

GGRS Gazette

May, 2026

Official Newsletter
of the Georgia Garden Railway Society
Semiquincentennial of the U.S.A. 1776 - 2026

Roy's Rails



The April GGRS Club Meeting was held at the home of Kris & Charlotte Dixon. A second Open House was also offered at Joe & Mary Schrock's.

Attendees were able to visit the melovetrains warehouse, Southern Caboose and G-scale layout at the Dixons. Since our last visit to Schrock's, they have added elevated track under the trees with extensive bridges and Ms.

Mary's Fairy Garden Railroad complete with Mother Goose.

Ken Miller was at the Dixon's and brought the membership up to date on the 2027 National Garden Railway Convention to be held in the Nashville area on May 31- June 5, 2027.

An Executive Board Meeting was held at 11:00 to discuss various issues. The GGRS Membership approved the 2026 Budget. GGRS Dues for 2027 were also adopted. If you pay your 2027 Dues by December 31, 2026, your family will be credited with having paid for 2027 as well as 2028.

Our May Club Meeting will be partnering with the Tate Depot Model Railroaders at the Tate, GA L&N Depot. GGRS will be setting up a layout, too, and we need volunteers at 8:30 am to help with setup. Also, if you have a building to bring for the day only, it would be appreciated. The Tate Depot Model Railroaders will be holding an Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and expect about 100 visitors. GGRS will have our regular luncheon for GGRS members and will also be feeding about a dozen Tate Depot Model Railroaders.

More info to come in the Evite.

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When It's April in South GA

Thank you to our host families. Charlotte, Kris, Alex and Nolan Dixon & Mary and Joe Schrock.



Who knew that Bucee was a G Scale Train Fan??

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Roy's Rails (Cont.)

The next big discussion was about setting up a layout for the NMRA in Chattanooga, TN.

GGRS will be setting up 20 foot wide by 40 feet long layout on Friday, July 31. Set up time to be announced. We will be looking for volunteers to help with setup on Friday and running trains on Saturday and Sunday as well as tear down on Sunday afternoon.

Thanks again to the Dixon's and Schrock's for hosting our first Hosted Member Meeting of 2026. We're off to a great start.

Roy Williamson, President

Atlanta Model Train Show (Cont.)















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
Tate Depot	Tate Depot, Tate GA Hwy 53	May 16, 2026 10:00 - 2:00	Setup Crew needed early
GGRS Club Mtg	Ted & Deborah Yarborough Chatsworth, GA	Jun 6, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	David Lorraine and David Buchla	Jul 11, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Open House / preconvention tour:	Ted Yarborough's Layout	Jul 26, 2026 1:00 - 5:00pm	
NMRA 2026 National Convention	Chattanooga, TN Trade and Convention Center	August 1-2, 2026	
GGRS Club Mtg	Dan & Carol Steidle	Aug 8, 2026	Includes Annual Swap Meet
GGRS Club Mtg	Bill & Liana Hewitt	Sep 12, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Becky & Rich Chitwood	Oct 10, 2026	In Planning Stage

Tate Depot

Several years ago, the Tate Depot was moved across the street from it's original location. It's new site provides a large yard space for setting up our layouts: Long Oval, with several opportunities for smaller circles, along with good opportunities to set up villages and farms along the way. We need YOU to help set up early.

Do you have a building, or several that you would like to put on this layout? I know, I know, but I really want to see you bring some of your stuff to show off what our club can do. Want to sell something? Bring that building and put a "FOR SALE" sign on it....You never know. We are not responsible for any damages or for items you leave behind.

We will be serving the Host Club at Tate, as well as our usual members with picnic fare. Bar-B-Que is the order of the day, with Baked Beans and the sides & desserts you choose to bring. Please bring lots of tasty sides and desserts. Look for Sign-Up Sheet





Lots of flat open ground out front of the Depot, where anyone driving by will say, "Hey, something is going on at the Depot. Let's stop by and have a look!"



The club has 2 great HO and N scale layouts inside as well.



Patriot Rail Shop is across hwy 53, and there is usually a few of their engines parked outside. **(NOTE: While you may go over to visit, we DO NOT have permission to enter their property.** The adjoining property is an old and historic cemetery, with some interesting grave sites, including the Tate Family's, some Revolutionary and Civil War, along with other patriot's graves. You can get very near to the Patriot shop via the access road between the two however.



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!

Pineapple Casserole Ted Yarborough's Favorite

Straight out of the cookbook!

Pineapple Casserole

1 large (20 oz.) can chunk pineapple in juice, drained
1 large can (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple in juice
1 c. sugar

5 Tbsp. flour
2 c. cheddar cheese, grated
 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Ritz cracker crumbs
1 stick butter, melted

1. Pour pineapple mixture into a bowl. 2. Mix sugar and flour and pour over pineapple. 3. Sprinkle cheese over this mixture and pour into casserole dish. 4. Top with cracker crumbs and melted butter. 5. Bake for 45 minutes at 350° F.

Mary Nathan Kendrick

Pineapple Casserole

2 cans 20 oz. pineapple chunks
1 can 20 oz. crushed pineapple, drained as well as possible
1 c. sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. all purpose flour
2 c. shredded cheddar cheese
1 stick margarine, melted
1 sleeve Ritz crackers, crushed

Drain pineapple, reserving 3 oz. of juice. Combine flour and sugar, stir in reserved juice. Add pineapple, mixing well. Spoon into greased 13" x 9" casserole dish. Top with cheese. Top with cracker crumbs and melted butter. Bake at 350° F for 20 - 30 minutes or until crumbs are lightly browned.

Christie Rainey

Membership Report

Membership News – April 2026

Since my last report, we have no new membership.

Ginny Manning, Membership Coordinator

vlmanning@aol.com

2027 National Garden Railway Convention

We don't know a lot but we do know three things:

1. It's coming, with more info as it gets to us.
2. It's closer than California
3. Fun will be top priority. We know. We've been there before.



There will be an Open House at the
Train Installations, LLC
Workshop

on July 26th from 1:00 - 5:00.
The address for the workshop is:

103 Bell Pkwy. Suite 200
Woodstock, GA 30188

NMRA National Convention in Chattanooga 2026

The Convention Committee is thrilled to share our initial model railroading lineup! Note: This is a tentative schedule subject to change, so check back often.

Sun, July 26: Making Your Way Here

Regional Layout Open Houses: Daytime tours in Atlanta, Nashville, Knoxville, N. Georgia, Birmingham, and Huntsville.

Evening operating Sessions: Kick off the week in Chattanooga.

Bonus: 7.5" gauge Eagle Point RR afternoon operating session (Dunlap, TN).

Mon, July 27: Settling In

Convention Check-in Opens!

Afternoon Clinics & Local Layouts: Start learning and exploring after lunch.

Evening Operating Sessions & Extras: More layout fun, plus possible industry tours.

Tue, July 28: Full Steam Ahead

All-Day Clinics & Local Layouts: Pack your day with expert knowledge.

Onsite & Evening Operating Sessions: Morning, afternoon, and night sessions.

TVRM Dinner Train: Enjoy a meal on the rails!

Wed, July 29: Steam & Sights

All-Day Clinics, Layouts & Op Sessions.

TVRM Excursions: Ride the Missionary Ridge Local (pulled by Southern 4501) plus a back-shop tour.

TVRM Dinner Train & Night Photo Session: Capture TVRM steam after dark!

Thu, July 30: The Summerville Special TVRM All-Day Steam Special: Ride to Summerville, GA, behind the iconic Southern 4501!

All-Day Clinics, Local Layouts & Op Sessions.

Fri, July 31: Blue Ridge Mountains

TVRM All-Day Hiwassee Turn: A breathtaking mountain trip.

All-Day Clinics, Local Layouts & Op Sessions.

Bonus: Another 7.5" gauge Eagle Point RR operating session.

Sat, August 1: The Main Event

NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW! Open to the public, but convention attendees get early access!

All-Day Clinics, Local Layouts & Onsite Op Sessions.

Sun, August 2: Wrapping Up

NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW: Open all day!

Awards Breakfast: Chattanooga 2026 T-TRAK Buffet.

Heading Home Layouts: Final local tours and self-driving tours on your way home.

A Quick Note on Regular TVRM Operations: Alongside convention events, TVRM will run its regular schedule: Missionary Ridge Locals (Wed-Sun), Summerville Turn (Aug 1), and Hiwassee Turn (Aug 2).

We can't wait to welcome you to Chattanooga for an unforgettable week! #NMRAtakesChatt2026





The first of many..

VENDOR TEASE

*List for The National Train Show
August 1st and 2nd
Chattanooga, Tennessee*

EXHIBITORS & BRANDS

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • 3Dp Train - Kmecik | • ESU | • Logic Rail | • Perpetual Light Graphics |
| • ABR Model Works | • FLB Train | • Technologies | • R & P Railroad |
| • Accurso | • Giraffe Lab LLC | • Lunar Books | • Ralphs Trains |
| • Azatrax | • Hobby Manufacturers | • Heteritirens | • Rasch Studios |
| • B&B Hobby Supply | • Association | • Marklin | • River Run Images |
| • Bachmann | • Jeff's HO Train Loads | • Mike Webb | • Rose Micro Solutions |
| • Brads Trains | • Jelsma Graphics | • Model Railroad | • Scale Trains |
| • Caboose Industries | • Jordan Artworks | • Hobbyist | • Soundtraxx |
| • Coachyard | • JT Limited | • Neals N Gaugin | • Steve Zs Layouts |
| • Craftsman Courtyard | • K&A Rail Train Loads | • New England Rail | • Sundance |
| • East Coast Circuits | • K&A Rail Products | • Uniforms | • Sunset Models 3rd Rail |
| • Empire Trackworks | • Kadee | • Perpetual Light Graphics | • Train Installations |
| • ESU | • Kadee | • R & P Railroad | • Tunnel Hill LLC |
| • FLB Train | • Key Rail Industries | • Ralphs Trains | • Walthers |
| • Giraffe Lab LLC | • Line Side Details | • Rasch Studios | • White River Productions |
| | | | • Woodland |
| | | | • Ztrack Magazine |

so many more to be announced in the coming weeks.

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



Chattanooga Dinner Train

Ideal for Date Nights, Anniversaries, and Special Celebrations.

Select Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays • March–October • Limited seating each departure



Chattanooga Dinner Train

A Three-Course Dinner Aboard Restored Vintage Railcars

Step aboard Chattanooga's most memorable evening out with a three-course dinner served aboard beautifully restored vintage railcars. Enjoy private tables, attentive service, and a relaxed 2-hour journey designed for connection, celebration, and great food. Operating select Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from March through October, this experience blends classic rail travel with fine dining, making it a favorite for anniversaries, celebrations, and memorable date nights.

Departing from **Grand Junction Depot (4119 Cromwell Rd, Chattanooga, TN)**, the train travels at an easy pace through portions of urban East Chattanooga before returning to the station. Evening departures are at **6:00 PM**, giving you plenty of time to savor each course without feeling rushed.

What to Expect

- Dinner is served onboard the moving train in restored vintage dining cars
- Tables are private to your party for the entire experience
- Wine, Bourbon, and Baileys with coffee are available for purchase onboard
- The route focuses on onboard dining and ambiance rather than scenic countryside views
- Duration: approximately **2 hours**
- Best for ages 12 and up

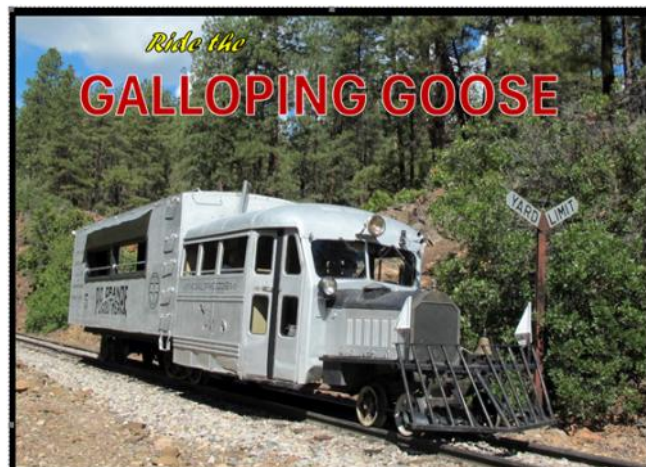
This experience is designed for connection and conversation — a gentle pace, warm service, and timeless railcar atmosphere.

Why Guests Love the Dinner Train

- An intimate evening that feels thoughtfully planned and truly special
- Attentive table service that lets you relax and enjoy the moment
- A popular choice for proposals, anniversaries, birthdays, and date nights
- A unique way to experience rail travel while enjoying a full-service dinner

Note: Parties are always seated separately unless otherwise specified.

April, May and September dates in Durango!
Ride the Galloping Goose!
Mark your calendar!



Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

BOOK YOUR 2026 RGS GOOSE NO. 5 TRIP NOW!

TIMETABLE AND FARES

<p>April 25th, April 26th Round trips to Cascade Canyon \$120</p>	<p>September 5th, September 12th, September 19th RGS Goose No. 5 to Silverton Steam Train or Goose return \$180</p>
<p>May 1st Round trip to Event Park \$20 departs at 9:25 am, 10:45 am, 12:00 pm</p>	<p>Presented by: Galloping Goose Historical Society of Dolores, Inc The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad</p>
<p>May 2nd, May 9th RGS Goose No. 5 to Silverton Steam Train or Goose return \$180</p>	

TICKETS and INFORMATION
 Call 970.247.2733 or visit www.durangotrain.com/events
 All fares subject to 8% DSNG historical preservation fee.

Durango and Silverton's Website

(Monday, 3/16/2026)

We expect the 2026 dates updated soon.
 We wanted you to see the dates as soon as possible.
 See 2026 Dates on our website:

Galloping Goose #5 Website

<https://www.gallopinggoose5.org/schedule>

Events on the Cumbres and Toltec Railroad
 September, October!

Train Shows

~~Rocky Mountain Train Show – Spring 2026 (all scales)
Date: April 11 & 12, 2026~~

You Missed it

~~Location: National Western Complex
4655 Humboldt St. Denver, CO 80216~~

~~Website: [Rocky Mountain Train Show](#)~~

RLD Hobbies Spring Open House

Date: April 29 – May 2, 2026

Location: RLD Hobbies
873 Bunkhouser Street, Albion, IL 62806

Website: rldhobbies.com

2026 Spring Train Show (all scales)

Date: May 9, 2026 9am – 3pm

Location: Made in Tennessee Building
945 Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087

2026 Midwest Garden Railroad Gathering (G-Scale)

Dates: May 13 – May 17, 2026

Location: MetroPlex Expo Center
1620 Motor Inn Dr., Girard, OH 4448120

Website: [Home - Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo](#)

2026 Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo (G-Scale and Larger)

Date: May 15-16, 2026 10 am - 4 pm

Location: MetroPlex Expo Center
1620 Motor Inn Dr., Girard, OH 4448120

Website: [Home - Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo](#)

2026 Northeast Outdoor Railroad Festival (G-Scale Only) – More details to be announced

Date: June 20-21, 2026 10 am – 4pm

Location: Palmer, MA

35th Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale

Dates: June 27 – 28, 2026

Location: North Florida Fairgrounds
441 Paul Russell Rd – Bldgs 2 and 4, Tallahassee, FL 32301

2025 Big Train Operators Club Convention (requires membership in club)

Dates: July 19-24, 2026

Location: Scranton, PA

Website: [Home Page of the Big Train Operator Club](#)

43rd Annual Temple Model Train Show (all scales)

Dates: September 19 & 20, 2026

Location: Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center
3303 N. 3rd St., Temple, TX 76501

Website: [Temple Model Train & RPM Show | Centra-MOD](#)

Fall Plano Train Show (all scales)

Dates: September 25 – 26, 2026

Location: Plano Event Center
2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX 75074

Music City Christmas Train Show (all scales)

Date: December 12, 2026 9am – 3pm

Location: Made in Tennessee Building
945 Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087

2027

42nd National Garden Railway Convention

Dates: May 31 – June 5, 2027

Location: Nashville, TN

It's the Train Show you've been waiting for!

- Several hundred vendor booths
- New product announcements
- Meet the manufacturers
- Hands-on demos
- Dozens of train layouts (including the National TTrak Guinness Book of World Records attempt!)



August 1 & 2, 2026
Chattanooga
Convention Center
One Carter Plaza
Chattanooga, TN 37402

NMRA
Sponsored by the National Model Railroad Association

**THE NATIONAL
TRAIN
SHOW**
nationaltrainshow.org



Hello clubs:

GR News will soon host an "Events" page on the GR News website.

We would like to know whether your club:

1. Hosts open days when members of public are invited to visit several (3+) of your garden railroads.
2. Hosts gatherings with/without other clubs which garden railroaders from beyond your area are invited to attend.

If you do either or both of these, please let us know by sending an email to marketing@GRNews.org

We will get back to you with more details about how your events may be featured on the GR News website. Cheers

Mick Spilsbury GR News Marketing



The B. Tee O.



2026/Scranton, PA Convention T-shirts



**SPECIAL PRICE
IF PICKED UP
AT CONVENTION:
\$18 each**

MADE IN THE USA!

Introducing... the first ever

BTOC GRAFFITI CAR!

This is a pre-production rendering and is subject to final production changes.



The 2026 Graffiti Club Car is based on an Erie Lackawanna 40" Box Car. This model is designed to replicate the appearance and function of the real-life counterpart used in freight railroading. Produced exclusively for the BTOC by USA Trains in Malden, MA, part of their American Series rolling stock.

1. White version	\$85	\$
2. Grey version	\$90	\$
3. Yellow version	\$95	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT		\$

Expected availability: Mid to late spring 2026.

All with free shipping or available for Convention pickup.

PLEASE NOTE: For the Graffiti Car, we are doing it in three colors: White, light gray and yellow. There will be 40 white, 10 gray and 5 yellow. Any member is able to buy the cars they like but there are some prerequisites. **You must purchase the white version first; that would allow you the opportunity to purchase the gray version. After you purchase the white and gray versions, you would then be able to purchase the yellow version.**



Join the **BIG TRAIN OPERATORS CLUB** on July 22nd for a Historic Adventure to

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE AMERICAN RAILROAD HONESDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Bus departs Scranton @ 9:30am

Arrive in Honesdale @ approx. 10:30am

Enjoy a guided tour of Wayne County Historical Society 11:00am



12:30pm Board the Stourbridge Line for a 1pm departure

Lunch on The Stourbridge Line

Step back in time for a delicious bag lunch on board a dining car while enjoying a 1.5 hour historical narrated tour along the scenic Lackawaxen River.

Lunch includes a Souvenir Backpack with

A Sandwich (Ham & Cheese, Turkey, or Italian)
(Vegetarian or Gluten Free available on request) *

Fruit, Potato Chips, Cookies, and a Bottle of Water

*All sandwiches come with lettuce and tomato w/
mayo and Italian dressing on the side

Train returns to the station at 2:30pm



Board your bus and depart for Cranker's Collection of Mechanical Marvels 2:45pm



Cranker's Collection of Mechanical Marvels - A hidden gem in the Northern Poconos featuring antique automobiles, carousel horses, music boxes, player pianos, Mortier organs produced in Antwerp Belgium starting at the turn of the Twentieth century. Open to the general public just one day a year, so be sure to schedule this stop for a Private tour on your special day for an opportunity to see and hear these amazing treasures from over 100 years ago! Scan the qr code to hear the organ play!



Annual GGRS 1:1 Scale Train Ride September 26

The Annual GGRS 1:1 Scale Train Ride will be very special this year as we step aboard a vintage train powered by steam and discover the charm of North Georgia's countryside like never before. The Summerville Steam Special offers a full-day train ride filled with small-town charm and the unforgettable rhythm of classic rail travel. Experience the sights, sounds, and nostalgia of authentic rail travel aboard beautifully restored vintage railcars and pulled by a working steam locomotive. Perfect for families, train enthusiasts, and anyone who loves a classic rail experience.

We will be pulled by not just any steam locomotive, but the famous excursion locomotive 4501. Tennessee Valley Railroad will paint 4501 in the traditional passenger green Southern Railway scheme she wore when participating in the Southern Steam Program hauling excursions all around the southeast. Locomotive 4501 will ONLY be in the green paint for scheduled trips in 2026. So, you will want to ride this trip!

The steam train will depart the museum (4119 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN) at 9:00am Eastern Time for an all-day trip to Summerville, Georgia with return expected to be around 6:00pm on Saturday, September 26, 2026. The ride will carry us through the towns of Rossville, Rock Springs, LaFayette, and Trion before reaching Summerville in Georgia. There is a 90 minute layover providing time to watch the locomotive turn on the turntable and visit the historic Summerville Depot. We will cross into Georgia in Rossville, and later skirt around the edge of Chickamauga National Military Park. The train will pass over Chickamauga Creek and go through Missionary Ridge Tunnel before passing by the National Cemetery with a monument to Andrew's Raiders, all before leaving Tennessee.

Tickets will be in a standard coach car and will include lunch in the dining car and are \$128.00 per person. The trip will sell out, so this is the only offering of tickets the GGRS will make. To reserve your seat, send a check made payable to Ted Yarbrough, 212 Love Drive, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705. Include a note stating if you prefer turkey, ham, chicken salad, or vegetarian croissant for lunch. These tickets are non-refundable, but can be transferred to another club member or other person if the need arises. All tickets orders must be received by April 6. Again, this trip will sell out, so that is why the urgency of the ticket orders!

We have taken this trip before and it is always popular with GGRS members. We all look forward to riding on a real train! If you have any questions you may contact Ted at yarbrough@charter.net. Order tickets today so you will be there when the conductor shouts 'All Aboard!'

Steam All the Way on the Summerville Steam Special 2026 Excursions Now Booking



RRPictureArchives.NET Image Contributed by Chuck Zeiler

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.)



Check out our online store and updated website at

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



Emil Decker's
STICKS
+
STONES



SPRING 2026 TOY TRAIN SHOW



SPONSORED BY

==> SATURDAY May 9th 2026 9am to 3pm <==

“Join us for National Train Day!”

Wilson County Fairgrounds
“Made in Tennessee Building”
945 East Baddour Parkway
Lebanon TN 37087



Admission: Adults \$8 (cash only) -- Children under 13 FREE!

Featuring: **PLENTY OF FREE PARKING!!!**
Easy load in and out – no ramps or docks!
Complimentary Sandwiches and drinks on Friday for dealers.

Directions: from Nashville 140 east take exit 239B. from Knoxville 140west take exit 239 onto BADDOUR Parkway north, fairgrounds on your right in about half a mile, enter at main front gate, go to your right and follow signs to the **MADE IN TENNESSEE BLDG.**

Yard Hostler

Tate is only a few weeks away! Bring your trains, buildings, and enjoy a great outdoor layout in front of the L & N Depot, located on Hwy. 53.

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette
480 Grizzle Rd., Dawsonville, GA 30534
eldecker@windstream.net

