From SoCal to Chile*

11:30 A.M. Adam Normandin, *All in the Details*

12:15 P.M. Lunch, *Mohr Student Center, no. 22 on campus map*

1:30 P.M. Scott Lothes, Jordan Radke, and Bon French, *Updates on the Center*

1:50 P.M. John Gruber, *Creative Photography Awards Program*

2:00 P.M. *Authors' Corner*, featuring Ronald Olsen, Dennis Livesey,

Alexander Benjamin Craghead, John P. Kelly, and Kevin P. Keefe

2:45 P.M. Break, *Wood Lounge*

3:15 P.M. Nicholas Fry, *Adventures in Editing: The making of J.J. Young's Steam and Diesel Era in Wheeling, West Virginia*

4:00 P.M. David Styffe, *A Printer's View of Railroad Photography*

4:45 P.M. Concluding remarks and raffle drawing for David Plowden print

*Move to Glen Rowan House, no. 23 on campus map*

5:00 P.M. Reception, sponsored by *Trains* and *Classic Trains*

Exhibition by David Styffe on display

Book and print sales in the library, author signings on the sun porch

7:00 P.M. Conclusion (Dinner on your own; there are many restaurants in downtown Lake Forest.)

## Sunday

*McCormick Auditorium in the Johnson Science Center, no. 7 on the campus map*

8:30 A.M. Doors open, pastries and drinks available, *lobby*

9:00 A.M. Eric E. Hirsimaki, *Photography at the Lima Locomotive Works*

9:45 A.M. Dan Cupper, *The Pennsylvania Railroad Calendar Art of Grif Teller*

10:30 A.M. Break, *lobby*

11:00 A.M. Drayton Blackgrove, *My YouTube Story*

11:45 A.M. Alexander Benjamin Craghead, *J.B. Jackson and the Archaeological Turn in American Photography of Railroads*

12:30 P.M. Conclusion (Lunch on your own; there are many restaurants in downtown Lake Forest.)

# Presenters



**Drayton BLACKGROVE, Brooklyn, Michigan**

*My YouTube Story*, Sunday, 11:00 A.M.

Blackgrove runs the film production company Delay In Block Productions, which he started while in high school. He began capturing trains on video when he was 13 and was soon gaining followers on YouTube. Throughout high school and college, he built his subscriber base to become one of the largest online railroad media outlets in the modern age, with more than 45,000 followers. Turning his passion into a successful business, he was able to pay for his own college education at a private institute, studying film production and digital media.



**Katherine BOTKIN, Centennial, Colorado**

*What I Did for Love*, Saturday, 8:45 A.M.

Botkin has been photographing trains and railroad subjects since the late 1970s. Born and raised in Minneapolis, she attended the University of Minnesota, majoring in art. She began her career as a graphic designer with the Pillsbury Company, ultimately directing food photography and producing cookbooks. She was introduced to railroad photography after marrying Bill Botkin, an avid railroad photographer and past conference presenter. Kate decided to become actively involved and has traveled to more than a dozen countries in pursuit of steam.



**Jean BUBLEY, Brooklyn, New York**

*Granger Route: The Photography of Esther Bublely*, Saturday, 9:30 A.M.

Bublely is the niece of photojournalist Esther Bublely and the owner and director of the Esther Bublely photographic archive. Since inheriting the archive in 1998, Jean has endeavored to preserve and promote her late aunt's work. Being a software developer and project manager, Jean put together a team of experts in art history and photographic preservation. Their efforts have resulted in several exhibitions and the placement of Esther's work in the collections of numerous prestigious museums. Learn more at: [www.estherbublely.com](http://www.estherbublely.com)



**Alexander Benjamin CRAGHEAD, Oakland, California**

*J.B. Jackson and the Archaeological Turn in American Photography of Railroads*, Sunday, 11:45 A.M.

Originally from Oregon, Craghead is a writer, photographer, watercolorist, and a historian of design and place. His publications include *Railway Palaces of Portland, Oregon*, a regular column for *Railfan & Railroad* magazine, and numerous articles in magazines including *Trains* and the Center's *Railroad Heritage*, which he recently helped to redesign. He is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Architecture at the University of California at Berkeley, where he now teaches the course founded by J.B. Jackson more than fifty years ago.



**Dan CUPPER, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

*The Pennsylvania Railroad Calendar Art of Grif Teller*, Sunday, 9:45 A.M.

Cupper is a historian and author focusing on railroad, highway, and Pennsylvania topics while enjoying a second career as a Norfolk Southern locomotive engineer. His ten books include *The Pennsylvania Railroad Calendar Art of Grif Teller*, which won the 1993 book award from the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society. A Pennsylvania native with a journalism degree from Penn State, both his grandfather and great-grandfather worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Dan and his wife Shirley live in suburban Harrisburg and have two adult sons.



**Nicholas FRY, St. Louis, Missouri**

*Adventures in Editing: The making of J.J. Young's Steam and Diesel Era in Wheeling, West Virginia*, Saturday, 3:15 P.M.

Fry has been the curator of the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library since 2012. He holds both B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, as well as a master's degree in library and information sciences from Drexel University. He previously worked in government records facilities including the NASA Center for Aerospace Information, and by avocation he has managed the archives of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Historical Society and its research activities for the past decade.

**Eric E. HIRSIMAKI, North Olmsted, Ohio**

*Photography at the Lima Locomotive Works*, Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

Born in 1947 in Conneaut, Ohio, Hirsimaki has a degree in civil engineering from Ohio Northern University and a master's in industrial administration from Purdue. He worked for more than four decades in the Great Lakes shipping industry, from which he retired in 2011. He has written extensively about railroads and Great Lakes shipping, and he is well known in both fields. He lives in North Olmsted, Ohio, with his wife Beverly. They have three children—Amy, Adrienne, and David.



**John P. KELLY, Madison, Wisconsin**

*Milwaukee Road's Beer Line*, Saturday, 2:00 P.M.

Kelly grew up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where his dad's best friend, a Chicago & North Western engineer, gave him and his brother occasional midnight cab rides. Retired from the Wisconsin Technical College System as a computer specialist, he was a volunteer docent with the Trails & Rails program aboard Amtrak's *Empire Builder* and *Southwest Chief*. His many books include *Railroads of Milwaukee*, produced by Heimburger House Publishing in 2015. He lives with his partner Linda Shult and Border Collie, Gypsy, and he volunteers at the Center's office.



**Dennis LIVESEY, New York, New York**

*Smoke Over Steamtown*, Saturday, 2:00 P.M.

As a child Livesey was hit by the New Haven, Lionel, and Lucius Beebe. He emerged a railfan, earned a degree from New York University, and had a 35-year career in cinematography where he interacted with such luminaires as Rocky Balboa, Tony Soprano, Madonna, Mel Gibson, and Kermit the Frog. Currently he is a Pro Video expert at B&H, the largest non-chain electronics store in the U.S. Shooting trains since June 6, 1961, Livesey finds that capturing steam and New York's subways fills him with an excitement just as fantastic as that first day.



**Alan MILLER, Santiago, Chile**

*From SoCal to Chile*, Saturday, 10:45 A.M.

Born in Los Angeles in 1942, Miller grew up in Glendale next to Southern Pacific's main line to San Francisco. As a child, he and his father walked two blocks to SP's Glendale station to watch the daily parade of passenger and freight trains. As a result, Miller has spent more than sixty years photographing trains worldwide. Since 2008, he has lived with his wife Gloria Paschen and son Sebastian in Santiago, Chile, where he and Gloria were married in 1993. He has been a public finance investment banker/municipal advisor for more than fifty years.



**Adam NORMANDIN, Los Angeles, California**

*All in the Details*, Saturday, 11:30 A.M.

Contemporary artist Adam Normandin is best known for his photorealist style of painting and for his body of work based upon freight trains. He lives and works in southern California but frequently can be found exploring rail yards across the country with his camera, in search of inspiration. Back in his studio, Normandin uses the computer to help shape and enhance his photographs into ideas for paintings. His work is exhibited at top galleries and museums across the nation, and his paintings are coveted by collectors around the world.



**James J. REISDORFF, David City, Nebraska**

*Granger Route: The Photography of Esther Bublely*, Saturday, 9:30 A.M.

Reisdorff is the founder of South Platte Press, which publishes railroad-related titles dealing mainly with the western United States. Since 1982, South Platte Press has published about 100 books for a number of authors. Reisdorff has personally written or co-authored twenty of them, including *Burlington Route in Focus* with Michael Bartels. A 1978 journalism graduate of Creighton University, Reisdorff is otherwise a newspaper correspondent and history researcher. He shares a love of books with his wife and business partner, Shari Reisdorff.



**David STYFFE, Fullerton, California**

*A Printer's View of Railroad Photography*, Saturday, 4:00 P.M.

Born in 1951, Styffe is a fifth generation Californian who grew up surrounded by railroads and model trains. He started work as a young boy in the print shop owned by his grandfather and father, where he later published or printed several railroad calendars and books, including *Wheels Rolling—West* by Ted Benson and himself. He was at Gardner Lithograph while they were printers for Ansel Adams, and he now works in digital graphics for Rancho Santiago Community College. He and his wife Amy have four children and seven grandchildren.



# Meet the Band

Paul WERTICO



Hailed as "one of the most versatile and musical drummers in music today," Paul Wertico was a member of the Pat Metheny Group from 1983 to 2001. During that time, he won seven Grammy Awards (three for Best Jazz Fusion Performance, three for Best Contemporary Jazz Performance, and one for Best Rock Instrumental Performance), topped numerous magazine polls, received several gold records, and played drums and percussion for David Bowie.

Paul is also very active in the field of education. In addition to teaching drums privately, he is an associate professor of jazz studies at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. Before becoming a full-time faculty member at CCPA, he served on the wind and percussion faculty of Northwestern University for 16 years. For four decades, he has conducted drum masterclasses, clinics, and workshops around the world. He is on the education committee of the Jazz Institute of Chicago, and he served five terms on the board of governors of The Recording Academy Chicago Chapter.

Paul has performed in all 50 states and more than 60 countries. In 2004, he was a *Chicago Tribune* "Chicagoan of the Year." In 2010, the Cape Breton International Drum Festival honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his "Major Contribution To The World Of Drumming & Education," and that year he was also a recipient of the Montréal Drum Fest's Lifetime Achievement Award.

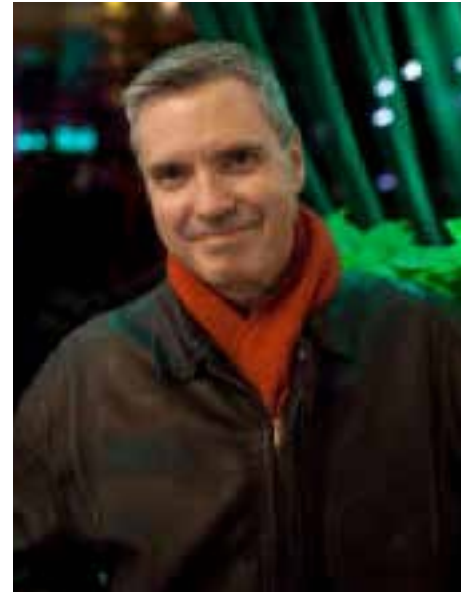
David CAIN



David Cain is one-third of Wertico Cain & Gray, a spontaneous music trio featuring Paul Wertico and Larry Gray. The trio won the Best Live Performance Album in the 13th Annual Independent Music Awards. David plays tenor sax, electronic midi instruments, iPads, and vocals. He has written for orchestra, chamber orchestra, jazz band, and radio music. His band was on the roster of Geffen Records in the 80s. A bonafide risk taker of the music and art canvas, Cain explores remarkable new frontiers of sound and vision.

As a former Apple Evangelist, David designed the first Apple computer choir sample startup sound. He started his production company UMEDIA in 1986, and has produced award-winning local, national, and international programs. His films have been screened at SXSW, the Portland International Film Festival, and Route 66 Film Festival, among others. He is an artist-in-Residence at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield, Illinois, and he was a Founding Faculty Member of the Illinois Summer School for the Arts at Illinois State University.

John MOULDER



John Moulder is a guitarist and composer whose music has evolved from an assimilation of many traditions. His most recent release, *Earthborn Tales of Soul and Spirit* (Origin 2016), features Donny McCaslin, Marquis Hill, Paul Wertico, and many other long-time musical companions. Inspired by soulful individuals, the album has been described as a contemporary musical narrative. Prior to being released, *Earthborn Tales* was a featured performance for the 2014 Made in Chicago concert series in Millennium Park.

John's compositions and playing are featured on his CDs entitled *Awakening* (Mo-Tonal Records 1993), *Through the Open Door* (Igmod/Mo-Tonal Records 1997), *Spirit Talk* (NAIM 2003), *Trinity* (Origin 2006), and *Bifrost* (Origin 2009). *Trinity* and *Bifrost* were each named one of the ten best jazz CDs of 2006 and 2009 respectively by the *Chicago Tribune*. On *The Eleventh Hour: Live at the Green Mill* (Origin 2012), John collaborates with his long time friends and musical companions, Paul Wertico, Larry Gray, Jim Trompeter, and Geof Bradfield.

# Print Program

Two new, limited edition prints debut at Conversations 2017: David Styffe's *After a Spring Rain, Azusa, California, 1991* and Jeff Brouws's *Akron, Ohio, 2014*. Each is available in an edition of ten, signed on the back by the artist. They will be sold at the conference for \$250 each, and the first buyer of each print will receive free matting. Prints still available will be sold at [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org) for \$250 plus shipping.

## About the Print Program

Since 2009, the print program has offered the opportunity to collect important railroad photographs at affordable prices while providing financial support for the Center. As with similar programs at other art-based nonprofits, the Center prices its photographs well below the gallery rates of San Francisco, New York, and Chicago. The selection and prices give incentives to collectors to purchase artwork they like while helping an organization they believe in.

For context, consider that fine-art photography prints from major artists now range from \$3,000 to \$7,500 (David Plowden) up to half-a-million dollars for artists such as Andreas Gursky. Photographs by Mel Patrick, Howard Pincus, Wayne Depperman, John Gruber, and Richard Steinheimer that appeared in the *Starlight on the Rails* show at the Robert Mann Gallery in 2000 brought \$750 to \$1,500 each. Plowden prints once sold for \$125; the asking price today regularly exceeds \$3,000.

Collecting photography is fun and rewarding. Foremost, it brings aesthetic pleasure; secondarily, it can prove a better investment than many stocks. You can see the prints themselves on display at this year's conference, and they will be available until the editions sell out. We will continue to unveil new selections in the same price range each year, featuring them also on the website. If you have suggestions for future participating photographers, please let us know.



## Additional Prints Available

In addition to the two images from this year's print program, you may peruse and purchase past works from previous years. One of each print is available with matting at no additional charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Each print in David Styffe's exhibition is also available for purchase. Quantity discounts apply on all print purchases: \$250 for the first print, and \$200 for each additional print.

*After a Spring Rain, Azusa, California, 1991*  
Photograph by David Styffe

*Akron, Ohio, 2014*  
Photograph by Jeff Brouws

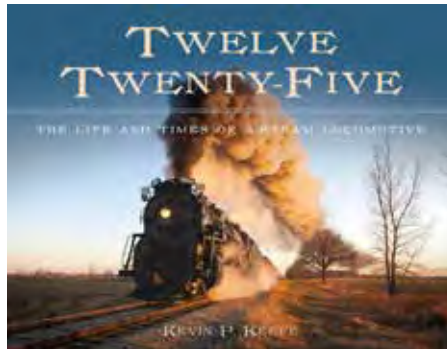
# Book Sales and Signings

Eight titles will be available this year at the Saturday reception. As in the past, sales will take place in Glen Rowan House's library (the large room on the left immediately upon entering), while the authors will be seated in the sun porch at the rear of Glen Rowan for signings.

If you previously reserved a book by mail, simply show your name tag to a staff member at the sales table, who will verify your name on the pre-order list and provide you with your book.

Please note that all books are available in limited quantities and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

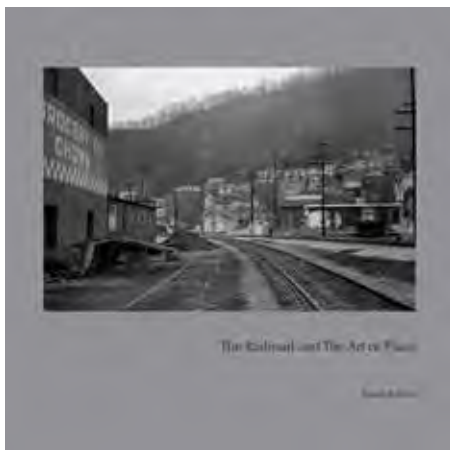
The Center can accept cash, check, and credit card payments.



*Twelve Twenty-Five:  
The Life and Times of a Steam Locomotive*  
By Kevin P. Keefe  
\$50, hardcover, 248 pages



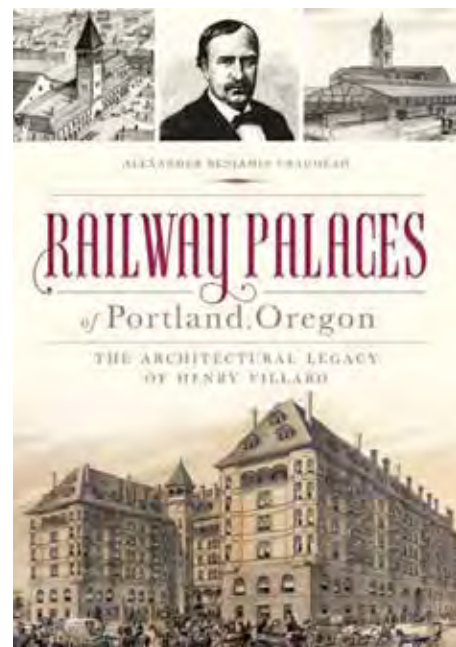
*Railroads of Milwaukee:  
Steam, Diesel, Electrics, Lake Boats*  
By John Kelly  
\$60, hardcover, 264 pages



*The Railroad and The Art of Place*  
By David Kahler  
\$60, hardcover, 152 p., 109 b/w images



*Crossroads of Commerce: The Pennsylvania  
Railroad Calendar Art of Grif Teller*  
By Dan Cupper  
\$50 (used), softcover, 184 pages



*Railway Palaces of Portland, Oregon:  
The Architectural Legacy of Henry Villard*  
By Alexander Benjamin Craghead  
\$20, softcover, 208 pages, 85 b/w images

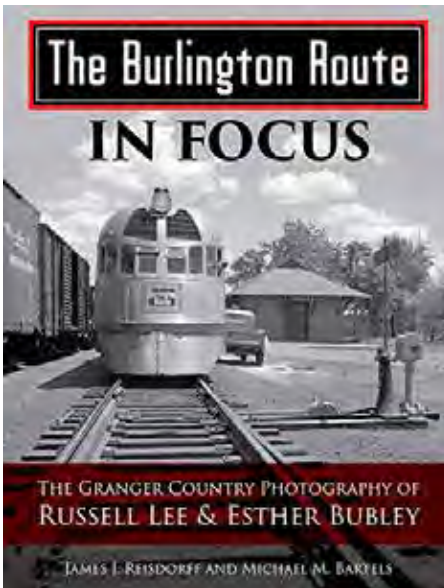


*Smoke Over Steamtown*  
By Dennis Livesey  
\$35, hardcover, 144 p., 131 images

# Print Raffles



*The Steam and Diesel Era in Wheeling, West Virginia: Photographs by J.J. Young*  
By Nicholas Fry, Gregory Smith, and Elizabeth Davis-Young  
\$50, hardcover, 224 p., 178 b/w images



*Burlington Route In Focus: Granger Country Photography of Russell Lee & Esther Buble*  
By James Reisdorff and Michael Bartels  
\$30, softcover, 104 pages

As in recent years at the conference, two photographers have donated prints that the Center has framed and matted that you can win in raffle drawings.

Jeff Mast's photograph features Pere Marquette steam locomotive no. 1225 during a photo runby near Owosso, Michigan, in 2007. The image was used for the cover of Kevin P. Keefe's book about the locomotive, *Twelve Twenty-Five*, and the winner will receive a signed copy of the book in addition to the photograph. The 13×19 archival pigment print is matted and framed in black metal to 20×24 inches.

Renowned photographer David Plowden has again donated a photograph for the raffle. His archival pigment print shows Canadian Pacific's "Scoot" mixed train crossing Ship Pond Viaduct in Maine in 1960 and is 11×14 inches, made by Plowden himself, matted, and framed in black metal to 20×24 inches.

The drawing for Mast's print will be held at dinner on Friday; Plowden's will be drawn on Saturday.

## Raffle Tickets

Ticket prices for each raffle are \$10 each, \$25 for three, or \$40 for five. You may purchase tickets on Friday evening for both raffles, and on Saturday morning for the Plowden raffle.



Jeff Mast: Pere Marquette steam locomotive no. 1225 near Owosso, Michigan, in April 2007.

David Plowden: Canadian Pacific's "Scoot" on Ship Pond Viaduct in Maine in March 1960.

# Docent Program

The Center is delighted to welcome four new docents to this year's Conversations. They are Will Jordan of Six Mile, South Carolina; Michael Karlik of Denver, Colorado; Evan Lofback of Maryville, Tennessee; and Zezhou Wang of Urbana, Illinois.

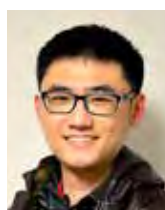
Jordan is a 15-year-old high school freshman who lives in upstate South Carolina near Clemson. His interest in trains has been existent for as long as he can remember. After getting his hands on a point-and-shoot digital camera at age eight, he has loved photographing railroads ever since and has nearly 600 images on the popular RailPictures.net website.

Karlik grew up in Virginia and began photographing railroads at age 14, asking his parents to drop him off at the commuter rail station near his home during the evening rush hour. He edited the newsletter for the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society for six years after attending its 2003 RailCamp in Steamtown on a scholarship. He holds B.A. degrees in history and government, and a master's in leadership and public policy, all from the University of Virginia. In Denver, he is a part-time administrative assistant as well as a podcaster and writer. He also spent the past summer working as a motorman and conductor for the Denver Trolley. As a photographer, he seeks to find and tell the stories of contemporary railroading.

Lofback grew up watching trains with his father, grandfather, and uncle in Tampa, Florida. At the age of 13, he began recording their trips on video and had produced his first feature-length documentary by age 16. In 2011, Evan and his family moved to Maryville, Tennessee, where he currently works in the Information Technology field and lives with his wife, Alexa, and Miniature Schnauzer, Walter. From 2014 to 2016, he researched, wrote, and directed *And Then There Was One*, a feature-length documentary focusing on the life and times of Southern Railway steam locomotive no. 4501. Evan continues to produce semi-professional railroad videos and still photos in his free time.

Wang is pursuing a master's degree in railroad engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Originally from China's Shaanxi Province, he received a B.S. degree in electronic information engineering from Beihang University in Beijing. He grew up traveling by train and began photographing railroads while in high school after receiving a Nikon DSLR camera as a gift from an uncle. He has traveled extensively throughout China to photograph its remaining steam operations. Wang learned of the Center and this conference after meeting Ronald Olsen in Essex, Connecticut, while photographing the Valley Railroad's Chinese-built 2-8-2 steam locomotive.

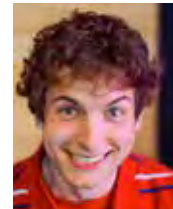
Each of the docents has received a scholarship for free registration, two nights of lodging, and travel expenses, thanks to the generous support of the conference's patrons. (See the list of patrons below the table of contents.)



SY-class 2-8-2 steam locomotive no. 1396 engulfed in a cloud of smoke on the Fuxin Coal Mine Railway in Liaoning Province, China, on December 15, 2012. Photograph by Zezhou Wang



In June 2016, a Norfolk Southern train splits the classic Norfolk and Western color position light signals in Montvale, Virginia, along the Blue Ridge District. Photograph by Will Jordan



Passengers and Virginia Railway Express train in Alexandria, Virginia, in 2006. Photograph by Michael Karlik



CSX freight train Q540 crosses a bridge over the Tennessee River into Knoxville, Tennessee, at sunset on December 15, 2016. Photograph by Evan Lofback

## Images from Conference Presentations



Above: Union Pacific's "Marlboro Local" passes a wig-wag crossing signal in Anaheim, California, in 2008. Photograph by David Styffe

Opposite: Southern Pacific 4-8-4 "Daylight" steam locomotive no. 4449 charges east near Grass Lake, California, after a spring snowfall on May 18, 1991. Photograph by Alan Miller





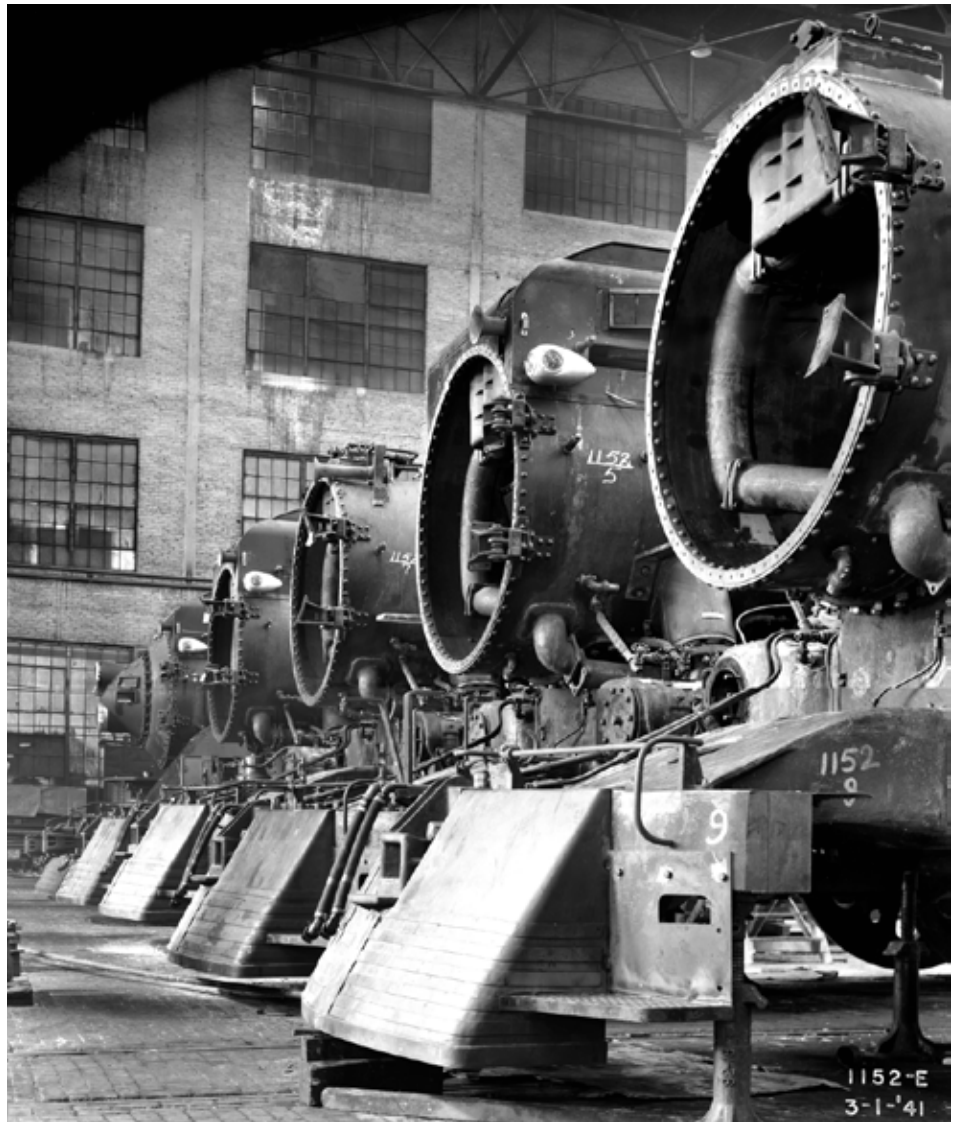
New York Central steam locomotives at the coal wharf in Livernois Yard at Detroit, Michigan, in 1938. Photograph by Robert A. Hadley, from Kevin Keefe's presentation. The Center is currently processing the Hadley photography collection.



Left: A mother and child wave goodbye to the woman's parents, departing by train from the Burlington Route station in Creston, Iowa, in the late 1940s. Photograph by Esther Bubley

Below: Albina lead, Portland, Oregon, 2010. Photograph by Alexander Benjamin Craghead





Right: Southern Pacific 4-8-4 *Daylight* steam locomotives under construction inside the Lima Locomotive Works in Lima, Ohio, in 1941. Lima Locomotive Company photograph

Below: Pittsburgh & West Virginia train no. 91 crosses the Ohio River between Wellsburg Tunnel in West Virginia, and Mingo, Ohio, in 1947 behind a Wheeling & Lake Erie 2-8-2 Mikado and, five cars back, a P&WV 2-8-2 Mikado. Photograph by J.J. Young





Milwaukee Road Fairbanks-Morse locomotive switching boxcars at the Schlitz brewery on the "Beer Line" in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1952. Photograph by Wallace W. Abbey, collection of the Center



Above: *Partners in Progress* shows the Pennsylvania Railroad's southbound *Congressional* passing the *Broadway Limited* at Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as a freight train crosses overhead. 1960 painting by Grif Teller

Opposite, above: South African Railways Class 19D 4-8-2 steam locomotive no. 3321 heading east with a passenger train near Bonnieville, South Africa, in May 1993. Photograph by Katherine Botkin

Opposite, below: WATCO's Ann Arbor Railroad GP38-2 no. 3879 in heritage paint at Toledo, Ohio, on July 28, 2015. Photograph by Drayton Blackgrove, Delay In Block Productions



# List of Attendees

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# All-Time Conference Presenters

February 22, 2003

Lake Forest College

- John Gruber
- Don Horn
- David Plowden
- Brian Solomon
- Matt Van Hattem

March 20, 2004

Lake Forest College

- Mark Hemphill
- Joel Jensen
- Anne M. Lyden
- Bill Middleton
- Mel Patrick
- David Plowden and John Gruber

March 19–20, 2005

Lake Forest College

- Shirley Burman
- Steve Crise
- Tom Garver
- Robert Harr
- Sayre Kos
- Michael R. Valentine
- Jim Wrinn

March 25, 2006

Marquette University

- Jeff Brouws
- Chris Burger
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Sayre Kos
- Greg McDonnell
- Gil Reid
- Michael R. Valentine

March 24, 2007

Lake Forest College

- Steve Barry
- Simpson Kalisher
- Sayre Kos
- Miško Kranjec
- John Roskoski
- Jim Shaughnessy
- Walter E. Zullig Jr.

April 12, 2008

Lake Forest College

- Jeff Brouws
- Victor Hand and Don Phillips
- Don Horn
- Scott Lothes
- David Plowden
- Tony Reevy

April 17–19, 2009

Lake Forest College

- Mark Hemphill
- Kevin P. Keefe and John B. Corns
- Stuart Klipper
- Scott Lothes, panel with Steve Barry, Mike Schafer, and Matt Van Hattem
- Kelly Lynch
- Kevin Scanlon
- Don Sims

April 23–25, 2010

Lake Forest College

- Frank Barry
- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Jeff Brouws
- Jim Brown
- Ian Kennedy
- Linda Niemann and Joel Jensen
- David Plowden
- Alex Ramos

April 15–17, 2011

Lake Forest College

- Lewis Ableidinger
- Lina Bertucci
- John Gruber
- Olaf Haensch
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Stan Kistler
- Joe McMillan
- Gordon Osmundson
- Karl Zimmermann

April 13–15, 2012

Lake Forest College

- Bill Botkin
- Shirley Burman
- Steinheimer
- Steve Crise
- Tom Fawell
- Christian Goepel
- Drake Hokanson
- Joel Jensen
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Henry Posner III
- Chris Starnes

April 12–14, 2013

Lake Forest College

- Wes Carr
- Pablo Delano
- Michael Froio
- Matthew Kierstead
- Cate Kratville
- Mitch Markovitz
- Tony Reevy
- Casey Thomason
- Steve VanDenburgh
- Jim Wrinn, panel with Steve Barry, Alexander Benjamin Craghead, Marc Entze, Don Phillips, and Matt Van Hattem

May 16–18, 2014

Lake Forest College

Chicago History Museum

- Jeff Brouws
- Mike Danneman and Ron Flanary
- Travis Dewitz
- John Gruber
- Victor Hand
- Kevin Keefe
- Blair Kooistra
- Kathi Kube
- Mel Patrick
- Glenn Willumson

April 10–12, 2015

Lake Forest College

- Diane Bacha, with Ron Flanary, Don Hofshommer, Joel Jensen, Don Phillips, Jim Wrinn
- Ed Bartholomew
- Ted Benson, Dick Dorn, Dale Sanders, and Dave Stanley
- Justin Franz
- David Kahler
- J. Parker Lamb
- Jeff Mast and Michael R. Valentine
- Peter Mosse
- Bill Stewart
- James Swensen
- Axel Zwingenberger

April 8–10, 2016

Lake Forest College

- Steve Barry
- Wendy Burton and Kevin P. Keefe
- Charlie Castner and Ron Flanary
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Todd Halamka
- Ronald C. Hill
- Emily Moser
- Steve Patterson
- Tony Reevy
- John Sanderson
- Alan Shaw
- J. Craig Thorpe

October 29, 2016

University of Connecticut

- Mark Aldrich
- Robert Joseph Belletzkic
- Victor Hand
- Matt Kierstead
- Shaun O'Boyle
- Jim Shaughnessy
- J.W. Swanberg

April 28–30, 2017

Lake Forest College

- Drayton Blackgrove
- Katherine Botkin
- Jean Bublely and James J. Reisdorff
- Alexander Benjamin Craghead
- Dan Cupper
- Nicholas Fry
- Eric E. Hirsimaki
- John P. Kelly
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Dennis Livesey
- Alan Miller
- Adam Normandin
- David Styffe
- Paul Wertico with David Cain and John Moulder

*Next conference:  
April 13–15, 2018  
Lake Forest College*

# Directors, Officers, and Staff



**Jeff Brouws**, Stanfordville, New York, brings the Center knowledge of 19th and 20th century photography and a broad background in publishing, with seven photography books to his credit. His photographs can be found in numerous public and private collections.



**Norman Carlson**, Lake Forest, Illinois, spent thirty-four years with Arthur Anderson where he led the transportation industry practice for eleven years. He is president of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society and managing editor of its publication *First & Fastest*.



**T. Bondurant French** (Chair), Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is the executive chairman of Adams Street Partners, one of the largest and oldest managers of private equity investment in the world. A lifelong rail enthusiast, Bon has photographed some 700 different railroads.



**H. Roger Grant**, Clemson, South Carolina, is a professor of history at Clemson and an active writer of railroad history. His dozens of books include company histories of several railroads. He is a native of Albia, Iowa, and previously taught at the University of Akron.



**John Gruber** (Past President), Madison, Wisconsin, is the author or coauthor of seven railroad books. He received awards from the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society for photography and an article about Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg's photography.



**Nona Hill** (Treasurer), Madison, Wisconsin, and Clark Johnson, her husband, manage High Iron Travel, operator of the *Caritas*, the most widely traveled private car in America. She helps lead multiple passenger rail advocacy groups in Wisconsin.



**David Kahler** (Vice-President), Pittsboro, North Carolina, has practiced architecture for more than thirty years and has been recognized by his peers as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He remains active as a consultant and advisor.



**Kevin P. Keefe**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recently retired as vice-president-editorial for Kalmbach Publishing Co. He served as editor of *Trains* from 1992 to 2000. As a student at Michigan State, he worked on Pere Marquette steam locomotive no. 1225.



**Scott Lothes** (President and Executive Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center's staff in 2008. He is a regular contributor to *Trains* and other railroad publications, with more than fifty bylined articles and some 500 photographs in print.



**Albert O. Louer**, Williamsburg, Virginia, recently retired as Director of Principal Gifts at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He worked in museums for fifty years and has research and collecting interests in the Pullman Co. and midwestern railroads.



**Peter Mosse**, New York, New York, grew up in England and moved to the U.S. in 1977 to set up a precious metals trading subsidiary for the UK Rothschild banking group. He began collecting railroad paintings in 1980 and now owns more than 150 original works.



**Jordan Radke** (Archives Manager), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. He has worked in the archives of Wisconsin Public Radio and UW's engineering department.



**Michael P. Schmidt** (Secretary), Owosso, Michigan, is an orthopedic surgeon and a collector of railroad photographs and paintings. He is Vice Chief of Staff, Chief of Surgery, and serves on the board of trustees of his hospital.



**Richard Tower**, San Francisco, California, has spent much of his career in the railroad industry with Southern Pacific and Amtrak, and as a consultant. With his wife Caroline, he manages the Candelaria Fund, which supports many community organizations.



**Michael R. Valentine**, Ferndale, Michigan, is Manager, Training Product Group, Leoni Engineering Products & Services, Inc. He has had more than 200 photographs published in *Trains* and other periodicals and books in the U.S. and Europe.

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art is a national nonprofit arts and education organization founded in 1997 and based in Madison, Wisconsin. As its mission the Center preserves and presents significant images of railroading, interpreting them in publications, exhibitions, and on the Internet.

Efforts to preserve railroad artwork and photographs have led to the Center's amassing an archive of some 200,000 images, including the complete works of several well-known photographers. Full processing of these collections includes housing them in archival-safe storage materials and digitizing the images as well as their captions, or metadata. The Center is actively adding to its archive and conducts these preservation activities both in house and in concert with the Archives & Special Collections of the Donnelley and Lee Library at Lake Forest College.

The Center also collaborates with partners across the country on its presentation work. Foremost is *Railroaders: Jack Delano's Homefront Photography*, a project with the Chicago History Museum (CHM) that included an exhibition at the museum for nearly two years and an accompanying 200-page catalog published by the Center. They tell the stories of forty-nine Chicagoland railroad workers during World War II and serve as a prime example of the kind of work that can be created from a significant, well-preserved collection of rail photography. As CHM president Gary Johnson said, "Museums with photographic archives, take heed!"

The Center prepares other traveling exhibitions about railroad workers and individual photographers such as David Plowden and O. Winston Link. Venues have included Grand Central Terminal, the California State Railroad Museum, and Milwaukee's Grohmann Museum. Support from the North American Railway Foundation (NARF) led to the long-running *Representations of Railroad Work* program. All told, the Center has

brought some twenty unique exhibitions of significant railroad photography and art to more than seventy venues throughout the country.

Publication of *Railroad Heritage*, the Center's journal, occurs quarterly. Each issue features work by historic and contemporary photographers and artists plus news of the field. Special issues have honored workers, women in railroading, and individual photographers, and have concisely explained railroad history and preservation.

Each spring going back to 2003, the Center hosts this conference, and all but one have been held on the campus of Lake Forest College. The conference provides a forum for veteran and young photographers alike—as well as artists, historians, editors, and railroaders—to mingle both socially and formally, present and discuss their work, and address photographic and artistic issues. Thanks to the generosity of several conference patrons, the Center recently began offering scholarships to enable young or developing photographers and artists to attend the conference. A regionally-themed northeastern conference was held at the University of Connecticut on October 29, 2016, and its success points the way towards more regional conferences.

The annual John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program recognizes recent work by railroad photographers in the United States and abroad. Named for the Center's principal founder, the awards program includes an exhibition at the California State Railroad Museum and publication in *Railfan & Railroad* magazine.

Learn more about the Center's work at [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org), which features images from the archives and includes links to other online platforms at Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, and Instagram. Follow them to stay abreast of current events and trends in railroad photography and art as well as the Center's research and acquisitions.



John A. Arbuckle  
1953–2017




James B. Fox  
1942–2017

Two registered attendees passed away just before this year's conference.

John Arbuckle, of Hutchison, Kansas, died just two weeks ago on April 15 at the age of 63. He grew up in Hutchison and earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from the University of Kansas in 1975. He had begun working for the Santa Fe as a station agent after high school, continuing his career with Amtrak until retiring in 2013. He was an accomplished photographer who traveled widely to see, ride, and record trains. Last year was his first conference, and he had been looking forward to attending again this year.

James B. "Jim" Fox, of Dallas Center, Iowa, died on March 12 at the age of 74. He received a B.A. degree in American studies from Grinnell College in 1965 and returned home to Dallas Center to join his father's and grandfather's company, Fox Insurance, founded by his grandfather in 1911. Jim loved all things railroad—so much so that he purchased the abandoned depot of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway in Dallas Center in 1996 and renovated it into his dream office. Jim and his wife Lynn attended *Conversations* faithfully over the last several years, bringing great enthusiasm each time. He listed the Center for memorial contributions, which led to 35 gifts totaling nearly \$2500.

# Sponsors of Conversations 2017

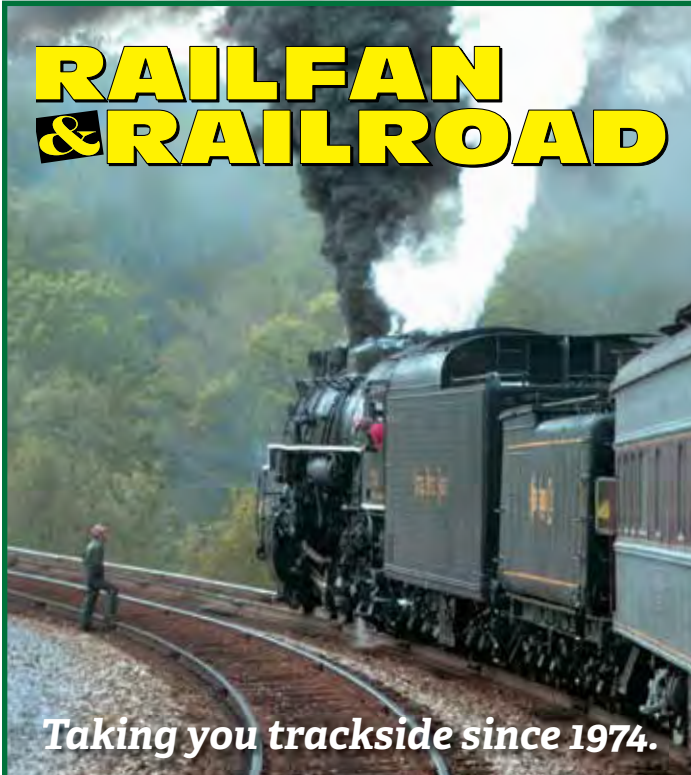


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The award-winning R&LHS journal *Railroad History* combines scholarly writing and in-depth book reviews with a vibrant format, and is one of the world's premier publications devoted to the history of technology.



Many conference participants are R&LHS members already. We urge you to join their ranks as we explore the history of the railroad industry.

Please visit the R&LHS table and take advantage of bonus copies of *Railroad History* for those who become members at the conference. Current R&LHS members can also renew and purchase back issues.

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## *Support the Center's Endowment Fund*

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To help secure a bright future, and to ensure longterm care for our growing collections and exhibitions, the Center has created an endowment fund. A gift to the fund, established through your estate, can make a lasting impact on the work of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art while costing you nothing during your lifetime. Leaving a legacy in our railroad heritage community is easy. Just ask your attorney or financial advisor to include the boxed language in your will, trust, insurance policy, or other beneficiary designation forms.

Your legacy gift can be directed to support any of our specific programs where you have a particular interest or to provide general support for all

of the activities of the Center. In your estate plan, it is important to use the endowment's full and exact name: "Center for Railroad Photography & Art Endowment" (EIN 47-7373395). As a 509(a)(3) nonprofit organization, gifts are tax exempt to the fullest extent permissible by law.

To ensure that your legacy will be established according to your wishes, please get in touch with Scott Lothes, president and executive director, at 608-251-5785 or [scott@railphoto-art.org](mailto:scott@railphoto-art.org). Your commitment will remain fully confidential.

In addition to estate gifts, we welcome current gifts of cash or securities to the endowment, which will be fully matched by Bon French's challenge.

I give \_\_\_\_\_% and/or \$\_\_\_\_\_ of my estate to the Center for Railroad Photography & Art Endowment (EIN 47-7373395), 313 Price Place, Suite 13, Madison, Wisconsin, 53705-3262, to provide funding for \_\_\_\_\_ at the Center or the program(s) most in need as determined by the administration of the Center and its board of directors, and by the trustees of the Center's endowment fund.