

ON TRACK

with the
Columbus Garden Railway Society
October 2026, Vol 35, No 10



Engineer's Note:

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

- Reflections on our September Meeting
- Upcoming Events and Meetings
- Show Participation / Volunteering
- Beth & Kent Kloes Visit East Broad Top
- 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

Oct 25 - Camille Petersen, Johnstown/Utica

Nov 29 – Columbus Main Library

Dec 27 – Warner Woods Pavillion – Westerville Holiday Pot-Luck

Jan 31 – Open

Feb 27 (Sat, 6-10 PM) – Annual Banquet – Worthington Hills C.C.

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

Nov 19 - Alvin & Bev Mann

Dec 17 – Mary Ricci

Jan 21 - Open

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

Our September Meeting... Thank you, Bob & Eileen Brenner

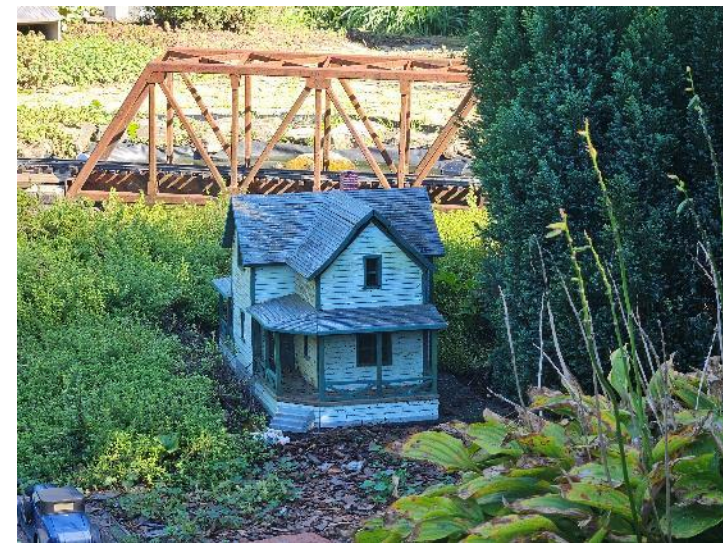
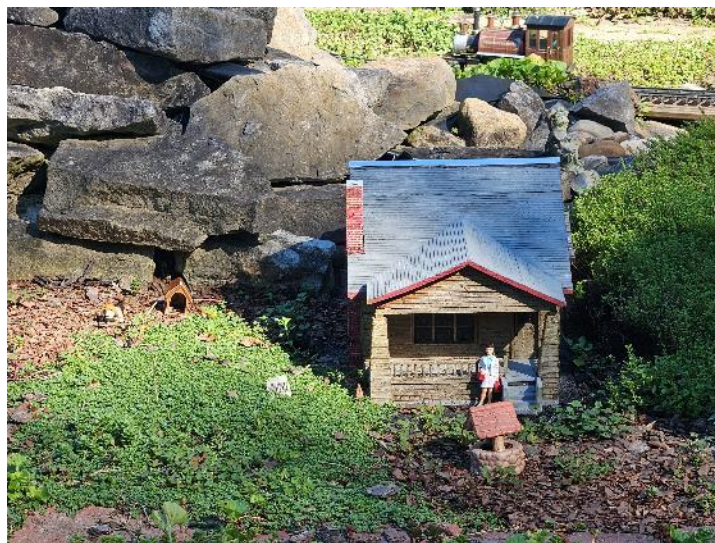
By Tom Marthaller

Our string of meetings with beautiful weather continued for our September meeting and potluck at Bob and Eileen Brenner's home and garden railroads, the G scale and the ride-on.



Bob gave rides on the 7-1/2" gauge railroad and *On Track* is happy to report, the streak of no one falling off the trestle continues! Thank you, Bob and Eileen, for hosting and thanks to everyone who brought the delicious goodies!

Our September Meeting... *continued*



Our Next Club Meeting Destination

The October CGRS meeting will be hosted by Camille Petersen in Johnstown. It's a nice time of year for a drive in the country with the fall foliage nearing peak color. Read about Camille's RR on the next page.

- When: Sunday, Oct 25, 2026, 2–4 PM
- Where: 10767 Lafayette Road
Johnstown, Ohio 43031
- Directions: Take US 62 NE through Johnstown
Right on Marion Rd NW/OH-657
Right on Lafayette Rd
- Program: Camille will share how to make polymer clay figures.

Bring chairs!

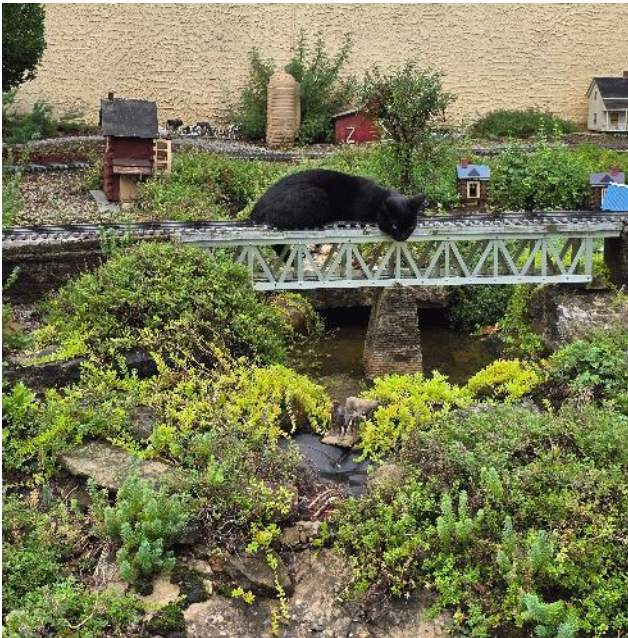


We are looking for backyard hosts for the 2027 season. If you have NEVER hosted a meeting, please consider it. If it has been several years, your layout will have priority. Contact Deb Sweet

Camille Petersen's Puckerville Railroad

By Camille Petersen

The Puckerville Railroad features two levels, depicting a small-town setting from the 1960's. The upper level has the town of Puckerville, with the extended area into the herb bed for the municipal buildings, park, ranch and zoo. The lower level is Coal Town with its own coal train and mine. There are many hand-made or repurposed buildings, and over 100 handmade polymer clay people. The plants include shrubs, many herbs and ground covers.



News Table Meetings

Please join us for our Club News Table on Nov 19th, hosted by Alvin & Bev Mann. 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

- Nov 19 – Alvin & Bev Mann
- Dec 17 – Mary Ricci

We need volunteers to host news table meetings in 2027

Show Participation / Volunteer Opportunities

The CGRS Annual Banquet is February 27th. We need your donations for door prizes! Don't wait until the last minute! Please e-mail Doug Clark and inform him of what you are donating. His e-mail is dclar5@me.com

- Golden Spike Ent Show – Model Trains and Artifacts – Dec 5, 9 AM – 4 PM - Ohio Expo Ctr
- Great Train Show – Jan 10-11 – Ohio Expo Ctr
- 2027 Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo – May 13-16 – Girard, OH
- 2027 National Garden Railway Convention – May 31 – June 5 – Nashville, TN
- 2027 TTOS Train Show – Sep 11 - Der Dutchman – Plain City

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

East Broad Top Railroad Trip

By Beth Kloes

Beth and Kent recently visited the East Broad Top Railroad, stationed in Rockhill Furnace, Pennsylvania.

Beginning construction in the 1870's, East Broad Top was used to transport nearby rich deposits of iron, and to the south, large amounts of coal. The railroad ceased operations in 1956, and was sold to the Kovalchick Salvage Company. Nick Kovalchick unwittingly became the guardian of a complete historical record of both the railroad and the coal company. When the East Broad Top Foundation took ownership in 2020, they began digitizing over 5,000 linear feet of historical materials! East Broad Top is the oldest operating narrow gauge railroad in the Eastern United States.

East Broad Top Railroad Trip ... *continued*

In 2025, East Broad Top reached a major milestone – rebuilding track in front of Hutingdon County High School. In September of that year, the first annual Take the Train to School Day was launched, making that day the first time for many students to ride a train!

Beth and Kent stayed at The Station Inn in nearby Cresson, known for the many trains that pass through that town every day. The B&B is filled with memorabilia of all types, including a list of all trains which pass through Cresson every day.

If you're planning a trip to East Broad Top, consider some of the many other activities in addition to the train rides (one north, one south). These include Dinner Trains, Machine Shop tours, Living History Weekends, Ragtime on the Rails, and more!

Miniature Bulbs

By Lisa Dove

If you have an established layout and would like to consider adding some early spring color, consider planting miniature bulbs this fall.

Miniature bulbs may be small, but they can transform the earliest weeks of spring. Crocuses, snowdrops, glory-of-the-snow, miniature daffodils, and species tulips emerge when much of the garden is still waking up.



"Glory-of-the-Snow" (colorblends.com)



"Snowdrops" (colorblends.com)

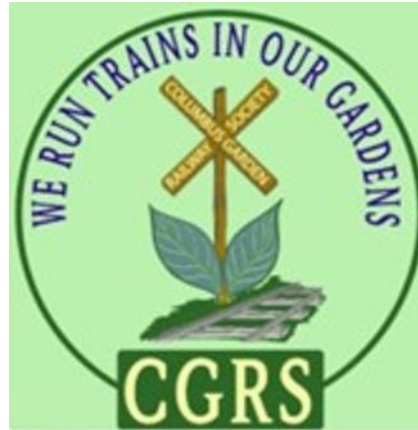
Unlike their larger cousins, miniature bulbs slip easily into small spaces. They look especially natural beneath deciduous shrubs, along track edges, between existing perennials, and in gravel or rock gardens. Many multiply gradually, creating broader drifts year after year when left undisturbed.

Miniature Bulbs ... *continued*

Miniature shrubs became favorites for fairy gardens, and the trend is now extended to spring bulbs. October is the prime month to plant these bulbs. You'll want to get them in the ground before it freezes.



"Miniature Daffodils" (cityfloralgreenhouse.com)



"Species Tulips" (brecks.com)

Most garden stores carry a variety of miniature bulbs, especially daffodils. Mail order companies, such as Breck's and Holland Bulb Farms, also provide an extensive collection.

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/>

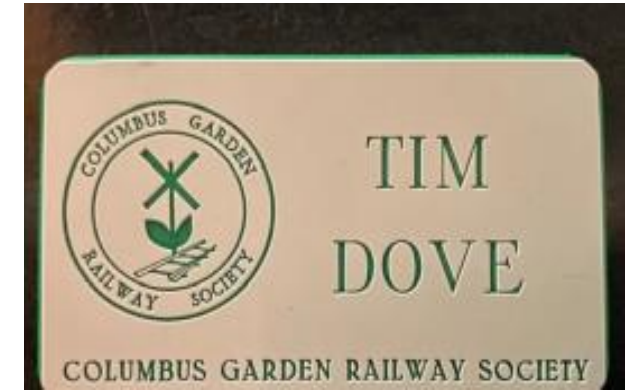


CGRS Depot Store Continued...

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 content*
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, Camille Petersen, Beth Kloes, Lisa Dove, & Doug Kruest.

Photography contributors:

Jed Hacker, Tom Marthaller, Camille Petersen, Kent Kloes,
colorblends.com, brecks.com,
cityfloralgreenhouse.com

