

ON TRACK

with the
Columbus Garden Railway Society
September 2026, Vol 35, No 9



Engineer's Note:

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

- Reflections on our August Meeting
- Photos from the Garden Railway Tour
- Upcoming Events and Meetings
- Show Participation / Volunteering
- In the Garden with Lisa Dove
- 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

Sep 27 – Bob & Eileen Brenner, Sunbury

Oct 25 - Camille Petersen, Johnstown/Utica

Nov 29 – Columbus Main Library

Dec 26 (Saturday) – Warner Woods Pavillion – Westerville
Holiday Party Pot-Luck

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

Oct 5 – Tim & Lisa Dove

Nov 19 - Alvin & Bev Mann

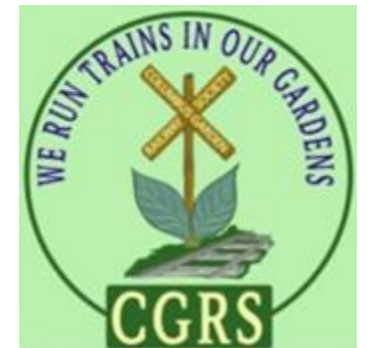
Dec 17 – Mary Ricci

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

Our August Meeting... Thank you, Alvin and Bev Mann!

By Tom Marthaller

It was yet another beautiful central Ohio day for our August meeting and swap meet at Alvin and Bev Mann's home and garden railroad. Lots of railroad items found new homes, lots of goodies consumed, and a train even took a bath.



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Our August Meeting... *continued*



2026 Columbus Garden Railway Tour

By Tom Marthaller

There were 14 railroads on this year's garden railway tour. Thank you to everyone for opening your garden railroads to everyone and to the volunteers who helped. The weather cooperated... for most of the tour. Here are some photos from the tour



2026 Columbus Garden Railway Tour ... *continued*



2026 Columbus Garden Railway Tour ... *continued*



2026 Columbus Garden Railway Tour ... *continued*



2026 Columbus Garden Railway Tour ... *continued*



Our Next Club Meeting Destination

The home and garden railway of Bob & Eileen Brenner

- When: Sunday, Sept 27, 2026, 2–4 PM
- Where: 1300 N 3Bs & K Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074
- Program: Annual Pot-Luck Picnic

Bring a favorite dish to share and chairs!

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

Looking Ahead...

October Meeting

Camille Petersen is hosting
Sunday, October 25th, 2-4 PM
Johnstown/Utica, Ohio

November Meeting

Sunday, November 29th, 2-4 PM
Columbus Main Library

News Table Meetings

Please join us for our Club News Table on Oct 15th hosted by Tim & Lisa Dove. 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

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

We need volunteers to host news table meetings in 2027

Show Participation / Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to all who volunteered at the TTOS Train Show at Der Dutchman on Sept 12th!

- Oakland Nursery Fall Fling - Oct 10-11
- Golden Spike Ent Show – Model Trains and Artifacts – Dec 5th, 9 AM – 4 PM, Ohio Expo Ctr
- Great Train Show – Jan 10-11 – Ohio Expo Ctr
- CGRS Banquet - February 27th – Need volunteer to call winning raffle ticket numbers
- 2027 Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo – May 13-16 – Girard, OH
- 2027 National Garden Railway Convention – May 31st – June 5th – Nashville, TN

Contact Gary Schneider if you'd like to volunteer for any of the shows or the Fall Fling.

The Monarch Migration – An Epic Journey

By Lisa Dove

The Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*) was dubbed “Monarch” in 1874 by Samue Scudder. He chose the name because of the vast territory that the butterfly covers. Legend also applied the naming of the butterfly in honor of William III, King of the Netherlands (r. 1849-1890)

You may have seen some Monarch butterflies flittering around your gardens and train layouts. For the population located east of the Rocky Mountains, from US and Canada, these intrepid travelers begin a 3000-mile-long journey to the mountain forests of Central Mexico.



<https://www.britannica.com/animal/monarch-butterfly>

Somehow, they manage to even find the same tree that their ancestors landed on. They do it without the help of Google Maps!

One question that always comes up is “Will the butterfly that I see in August, return next year to my garden?” Sadly, the answer is no.

The Monarch Migration ... *continued*

It takes 3-5 generations of Monarch Butterflies to complete an annual migration cycle. Monarchs that we see in the summer tend to live only 3-5 months. The last generation, which hatch in the very late summer, have an extended lifespan and can live up to 8-9 months. This allows them to complete the southern migration leg.

Toward the end of our winter, the Monarchs (who have been hanging out in Mexico) mate, and the males die (sorry guys). The females begin their return north, depositing eggs on milkweed plants along the way, and they too eventually die. Their offspring then continue the journey.



Eggs become caterpillars who then become pupae (chrysalis). Around 10-15 days, a fully formed butterfly emerges.

The entire egg to butterfly process, or metamorphosis, takes about 30 days. To assist the Monarchs, restoring a section of your garden with native milkweed varieties and other pollinator plants, gives them a boost on their journey.

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/>

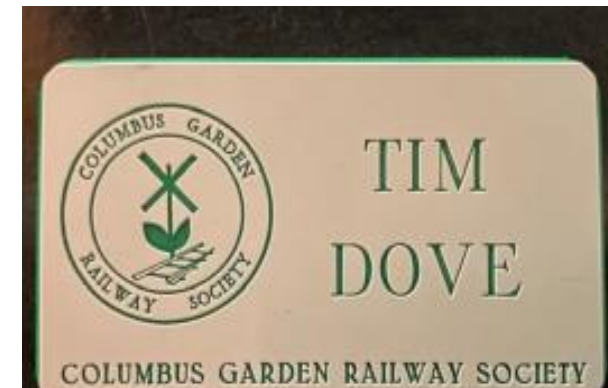


CGRS Depot Store Continued...

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:

Jed Hacker, Tom Marthaller, Dana & Paul Minot, Kent Kloes, britannica.com

