

On Track with The Columbus Garden Railway Society



February 2026

Engineer's note:

Upcoming Destinations:

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

Next Club meetings 2-4pm

Feb 28 CGRS Banquet, Worthington

Mar 29 Craig & Audrey Bigrigg, Johnstown

Apr 26 Briane & Connie Spangler, Mt Sterling

May 31 Tim & Lisa Dove, Columbus

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

Mar 19 Bob & Jo Collins, Worthington

Apr 16 Mary & Tom Ricci, Westerville

May 21 Alvin & Bev Mann, Columbus



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

TheCGRS.org

Hello Everyone,

CGRS continues to share and grow the hobby!

In this issue:

Info regarding our Jan Club meeting,
upcoming events and meetings,

Info shared by members,
banquet & new membership Info,

more info re: our gardens,
and the regular contact &
merchandise information.

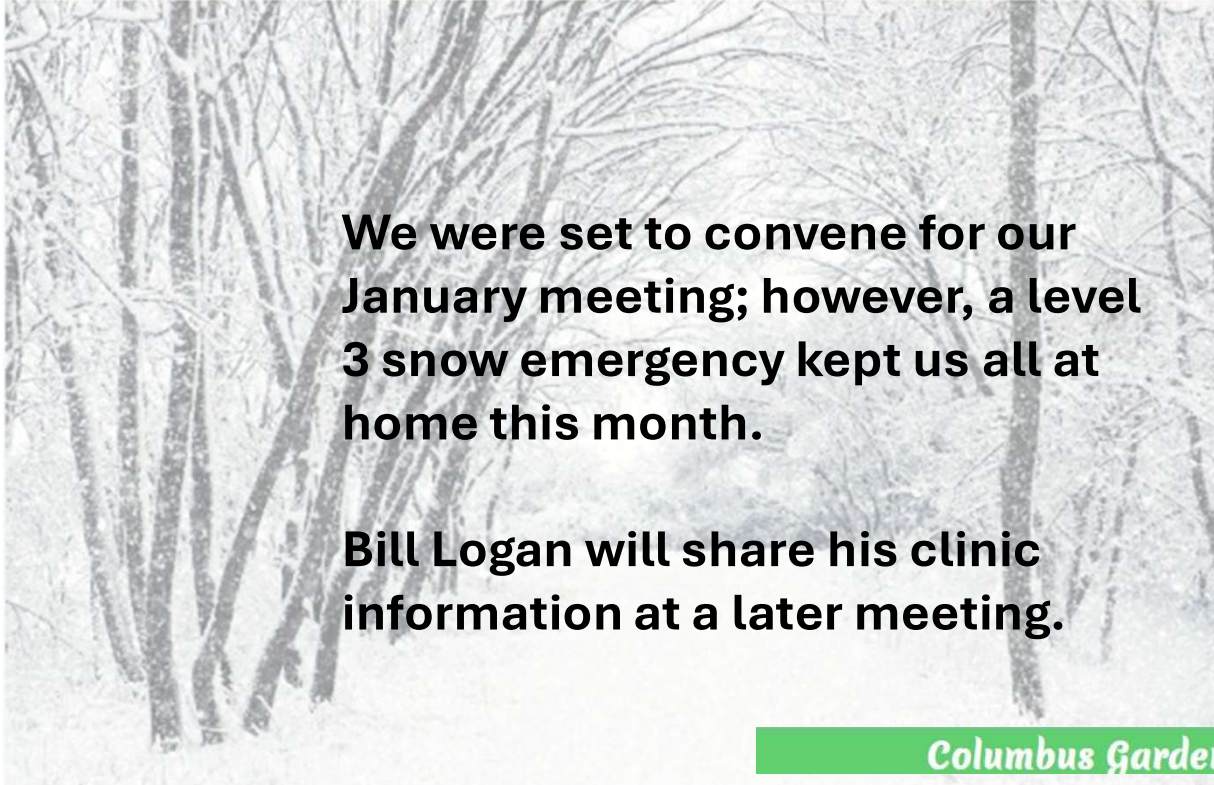
Continue to enjoy our hobby!

Tim Dove



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Thank you, Pat Waddell for being willing to host in Jan... however, Mother Nature had other plans.



We were set to convene for our January meeting; however, a level 3 snow emergency kept us all at home this month.

Bill Logan will share his clinic information at a later meeting.



Train Shows coming up...

Cincinnati Model Train Flea Market



MODEL RAILROAD SPRING FLEA MARKET & TRADE SHOW

Sponsored by Cincinnati Division 7, NMRA, Inc.

Sat March 7, 2026 10 AM to 3 PM

Lakota West Freshman Campus

5050 Tylersville Road
West Chester, OH 45069

Price

- Adults: \$7
(children 12 and under **free**)
- Also ...Scouts in uniform free with paying adult

Event Website

- [2026 Cinti Div. 7 Spring Flea Market and Trade Show](#)



Columbus Garden Railway Society

TWO AMAZING EVENTS, ONE GREAT LOCATION!!

GREAT LAKES LARGE SCALE TRAIN EXPO
MAY 15-16, 2026 - GIRARD, OH 44420

MIDWEST GARDEN RAILROAD GATHERING
MAY 13-17, 2026 - GIRARD, OH 44420

WHY ATTEND JUST ONE WHEN YOU CAN ATTEND BOTH!

G Gauge TO 7.5" Gauge

27,000+ SQ FT of Large Scale Model Trains!

EXPO HIGHLIGHTS: Open to General Public, Purchase Tickets at the Door or Online Find New/Used G Gauge & LARGER Model Trains, Parts, Specialty Tools, Plants & MORE! Explore Multiple Operating Train Layouts & Displays From G To 7.5" Gauge. Learn From Others In The Hobby By Attending The Various Clinics & Workshops! Show Off Your Work In Our Modeling Contest Fun Kids Activities Including Hands On Clinics! Multiple Door Prizes Given Away On The Hour! If You Only Have A Few Items, Sell Using Our White Elephant Table Enjoy A Variety Of Food & Refreshment Options Available On-Site So You Don't Have To Leave.

GATHERING HIGHLIGHTS: Open To Registered Attendees Only. Must Be Register By March 31, 2026 Expo Admission & Everything That Comes With It Including Early Admission Both Days Wednesday Night Social Gathering: Enjoy Ice Cream While You Get To Spend Quality Time With Others In The Hobby Self Guided Tours Of Local Layouts, G Gauge To 7.5" Gauge If You Only Have A Few Items, Sell Using Our White Elephant Table At A Reduced Rate Friday Night Banquet: Enjoy A Catered Dinner With Cash Bar & Guest Speaker At The Historic B&O Station

Train Shows coming up...

CGRS will be here with our video and layout!



It's going to be GREAT seeing everyone GATHERED there!

Get MORE details/updates, Buy advance entry Expo tickets, Register for the Gathering, Purchase Expo/Gathering Shirts, Purchase Expo Cars, Register to be a Vendor, Exhibitor, Find lodging info & MORE on our website! **WWW.GREATLAKESTRAINEXPO.COM**

showinfo@greatlakestrainexpo.com (330) 779-1982



LOCATION: Metroplex Expo Center

1620 Motor Inn Dr Girard, OH 44420

Easily Accessible Off I-80 Exit 229

FREE PARKING & ONSITE ATM!

DATE	EVENT	TIME
May 13	Ice Cream Social	To Be Announced
May 14	Layout Tours	To Be Announced
May 15	Expo Day 1	10am* to 4pm
	Banquet	6pm to 9pm
May 16	Expo Day 2	10am* to 4pm
May 17	Layout Tours	To Be Announced

(9:30am on-site ticket holders and Gathering Attendees)

And Prizes!



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Hey Club
Members...

Looking for
something to
do in
retirement?

Join our team!

Interested in working for a Railroad? And getting PAID for it? The LM&M Railroad is always looking for new faces to join our growing organization!

All positions are paid with plenty of entry level options for on board entertainment. Please feel free to send your resume to: info@lebanonrr.com



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Our Next Meeting... The Banquet!

CGRS Annual Banquet Dinner –

Saturday, February 28, 2026 - Cash Bar Opens at 6:00pm

We will again hold our annual celebration at the
Worthington Country Club.

Thank you to Richard Abler for leading this effort for so
many years!



More details on the following pages as a reminder and for our new members who will be joining us.

Our Next Meeting... *continued.*

A Welcome, a dinner and conversation... then,

**Our Speaker this year will be
Christopher Colman.**

He will be sharing details about the East Broad Top Railroad!

The presentation will be followed by our Annual Raffle. Bring your cash for tickets to support the club and possibly take home some new winnings!



A Reminder of Details... Our February Banquet Info

First Course – Served:

Salad/Rolls & Butter with 2 dressings – Ranch and Balsamic Vinegarette

Entrée: Buffet Style

Braised Beef Short Ribs – Gluten Free

Chicken Florentine – Gluten Free

Vegetable Medley

Roasted Red Skin Potatoes

Optional Entrée (upon request) - Served:

Vegetarian Meal – Pasta Primavera with Marinara Sauce

Dessert - Served: The Pecan Ball with Hot Fudge endures!



A Reminder of Details... Our February Banquet Info

The Annual Raffle:

Thank you, Doug & Ginny Clark,
for coordinating again this year!

We raised a little over \$1200 last
year due to the generosity of
members!

Please inform the Clarks what you
would be bringing ASAP!



Come be in the room where it happens!

News table meetings 7 until 8pm ish

Mar 19 Bob & Jo Collins
924 Middlebury Dr, Worthington

Apr 16 Mary & Tom Ricci
6026 Poplar Ridge Dr, Westerville

May 21 Alvin & Bev Mann
5497 Crawford Dr, Columbus

**We need volunteers to host for
June, July & Aug**

TheCGRS.org

News Table Meetings

Please join us for Our Club News Table on March 19th hosted by Bob & Jo Collins. Your time and talent is a big part of our club's success. We would enjoy your help in guiding the different aspects of our organization along with your ideas and creative suggestions in railroading and gardening.



Columbus Garden Railway Society

The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)...

By Lisa Dove

Why Snowpack is actually a good thing.....

I think we can all agree that the weather this past January is not one that we will recall with a smile. Heavy snowfall and bitter temperatures really could have caused havoc for our garden railroads.

Believe it or not, the 17" of snow that we received, was a blessing in disguise. The snowpack served to insulate our plants and rail beds from the bitter cold. It reduced the opportunity for "frost heave" to upend or twist our rail beds and bridges. The roots of our plants were protected from not only the cold, but the bitter wind.



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The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

The snow insulation allowed the ground to stay at a consistent temperature, enabling plants and shrubs to stay dormant. As the temperature rose, the snow compacted and began to melt slowly.

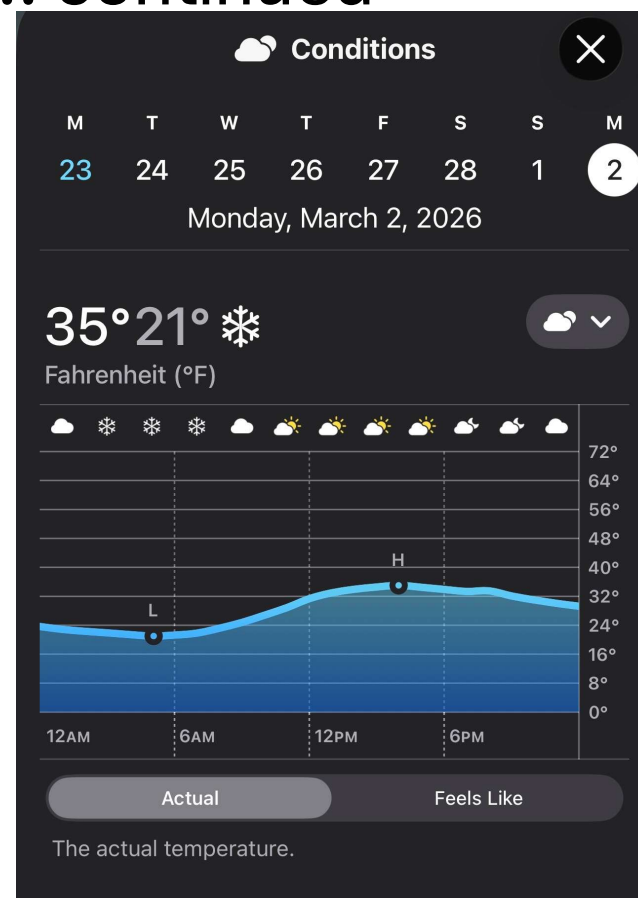
It was a boon for our evergreen shrubs and trees, whose roots were frozen in the ground, by providing them with much needed water. You may have noticed that your rhododendron and holly leaves uncurled and returned to a deep green color.



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

There is still more winter to be had, so be patient.

Late February and Early March can be unpredictable, and more snow may be on the way.



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Winter Projects... Nn3, 3D Printing and OR&W

By Jed Hacker

I've had an interest in N scale model trains for many years and recently joined the Friends of Ohio River & Western Railway Historical Society. I learned that within the club of a young man that models in N scale, Nn3 specifically, to match the 3 foot narrow-gauge RR that the OR&W used from 1875 to 1931 in Southeastern Ohio.

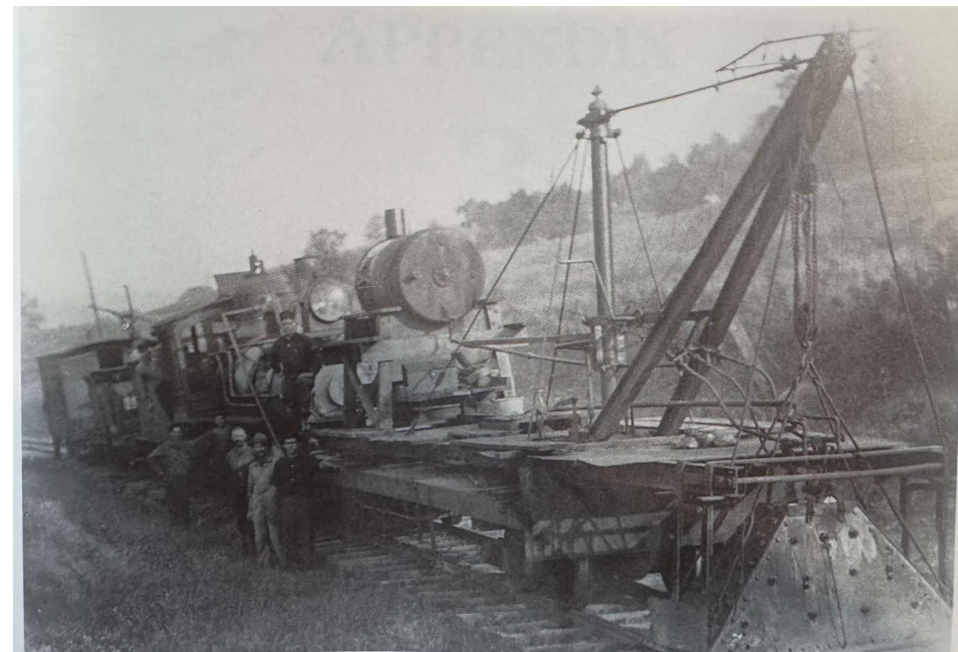
Currently he is modeling the Mill Run Shops near Zanesville. I'm learning about this railroad's interesting history at a high rate, like drinking from a fire house. As numerous as the stories are, I'm only going to focus one interesting car; the OR&W Weed Busting Car.



Winter Projects... Nn3, 3D Printing and OR&W

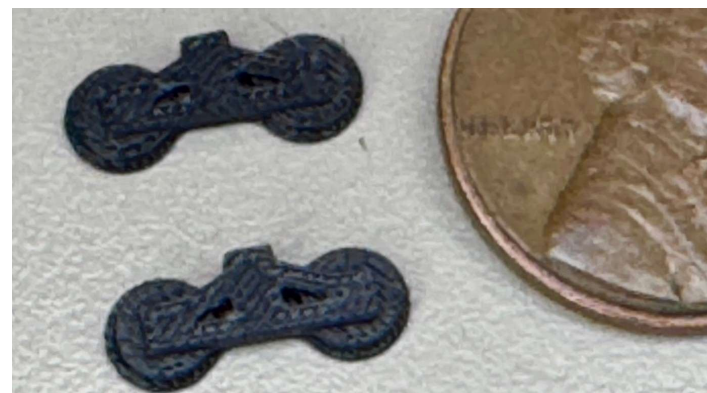
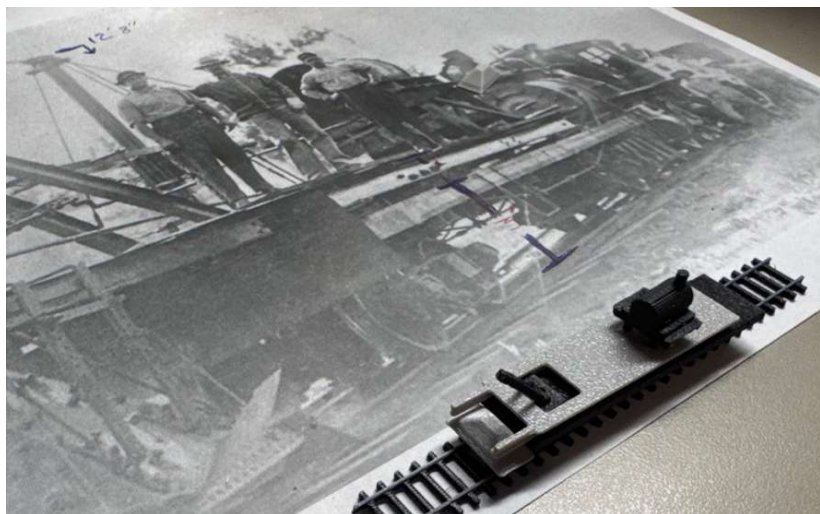
This car was built as the name suggests, to burn weeds on the right-of-way of the railroad. This was the only steel framed car in the OR&W fleet (maybe the one thing they did right), it had an oil burning hood mounted on a swinging boom-arm that was connected to a large barrel of fuel oil.

The car was pushed along by a mogul engine followed by several water tank cars to put out unintended brush fires that surely erupted in their path.



Winter Projects... Nn3, 3D Printing and OR&W

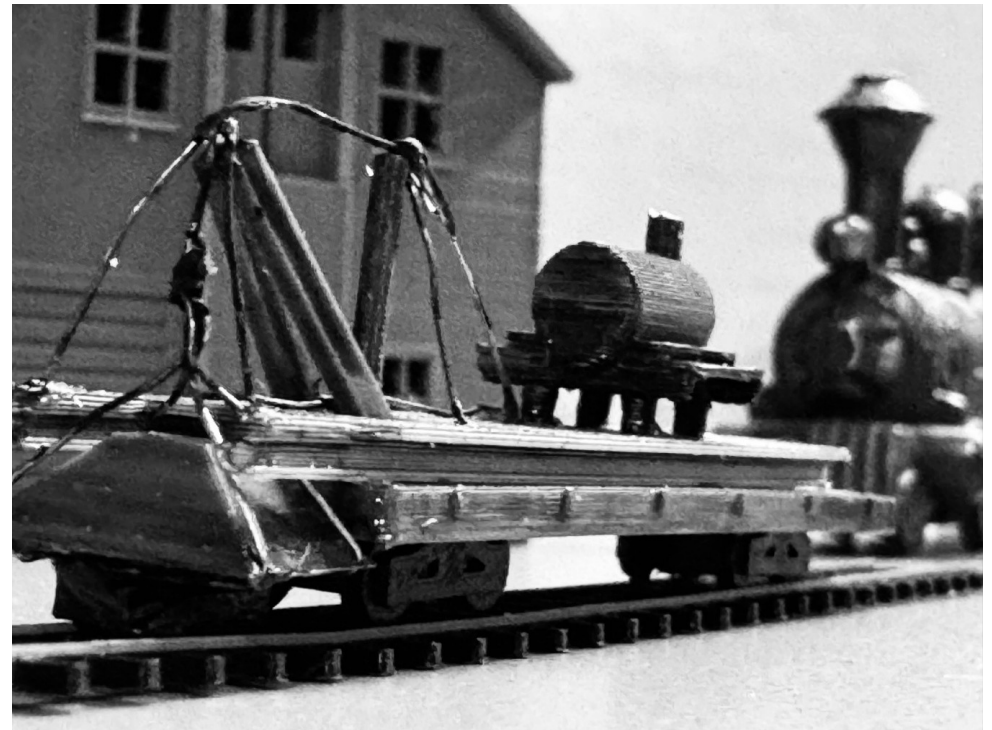
I am fascinated by the early 1900's "get-it-done" ingenuity to create this car for a specific job with a problem they must have felt was serious enough to create this fire breathing dragon of a car.



Getting back to the N scale part of this story, I decided I wanted to design and create some little piece that would go on the module display being built. I took to TinkerCAD software and used the two known pictures of the Weed Burning Car to design and 3D print.

Winter Projects... Nn3, 3D Printing and OR&W

My biggest take away is the tiny detail size compared to G scale, but it's doable with some focus and attention. The 30' real life car scales down to 2-1/4". Since this car will be a static display, I designed my own N scale arch-bar trucks and the double layered flatbed, boom arm, fire hood, and oil tank, then 3D printed. Nn3 modeling uses Z gauge track to achieve the 3' narrow gauge tracks.



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Winter Projects... Nn3, 3D Printing and OR&W

Unfortunately, the prototype weed burning car was scrapped after approximately 10 years of use. Train engineers complained that the tracks had an excessive amount of oil residue after a burn for days causing too much wheel slippage. The steel frame was repurposed into a crew work car, and since lost to history.



It was a fun project and the results will be a small addition to the Mill Run Shop module that will be on display at the OR&W Annual Gathering in Bellair Saturday, May 30th.

Membership Info...

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.

Come and join us at a Sunday event. Learn more about the hobby and meet others.



Membership Form & Information

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



Columbus Garden Railway Society

And yes, the Gardens...

By Tim Dove

Sometimes during the winter months in Ohio, we just need some color and hope of what is to come with spring. As a Garden Railway Society, we are also looking for new ideas for our yard to be an integral part of our railroads. We are lucky to have such a nice tradition of a Home and Garden Show during our frigid February. Lisa and I are always looking for new design possibilities.



Columbus Garden Railway Society

And yes, the Gardens... *continued*



I also complete my annual “pilgrimage” to get my discounted gift cards to purchase our “Mini Pine Fines”.

This mulch not only cleans up the area, limits weeds & holds moisture, it also adds structure and decomposes over the years to amend the soil.



And yes, the Gardens... *continued*



The gardens gave us some great ideas for a few new additions to our backyard.

We also had a great conversation with the folks from Outdoor Lights. Some real possibilities to add accent lighting for the layout and the point-to-point. (a possible clinic topic later).



Columbus Garden Railway Society

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. If you missed these... check them out!

This month Doug shared...

Jan 23 Meeting info

Jan 31 Bachmann Catalog link & Banquet info

Feb 3 UP 4014 Info and Piko news

Feb 13 Train Shows & National Convention Info

Feb 15 Banquet & Raffle Donation Info



Columbus Garden Railway Society

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. Current examples and ordering will also be available for review and purchase at a later meeting.



Name Tags with Magnet fastener \$6 each

Bag Tags with loop \$8 each

Order forms

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



CGRS Bag Tags...

For those of us traveling this year...

Don't forget we have bag tags.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are interested bag tags for our Canadian Rockies trip, Money and order forms will be collected at the March 29th meeting. There will be forms at the meeting as well. They will be delivered at the Spangler's meeting on April 26.

Bag Tags with loop \$8 each

Questions/order info ?

<https://thecgrs.org/members/cgrs-store/>
TMDedc@gmail.com or call (members list)



CGRS Mugs!!!



A new Item just now available.

The CGRS Mug (with lid)

14 oz, cork based / white ceramic

Questions/order info ? They will be introduced at the Banquet this Saturday.

Bob Collins will have all the ordering information.

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

Mugs will be \$7 each for CGRS members

Columbus Garden Railway Society

About us

Contacts

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



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

Content, 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. Please share photos and a short narrative to be shared with our members and beyond.

Send your ideas **and content to** TMDedc@gmail.com

Columbus Garden Railway Society

This Issue: Feb 2026

Vol. 35 number 2

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:

Lisa Dove, Tim Dove, Jed Hacker, & Doug Kruest.

Photography contributors:

Tim Dove, Jed Hacker, Bo DeCoy & Kent Kloes.

Columbus Garden Railway Society



Any articles for the Mar issue are due to TMDedc@gmail.com by Mar 21.

