

On Track with The Columbus Garden Railway Society



April 2025

Engineers' note:

Upcoming Destinations:

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

Next Club meetings 2-4pm

April 27 Briane & Connie Spangler, Mt. Sterling

May 25 Doug & Ginny Clark, Delaware

June 29 Gary Buchannan, Lancaster

July 27 Paul Jackson, Reynoldsburg

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

May 15 Alvin & Bev Mann, Columbus

June 19 Mary & Tom Ricci, Westerville

July 17 Cecil Easterday, Dublin



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

TheCGRS.org

Happy April Everyone,

We hope you are all enjoying the beginning of Spring. There are so many things coming up green and beautiful. Are you preparing for your family to gather for your spring traditions?

Enjoy your jump into spring and opening up your railways for the summer season.

Please NOTE: The newsletter will be on hiatus for June, July and August. There will still be communication regarding all club activities and News Table meetings on the website as well as information coming from Doug K, through emails.

Sheila Young and Tim Dove



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Thank you Deb Sweet for hosting our last meeting



Some highlights...



Reminders...

our *CGRS* Building adoptions

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 “adopted” a structure from 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)***



Reminders... our *CGRS* Building adoptions

Member Beverly Mann has been hard at work on her adoption!
Before and After...

The results after a new paint job and adding flower gardens... after all we are a Garden Railway Society 😊

Some tips from Kent K and Craig B follow...



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Reminders...

our *CGRS* Building adoptions

Tips and Tricks *Glues*... Kent Kloes

For wood: Titebond III Ultimate Wood glue - indoor or outdoor.

For windows/doors in buildings (wood or non-wood) - white or clear silicone adhesive - seals any gaps

For non-wood - perfect fit & never to remove - Gorilla Super Glue GEL
Gel allows for more time to align parts

For non-wood - with gaps or may want to remove at some point - Gorilla (or E6000) Clear Grip contact adhesive. 100% waterproof. Stays slightly flexible



Reminders...

our *CGRS* Building adoptions

Tips and Tricks *Paints...* Craig Bigrigg

Most of painting is the preparation. Cleaning dirt, grease and loose rust is required and not fun. Wood has natural rough surface that coatings adhere to well. Metal and plastic is smoother and benefits from light sanding such as 400 grit or finer (higher number) paper. Sandpaper coarser than #320 can show trough the coatings. Scotch Brite can work also.

Spray adhesion improvers, or acetone can help etch plastic. Rust Oleum and Krylon sell plastic primer spray cans. Thin coats seam to work best. Once the primer coat is down, you can topcoat with a wide range of spray or even brush on latex house paint. Structures previously painted just need to be clean with current coatings adhering well.

A couple cautions; proper ventilation is a necessity with solvent-based paints. Oil or solvent based paints can act like paint stripper on some latex paints previously applied. Paint or solvent soaked rags should be disposed of outside in metal trash cans to prevent the risk of spontaneous combustion.

Cardboard boxes with the front cut out make good disposable spray booths.



Reminders... Our Club Meetings:

Upcoming Destinations:

We would love to see you at these meetings!

Next up... 2-4pm April 27th

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

May 25th: Clark's (Delaware)
KY & IN Train trip ideas

...more events & details read on the website

TheCGRS.org



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Directions to our next Destination

Next Club Meeting

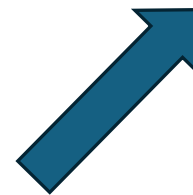
Leaving the Station...

The home and garden railway of Briane & Connie Spangler

- When: Sunday April 27, 2025
- Where: 8905 McKendree Rd. Mt. Sterling, Ohio
- Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Bring a Chair...

Can bring your own soldering iron and equipment...

(Briane will have many to use)



Thank you to Jed Hacker for printing specialized clips for soldering. Members will get one at the meeting.
Need more? Can order from Jed at \$1 each.

Something fun to consider

Train events “closer to us” to consider:

- 76th Buckeye Model Train and Railroad Artifact Show April 26 Ohio Expo Center
Columbus, Ohio
9-4pm Adults \$8 plus parking fee
- Bunker Hill Model Train Show May 10, 2025 from 10am-3pm at the Martinsburg Roundhouse Martinsburg West Virginia trains from Z-G scales Adults \$7
- Buckeye Express May 15-18, 2025 Embassy suites by Hilton Columbus Dublin, Ohio
Info... <https://buckeyeexpress.div6-mcr-nmra.org/Registration.html>
- Big Train Show ETSU/Ballad Health Athletic Center Mini-Dome Johnson City Tennessee May 30-31 Saturday from 12pm-6pm Sunday 10am-4pm



Beginners Help Page...

- There are so many interesting and innovative ideas out there for our railway beginners and so many ways to be overwhelmed by where to start and how to decide what to do.
- If you ever planned a major life event maybe you were great at following a month-to-month list. Does anyone have that kind of advice or a layout of how they organized their time that you would wish to share?
- Did you create a journal with pictures that show your railway from its start to its current state you wish to share? Did you record your work and have a video you would like to post?
- As beginners getting started there are many who could learn from your success and ideas that didn't go as well as you may have planned.

July's Meeting at Paul Jackson's

Show & Tell from CGRS members

Bring an example of something you have created, built, painted, lighted, wired... you get the idea. Trains and Garden info are welcome!

We all can learn from our members!



Jig construction of an 8ft section of ladder base for track bed. (T&L Dove)

The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)...

Getting Ready for May...The Breakdown on Commercial Synthetic Fertilizers

In the early spring, you can't walk into any garden store without seeing stacks and stacks of bags of fertilizer for your yard and your garden. Is it necessary? How can we use it? How can we use it responsibly? It would be easy to go down a deep rabbit hole here but let's start with some simple biology and chemistry.

We all know that plants need water, light, oxygen, carbon dioxide, but here are the essential nutrients in the soil, that will help new plants grow.

- 1. Nitrogen (N) – leaf and stem growth, chlorophyll production, and plant strength**
- 2. Phosphorus (P) – root development, flowers, fruit set**
- 3. Potassium (K) – water regulation, disease resistance**
4. Calcium (Ca) – structure and development – strong stems!
5. Magnesium (Mg) – effective photosynthesis (chlorophyll changing water/sun to energy)
6. Sulfur (S) – plant growth and seed formation



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

The first 3 elements are found displayed on fertilizer bags that we see, and their ratio is designated in a standard format: **N-P-K**. The numbers represent the percentage by weight of each of these three elements that are in the fertilizer formula.



If you want to green up your lawn, you use a formula that is heavier in nitrogen (ex: 20-10-10). For your returning strawberries and blueberries, you would look for a fertilizer that is heavier in Phosphorus (ex: 10-20-10) to promote flower/fruit production.

You also have the option to use a balanced fertilizer (12-12-12) which provides a gentle boost in your emerging plants but doesn't overstimulate growth. This is my "go to" for my spring garden.



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Granular or liquid? What form is best?

It's not a question of best, but more efficient. Liquid fertilizer, when applied properly, can give a jump start because it is absorbed faster. Granular, takes a little longer because it needs to dissolve for the plants to utilize it. However, it is more cost effective, and is harder to store, if you don't use it all up when it is applied. Whichever form you use, remember to keep the fertilizer down toward the plant roots, because that is where it will do the most good.

Be Responsible! Commercial manufacturers create products that combine fertilizer with other elements (such as herbicides and insecticides). Scott's Lawn Care 4 step program or Miracle-Gro Potting Soil are examples of this type of product. **PLEASE READ YOUR LABELS!** Make sure that you apply the correct product for your needs. **DON'T OVER PURCHASE.** Make you know your square footage of what you need. That way you don't over fertilize your yard (avoiding excess runoff into our watershed), and you won't have to store it!



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued



I do need to mention that there are Organic Fertilizers which are commercially prepared and available for use. I use a mix of organic and synthetic fertilizers for different applications.

Please NOTE... The difference between synthetic and organic fertilizers is **the source** of the nutrients in the mix. The ratio and function of the nutrients do not change.– Lisa Dove CGRS



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.

May 15 Alvin & Bev Mann

5497 Crawford Drive, Columbus

June 19 Mary & Tom Ricci

6039 Poplar Ridge Drive, Westerville

July 17 Cecil Easterday

6000 Riverside Drive, Dublin

...more events & details read on the website

TheCGRS.org

News Table Meetings



Please join us for Our Club News Table on May 15th at the home of Alvin & Bev Mann 5497 Crawford Dr. Your time and talent is a big part of our club. We would enjoy you help in guiding the different aspects of your organization along with your ideas and creative suggestions in railroading.

Columbus Garden Railway Society

The Club is on the move... May 9 & 10

G to 7.5" Gauge Trains!

GREAT LAKES
LARGE SCALE TRAIN EXPO

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

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

GreatLakesTrainExpo.com / ShowInfo@GreatLakesTrainExpo.com

For those going up on Friday night... contact Tim Dove tmdedc@gmail.com so we can coordinate a meet up!

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!

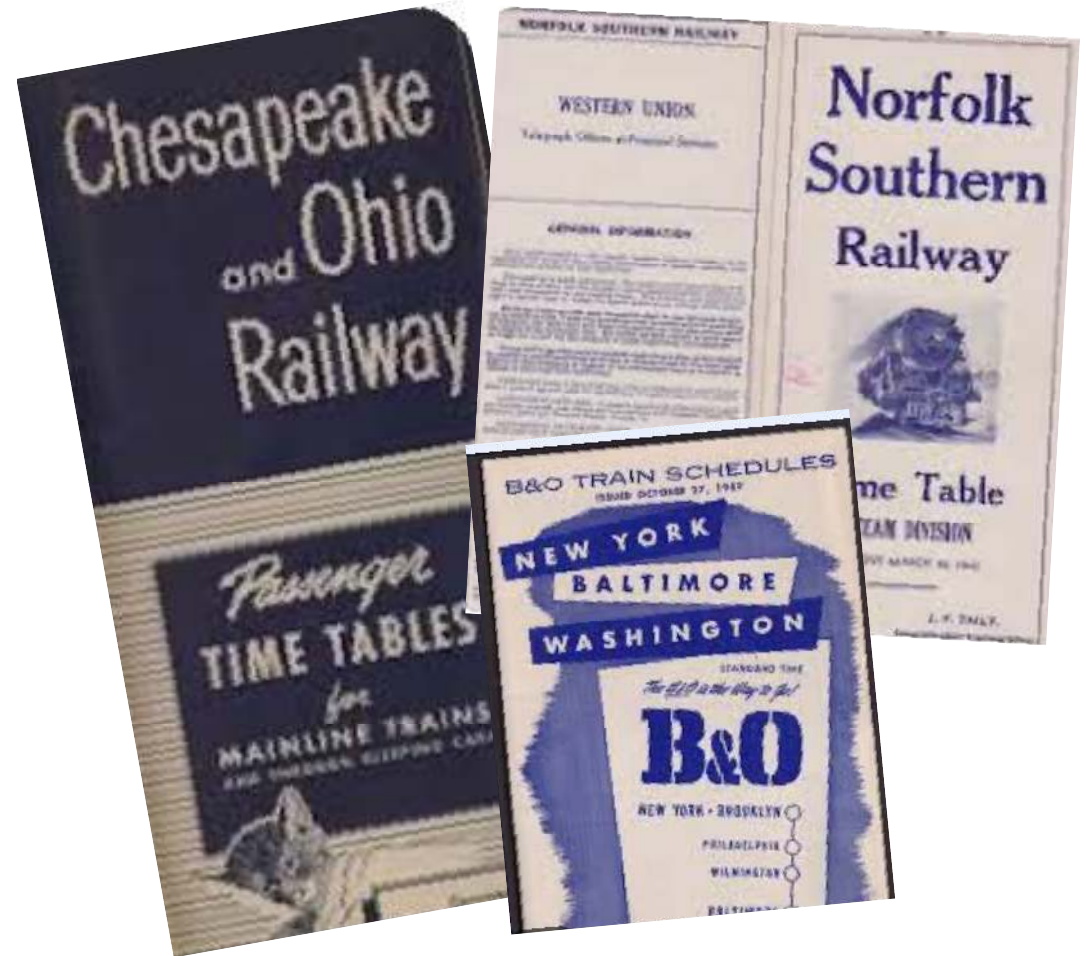


CGRS Timetable

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... The April Minnesota Workshop & Train Station Docs...Membership has its privileges ;) Highlights on next page...



Columbus Garden Railway Society



Referenced from the CGRS Timetable

If you haven't already (see Doug's email from 4/14...

The Minnesota G Scale Railway Society sends out great info! Check out the latest (and archived) Workshop & Train Station Newsletters!

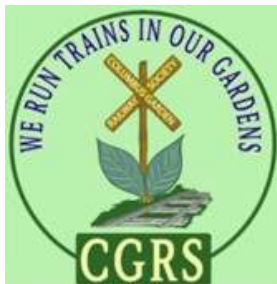
At MGRS.org



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/>

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: April 2025

Vol. 34 number 4

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.

Article and content contributors:
Sheila Young, Lisa Dove, Tim Dove, Jed Hacker, Bob Collins, Craig Bigrigg, Kent Kloes, Doug Kruest & Beverly Mann

Photography contributors:
Tim Dove, Kent Kloes, Jed Hacker

Columbus Garden Railway Society



Any articles for the April issue are due to TMDedc@gmail.com by May15.

