

On Track with The Columbus Garden Railway Society



April 2026

Engineer's note:

Upcoming Destinations:

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

Next Club meetings 2-4pm

Apr 26 Briane & Connie Spangler, Mt Sterling

May 31 Tim & Lisa Dove, Columbus

Jun 28 Paul Jackson, Pickerington

Jul 26 Barbara Hupman, Buckeye Lake

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

May 21 Alvin & Bev Mann, Columbus

Jun 18 Paul & Dana Minot, Delaware

Jul 16 Gail Klink, Hebron



...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 hot , then cold, then hail, then rainy, then sunny typical Spring in central Ohio!

In this issue:

reflections on our March Meeting,
upcoming events and meetings,
some reminders,
new membership Info,
our garden considerations,
and the regular contact &
merchandise information.

Continue to enjoy our hobby!

Tim Dove



Columbus Garden Railway Society

New Newsletter Editor Sought for *ON TRACK*...

Interested making a difference for CGRS?

Tim Dove is giving up his role as Newsletter Editor after the May 2026 edition. This is a great way to engage with members and the hobby.

Anyone interested can contact Tim for more information and initial support.



Newsletter Information

tmdedc@gmail.com

Columbus Garden Railway Society

Our March Meeting...

By Tim Dove

Thank you, Craig & Audrey Bigrigg!

Another wonderful day running trains with the Bigriggs in Johnstown! It turned out to be a beautiful day, with a rebuilt set up and wonderful spread by Audrey.



The layout is even more incredible about rebuilding the pond & decking. Nice work Craig!

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Our March Meeting ... *continued.*

The program included explaining and demonstrating a variety of tools which can be used to support our hobby. Craig demonstrated a number of tools including grinders, cutters, welders and a variety of homemade (ingenious) tools to the club members.



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Our March Meeting... *continued.*

Bill & Karen Logan also explained a number of safety tips in using such tools. Karen went on to have us consider updating our first aid boxes.



It was another great meeting for members to learn and enjoy one another's company... and enjoy a wonderful garden railroad.

Columbus Garden Railway Society

Something from the Past... Weird RR History

By Tim Dove

Ever hear of a Railroad Torpedo? No not the kind that goes through water...

Railroad torpedoes (detonator) are safety devices invented in 1841 that detonated on impact to warn oncoming trains to slow down or stop.

These were housed in the Caboose used by flagmen to warn oncoming trains that there were troubles ahead and slow down to no more than 20 mph.



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Something from the Past...

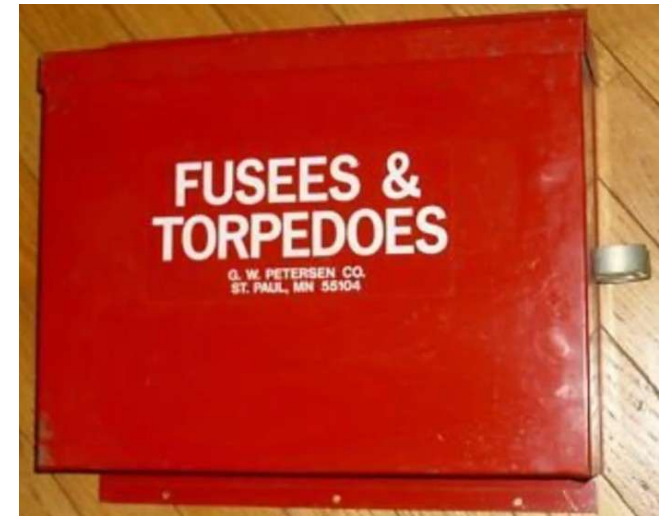
Included in the Caboose “Safety Kit”

These made the news recently,

As reported by WSYX, Railroad torpedoes were discovered recently in Clark County.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office said they received a call from a homeowner who reported finding approximately 30 'railroad torpedoes' while cleaning out a garage near Springfield, Ohio, on Monday.

Deputies said those explosives were used by the railroad industry years ago and possibly contain potassium perchlorate, a chemical used in fireworks, explosive primers, flares, and other incendiary devices. Members of the Hustead Fire Department and the Dayton Bomb Squad removed the devices without incident.



Two-way radios and safety issues made these obsolete.

Next Club Meeting

Briane & Connie Spangler
Sunday April 26th 2-4 PM

8905 Mckendree Rd, Mt Sterling



Clinic... Tunnel Portals & more

Info Clinic by Deb Sweet



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Current info regarding a Canadian Rail experience / LAST CALL!

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



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)...

By Lisa Dove **RailScape**

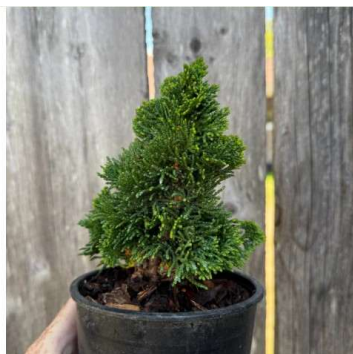
Whether you have a garden layout that is 20 years old (or more), or just starting out, adding and maintaining the “garden” part of your railroad is just as important as maintaining your track. Live plants add color and interest to your layout. The trick is to add the right type of plants that don’t become a problem later.



For those of us with designated layouts, scale-compatible plants are needed to mimic the appearance of full-sized trees and shrubs. Miniature conifers (such as dwarf firs or cypress) can be grouped together to create a forest scape. Low growing succulents and mosses can be used to create meadow and field effects.

The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Make sure you buy miniature varieties of confers, not just starters or bonsai versions of larger plants. Miniatures will STAY small, because they are hybridized to be genetically small in stature. It will cut down on your maintenance and trimming time!



Pixie
Dust
Dwarf

I found a good online source: <https://twogreenthumbs.com/> but there are many more. Remember to check out your local garden stores and specialty nurseries.



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

A word about plants that spread by rhizomes or “running roots” They tend to get out of hand! Many of us use low growing varieties, such as Succulents (stone crops), Dianthus (carnations/pinks), and Lillies (daylilies, lily of the valley). They don’t require a lot of water, and stay colorful all summer, doing well in full sun. However, they spread like mad when they are happy! If you want to keep them in a specific area, consider using an “edge” to contain them. This can be commercial edging that you get at the garden store, or you can use an aluminum coffee can rim. Cut off the bottom and sink it to ground level. Just make sure it is at least 5” deep.



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

You can also use Herbs to add interest (and scent) in your layout. Instead of all succulents, consider using Thyme or Sage. Many varieties exist, providing a variety of colors and textures to choose from. Why not have your layout do double duty as a kitchen garden, giving your access to fresh herbs to be used all summer, and then dried for the winter? Other herbs, such as Rosemary, Lavender, Oregano, and Curly Parsley can be planted near your tracks, as they have a vertical habitat. Parsley has an added benefit as being a host plant for the Eastern Swallowtail butterfly, so you might have to plant enough for you and the caterpillars.



Remember that our Frost Date is May 15th. Waiting to plant annual flowers and sensitive plants until at least the 15th ensures that the lower soil level has thawed and is at least 50F below the surface.

Looking Ahead... Buckeye Show in April. *A Reminder*

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* via email at eagle_waits@yahoo.com for further details.



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.

Tickets available at:
[Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

OHIO'S LARGEST
 COMBINATION
 MODEL & ARTIFACT
 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!



2026



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

*Another
Reminder...*

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



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)

Don't forget the Prizes!



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Come be in the room where it happens!

News table meetings 7 until 8pm ish

May 21 Alvin & Bev Mann
5497 Crawford Dr, Columbus

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

Jul 16 Gail Klink
4401 Hunts Landing Rd unit 201, Hebron

We need volunteers to host for
Aug, Sep & Oct

TheCGRS.org

News Table Meetings

Please join us for Our Club News Table on May 21st hosted by Alvin & Beverly Mann. 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

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

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...

Apr 14 Member Update & Train Show info

Apr 11 Upcoming Train Show info

Apr 7 Age of Steam, How to Newsletter and meeting 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.

Bag Tags with loop \$8 each



Questions/order info ?

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

TMDedc@gmail.com or call (members list)

Columbus Garden Railway Society

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: April 2026

Vol. 35 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:

Lisa Dove, Tim Dove & Doug Kruest.

Photography contributors:

Tim Dove, Jed Hacker & Kent Kloes.

Columbus Garden Railway Society



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

