

ON TRACK

with the
Columbus Garden Railway Society
July 2026



Engineer's Note:

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the July 2026 issue of ***On Track***! In this month's issue:

- Reflections on our June Meeting
- Upcoming Events and Meetings
- Participation in supporting shows
- Members Travel Experiences
- New Membership Info
- Merchandise Information

Enjoy our fascinating hobby!

Tom Marthaller

Mark Your Calendars!

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

Upcoming Club Meetings 2-4pm

Jul 26 - Barbara Hupman, Buckeye Lake
Aug 30 - Alvin & Bev Mann, Columbus
Sep 27 – Bob & Eileen Brenner, Sunbury

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

Aug 20 - Cecil Easterday, Dublin
Sep 17 – Mary Ricci, Westerville
Oct 5 – Host needed

See website for more events & details. Directions will be emailed by Doug Kruest closer to event times

CGRS Crew Change

New Editor for ON TRACK

First, thank you Tim Dove, for the incredible job as Newsletter editor, and thank you Lisa, for all the insightful gardening articles and tutorials!

The new editor is Tom Marthaller. Tom welcomes contributions in the form of photos, articles, announcements, or ideas.

New Meeting Coordinator

Deb Sweet has volunteered to replace Dave Bush as the CGRS Monthly Meeting Coordinator. Thank you Dave, for the terrific job you did and thank you Deb for taking over. We have plenty of openings for meetings, so please contact Deb if you can host.

Newsletter Information

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Our June Meeting... Thank you, Paul and Earleen Jackson!

By Tom Marthaller

For the first time in recent history, the weather was dry for our June meeting at the Jackson's house in Reynoldsburg!

Paul spoke about his railroad and the challenges he's had having to move his railroad due to the installation of a trail and local wildlife wreaking havoc on his railroad. The wildlife have become so familiar, Paul apparently has named each of them. And, of course, Earleen provided some tasty goodies!



Our June Meeting... *continued*



Mary Ricci provided a detailed, first-hand account of travel on Amtrak. She also created a mock-up to simulate the amount of space you have on board Amtrak, in the front yard. In summary, don't expect to be on-time or have much space!



Deb Sweet brought in a basket of garden railroad magazines for members to borrow.

Our June Meeting... *continued*



Our Next Club Meeting

Sunday, July 26th, 2-4 PM

Barbara Hupman

2966 Dupler Place

Millersport, Ohio 43046

Bring chairs!

Parking is limited at the house, overflow parking is at the boat ramp you will pass.

Directions: Take I-70 east from Columbus to exit 126, Rte 37. Travel south toward Lancaster for one mile. Turn left on Rte 79 to the churches (1/2 mile), turn right on Millersport road for 1.3 mile. Before the bridge, turn left on Leib's Island Road. Drive past the boat ramp. At the dead end, turn left and promptly left again. It is the white house at the end. You can see it from the boat ramp.

Guest Speaker: Travis Titan, a friend of Deb Sweet, is scheduled to speak about his career as an engineer for the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Looking Ahead...

The Annual CGRS Swap Meet will occur at the August Club Meeting

Alvin and Beverly Mann are hosting

Sunday, August 30th, 2-4 PM

Columbus

Tables will be provided this year, so you won't need to bring yours if you are selling items. Bring your unwanted items and some cash! For those new to the hobby, swap meets are a great way to get started without paying a fortune.

News Table Meetings

Please join us for Our Club News Table on Aug 20th hosted by Cecil Easterday. 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.



Come join us and be in the room where it happens!

News table meetings 7-8 pm ish

- Aug 20 - Cecil Easterday, Friendship Village Dublin (more details later)
- Sep 17 – Mary Ricci

We need volunteers to host news table meetings for Oct & Nov

Show Participation

2026 Buckeye Division Toy Train Operating Society Train Show

- Saturday, September 12th from 10AM-3PM at
- Der Dutchman, 445 Jefferson Avenue, Plain City
- Please watch for emails to see if more volunteers are needed.



CGRS Annual Fall Open Garden Tour

The CGRS Annual Fall Open Garden Tour will take place on Sunday, September 13th from 1-5PM

If you would like to be included on the tour this year, please contact Deb Sweet to be added to the tour.

Remember, you don't need an operating railroad to be on the tour. Visitors like to see garden railroads in various stages of planning and development.

ATTENTION PAST TOUR HOSTS!! Do you have a yard sign or a CGRS crossbuck sign no longer in use? Contact Deb Sweet to discuss return to another club member to use for the 2026 tour.



The Big Boy!

Unless you've been living under a rock, you already know that Union Pacific's famed Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest operating steam locomotive, made its journey to the East Coast this summer for the first time as part of a historic coast-to-coast tour to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. The tour included a Fourth of July celebration in Philadelphia, major display events in 8 cities and more than 50 whistle-stops in 10 states, including first-time stops in Indiana, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania. (from UP.com)



(map from <https://www.up.com>)



Big Boy... *continued*

Several CGRS members fought the crowds for the unique opportunity to see Big Boy in action. The Doves and the Minots traveled to Horseshoe Curve National Historic Landmark in Altoona PA to watch the train negotiate the grades and curves.



Future Trip on the Napa Valley Wine Train?

Deb Sweet is gauging interest in a Napa Valley Wine Train trip in 2027.

Napa Valley Wine Train takes you on a 36-mile round-trip rail journey from Downtown Napa California through California wine country to St. Helena and back. There are various options, such as 3-hour journeys, or 6-hour excursions featuring either 3 or 4-course gourmet meals. See more information at <https://www.winetrain.com/>

Reach out to Deb if you are interested.



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.

Doug sends out directions to the meetings and any last minute changes or updates.



CGRS Depot Store

- Crew-neck sweatshirts XS to 4XL \$25 to \$27
- Golf Shirts S to 3XL \$28 to \$42
- Golf Shirts WITH pocket S to 3XL \$37 to \$45
- Hooded Jackets S to 3XL \$62
- Baseball Caps (choose color - Khaki, green, black, white.) - \$18

PLEASE NOTE: ALL golf shirts are ordered without a pocket unless a pocket is requested. **Bob Collins** is our Conductor for all wearable merchandise. Please contact him with any questions at 614-975-5753.

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

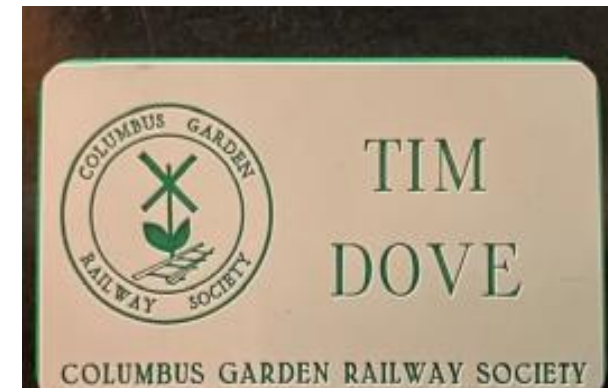


CGRS Depot Store Continued...

But wait ... there's more!

- Name Tags with Magnet fastener - \$6 each
- CGRS Mug (with lid) – 14-oz, cork base/white ceramic - \$7 each for CGRS members
- Bag Tags with loop - \$8 each

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



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 are planning 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 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/>



About Us...

CGRS - 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.

Contacts

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

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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:

Deb Sweet, Tom Marthaller, Tim Dove, Dana & Paul Minot, Jed Hacker & Doug Kruest. Information was used from UP.com and winetrain.com

Photography contributors:

Mark Bartel, Tim Dove, Jed Hacker, Tom Marthaller, Dana & Paul Minot, Gail Klink, Kent Kloes. Also, photos from UP.com and winetrain.com were used.



Feel free to send any articles for the Aug issue to members of the club for the News Table Meeting Aug 20.

