

ON TRACK

with the
Columbus Garden Railway Society
August 2026



Engineer's Note:

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

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

Tom Marthaller

Mark Your Calendars!

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

Upcoming Club Meetings 2-4pm

Aug 30 - Alvin & Bev Mann, Columbus

Sep 27 – Bob & Eileen Brenner, Sunbury

Oct 25 - Camille Petersen, Johnstown/Utica

Nov 29 – Columbus Main Library

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

Sep 17 – Mary Ricci, Westerville

Oct 5 – Tim & Lisa Dove

Nov 19 - Alvin & Bev Mann

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

Our July Meeting... Thank you, Barbara Hupman!

By Tom Marthaller

We had another beautiful day for our July meeting at Barb Hupman's place on Buckeye Lake. Barb cautioned us early on not to pick any weeds. She explained that she is "chaos gardening" where you "let it grow and see what it does", an idea she credited to Lisa Dove. A couple of our newest members, Jody and Colleen Goodhart, introduced themselves.



Our July Meeting... *continued*

Thanks to Deb Sweet for inviting her friend, Travis Titan, from Norfolk Southern to speak to our group. Travis said his dream growing up was to play pro football. His dream ended when he was cut by the Philadelphia Eagles after rookie try-outs. With football no longer an option, he pivoted and pursued being a train engineer for Union Pacific. Why UP? According to Travis, UP has the coolest logo. After applying online for multiple locations, he was hired to work in Wyoming.

Travis worked as a conductor and radio control operator before he completed engineer school in Salt Lake City. He eventually left UP for Norfolk Southern where he is a Field Safety Supervisor.



Travis presented a “train reverser”, to the group. The reverser is a yellow plastic key that allows the engineer to operate the throttle when it is inserted.

Our July Meeting... *continued*

Travis awarded prizes to those who correctly answered his railroad trivia questions. Paul Jackson and Gail Klink won lanterns and Jody Goodhart won a lunch box.



Our Next Club Meeting Destination

The home and garden railway of Alvin & Bev Mann

- When: Sunday Aug 30, 2026, 2–4 PM
- Where: 5497 Crawford Dr., Columbus, Ohio
- Program: Annual CGRS Swap Meet

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 pick up some bargains to get started.

Bring chairs!

Sellers: Print and fill-out bid sheets from the [CGRS.org](http://theCGRS.org)

Looking Ahead...

The Annual Pot Luck Picnic

Bob and Eileen Brenner are hosting
Sunday, September 27th, 2-4 PM
Sunbury

We are looking for backyard hosts for the 2027 season. If you have NEVER hosted a meeting to view your layout, please consider this year to share. If it has been several years, your layout will have priority. Contact Deb Sweet

News Table Meetings

Please join us for our Club News Table on Sep 17th hosted by Mary Ricci. These meetings present you with the opportunity to have a voice in the direction of our club. As Jed often reminds us, attending the meeting makes you a board member for the meeting.



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

News table meetings 7-8 pm ish

- Sep 17 – Mary Ricci
- Oct 15 – Tim & Lisa Dove
- Nov 19 – Alvin & Bev Mann

We need volunteers to host news table meetings after November

Show Participation

2026 Buckeye Division Toy Train Operating Society Train Show

- Saturday, September 12th from 10 AM-3 PM
- Der Dutchman, 445 Jefferson Avenue, Plain City
- No additional volunteers are needed at this time



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.

If you can't be on the tour this year, volunteers are needed to assist those who are on the tour.

Members, if you are not on the 2026 fall tour, please consider sharing your yard sign with a new member. Contact Deb Sweet.



The Signs of Autumn – Woolly Bear Caterpillars!

By Lisa Dove

The end of August signals the end of summer as we know it. Kids go back to school, football stadiums are once again filled with fans, and clusters of birds and geese can be seen gathering in the sky and beginning their southern migration. The Monarch Butterflies have arrived, and stop by in our gardens, on their way to Mexico.

The Farmer Almanac and the National Weather Service use models and prediction tools to come up with our forecasts, but I like to verify their prediction with the utmost authority, The Woolly Bear Caterpillar!

Woolly Bear Caterpillars ... *continued*

Here's what ChatGPT has to say about these interesting creatures:

Woolly bear caterpillars are fuzzy, black-and-rust-colored caterpillars that many people notice crawling across sidewalks, roads, gardens, and fields in the fall. The best-known woolly bear is the larvae of the Isabella tiger moth; a moth found across much of North America.

What They Look Like

A woolly bear caterpillar has a rounded body covered with stiff, hair-like bristles called setae. Most have black bands at the front and back with a rusty brown or reddish band in the middle. When disturbed, a woolly bear often curls into a tight ball, using its bristles as a form of protection.



Woolly Bear Caterpillars ... *continued*

Life Cycle

Like butterflies and other moths, the Isabella tiger moth goes through complete metamorphosis: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The woolly bear is the larval stage. It feeds on plants, grows, and eventually forms a cocoon. Inside the cocoon, it changes into an adult Isabella tiger moth, which is usually yellowish or orange with small dark markings.



Woolly Bear Caterpillars ... *continued*

How They Survive Winter

One of the most amazing things about woolly bear caterpillars is that they can overwinter as caterpillars. In cold regions, they produce natural chemicals that help protect their bodies when temperatures drop. In spring, they become active again, continue their life cycle, and later transform into moths.

Winter Weather Folklore

According to folklore, the width of the woolly bear's brown band can predict how harsh the coming winter will be. A wider brown band is said to mean a milder winter, while more black is said to mean a colder one. Scientists, however, explain that band width is more likely related to the caterpillar's age, growth, and environment than to future weather.

Cincinnati Dinner Train

By Tom Marthaller

Laurie and I joined the Minots and the Doves on the Cincinnati Dinner Train. The 3-hour round-trip excursion took us down along the Ohio River just outside of downtown Cincinnati.



Cincinnati Dinner Train ... *continued*

We were seated in a New York Central dining car, which was the only car on the train that was originally a dining car. We enjoyed a nice meal with a friendly staff, live singers, and good friends.



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.



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/>



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/>

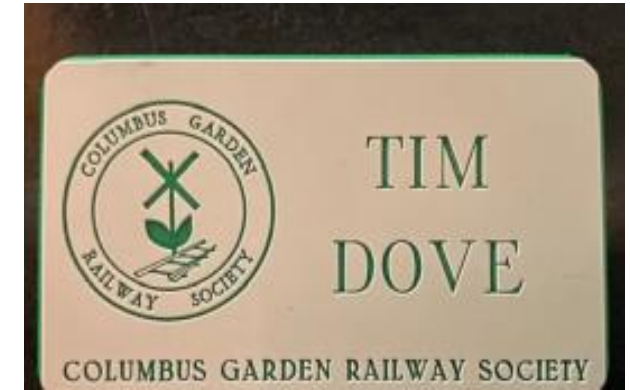


CGRS Depot Store Continued...

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/>



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, Lisa Dove, Jed Hacker & Doug Kruest.

Photography contributors:

Tim Dove, Jed Hacker, Laurie & Tom Marthaller, Dana & Paul Minot, Kent Kloes.

