

On Track with The Columbus Garden Railway Society



March 2026

Engineer's note:

Upcoming Destinations:

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

Next Club meetings 2-4pm

- Mar 29 Craig & Audrey Bigrigg, Johnstown
- Apr 26 Briane & Connie Spangler, Mt Sterling
- May 31 Tim & Lisa Dove, Columbus
- Jun 28 Paul Jackson, Pickerington

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

- Apr 16 Mary & Tom Ricci, Westerville
- May 21 Alvin & Bev Mann, Columbus
- Jun 18 Paul & Dana Minot, Delaware

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



TheCGRS.org

Hello Everyone,

CGRS welcomes you to a crazy Spring 2026!

In this issue:

reflections on our February Banquet,
upcoming events and meetings,
info shared by members,
new membership Info,
our gardens spring planning,
and the regular contact &
merchandise information.

Continue to enjoy our hobby!

Tim Dove



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Our February Meeting... The Banquet Feb 28th!

By Mark Bartel

The CGRS 2026 banquet was held at the Worthington Hills Country Club and was a great success. The evening started out with greeters and each person was given a free raffle ticket and a program.

At the beginning, we had a social hour with a cash bar. Once we were all seated, Gail Klink gave a wonderful welcome speech to all of us. Jed Hacker had a moment of silence for those members who have passed this past year and talked about the passenger cars dedicated to them, thus giving them one more railroad ride.



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Our Banquet... *continued.*

The program included member recognitions for 2025. So many people make our club work! Tickets were made available for our raffle and we cleared \$700+ this year. We continued with a delicious dinner.



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Our Banquet... *continued.*

We had a guest speaker, Christopher D. Coleman who shared with us about the East Broad Top Railroad.



We close with raffle drawings with Jed Hacker announcing the raffle winners, while Laurie Marthaller handed out the raffle items to the winners.



Our Banquet... *continued.*

Overall, it was a very successful Banquet and just a wonderful evening. Hope to see everyone at next year's banquet!



Mark it on you calendars for next year and join us!
February 27, 2027 @ 6pm

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Next Club Meeting

Craig & Audrey Bigrigg's

Sunday March 29 2-4 PM

6111 Northridge Rd, Johnstown, OH

Clinic... It's Tool Time

Welding!

Grinders!

Cutters! (and first aid kits)

Bring your own safety glasses and gloves if you have them... time for hands on!



Current info regarding a Canadian Rail experience

By Fred Kerner check your email, from Fred sent 3.23 for details

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 22, at 6 p.m.

I would like us all to meet to go over your travel documents, and other pertinent info regarding our upcoming trip with Rocky Mountaineer.

The meeting will be at our office of Grandview Travel, 1540 W. 5th Ave., in the Grandview area. There is parking in the back lot behind our building, and in the vacant medical office building next door. I anticipate we will be together for two hours or less.

I will have light Hors d'oeuvres and wine, courtesy of Rocky Mountaineer.

Please let me (Fred) know if you cannot attend this meeting.

fkerner@grandviewtravel.com 614-486-1943



CGRS Makes another return to Oakland Park Nursery!

Spring Fling festival this year! *First Trains of Spring*

By Jed Hacker

For two weekends in March, the Columbus Garden Railway Society showcased our mini-train layout at Oakland Nursery's Spring Fling event. The event marked a strong debut for Gary Schneider in his new role as Club Layout Coordinator, and it was a great success.

The first weekend began with a small challenge, as the neighborhood surrounding Oakland Nursery was without power due to the previous day's windstorm. Thanks to Bill Logan's quick thinking and the use of his power inverter, the layout was up and running for several hours until AEP restored electricity to the area.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who came out to support the event and help spread the word about our fantastic club. It was a fun and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



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Looking Ahead... Buckeye Show in April.

Looking ahead, the club's next layout appearance will be at the 78th Buckeye Model Train and Railroad Artifact Show and Sale on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Be sure to connect with *Gary Schneider* at the Bigrigg's meeting this Sunday to sign up and volunteer, or reach out via email at eagle_waits@yahoo.com.



Saturday, April 25, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
OHIO EXPO CENTER - COLUMBUS, OHIO
- LAUSCHE BUILDING -



78th Buckeye Model Trains & Railroad Artifacts Show & Sale

THOUSANDS OF MODEL RAILROAD
ITEMS FOR SALE!
RR CHINA, SILVER, LANTERNS,
KEYS & LOCKS, ETC.



OHIO'S LARGEST
COMBINATION
MODEL & ARTIFACT
SHOW



Hey Club Members...

By Jed Hacker (review his email from 3/16 for even more details)

With the warmer weather finally arriving, it's a good reminder that the **Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo & Mid-West Train Gathering** in May will be here before we know it.

I'm currently collecting names for:

CGRS layout display volunteers (Friday and/or Saturday) at the Train Expo in Girard

The **Friday night banquet** at the B&O Station Banquet Hall in Youngstown

If you are planning to attend either the show, volunteer for the layout, or attend the banquet, please email me at jhchg@aol.com as soon as possible and let me know which events you will be participating in.



Even advertised throughout the Caribbean!

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!



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 Show 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

Sponsored by:

LARGE SCALE LIVE

www.large-scale-living.com

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 online ticket holders and Gathering Attendees)

Don't forget the Prizes!



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Come be in the room where it happens!

News table meetings 7 until 8pm ish

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

May 21 Alvin & Bev Mann
5497 Crawford Dr, Columbus

Jun 18 Paul & Dana Minot
771 Rutherford Ct. , Delaware

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

TheCGRS.org

News Table Meetings

Please join us for Our Club News Table on April 16th hosted by Mary & Tom Ricci. 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.



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The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)...

By Lisa Dove

The History of Weather Prediction

Weather prediction has evolved from ancient observation methods into high-stakes data-driven science. Before the 15th Century, forecasting was based primarily on observing the stars, clouds, and nature.

As far back as 650 BCE, Babylonians recognized that haloes in the clouds meant rain was on the way. These agrarian sayings, or Weather Lore, are still remembered today!



- *Red skies at night, sailor's delight, Red skies in morning, sailors take warning
- *Ring around moon, rain coming soon
- *Swarm of Bees in May is worth a load of hay

The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Between the 15th and 19th centuries, during the Renaissance and Age of Reason, scientific methods and instruments were developed, as we tried to make sense of the world around us. Tools such as the hygrometer - *humidity* (da Vinci), the thermometer-*temperature* (Galileo), the barometer-*pressure* (Torricelli), and the anemometer-*wind speed* (Alberti) were developed to help explain and predict local weather.

The impact on the local economy and global exploration was very important. Sailors knew to stay in port an extra day or get out to sea early, and farmers knew when the best time would be for planting or harvesting. Explorers like Columbus and Magellan, used the “modern” tools to explore for trade routes to India, China and to map the Earth.



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Fast forward to today, with Satellites, Radar, and Supercomputers, and we can predict with timely accuracy our incoming weather (whether we like it or not). As weather prediction became a global enterprise, it affected our economy, our ability to travel, as well as our backyard outdoor events.



Train Travel with Members... Costa Rica!

By Tim & Lisa Dove

During our last adventure through the Caribbean and Panama Canal, Lisa and I were able to take advantage of an excursion on the “Jungle Train” in Costa Rica.

The Jungle Train was constructed at different times. It's really three different trains linked together. The first part, the part we were on, was built as a public transit system. The second part was built by a logging company, and the last part was built by *US Fruit Company* to connect its banana plantations with the major northern railroad running up the West coast. Curiously, each section was built with a different width of track.



Train Travel with Members... Costa Rica! *continued*

The Atlantic Railroad or so-called “Jungle Train” was completed in 1890 to ship coffee and bananas directly to the sea for export, and it was a monumental feat of engineering.

As you chug along through some of the most stunning scenery in [Costa Rica](#), you will hear the story of the difficulties of construction. The Costa Ricans, Chinese and Jamaicans that built the railway suffered unimaginable physical hardships until the route was finally opened.



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Train Travel with Members... Costa Rica! *continued*

More than 100 years later, the narrow-gauge railway is remembered mostly for the incredible scenery that it presents. The ride includes trestles, jungle terrain and sprawling plantations, that still grow bananas.



Because some of the terrain is so remote, you get to see all sorts of wildlife. We saw Howler monkeys, Two-toed sloths and various tropical birds. It was a nice ride also along the coast approaching the station in the port city of Limón.

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Winter Projects... from a fellow hobbyist

By Leon Mills

Once you have your layout decided and built and begin planning your theme structures, local weather will dictate structure material for either inside or out. I live in northern NV, so when I started, I didn't have anybody to discuss plans or ideas.



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Winter Projects... from a fellow hobbyist *continued*

I should have made my buildings more weatherproof, but mine are "fragile" so they are put out only when weather permits.

Building kits can be expensive so I use unfinished boxes from Hobby Lobby, add details as needed. As your skills grow, so can your details. Here's an 1890's hotel that I built for my V&T layout.



Editor's Note: This is a nice example of the advantages of being in a club. Many ideas and expertise to consider. Great idea here... to use unfinished boxes as base.

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/>



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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...

Feb 24 Meeting info

Mar 1 EBT info and Link

Mar 9 Upcoming Train Shows info



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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 or just want them for your travels, Money and order forms will be collected during 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. See Tim Dove for details at the meeting.

Questions/order info ?

Bag Tags with loop \$8 each

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

TMDedc@gmail.com or call (members list)



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CGRS Mugs!!!



A new Item just now available.

The CGRS Mug (with lid)

14 oz, cork based / white ceramic

A few will be available at the March club meeting. Bring your cash or check.

Bob Collins will be able to care for your requests.

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

Mugs will be \$7 each for CGRS members

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: Mar 2026

Vol. 35 number 3

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, Mark Bartel, Fred Kerner, Leon Mills & Doug Kruest.

Photography contributors:

Tim Dove, Jed Hacker, Mark Bartel, Leon Mills & Kent Kloes.

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Any articles for the Mar issue are due to TMDedc@gmail.com by Apr 19.

