

2026 PROGRAM



109TH ACIA ANNUAL CONVENTION

October 1-4, 2026





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Welcome

To all our dedicated members

We're thrilled that you are here to celebrate the 109th Annual ACIA Convention with us! We have an amazing time planned, full of networking, education, golfing, and most importantly, reconnecting with your fellow members. This, combined with high-caliber speakers and exciting events and activities, will most definitely equal a convention that you won't forget.

ACIA's mission is to serve as a resource for the wooden barrel industry and related services and to promote and support the common interest of our members, and this convention is the culmination of that goal.

With a mix of cooperages, stave and heading producers, distillers, vintners, and other firms whose business interests are allied to the wooden barrel, you are sure to find a plethora of opportunities to learn, grow, and expand your organization during your time with us.

As always, please contact us with any questions or needs you may have. Here's to a great convention!



Jed Hammell
President
ACIA Board of Directors



Melissa Zoeller
ACIA Executive Director





TETON VILLAGE

Relaxed American West luxury meets a European-inspired alpine lodge setting at one of North America's best winter and summer mountain destinations — Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Located in the heart of Teton Village, [Teton Mountain Lodge & Spa](#) and [Hotel Terra](#) set a new standard for refined mountain living with access to Grand Teton National Park, world-class skiing and year-round adventure.

BRYAN TAYLOR MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Teton Reserve

Friday, Oct. 2

9:15AM Arrival

10:30AM Shotgun Start

In honor of former member Bryan Taylor, ACIA puts on a Memorial 4-person Golf Tournament every year during the convention.

Our 2026 event will take place at Teton Reserve Golf Course, a Hale Irwin-designed par-72 course, where spectacular mountain and valley views surround you from the first tee to the final green. The course boasts fast greens, a dynamic links-style layout, and scenery that makes every shot feel like a moment.

Special thanks to Dave Meresak with Laufer Group International for hosting and coordinating the event, and to all our golf sponsors, including Barrels Unlimited, Freeborn Tool, Brainard Rivet, and KYFI Incorporated.

A boxed lunch and drinks will be provided. Questions? Contact Dave Meresak at (314) 456-7893 or dmeresak@laufer.com.



COURSE RULES

1. Play is governed by USGA Rules of Golf
2. Please fill divets with sand and seed
3. Repair your ball mark and one more
4. Allow faster players to play through
5. Each operator of a golf cart must have a valid driver's license
6. Only two riders and two bags per cart
7. Dress code: Proper golf attire
8. Stay on the cart path around tees, greens, & on all par 3s
9. Please keep carts out of native grass





WILDLIFE TOUR • 8AM–2PM

GUEST FUNCTION

The Grand Teton National Park Tour explores the park's most renowned wildlife corridors. Guided by real-time wildlife activity, you'll visit prime habitats such as Oxbow Bend and Antelope Flats in search of moose, elk, bison, and other iconic species.

Along the way, enjoy a scenic picnic lunch set against stunning backdrops like Jenny Lake or Snake River Overlook.

The day combines exceptional wildlife viewing, breathtaking scenery, and an authentic connection to the grandeur of Grand Teton National Park.

The mini coach will leave from Hotel Terra lobby at 7:50AM sharp.



CONVENTION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Registration | 2–4PM

Hotel Terra Main Lobby

President's Reception | 5–7PM

Murie Ballroom & Patio

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Bryan Taylor Memorial Golf Scramble | 8:20AM Departure*

Teton Mountain Reserve

**Departing from Hotel Terra Main Lobby*

Happy Hour | 5:30–6:30PM

Murie Ballroom & Patio

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Guest Event* | 7:50AM–2PM

Depart from Hotel Terra Lobby

Grand Tetons National Park Wildlife Tour

**Lunch, snacks, and drinks included. Reservations required.*

General Session* | 8AM–3PM

Murie Ballroom & Patio

**Breakfast and lunch provided.*

Board Meeting (Board Members Only) | 3–4PM

Murie Ballroom

Reception | 6–7PM

Murie Patio & Ballroom

Dinner & Music | 7–10PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Departing Breakfast | 8–9:30AM

Murie Ballroom

SPEAKER SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

○ **The Solution Mindset | 8:30AM**

Nir Bashan, Best-selling Author and International Speaker

○ **Spirits Industry Analytics | 9:30AM**

Mark "Biv" Bivenour, Bump Williams Consulting

○ **Barrel Stave Moisture Content and End Check Study Review | 10:30AM**

Chad Niman, University of Kentucky Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources

○ **Barrel Life Cycle Assessment update and Bylaws Revision Review | 11:15AM**

Jed Hammell, Staggemeyer Wood Products, ACIA Board President

[Click here to review the revised bylaws before voting on them at the general session](#)

○ **LUNCH | 12:00PM**

○ **Moving the Barrel: The State of Cooperage Logistics | 12:30PM**

Todd Harrett, Averitt; Zach Farris, KYFI; David Meresak, Laufer Group International; Gary Banderman, Woody Bogler Trucking

○ **Breakout Sessions | 1:30PM**

Barrel & Stave Division
Allied Division

○ **Board Meeting | 3:00PM**

Board Members Only

OUR SPEAKERS



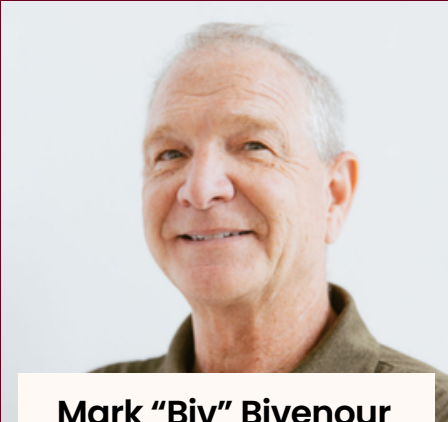
Nir Bashan

Keynote Speaker
Best-selling Author



Gary Banderaman, Jr.

Woody Bogler Trucking Co.
Director of Operations



Mark "Biv" Bivenour

Bump Williams Consulting
Business Development Specialist



Zach Farris

KYFI Incorporated
Vice President

To learn more about our speakers, [click here.](#)

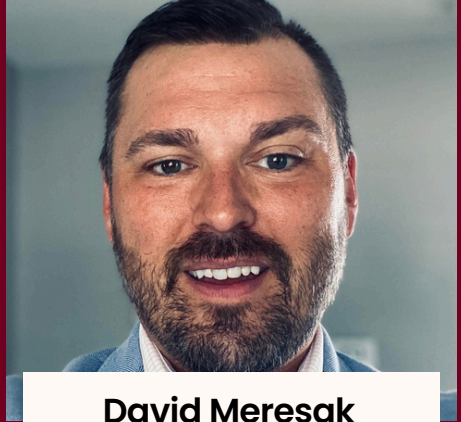
OUR SPEAKERS



Todd Harrett

Averitt

Director of Corporate
Business Development



David Meresak

Laufer Group International

Business Development Manager



Chad Niman

University of Kentucky—Dept. of Forestry

Forest Products Specialist, Principal

To learn more about our speakers, [click here.](#)



LIVE MUSIC • SATURDAY

STRUMBUCKET

Strumbucket is a five-piece "twang-funk" band from Jackson, Wyoming known for their colorful multi-genre live shows. Their original music weaves together funky bass grooves, banjo twang, latin jazz fusion, synth psychedelia, and soaring guitar.

Forming in 2017, the band has grown outside the local Jackson music scene, playing everything from rowdy bars, local venues, and outdoor concert series. Along the way, the band has supported acts including JoJo Herman, Geese, Fruition, DJ Williams' Shots Fired, the Nth Power, Ghost of Paul Revere, Polyrhythmics, Y La Bamba and Diggin' Dirt.

GENERAL CONVENTION QUESTIONS & SUPPORT

Please contact Melissa Zoeller, ACIA Executive Director, at
502-553-9732 or at melissa@acia.net

ATTENDEE LIST

For a complete list of attendees, click here:

[VIEW LIST](#)

Password: BarrelACIA_2026

SPA SERVICES

Guests can enjoy 10% off Spa Services by booking directly with
Kate Isayeva at kate.isayeva@tetonresorts.com

FOR HIKERS

If you are enjoying any hiking, bear spray rentals are available
at the front desk.



THANKS TO OUR 2026 CONVENTION SPONSORS



Become a sponsor of the next convention

[VIEW SPONSORSHIPS](#)