



# GGRS Gazette

## October, 2025

**Official Newsletter**  
of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

### Ted's Tickets



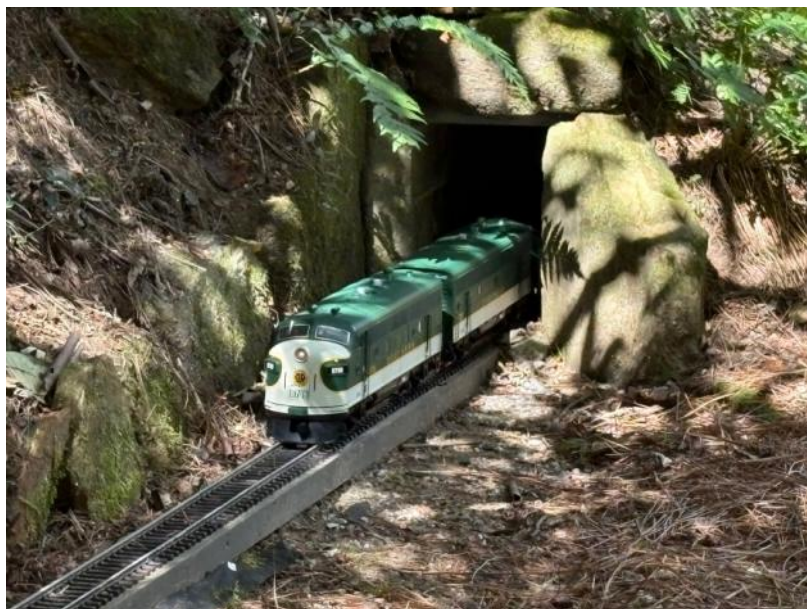
'Uncle Sam Wants You'. Some that are in my age group might remember those posters with the old guy in red, white, and blue clothing pointing his long finger outward toward the viewer. Well, it is not Uncle Sam, but the GGRS that want you. We value all our members and we are now well over 90 paid member families on our membership role. That is the best in the history of our group. Now ask, what can you do?

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### September GGRS Meeting, in N.C., Not GA

GGRS members come from all types of families: Rich, dirt poor, tall, short, Sante Fe fans, all the way to California's coast you will find our devoted modelers. We even have members not living in Georgia, but have opted for the heavenly heights of the N.C. mountains, and other locations outside our GA boundaries. We welcome them all.

September's meeting took GGRS members across state lines to those glorious NC mountains, and a good time was had by all visiting the lovely home of Elliot & Katherine Stotler and Elliot's Southern Railway in Highland, N.C.



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## **Ted's Tickets (Cont.)**

You might volunteer to host a meeting. We usually meet April through October at a member's home to enjoy running trains and have an equally good time eating and fellowshiping. 2025 has been a truly remarkable year with mostly new hosts stepping forward. 2026 is starting to fill up, so contact Pam Williamson to secure your choice of months to host for 2026 (or even 2027).

You might have something special you would like to share at a meeting. We could work in a 'show and tell' at meetings for you to brag on a building you made or a train you customized. You could do a short clinic about something that really interests you. You could write an article about something unique on your railroad. You could tell us about a train trip you recently made.

You might consider serving on the 2026 Board of Directors. The current board has done a remarkable job with meetings and events, finances, membership, and communications. Other members might have new and exciting ideas that they can share and make 2026 and beyond even better in the world of Georgia Garden Railroading. Fill out a nomination for yourself or someone else and send it in (see article elsewhere in this issue).

You might know someone who has really worked hard this year for our organization or our hobby. The board might not be aware of something that other members are doing to help, so you could inform us. Nominate someone or some family for the Georgia Garden Railroader of the Year (see article elsewhere in this issue).

You might help at a train show or event. The GGRS table at our layout is where most people find out about our group. Volunteer to stay around the table for a few hours and just talk to people about how much we all enjoy garden railroading. Some shows require a set up of an operating display, you could help set that up (or take it down) or maybe even operate the running trains.

Hopefully, something I have written today will inspire you to become MORE involved with our group. Garden railroading is fun! The GGRS is a great organization thanks to all our members. Thank you for being a part of this group. Remember, GGRS wants YOU!

*Ted Harborough,*  
*President*

## **Membership Report**

### **Membership News – September 2025**

What a lovely time we had yesterday in the North Carolina mountains at the home of Elliot and Katherine Stotler. So happy to report that the GGRS had three members attend for their first meeting: Calvin Abernathy, Vivian Parber, and Parker Jordan. So nice to get to know you and hope we see you often.

I want to thank all of the GGRS members who attended the Atlanta Model Train Show, and took a minute to stop by and say 'hello' at our membership table on August 23rd. One new couple joined that day.

Welcome to – Kelton Auvermann & Parker Jordan from Dawsonville, GA

As we come to the end of 2025, it is time to pay your 2026 dues of \$30. I plan on attending the October monthly meeting at Josh Sagarin's home, so you can pay me then or you can send a check, made out to GGRS to –

Ginny Manning  
1201 Timber Glen Court  
Lilburn, GA 30047

Reminder to Russ Bundy, Paul Dallas, J. B. Holiday, and Kelton Auvermann because you have paid your 2026 dues! Thank you!

Ginny Manning, Membership Coordinator [vlmanning@aol.com](mailto:vlmanning@aol.com)





## The Dining Car

At the request of several members, a new section has been added to the consist: a dining car, where you can share your favorite dishes with club members. Many are just dying to try them out, after sampling your signature dish at a recent club meeting. Send entries to the editor. A simple recipe, instructions, and if possible, a photo to entice your fellow members to give it a try!

### Deborah's Coca Cola Cake

1 cup butter  
3 tablespoons cocoa  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups marshmallows  
1 cup Coca Cola

In a sauce pan melt butter, and add 3 tablespoons of cocoa, Coca Cola and marshmallows. Stir and bring to a boil. Boil for 1 minute. Stir until all marshmallows are melted. Let cool. (I usually put mine in the freezer while I am working on the next two steps).

2 cups sugar

2 cups self-rising flour

Mix these two ingredients together in a mixing bowl.

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup milk

2 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix together.

When ingredients in freezer have cooled so they won't cook the eggs, add them to the flour and sugar, stirring as you add them. Next add milk and egg mixture stirring thoroughly.

Bake at 350 degrees. I check after 30 minutes to see if done by inserting a toothpick.

If not, I bake 5 more minutes and check with a toothpick.

Icing:

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter

3 Tablespoons cocoa

6 Tablespoons Coca Cola

Bring ingredients to a boil while stirring, and boil 1 minute. Remove from heat.

Add 1 box of powdered sugar a little at a time while stirring.

When all has been added, add 1 teaspoon vanilla. Then I get out my hand mixer and mix well to incorporate all the lumps.

Optional: 1 cup of chopped pecans may be added to the icing if you like nuts. I usually put them in the microwave for about a minute to bring out their flavor before adding.

## September's Club Meeting



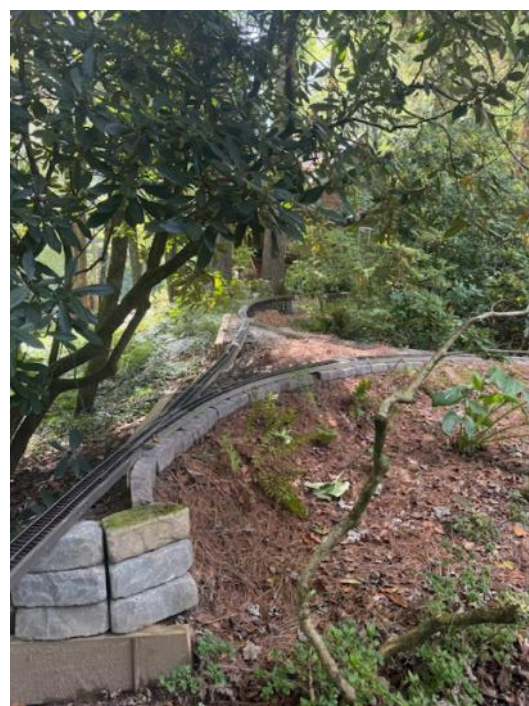














## September Atlanta Train Show

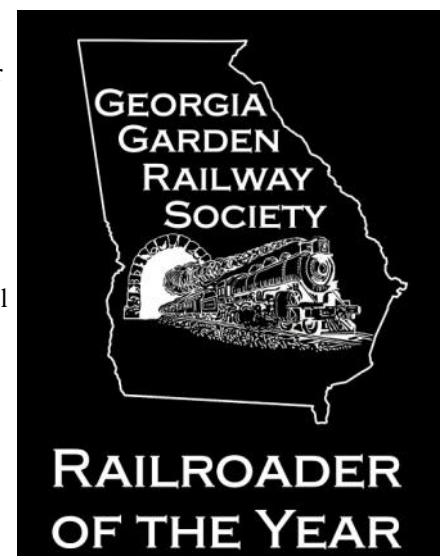






## Georgia Garden Railroader of the Year Nominations Requested

Each year at the Annual Business Meeting and Holiday Party in January, the GGRS is honored to recognize a member (or family) that has contributed significantly to the GGRS or the hobby of large-scale model trains during the previous year. We have many deserving folk and need you to help us decide the recipient. Please consider writing a short paragraph or two about the person, or family, describing why you think they are deserving of the award, then email it to [yarbrought@charter.net](mailto:yarbrought@charter.net) before October 31, 2025. The board will meet over the holidays and select the 2026 award winner from those submitted. Some recent award winners have been Ted & Deborah Yarbrough, Emil Decker, Roy & Pam Williamson, Terry & Ginny Manning, Dennis Bass, Dave Bennett, and Peter & Lori Thomas. As you can see, this is a very high honor, so please be thinking about who you will nominate and send the info to the board. Thanks in advance!





## Track Warrants

\*\*\* **NOTE:** The Calendar contains some Rail related events that are NOT GGRS events! Due to timing of events and newsletter deadlines,, some updates may not have been posted. Contact host for additional info.

Event	Location	Date	Status
Hall County Master Gardeners Fall Garden Expo	Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center 1855 Calgary Church Rd. Gainesville, GA	September 25-27	GGRS Layout Admission is \$2
GGRS Club Mtg	Josh & Margaret Sagarin Atlanta, GA	Oct 11, 2025	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	TRAINZ	Nov 1, 2025	In Planning Stage
Annual Business Meeting	TBA (Provino's???)	Jan 11, 2026	In Planning Stage
Golden Spike	Duluth, GA	Jan 18, 2026	In Planning Stage
Trains, Trains, Trains	Kennesaw, GA	Jan 24, 2026	Planning - Terry Manning
Tate Depot	Tate Depot, Tate GA	May, 2026	Planning - Emil Decker
GGRS Club Mtg	Ted & Deborah Yarborough Chatsworth, GA	Jun, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Dan & Carol Steidle	Aug, 2026	Includes Annual Swap Meet
GGRS Club Mtg	Liana & Bill Hewitt	Sep, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Becky & Rich Chitwood	Oct, 2026	In Planning Stage



CLEWISTON, FL – As Sugar Express marches into the holiday season, it has released its upcoming 2025 operating schedule featuring train rides and all-day excursions from January through May. In addition, Sugar Express is introducing a new Family Coach Class with special pricing for children and young families.

Tickets for events in January and February go on sale Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 PM at [sugarexpress.com](https://sugarexpress.com).

The 2025 season will begin with three weekends of events in January featuring Sugar Express steam locomotive no. 148, including the Lake Placid Local out of Lake Placid, Clewiston Comet between Lake Placid and Clewiston, Highlands County Crescent out of Sebring, Lake Placid Limited between Clewiston and Lake Placid, and the Palmdale Pioneer Ice Cream Train.

In February, the Sebring County Fair will once again feature the diesel-powered Sebring Fair Train.

**In its upcoming season, Sugar Express will offer four distinct experiences and classes of service aboard its mid-century passenger train during its all-day excursions, including:**

– *First Class* aboard its 1950s table car Palmdale and 1930s observation-tavern car Bay Biscayne. First class tickets range between \$148.00 and \$200.00 and include light refreshments and appetizers. Due to its unique historic nature, the Bay Biscayne is reserved for passengers 18-years-of-age or older.

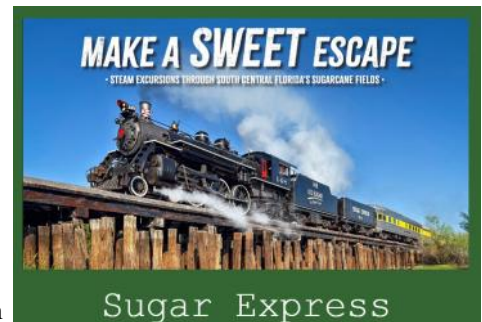
– *Deluxe Coach* featuring semi-reclining seats in restored passenger cars from the 1940s and 1950s. Deluxe coach tickets for all-day excursions are \$99.00 and \$48.00 for shorter trips.

– *Family Coach* in Lake Okeechobee, a restored 1950s passenger car named for the region's lake. Family Coach will offer four-person packages exclusively for families for \$120.00 for all-day excursions and special pricing on shorter trips.

– *Open Air Coach* in Lake Placid, a newly converted and semi-enclosed passenger car offering bench-style seating and 360-degree viewing of the passing landscape. Prices will vary based on the trip.

To tour these cars, visit [www.sugarexpress.com/tour-our-train](https://www.sugarexpress.com/tour-our-train). Prices do not include tax and are subject to change based on the trip, duration, experience, and amenities. Ticket prices for specific trips will be listed on each trip page. For more information on our route and regular offerings, visit: <https://sugarexpress.com/route-map/>

Additional dates, times, and details will be available at [sugarexpress.com](https://sugarexpress.com) as tickets become available. For more information or group charter information.





## GGRS Will be setting up a layout at the Hall County Master Gardeners Fall Garden Expo

Come out and visit us or contact Pam Williamson 770-851-9462 to join in the fun.

**When:**

Thursday, September 25, 12:00 Set up

Friday, September 26, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday, September 27, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

**Where:**

Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center

1855 Calgary Church Rd.

Gainesville, GA 30507

**Admission:**

Admission is \$2 for anyone age 12 and over. Please no pets. Plenty of handicapped parking is available

- The Hall County Master Gardener Garden Expo features trusted returning vendors along with new exciting vendors offering plants of all types, garden art, birdhouses, gardening tools, hand-crafted gifts from the garden, honey and preserves, and so much more!
- The covered open-air arena protects visitors from sun and rain.
- Carts are available free of charge to collect purchases as you shop.
- The ever popular "Ask A Master Gardener" table will be staffed each day by Master Gardener volunteers to answer your gardening questions.
- Information sessions will be presented by noted horticultural experts.
- Door prizes will be awarded throughout the event.
- Food trucks will be on site.





<https://www.grnews.org/>

## GR NEWS Edition 3 was released

*Edition 3 has been a long time coming but was released this morning. See Editor Carla's note on page 43 about the gap between Edition 2 & 3.*

*Gary & Jonette Lee's amazing Oregon RR, a Kit Build of a Russia C.68 Loco and Kit Bashing 2 old locos into 1 handsome new loco are some highlights of the edition.*

*Meanwhile, Meta reports that GR News reached 100,000 accounts via its s Facebook and Instagram posts since E2 was released, with Facebook leading the way with 75,000 accounts reached, so we are getting the word out that Garden Railroading is a great hobby.*

***Please share this email with your members so they can check out the new edition.***

Garden Railroading News LLC | 6830 West Clackamas Circle | Woodburn, CA 97071 US

## **Adventures by Matt Presents: Rockies to the Red Rocks – A Rail Journey Through American Majesty!**

[https://app.tern.travel/trips/LM7dP2dUMo06fZgXvFsGAA/landing\\_page](https://app.tern.travel/trips/LM7dP2dUMo06fZgXvFsGAA/landing_page)



*(This was sent to me by one of our esteemed member, and subsequently endorsed by President Ted Y. who has ridden almost any and all Tours available across the US and other countries.....just saying...)*

Hey fellow adventurers! Matt here, and if you're like me, you dream of exploring iconic landscapes in the most comfortable and awe-inspiring ways possible. That's why I'm absolutely thrilled to invite you on an incredible 7-day Rockies Rail Journey!

This isn't just a trip; it's a meticulously crafted experience designed to take

you through the majestic landscapes of the American Southwest aboard the luxurious Canyon Spirit train. Imagine traveling through stunning scenery with highlights best seen from expansive glass-dome coaches, where every turn reveals a new, breathtaking vista.

This trip has passed, but future ones are just around the corner.





A clean train is a  
Happy train  
Lol

Yes they are dishwasher safe



👍😂👀 1.2K

132 comments 46 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

## September's Club Meeting's Host on TV?

Sloan & Sara Mackarvik are on Married to Real Estate, season 4, episode 9 on HGTV. Kenny & Denise Pugh pointed this out to us.



## GGRS 2026 Board/Officers

It is the time of year to consider the Georgia Garden Railway Society's leadership for 2026. **Pete Hartes** has agreed to oversee our election for the upcoming year's officers. YOU can nominate someone (with their permission) or YOU can run for a position on the 2026 GGRS Board of Directors. Remember, it is YOUR club! Consider getting involved in helping make decisions regarding our future. Send your nomination to Pete by email at [plhartrain@aol.com](mailto:plhartrain@aol.com) by October 31, 2025. The good news is that the board, except for President Ted Yarbrough, have agreed to return for next year. The board has been doing a great job, but most have served for several years and they likely would not mind if others step up to assist in leadership. We will need a new President. You may consult the Policies and Procedures Manual (section 1.7) on our website or contact a current board member if you have questions.

### Current Board

President, Ted Yarbrough  
Secretary, Pam Williamson  
Treasurer, Terry Manning  
Members at Large, Dan Steidle, John Lank, Emil Decker, and Ginny Manning



## The Rip Track

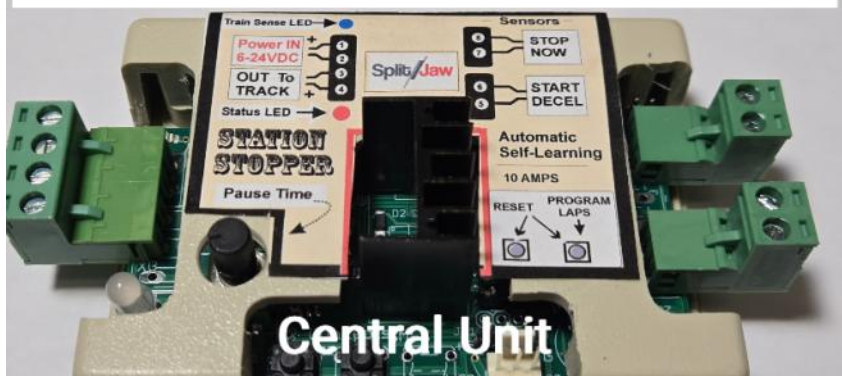
**Need Repairs? Supplies?  
Buy Good Stuff from  
our Members**

Members with Garden, Train, or other related items to sell (new or used) can submit their items for inclusion in "The Rip Track". Send information to the editor for the next issue. Items will run for a single issue, unless the editor is notified to repeat the item. (Quality photos appreciated) Members with related business advertising may also submit ads. These will run continuously until policies change or notice is given. Non-member publishing by arrangement. (Contact Editor for details.)



Emil Decker's  
STICKS  
+  
STONES

## STATION STOPPER



NEW! Station Stopper featuring wireless sensors, easy automation

SKU: SS-10A-rev0

LIKE TO RUN YOUR DC TRAIN IN CONTINUOUS LOOPS? THE STATION STOPPER WILL AUTOMATICALLY BRING YOUR TRAIN TO A SLOW STOP, PAUSE WHERE YOU WANT IT, FOR AS LONG YOU WANT, THEN SLOWLY BRING YOUR TRAIN BACK UP TO FULL SPEED. AUTO-LEARN SOFTWARE DOES THE WORK!

WIRELESS Deceleration and Stop sensors run on 9V Batteries (not included). Triggered by a magnet placed under loco. Runs any DC train up to 10amps. Supports MU'd locos and lighted cars. Wireless range tested up to 100 feet from receiver

### EASY TO SET UP

1. 2 Input power wires + 2 output wires to track
2. Dial in pause time
3. Set Lap Counter
4. Place your magnet and sensors, then enjoy!

OPTIONS available for OUTDOOR Installations:

- ENCLOSURE for CENTRAL UNIT + RECEIVER,
- PAIR (2) of SENSOR SHACKS (Each shack will fit one 9V Battery and one Stop/Decel sensor )







## Hand Painted Gourds for Sale!



Gourds can be one of a kind or custom decorated for any season, holiday, event or favorite sports team.



Or choose from a selection of the many uniquely hand painted gourds that are available.

Available in a variety of hand crafted designs.





## Hand Painted Gourds for Sale

Custom orders are welcome!  
Local pick-up only in the greater  
Cumming and Gainesville area.

Pricing starts at \$25.00, depending on size  
and design.



**Contact Becky Chitwood at 937-469-5329  
to place an order.**







Depot is large and made of Basswood construction with Grandt Line doors and windows. Design is from Ted Brewer G Scale Plans (Canada). Will need polyurethane for long term outdoor use. Price reduced

Contact Ted Yarbrough to arrange pick up or delivery to GGRS event.



3 Bachmann D&RG maroon passenger cars with metal handrails and wheels and LGB knuckle couplers. Conductor on rear platform. \$100 for set. Can bring to next GGRS event.







## Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

[dave@traininstallations.com](mailto:dave@traininstallations.com)

Check out our  
online store and  
updated website at

[www.traininstallations.com](http://www.traininstallations.com)

Custom model RRs in any scale indoors or out. We are flexible and can help you with any part of your project

- Layout planning and CAD drawings
  - Custom bridges
  - Overhead RR systems
  - Model kit assembly
  - Train storage shelving
- Dave 770-597-0038**



## Yard Hostler

I know everyone is going to be cooking up this month's Dining Car Recipe. DEEEEE-LIOUS!. Maybe you haven't had a chance to send yours in. Perhaps a special Thanksgiving recipe, or Christmas one? Easter is just around the corner, and so are the 2026 events. Get your recipe sent to the editor, and start planning for next year's meetings. Don't forget to send in your recommendation for RailRoader of the Year and my replacement for the Board of Directors.....just saying.....

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