

On Track with The Columbus Garden Railway Society



March 2025

Engineers' note:

Upcoming Destinations:

Come join us! Get these dates on your calendars. Details on following pages...

Next Club meetings 2-4pm

Mar 30 Deb Sweet, Ascension Lutheran Church

April 27 Briane & Connie Spangler, Mt. Sterling

May 25 Doug & Ginny Clark, Delaware

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

April 17 Sheila & Barry Young, Worthington

May 15 Alvin & Bev Mann, Columbus

June 19 Mary & Tom Ricci, Westerville



...more events & details read on the website...
directions shared by D Kruest in emails closer to event

TheCGRS.org

Happy March Everyone!

Wow, what a great time at the Annual Banquet! Thank you everyone for attending and donating a lot of great items. Thanks to Richard Abler, Bill Logan, Tim Dove, Jed & Michelle Hacker, Doug & Ginny Clark, Bob Duggan, Bob & Jo Collins, Doug Kruest, Marshall Winkler, and Sheila Young for all your efforts.

So many of us are tired of the snow, rain and cold weather. Our meeting dates in March & April help remind us that Spring will be arriving soon.

March 20 The true First Day of Spring. Here comes the SUN and more train running sessions!

Happy Railroading,



Sheila Young and Tim Dove

Columbus Garden Railway Society

The Annual Member Banquet

Worthington Hills Country Club
Feb 22, 2025

A great time had by all!!!



Our Speaker: Fred Kerner is a travel consultant for Grandview Travel. He served his country as a journalist for the Navy from 1970- 1993. Fred spoke to us about varied rail travel opportunities throughout the US and Europe. He shared many ways to enjoy traveling by train and gave us wonderful ideas of what we can consider as we plan coming vacations and adventures.

Fred gave us many pieces of advice for upcoming changes we to see as we travel in the coming year.



Important Take A Ways:

Beginning May 7, 2025, U.S travelers must be **Real ID** Compliant to Board domestic flights. You Must Have the ID that has the ★

Passport Book Passport book can be used for travel anywhere in the world (some countries require a VISA) Book must be valid for and additional 6 Months on the day of return to the U.S.
Passport Card can only be used for travel by car or foot into Canada or Mexico. ***The card cannot be used for air travel outside the U.S.***

The Annual Member Banquet (continued)



The Annual Raffle: Thank you Doug & Ginny Clark for coordinating! We raised about \$1100 this year due to the generosity of members!

For Fun... Did you know ???



- May 10, 2025 is National Train Day For more information

<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/train-day/>

- This website says: Go out and take a ride on a train or watch them go by from a comfortable vantage point, whether fast, sleek commuter trains or large, loud steam engine transporters.

Thanks to our guest speaker, some amazing train trips you might want to consider :

- 1) Amtrack.com
- 2) Alaskanrailroad.com
(see next page)
- 3) Rockymountaineer.com
- 4) Viarail.ca (Canadian Railway)
- 5) Raileurope.com (the most popular destinations for travel)



For Fun... Alaska Rail.com



Take a look at a few of these Vacation options with the Alaska Railway:

Northern Lights Anchorage/Fairbanks/Bettles Lodge/Snowshoe Excursion/Auroa Viewing
7 Days \$3,304.00 Per person

Alaska Aurora Train w/Lodge at Black Rapids
7 Days \$9,217.00 Per Person

Alaska Aurora Train Northern Lights Adventure
Auroa Train Anchorage Auroa Train Fairbanks Aurora Viewing
7 Days \$2,634.00 per person

Alaska Northern Lights Aurora Train Winter Delights
Anchorage/ Dog Sledding?

For Fun... Alaska Rail.com (continued)



And yes... some of us model the Alaska RR at times ;) in Ohio

Would you like to view the Aurora Borealis?



Northern Lights Tour/ Anchorage/ Artic Circle
Anchorage/ Alaska Railroad/ Fairbanks / Artic
Circle Aurora Viewing

7 days \$2,280.00 per person

Visit Alaska Rail for other amazing trips

CGRS Makes a return to Oakland Park Nursery!

Spring Fling festival this year!

First Trains of Spring

CGRS braved the elements and ran trains at the **Oakland Park Nursery Spring Fling** the weekends of **March 15-16 and 22-23**, from **12:00 to 4:00** each afternoon.

The display was the single-track table-top loop within a loop surrounded by plants from the nursery. We met some lovely people, from the excited to the curious. IT was another excellent opportunity to display our hobby to the public in a garden atmosphere. Members brought some of their own engines and rolling stock (that could function on a four-foot radius). Thank you to all for set up, running sessions on both weekends and packing up.

Thanks again to Bob Duggin for his coordination and Bob Collins' leadership in maintaining our club assets. Thanks to all the Oakland Park management and workers who supported our efforts as well.



Columbus Garden Railway Society

CGRS Makes a return to Oakland Park Nursery! (cont)

Spring Fling festival this year! More pics!



Columbus Garden Railway Society

We'll reserve a seat for you!

News table meetings 7 until 8pm ish

We review the efforts of the club and make future plans for the organization.

Apr 17 Sheila & Barry Young Worthington office

150 East Wilson Bridge Rd

Cascade II lower level (a member will meet you at the door)

May 15 Alvin & Bev Mann

5497 Crawford Drive, Columbus

Jun 19 Mary & Tom Ricci

6039 Poplar Ridge Drive, Westerville

...more events & details read on the website

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News Table Meetings



Columbus Garden Railway Society

The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)...

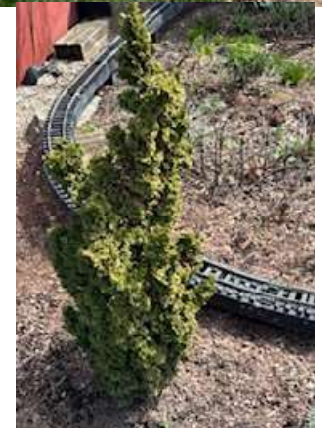
So... What's your End Game for your garden this summer?

April is a time when we are finally able to put winter behind us. Hopefully, March was not too much of a weather rollercoaster and has left us with more temperate weather, and a little more daylight.

This month is a good time to think about what your summer garden plans might look like.

Ask yourself: There is no wrong answer here, but just things that should be considered.

- What does my time commitment look like? Am I going to be around during the summer to harvest the vegetables and tomato plants that I want to put in this year? Between work, school activities, and vacations, will I have time (or will I enjoy it)?
- Is it time to scale back? Is my garden becoming too much to handle? Do I want to spend my time in other ways?
- Do I want to change how I garden? Things to consider... More Veggies, less Flowers? More Native Plants or Pollinators? More containers and in ground plantings?



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

I promised you more vocabulary terms that might be helpful at this planning stage. These apply to the bones of the garden (not your flowers or veggies).

Shrub is a *scientific classification* of a plant. It is a woody plant with multiple stems, that generate from a single root source, which cannot be divided. A shrub can be evergreen or deciduous. A shrub can grow low or high (as much as 15 ft). Annual pruning can be done to prevent overcrowding. (Example: Arborvitae, Boxwood, Azalea, Rhododendron)

Bush is a term that is used to describe *the shape* of a plant. It can have multiple stems or one non-woody stem. Bushes are not normally pruned and are left to grow naturally. They tend to be wider, rather than taller.

Deciduous: A Tree or Shrub that sheds its leaves annually. The plant goes into dormancy over the winter months, and sprouts new leaves in the spring (Example: Privet, Viburnum, Japanese Maple)



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Evergreen: A Tree or Shrub that retains green leaves throughout the year and produces seeds via flowers (Example: Rhododendron, Southern Magnolia).



Evergreen Conifer: A tree that retains its green leaves/needles and produces seeds by bearing cones rather than flowers. (Example: White Pine, Canadian Hemlock, Arborvitae, Cypress)



Dormant: Plants that are alive, but physical functions are slowed down or suspended. “Is it dead?” is a common conundrum in March and April. Look for leaf bud swellings, not necessarily greening of the woody stems. Shrubs like Aronia and some Hydrangeas take longer to wake up, and while others are showing signs of life, these take their time.



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

A Word about Mulch:

Mulch should be laid on the garden soil to help keep roots of plants insulated from excessive hot and cold weather. It delays the evaporation of ground moisture and visually improves the look of your garden. However, you would wait until Mid-April or Early-May to put it down, giving the ground some time to warm up. 1" of mulch depth is sufficient!

- Remember that Late March and Early April is a good time for planting shrubs, trees and cold weather flowers (Pansies!) and vegetables. It's best to wait until our frost date of May 15th for the rest.

– Lisa Dove CGRS



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Another Word about Mulch and Options with your railroad...

An ad for "LockDown" landscape "glue" came up in Facebook. Seemed like there might be a use for it in the hobby. Maybe we get them to send a sample for a future meeting clinic.

Discovered two 'flavors' from PetraMax:

<https://www.amazon.com/Landscaping-Heavy-Duty-Weather-Resistant-Application-Landscape/dp/B0D6V44DR7?th=1>

https://www.amazon.com/PetraMax-Landscaping-Gravel-Landscape-Binder/dp/B0CQKPGSDH?ref=ast_sto_dp&th=1

Also, came across this other brand.

https://www.amazon.com/stores/LandscapeLoc/page/566DF8D9-F8EA-4A5B-8BB5-5C844389B431?ref=ast_bln&store_ref=bl_ast_dp_brandLogo_sto

- Shared by Doug Kruest



Interested in becoming a member?

Get on board with The CGRS. We would love to invite those who have a garden railway, those who would like to learn more about garden railways, those who want to join in this exciting hobby, and those who are just love trains.

We all have family and friends who enjoy our current garden railways! Bring them to a Sunday event and have them learn more and meet others who love this hobby and want others to join in on the fun.



Membership Form & Information

<https://thecgrs.org/membership/>

Advice when planning your Garden Railway

1. Start with pictures of the area where you plan to put your layout.
2. See the layouts of the members and ask tons of questions of how, what, where, even when they put their layout together.

Make sure to ask... What are you most proud of?

What would you want to avoid if starting over?

Any other sage advice?

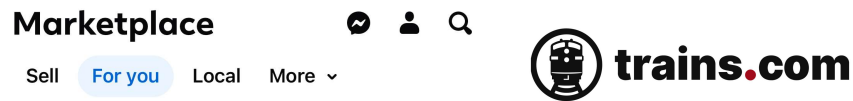
3. Draw your layout on Graph paper and show it to friends and family to see if they see your vision of your space.
4. Keep a journal so the you can look back on your progress. This could be through word and or pictures. When folks visit your home, they have a lot of questions. Having images and artifacts help explain our hobby options.



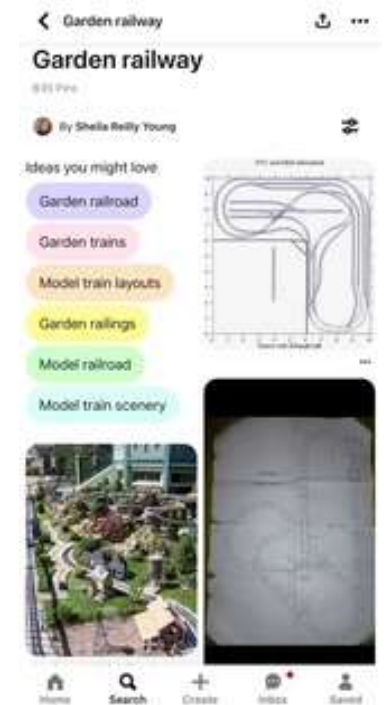
Help when planning your Garden Railway (continued)

5. Obtain places to source items to build your layout.

Facebook Marketplace, Ebay, Other train clubs, Our CGRS events (Banquet and swap/auction meeting), Train Shows, other vendors, etc.

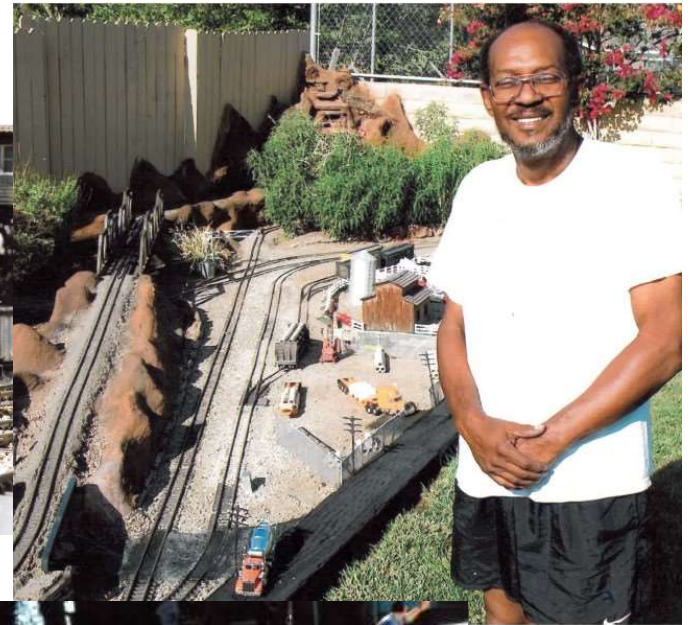


6. Find out what style or theme you plan to use. (Pinterest is great to put together a dream board of what you would like to see and plan). It is also a great place to look at pictures of garden railways around the world. You can Link into my pages on Pinterest “Sheila Reilly Young” Garden Railways to see ideas).



7. Please send the Newsletter team your ideas to help continue the planning ideas here on this page. (See “About Us” page 26)

In Memoriam... Darryle Hairston



Darryle D. Hairston of Delaware Ohio, formerly of southern California, born September 10, 1951 passed away February 21, 2025 peacefully at his home.

Darryle will always be remembered by his friends for his love of THE OSU Buckeyes, Model Train Garden Railroading, his music album collection and instruments, as a professional painter, Delaware Pacers Fan and, if you were lucky enough to know him, his life lesson conversations repeated over and over.



The Club is on the move... again.



G to 7.5" Gauge Trains!

G to 7.5" Gauge Vendors
Operating Club Layouts
Clinics & Workshops
Kids' Activities
Hourly Door Prizes
Food & Refreshments

Friday May 9 & Saturday May 10
10 AM to 4 PM Both Days
Metroplex Expo Center
1620 Motor Inn Dr,
Girard, OH 44420

GreatLakesTrainExpo.com / [ShowInfo@GreatLakesTrainExpo.com](mailto>ShowInfo@GreatLakesTrainExpo.com)

The Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo!
 At press time we have 10 members attending the event. A few of us are heading north the day before.

For those interested, we will be staying at the Hampton Inn Youngstown-North
 4400 Belmont Ave 44505

Put it on your calendars now...

Should be a great show. We will have the small layout, a video set up and our club information to share!

Reminders... Our Club Meetings:

Upcoming Destinations:

We would love to see you at these meetings! 2-4pm March 30 is really an important for members to better understand our club layouts.

Mar 30 Deb Sweet @Ascension Lutheran Church
1479 Morse Rd Columbus

Program: CGRS Train Layout/Display...
a training session and Building adoption!
(More details on next page)

April 27th: Spangler's (Mt Sterling)
soldering & brazing clinic

...more events & details read on the website

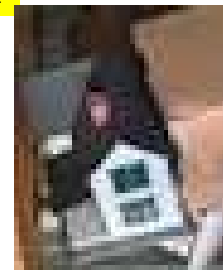
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Columbus Garden Railway Society

Reminders... Our Club Meetings: CGRS Building adoption!

Over time, many of our buildings need a refresh and some love. Our club buildings are no different. **At our club meeting on March 30th**. Members will have the opportunity to “adopt” a structure for the club.




Refresh it up to your standards. Have fun but some considerations...

- 1 It must remain self contained**
- 2 You will return to the club for use at the June 29th club meeting (or make other arrangements if you cannot make that meeting)**
- 3 Make sure it has a box to protect and be able to pack it with others (some already have boxes)**

2025 CGRS Survey for members

To better plan for our Club for the 2025 year please answer the following:

1. Name _____
2. Phone & Email for your home use if needed _____ 
3. I would like to see a minor program about? _____
4. I am interested in seeing a 2025 model? _____
5. I would like to have a club meeting in 2025 / 2026 / 2027 (circle all that apply)
6. I would be interested in helping with a club building? Yes / No / Maybe
7. How? _____ set up? put items? pack up? (circle all that apply)
8. Note any limitations or concerns in helping with a building: _____
9. _____
10. I am interested in traveling to interesting places with the CGRS... (circle both #)
 - 10. Do you? Yes / No / Maybe (approx. budget # per person?) _____
 - 11. Accommodate? Yes / No / Maybe (approx. budget # per person?) _____
 - 12. A suitable # of? Yes / No / Maybe (approx. budget # per person?) _____
 - 13. Would be interested in children / grandchildren? Yes / No / Maybe
 - 14. Does your current mobility limit your participation in club activities? Yes/No
15. Further comments or ideas _____
16. Are you reading the CGRS newsletter? Yes/No / What newsletter? _____
17. What would you like to see in the newsletter? _____
18. Are you reading the CGRS Facebook/E-mail? _____
19. Ideas if refers to CGRS / what to do? _____
20. What do you see most about our club? _____
21. Other what you would like to mention personal to the club? _____

We will also make available our 2025 survey at the meeting for those who were not able to complete it during the banquet.



CGRS Timetable

Members! Make sure to pay attention to the CGRS Timetable emails from Doug Kruest!

Doug provides important and timely information for the club and its members throughout the year.

Latest Shared... a Minnesota Workshop Doc...Membership has its privileges ;)



Columbus Garden Railway Society

National Garden Railway Convention... Set your Calendar

June 18 – 22, 2025 Sacramento, CA at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center

The NGRC 2025.org website will begin offering early bird ticket bundles until March 31, 2025

Various Tabs

FAQs providing dates and times

Basic Registration will include:

Layout of location

clinics

vendor hall admission



Ticket Bundles included: Basic Registration, banquet, ice cream social, a parking pass for Banquet and a convention car.

Convention AML 6P60 locomotive will be offered.

Please see the website for complete details. [NGRC2025.org](https://www.ngrc2025.org)

Share with the club if you're going.

CGRS merchandise...

The CGRS Depot Store:

- Crew neck sweatshirts - XSmall to 4Xlarge - \$25.00 to \$27.00
- Golf shirts S to 3XL - \$28.00 to \$42.00
- Golf Shirts WITH pocket - same sizes as golf shirts without pockets - \$37.00 to \$45.00
- Jackets with hood - S to 3XL - \$62.00
- Hats - baseball type \$18.00 please choose color - Khaki, green, black, white.
- PLEASE NOTE: ALL golf shirts are ordered without a pocket unless a pocket is requested. **Bob Collins** is our Conductor for all wearable merchandise. Any questions, please contact him at 614-975-5753.

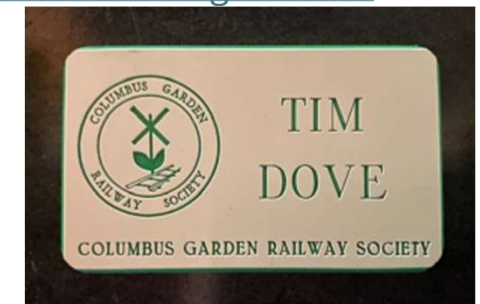


Name Tags with Magnet fastener \$6 each

Bag Tags with loop \$8 each

Order forms

<https://thecgrs.org/members/cgrs-store/>



About us

Contacts

- *Newsletter related business, articles and classified ads*
Tim Dove & Sheila Young
- *Membership & Address Changes*
Bob Collins
- *General Information & Webmaster*
Kent Kloes
- *News Table Meeting Agendas*
Jed Hacker
- *Traveling / Display Layout*
Doug Kruest
 - *Meeting hosts*
Dave Bush
- *Principal Business Contact*
Bill Logan
 - *Bills and Invoices*
Lisa Dove



The Coal Hopper: (Suggestion Box)

Where everyone can add their fuel to the fire of our hobby...

Suggestions, comments and creative ideas for upcoming events, news table meeting agenda items, possible new event ideas, information etc. are welcomed here. For CGRS to stay on track your input is important to us.

Send your ideas **Contact Us** (bottom of TheCGRS.org page)

Select **Newsletter** Sheila Young & Tim Dove

Start message with "Coal" or "Idea"...

This Issue: March 2025

ON TRACK is intended as a medium in which to share the news and views of the Columbus Garden Railway Society members.

CGRS is an informal group which meets monthly or so to share a common interest in garden railroading and to socialize.

Membership is open to all interested persons. All articles in this newsletter are provided by our members unless otherwise noted.

Columbus Garden Railway Society



Vol. 34 number 3

Article and content contributors:
Sheila Young, Lisa Dove, Tim Dove,
Jed Hacker, Bob Collins,
Doug Kruest

Photography contributors:
Tim Dove, Kent Kloes, Jed Hacker

Any articles for the April issue
are due to TMDedc@gmail.com
by April 15.

