

VIRTUAL CONVERSATIONS

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art's first-ever online conference

April 18, 2020



CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

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Steve Patterson, Mike Raia, Ken Rehor, John Ryan, David Saums,
Michael P. Schmidt, Joseph C. Szabo, Thomas Szczesniak,
Thomas Taylor, Robert Orr, Donald Toon, Rich Tower, Kurt Vragel Jr.,
Robin White, Anonymous (2)

Conference Volunteers

Justin Franz, Todd Halamka, Sharon Hill, Kevin P. Keefe, John Kelly,
Elrond Lawrence, Ken Rehor, Bill Schafer, Otto Vondrak

Front Cover:
Travis Dewitz
Workers move about the locomotive
repair shop near Nanquan, China,
an area commonly referred as
Sandaoling, January 2018

Schedule

Pre-recorded shows on our YouTube: Channel: www.youtube.com/railphotoart

Return to Copper Country: Rediscovering the Railroads of Clifton and Morenci, Arizona,

Scott Lothes

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the CRP&A,

Oren Helbok & George Hiotis

Mikado's Farewell – China's Last Steam Railroad,

Travis Dewitz & Todd Halamka

Beautiful Fragility: Railroad Cinematography in the Pacific Northwest,

Camron Settlemier

Saturday, April 18, live sessions on Cisco Webex (all times are U.S. Central)

9:30 A.M. *Webex meeting opens, Attendees' show on repeat*

10:00 A.M. **Welcome and Introduction,** Scott Lothes

10:15 A.M. **Collections Update: Virtual Conversations Edition,** Adrienne Evans

10:30 A.M. **The Railroad, As J. Parker Lamb Saw It,** Kevin Keefe & Fred Frailey

11:15 A.M. **Steam, Steam, Steam! 45 Years of Exploring Fire, Water, and Steel,** Dennis Livesey

12:00 P.M. *Lunch break, Attendees' show on repeat*

12:30 P.M. **Winners and Losers: The Changing Map of the Northern Transcons,** Justin Franz

1:15 P.M. **Rails Along the Mother Road: the Southwest Transcon,** Elrond Lawrence

2:00 P.M. **My Travels with Steinheimer, Styffe, Benson, Dorn & Kooistra...**

Decades Before I Met Them, Ken Rehor

2:45 P.M. *Break, Attendees' show on repeat*

3:00 P.M. **Railroading with a Brush: The Building of a Painting,** Gil Bennett

3:45 P.M. **Q&A with pre-recorded presenters:** Travis Dewitz, Todd Halamka, Oren Helbok, George Hiotis, Scott Lothes, and Camron Settlemier

4:45 P.M. **Wrap-up**

5:00 P.M. *Conclusion*

Presenters

Railroading with a Brush: The Building of a Painting, 3:00 P.M.

Gil BENNETT, Saratoga Springs, Utah

Live

This presentation chronicles the history of railroad paintings in America from 1869 to the 2000s. The presentation reviews small to big steam railroads, the streamlined and transition era, the diesel revolution, the standard diesel electrics and mega mergers, and the hi-tech diesel electrics of today.

Bennett has been painting professionally since 1984 and is proficient in both oil and watercolor. He is a commissioned artist who has worked for both large corporate businesses on advertisements and individual buyers looking to revive nostalgic memories. He also paints landscapes, portraits, and western themes, but prefers to paint his favorite subject – trains.



Mikado's Farewell – China's Last Steam Railroad

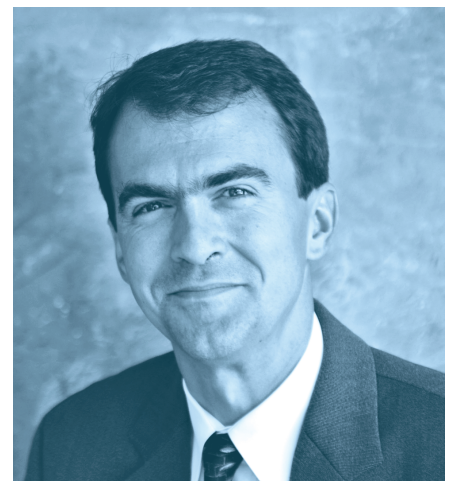
Travis DEWITZ, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Todd HALAMKA, Western Springs, Illinois

Pre-recorded

Photographers Travis Dewitz and Todd Halamka made a two-week winter visit in 2018 to photograph steam locomotives on a remote coal mine railroad in China, located 2700 km northwest of Beijing. Scott Lothes moderates a discussion between them about their trip, photography, and experiences.

Halamka is a practicing architect and founder of Todd Halamka + Partners in downtown Chicago. His focus on railroad photography began in 2011, combining his lifelong love of trains and the outdoors with his fascination for image making.

Dewitz is a photographer based out of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He has been published or featured in *National Geographic*, *Trains Magazine*, *Bakken Business Journal*, *Un-Sung Magazine*, *Vogue Italia*, *Cinamagic*, *Child Model Magazine*, *International Contemporary Artists Vol. XII*, Amtrak brochures, Volume One, and *Railfan & Railroad* magazine. He is also the author of *Blaze Orange – Whitetail Deer Hunting in Wisconsin*.



The Railroad, As J. Parker Lamb Saw It, 10:30 A.M.

Fred FRAILEY, Edwards, Colorado
Kevin P. KEEFE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Live

Fred Frailey and Kevin Keefe offer a wide-ranging selection of photographs from the camera of J. Parker Lamb, one of the key figures in railroad photography during the steam-to-diesel transition era of the 1950s and '60s. Keefe and Frailey will trade anecdotes about Lamb — each worked extensively with him as authors and editors — and present some of Lamb's best black-and-white work, much of it from the Center's new book *The Railroad Photography of J. Parker Lamb*, as well as additional images from the Center's Lamb collection.



Frailey is one of America's best-known railroad writers. His new book *Last Train to Texas* is just out from Indiana University Press, joining such other Frailey classics as *Blue Streak Merchandise* and *Twilight of the Great Trains*. He has written for *Trains Magazine* for more than forty years and at the end of 2019 ended a long stint as one of its columnists. A Texas native, Frailey studied journalism at the University of Kansas and worked at the *Kansas City Star*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and *U.S. News & World Report* before he enjoyed a long tenure as editor of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*.



Keefe is a member of the Center's board of directors and is a columnist and blogger for *Classic Trains Magazine*. He studied journalism at Michigan State University, worked for eleven years in daily newspapers, and spent twenty-nine years at Kalmbach Publishing Co., where he was a member of the *Trains* staff for thirteen years, eight as editor. He later served as the magazine's publisher. He retired in 2016 as Kalmbach's vice president-editorial. Keefe's book, *Twelve Twenty-Five: The Life and Times of a Steam Locomotive*, in 2016 won the Notable Book Award from the Library of Michigan.

Collections Update: Virtual Conversations Edition, 10:15 A.M.

Adrienne EVANS, Madison, Wisconsin

Live

CRP&A Archivist Adrienne Evans will give an overview of the Center's holdings and an update on the Railroad Heritage Visual Archive's projected growth. She will also discuss current and recently-completed processing work as well as how the Collections staff plans to move forward during the outbreak of Covid-19. Expect to see some gems from the most recently digitized batch of Jim Shaughnessy's historic glass plate negatives and exciting new additions from some yet-to-be-announced new acquisitions.

Evans received her master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. She worked at History Colorado for two years before coming to the Center in 2017.



Winners and Losers: The Changing Map of the Northern Transcons, 12:30 P.M.

Justin FRANZ, Whitefish, Montana

Live

In "Winners and Losers," Justin Franz offers a look at the phenomenon of railroad towns along the northern transcontinental corridor. He focuses on how it played out along the Great Northern in Northwest Montana through contemporary images of the area's two railroads: BNSF Railway's main line over Marias Pass and the Mission Mountain Railroad's Kalispell Branch.

Franz is a writer, editor, and photographer who lives in Whitefish, Montana, just steps away from the former Great Northern Railway's main line. Franz grew up in Maine where he acquired his interest in trains from his father who spent ten years as a railroader. In 2007, Franz moved to Montana and later graduated with a degree in print journalism from the University of Montana. Franz recently became the associate editor of *Railfan & Railroad* and *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazines. His work has appeared in *Trains Magazine*, *Railroad Heritage*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Atlas Obscura*, *New York Times*, and *Washington Post*.



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the CRP&A

Oren HELBOK, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania
George HIOTIS, Clark, New Jersey

Pre-recorded

Oren Helbok and George Hiotis regale adventures they have had over the past ten years on their travels to the Center for Railroad Photography & Art's annual Conversations conference in Lake Forest.

Helbok was born in the Bronx in 1965 and ran away from a steam locomotive the first time he heard one, at age two, but he very quickly turned around. Oren learned the technical aspects of film photography from his father, John, and spent twenty-five years in darkrooms before raising children and then going digital. Now running a non-profit arts organization in central Pennsylvania, Oren lives closer to more active steam locomotives than he could in any other place in the U.S.

Hiotis is a professional photographer who saw the beginning of his career by borrowing the family camera to take pictures of trains. He made his very first picture at the Jersey Central station in nearby Westfield in the mid-1950s, and his interest advanced beyond the hobby stage in the early 1970s. He has nurtured a great passion for railroads, in both their mechanical and human aspects, most often aiming for an unusual representation. He has won two grand prizes and one second prize in the *Trains Magazine* photo contests.



Rails Along the Mother Road: the Southwest Transcon, 1:15 P.M.

Elrond LAWRENCE, Salinas, California

Live

This personal journey will begin with images from the Santa Fe Railway era and leap forward to examine BNSF's dynamic Transcon from New Mexico to Southern California, seeking out the traces of Santa Fe heritage that still evoke its mystique. We'll follow iconic Route 66, where mid-century migrants once traveled in search of a new life, before reaching the sprawl of today's Los Angeles.

Lawrence is a writer, photographer, and public relations professional with a passion for railroads and vintage highways. He grew up in Fontana, California, within sight of Santa Fe Railway's Second District main line and former U.S. Highway 66; weekend trips to the desert with his parents sealed his love for trains and the open road. Elrond authored the book *Route 66 Railway* and his work appears in *Trains Magazine*, *Railfan & Railroad*, the *NRHS Bulletin*, and other publications. He lives along California's central coast near Salinas with wife Laura and three cats and is active in Southern California rail preservation.

Steam, Steam, Steam! 45 Years of Exploring Fire, Water, and Steel, 11:15 A.M.

Dennis LIVESEY, New York City, New York

Live

In a presentation spanning a 45-year timeline, Dennis Livesey explores just what fire, water, and steel is all about. Fascinated by the steam locomotive from the age of five, he has repeatedly sought it out, trying his utmost to unearth what attracts him to this; man's first machine that tells you at every turn it is alive.



Long ago, Dennis Livesey saw the light. He is not sure if it was a New Haven Railroad headlight or his father's slide projector but in either event, he was bitten both by railroads and photography. A graduate of NYU Film School, he had a 34-year career as a camera technician in the movies. Along the way, he convinced an incredible lady named Mel to marry him and raise two outstanding children. Now a camera specialist for a large camera retailer and a volunteer conductor at Steamtown, he photographs trains whenever the light is right.

Return to Copper Country: Rediscovering the Railroads of Clifton and Morenci, Arizona

Scott LOTHES, Madison, Wisconsin

Pre-recorded

The copper mining region of far eastern Arizona is home to spectacular railroading and intriguing industrial history. Scott Lothes, the Center's president and executive director, became fascinated with the area during a college internship in 2000. He recently returned and was pleased to discover that, like a good wine, they have grown even more interesting with time.

Lothes became the Center's full-time executive director in 2011, after serving on its staff part-time since 2008. In 2013 he succeeded John Gruber as president and editor of the Center's journal, *Railroad Heritage*. He is a regular contributor to *Trains Magazine*, *Railfan & Railroad*, and other railroad publications, with more than fifty bylined articles and some 500 photographs in print.



**My Travels with Steinheimer, Styffe, Benson, Dorn & Kooistra...
Decades Before I Met Them, 2:00 P.M.**

Ken REHOR, Palo Alto, California

Live

This show explores a Midwestern teenager's photographic education from the Masters of Western rail photography – decades before he met them.

Ken Rehor has been fascinated with trains since before he could speak. First there was Dad's pre-war Lionel train under the Christmas tree, followed by an epic family journey on the *Super Chief* to Los Angeles. Model trains eventually led to model train photographs, and then *Trains Magazine*.



Beautiful Fragility: Railroad Cinematography in the Pacific Northwest

Camron SETTLEMIER, Albany, Oregon

Pre-recorded

Camron Settlemier explains the motives and techniques of using video, rather than still imagery, for capturing some of the Pacific Northwest's dying short lines and branch lines during the turn of the last century.

While still in college, Camron got his first video camera to capture the last summer of the Southern Pacific in Oregon. For the next thirteen years he put all available time, money, and resources to pursue his interest in railroad videography, capturing some of the most vulnerable and interesting short lines and branch lines in the Pacific Northwest. He is also known for professional steam videos, first working with Goodheart Productions, and later forming his own video company, Marcam Productions. In 2007 Marcam Productions was the first to release a steam railfan video in the U.S. on High Definition Blu-ray, the "Legends of Steam" series. Today, Camron subsists in his hometown of Albany, Oregon and dreams of inventing a time machine to go back to a period of time worth videoing.



Images from Conference Presenters



South Shore Line commuter train passing through Michigan City, Indiana, on September 16, 2019.
Photograph by Oren Helbok

Illinois Central Railroad 4-8-2 steam locomotive no. 2613 leading the southbound Cairo Turn local freight train south of Carbondale, Illinois, on the morning of December 28, 1959. Photograph by J. Parker Lamb, © 2020, Center for Railroad Photography and Art. From "The Railroad, As J. Parker Lamb Saw It," presented by Fred Frailey and Kevin Keefe.



Both arriving and departing Mikado steam-powered coal trains at the Blue Loader at Sandaoling, China, in February 2018. Photograph by Todd Halamka





Above:
 Gil Bennett
Top of the Pass, A Great Northern freight
 pulled by an SD-45, F-45 and a GP-40 crest
 Marias Pass in Western Montana.
 16 x 20 inches
 Watercolor
 Simpson Collection

Top, following:
 Santa Fe steam locomotive 3751
 pulls an excursion train with an
 Amtrak locomotive past Roys
 Café in Amboy, California.
 Photograph by Elrond Lawrence

Bottom, following:
 Eastbound Santa Fe freight
 train at Lyons, Illinois,
 on November 3, 1979
 Photograph by Ken Rehor





Top: Tension mounts as the Valley Railroad Santa Train approaches the Old Deep River Road crossing in Essex, Connecticut. Photograph by Dennis Livesey

Bottom: Amtrak's *Empire Builder* on the BNSF Railway's High Line, March 21, 2020. Photograph by Justin Franz



Top: The Saint Maries River Railroad hauls logs to the mill in Saint Mairies, Idaho, along its namesake river in October 2006. Photograph by Camron Settlemier

Bottom: Arizona Eastern Railroad train 203 emerges from Tunnel 1 and is about to enter Tunnel 2 on the steep climb out of Clifton, Arizona, on March 9, 2020. Photograph by Scott Lothes

Human Connections

Railroads connect us across time and space. Lately, we have all had to reconsider the meaning of space and how we measure the distance between friends and family, between coworkers, and between nations. In these times of suffering and uncertainty it is easy to feel alone. That is why some of the most important reminders we can give ourselves are the memories of connection.

Virtual Conversations stemmed from an idea to keep our membership connected while we have to stay physically apart. The tremendous response we received came from across the globe, and well beyond our membership. Whilst readying for this conference over the past month we were reminded that railroading does not only connect those involved in our organization but, in fact, it connects the world.

Though we have witnessed a horrible side-effect of globalization in the past four months with the spread of COVID-19, it is important to not forget the beautiful diversity our world holds and how railroads serve to connect its many corners for the better. From workers to passengers to railfans, the imprint of railroading touches people of all races, genders, or creeds.

Visit our conference website (<http://www.railphoto-art.org/virtual-conversations/>) to view galleries that demonstrate the global impact of railroading and the human connections this technology fosters. Let these galleries serve as a reminder that although tracks connect cities and countries, people stand at the heart of these machines that connect the world.

Human Connections uses images from the Center for Railroad Photography & Art's Wallace W. Abbey, John F. Bjorklund, Victor Hand, J. Parker Lamb, Ted Rose, and Fred Springer collections and images from the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. The works of Todd Halamka, Scott Lothes, and Bill Schafer are also featured.

Hailey Paige
Exhibitions and Events Coordinator



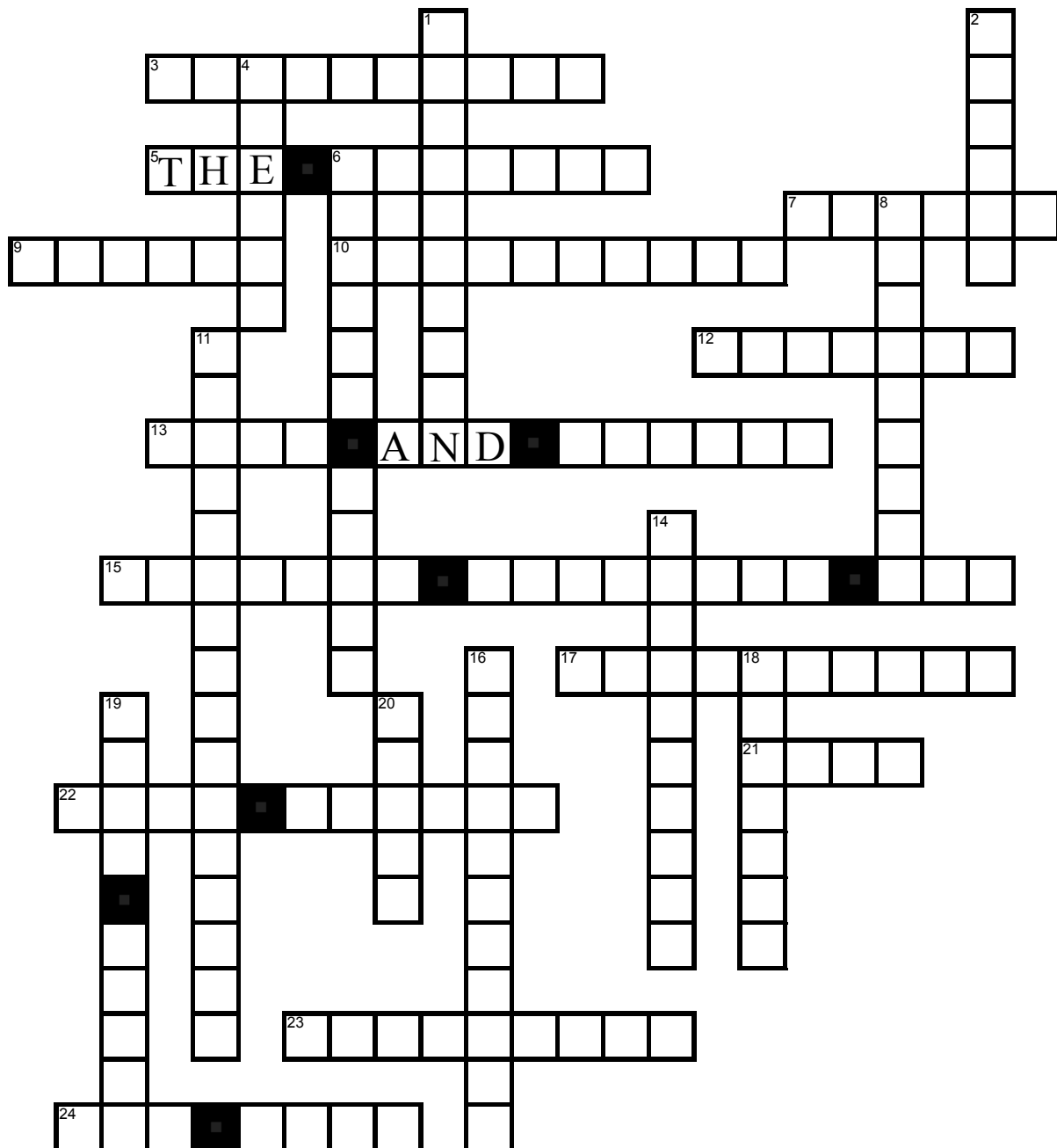


Previous: An older man appears to be imparting some wisdom about steam locomotives at the Sacramento Railfair show, in May 1991. Photograph by J. Parker Lamb. © 2020, Center for Railroad Photography and Art, Lamb-03-024-13

Top: Two women wait for their ride to go shopping, a JR Hokkaido local passenger train, at Hiragishi station in Hokkaido, Japan, on September 27, 2006. © Scott Lothes

Bottom: Guayaquil-Quito Railway steam locomotive no. 43 leads a passenger train through downtown Bucay, Chimborazo, Ecuador, on July 9, 1990. Photograph by Fred M. Springer. © 2020, Center for Railroad Photography and Art, Springer-ECU1-22-37

CRPA's Virtual Conference Crossword



Across

- 3** A unit of power frequently used to describe locomotives
- 5** A 1926 American silent comedy film inspired by the Great Locomotive Chase of 1862
- 7** This rail photography term portrays the locomotive in a very realistic and straightforward manner
- 9** This rail photography term is a 3/4-angle shot of a train
- 10** The hog, pot, or kettle
- 12** A sound, gesture, or object that conveys notice or warning
- 13** What you need to climb an especially steep mountain
- 15** The formal product of congress signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 1, 1862
- 17** A beloved trackside structure based on a system of sending messages by holding the arms or two flags or poles in certain positions according to an alphabetic code.
- 21** Collections Clues: 1.His work can be seen in Steel Wheels Rolling (Boston Mills Press, 2001) Born in 1933, and one of the deans of post-World War II railroad photography in the United States
- 22** CRPA's principle founder
- 23** Collection Clues: 1. He commissioned a painting by noted railroad artist Larry Fisher. 2. He often incorporated signal towers and stations still in use in the late 70's and 80's
- 24** Collection Clue: In 1999, the U.S. Postal Service selected him to paint five locomotives for the "All Aboard" stamp series

Down

- 1** A means of communication or transport
- 2** Steam locomotives leave a _____ behind
- 4** A nickname commonly used for a cold storage boxcar
- 6** The ceremonial and final piece of the railroad tracks driven in by Leland Stanford
- 8** The first commercially successful steam locomotive, built in 1812 by Matthew Murray, and it was named after the Duke of Wellington's victory at the battle of _____ which was fought that same year.
- 11** This type of railroad is the subject of the CRPA's "After Promontory" project
- 14** A significant railroad location in Utah, but not to the point
- 16** Collections Clue: 1. This collection is fairly new. They shoot mainly in color over black and white. 2. Photographing in the united states mainly the Southwest, with international locations including China, South Africa, Argentina, Romania, Ukraine, and Syria.
- 18** An American engineer and industrialist. Inventor of the sleeper car.
- 19** A nickname for a locomotive
- 20** Short sections of track that connects to an industrial complex or larger businesses

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 Reeve

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
- 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 Reeve
- 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 Reeve
- 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 Bubley 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 Vertico with David Cain and John Moulder

**April 13-15, 2018
Lake Forest College**

- Jim Wrinn
- McNair Evans
- John Austin
- George Hiotis
- Bill Stewart
- Robin Coombes
- Kevin P. Keefe and Scott Lothes
- Alan Furler with Victor Hand
- Robert Gould and Matt Kierstead

**September 22, 2018
California State
Railroad Museum**

- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Shirley Burman
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Richard Koenig
- John Signor
- J. Craig Thorpe

**March 29-30, 2019
Brigham Young
University Museum
of Art**

- Alexander Craghead
- Dan Davis
- Barre Fong
- Justin Franz
- Victor Hand
- Drake Hokanson
- Christine Hult-Lewis
- Elrond Lawrence
- Ashlee Whitaker
- Additional panelists, Kevin P. Keefe and James Swensen

**Sept. 13-15, 2019
Lake Forest College**

- Ben Bachman
- Gil Bennett
- Jennifer Bodine
- Barre Fong
- John Free
- Oren Helbok
- Charlie Hunter
- Ron Perisho
- Eric Williams

Next conference:

*September 19, 2020
University of
Connecticut*



Above: CRP&A boardmember Michael Schmidt introduces a presenter at Conversations 2019.

Below: Attendees enjoy lunch in Calvin Durand Hall at Conversations 2019, hosted at Lake Forest College, Illinois. Photographs by Henry A. Koshollek



Directors, Officers, and Staff



Jeff Brouws, Stanfordville, New York, brings the Center knowledge of nineteenth and twentieth 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*.



Adrienne Evans (Archivist), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. She worked at History Colorado for two years before coming to the Center in 2017.



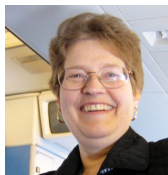
T. Bondurant French (Chair), Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is the executive chairman of Adams Street Partners, one of the largest and oldest managers of private equity investment in the world. A lifelong rail enthusiast, Bon has photographed some 700 different railroads.



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.



Todd Halamka, Western Springs, Illinois, is a practicing architect and founder of Todd Halamka + Partners in downtown Chicago. His focus on railroad photography began in 2011, combining his lifelong love of trains and the outdoors with his fascination for image making.



Nona Hill (Treasurer), Madison, Wisconsin, and Clark Johnson, her husband, managed 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-Chair), Pittsboro, North Carolina, has practiced architecture for more than thirty years and has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He is active as a consultant and advisor, and authored *The Railroad and the Art of Place*.



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, and later authored a book about it.



Natalie Krecek (Archives Associate), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2018 as an intern and was promoted to archives assistant in 2019. She received a BA degree in anthropology from North Central College in 2017. Her past work experience includes an internship at Chicago's Field Museum.



Scott Lothes (President and Executive Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center's staff in 2008. He is a regular contributor to *Trains*, *Railfan and Railroad*, 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.



Hailey Paige (Exhibitions and Event Coordinator), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University in Historical Administration in 2017. She has held several positions in the museum field before coming to the Center in 2017.



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.



Inga Velten (Development Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2017 and has twenty years of experience in nonprofit fundraising and administration, with expertise in data management, prospect research, and major gift fundraising.

About the Center

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 more than 300,000 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 *After Promontory*, an exhibition developed for the sesquicentennial of the first transcontinental railroad completed in 1869. A photography exhibition featuring images from the 1860s to the present, the show examines the significance and lasting impact of the transcontinental railroads on the American West. The exhibition has already been featured at eight venues so far and has plans to travel to six more in 2020-2021.

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 the Chicago History Museum. The Center has brought some twenty unique exhibitions of significant railroad photography and art to more than 100 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.

The Center has published several books, including most recently *The Railroad Photography of J. Parker Lamb*.

The text comes from Kevin P. Keefe and Fred W. Frailey, presenters for this year's Virtual Conversations. Frailey wrote a foreword that presents Lamb's life story while contextualizing his work within the pantheon of railroad photography. Keefe served as editor, writing captions as well as an afterword focused on the singularity of Lamb's photography in the South. Jeff Brouws and Wendy Burton did the design work, while Scott Lothes assisted with photo editing and digital prepress production.

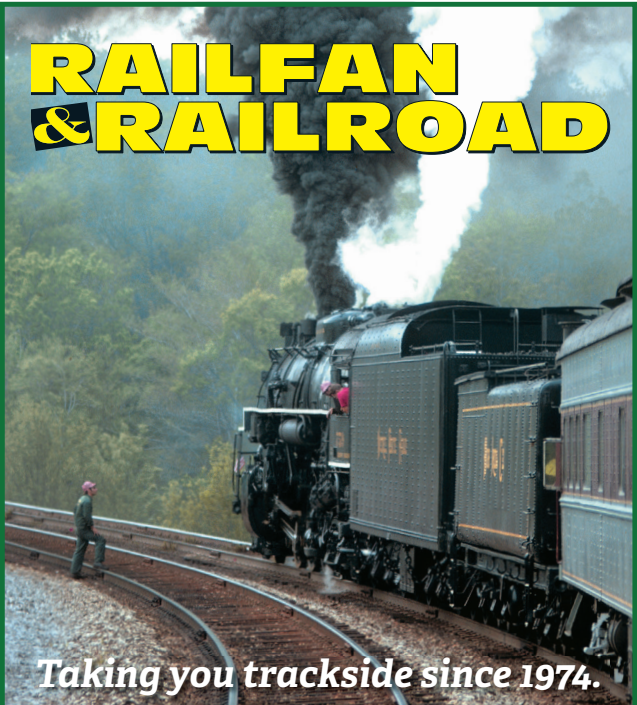
Each year going back to 2003, the Center has hosted a conference at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Though we departed from tradition this year due to unprecedented circumstances, Virtual Conversations continues to provide a forum for veteran and young photographers alike—as well as artists, 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 has been able to bring you this program and plans to organize more events in the future.

The Center launched a new series of regional conferences in 2016; last year's version featured a transcontinental theme at the Brigham Young University Museum of Art on March 29-30. The Center looks forward to continuing this series with a second northeastern-themed conference at the University of Connecticut in Storrs on September 19, 2020.

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. The theme for this year's program is "Connections." The deadline for submissions is May 1; find more details on our website.

Learn more about the Center at www.railphoto-art.org, which features images from the archives and includes links to other online platforms at Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram, and YouTube. Follow them to stay informed of current events and trends in railroad photography and art as well as the Center's research and acquisitions.

Sponsors of Virtual Conversations



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