

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

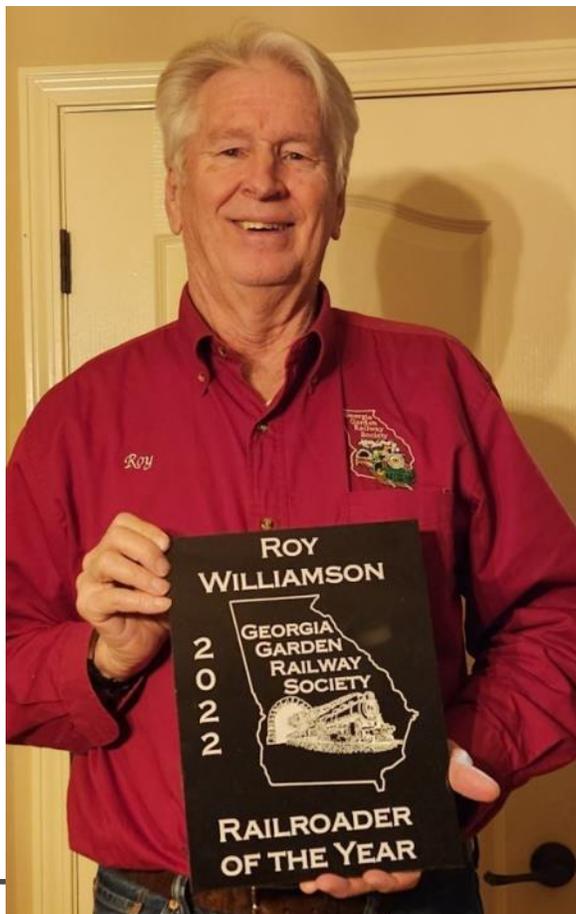
February, 2023

Fun at the Annual 2023 Meeting

Provino’s Italian Restaurant in Kennesaw once again hosted our Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Luncheon. If last year’s event was a success, this year’s was even more so. We had 4 full tables, great fellowship, and some really great presents found in the gift exchange. Cinder-Claus secreted away the “Railroader of the Year” as a disguised present and managed to ensure this year’s winner, Roy Williamson, ended up with that package. It was a huge surprise for Roy. Everyone agreed Roy’s contributions over the last year, as well as his support over previous years and the knowledge of his continuing support for the club, made him the obvious candidate to get the award this year. Congratulations Roy!

The menu included a choice from such delectables as Lasagna Neapolitana, Veal or Chicken Parmigiana, Chicken Francese, or Linquine—Vongole with Littleneck clams. [I am sure all are quite tasty, but I guess it would take an expert to distinguish littleneck from bigneck clams.]

The new slate of officers for the club were elected, and they include:



- President – Juliet Foster
Secretary – Pam Williamson
Treasurer – Dennis Bass
At Large – Emil Decker
At Large – John Lank
At Large – Ginny Manning
At Large – Dan Stiedle

Please give these individuals your support, your suggestions on how to make this club even better, and your \$\$.

Continued on page 2

President’s Message



What a great start to 2023! Sorry I missed our ever entertaining Emil and the rowdy gift swap this year! I did have hopes of making it back to Georgia (hopefully next year!). Thank you to everyone that pulled this wonderful activity together!

Congrats to Roy as railroader of the year! Thanks for all the wonderful networking you do on behalf of the club! We are growing because of members like you!

Also a big Thanks to Phil on the board nominations. Great to have a full board for 2023!

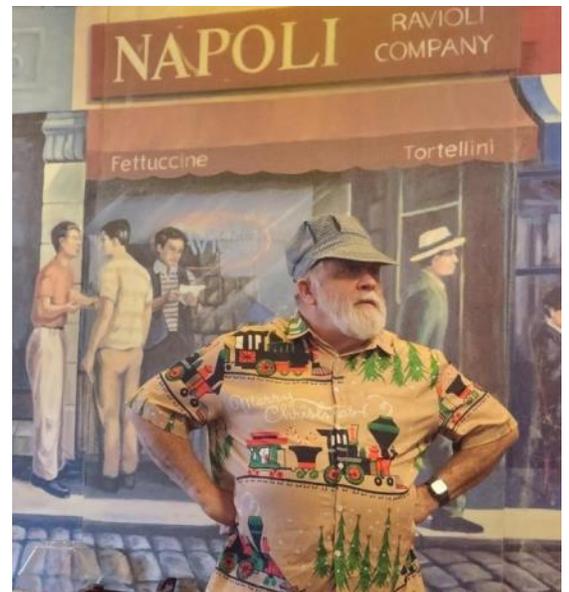
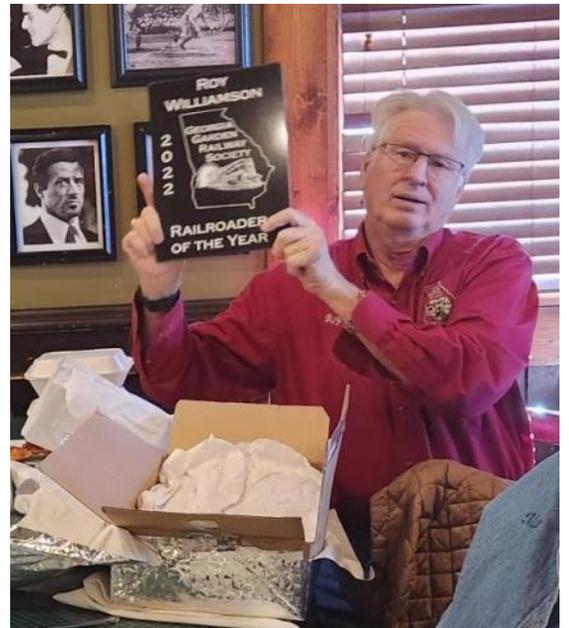
Mark your calendars we have so many great activities! And if you want to host, share lessons learned or participate in a show please let us know!

Juliet Foster



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Track Warrants

*** NOTE: The Calendar contains some Rail related events that are NOT GGRS events!

Event	Location	Date	Status
60th Atlanta Model Train Show	Gas South Duluth, GA	Jan 21, 2022	Good to Go !
Trains, Trains, Trains	Southern Museum , Kennesaw, GA	Jan 27-29, 2023	Trains Galore !
Piedmont Train Show	Clarence Brown Conference Center Cartersville, GA	Mar 10 - 12, 2023	Sign up to help with our layout
Chatsworth Train Expo / Club Meeting	Depot - Chatsworth, GA	Apr 8, 2023	Setup on the lawn
North GA Steamers	1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway NE, Conyers, GA	Apr 29, 2023 1 - 4:30	Ride the 7" Gauge trains
GGRS Club Mtg	John & Marge Lees Dahlonega, GA	May 13, 2023	Come see the 1:1 Caboose
North GA Steamers	1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway NE, Conyers, GA	May 20, 2023 1 - 4:30	Ride the 7" Gauge trains
GGRS Club Mtg	Tom & Eileen Conrad Southwest "Tour of Depots"	June, 2023	3 layouts
GGRS Club Mtg	?	Jul, 2023	Open - Invite us to visit
GGRS Club Mtg	?	Aug, 2023	Open - Invite us to visit
GGRS Club Mtg	Deborah & Ted Yarborough	Sep, 2023	
GGRS Club Mtg	John and Marge Lees Dahlonega, GA	Oct, 2023	
1:1 Train Ride	???	???	Looking into options

Gandy Dancers**Highlighting Members and their work**

railroading. The recipient should be selected for their unique and particular contributions of time, energy, and/or resources to state society events and activities during the previous 12 months.

Any member may nominate another member for consideration of receipt of this award. Nominations should be made to the President of the Executive Board prior to November 1st with a brief justification for the nomination. The Executive Board shall review the nominations received and determine by majority vote the "GGRS Garden Railroader of the Year." A certificate of award will be presented at the annual business meeting in January, as may be some additional means of recognition. Recipients of the award since 2011 have been as follows:

2011 Ted Yarborough

2012 Richard Garlinghouse

2013 Alan Mole & Dan Michel

2014 Chris Haon & Ra Barr

2015 James Robinson

2016 Dave Bennett

2017 Cullen Reid & Russ Bundy

2018 Dennis Bass

2019 Ted & Deborah Yarborough

2020 Pam Williamson



2021 Terry Manning

**2022 Emil Decker

2023 Roy Williamson

** Starting in 2022, date on the award plaque begins to show year of service, i.e. the previous year, 2021 not the year of presentation, which has only just begun.



Trains Trains Trains

Southern Museum of Civil War and
Locomotive History
2829 Cherokee St NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144

All Aboard – GGRS volunteers are needed January 28, 29 & 30 to set up and break down our freelance layout, run

trains, point out exhibit highlights and manage an information table. Therefore, all family members are welcome and can participate in helping with the event.

- ◆ January 27th set up day, enter through rear entrance at 9:45am
- ◆ January 28th Volunteers arrive 7:30 am, Hours of museum 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
- ◆ January 29th Volunteers arrive 8:30 am, Hours of museum 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Who gets Shirts? Any volunteer who completes 4 hours of help at the museum with the GGRS.

Who gets Lunch? Only volunteers who stay 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. (all day)

WE WILL NEED SOME BUILDINGS FROM VOLUNTEERS TO COMPLETE THE SETUP.

WE WILL NEED SOMEONE TO MAN THE INFORMATION TABLE DURING THE ENTIRE DAY. There is one table and 6 chairs for us to use.

If you are a volunteer of 4 hours or more, you get a shirt. If you are staying all day you get a meal.

If you are volunteering for any amount of time you need to furnish your information for the insurance at the Museum.

Name _____

Email _____

Shirt Size _____

Lunch Ticket _____

(Obviously the deadlines below have passed, however please do let Russ know if you are available to help.)
The Museum needs this information by **November 25th** (the day after Thanksgiving). Please come out to support GGRS to make this event a success.

Please respond to Russ Bundy by **November 23rd** rsbundy@hotmail.com. If you have a question please call Russ at 770 928-4050 and leave a message if no answer.



Status of 2023 GGRS Membership

Dues of \$25 for 2023 are due. Send your check made out to "GGRS" to:

*Ginny Manning, Membership Chairman
1201 Timber Glen Ct. SW
Lilburn, GA 30047*

Thanks to the following 53 families as of January 14th for payment of dues for 2023: Abernathy, Bando, Barr, Bass, Bennett, Bergman, Birch, Brand, Bundy, Clapp, Conrad, Decker, Delmar, Elliott/Pearl, Foster/Luebs, Fotschky, Garlinghouse, Griggs, Harris, Harrison, Holiday, Humphrey, Hyde, Jones, Kinnaman, Lank, Lee, Lester, Lundin, Manning, McQueen, Mesarosh, Neos, Ogilvie, Panke, Redmond, Reh, Robinson, Sagarin, Schrock, Scohy, Sehenuk, Stanley, Steidle, Stotler, Stuckey, Thomas, Tidd, White, Wiggins, Williamson, Williamson, and Yarbrough.

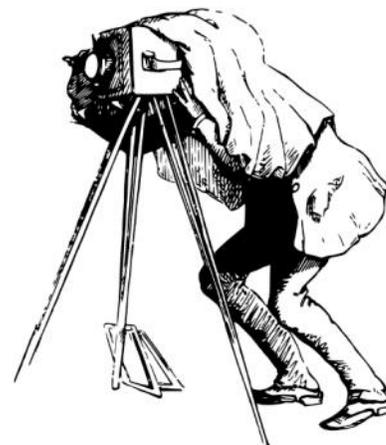
At the Depot

Ever wonder if there are garden railways that are permanent fixtures in tourist sites? Locations like the Denver State Railway Museum includes such a layout. But are there ones closer to you? Ted Yarborough suggests you check out these:

<https://www.trains.com/grw/beginners/permanent-garden-railroads-you-can-visit/>

Additionally, GRS club member Jesse Murrah wrote, " We were at the Biltmore House in Asheville NC last week and I took some photos of the layout.





San Diego Zoo Safari Park Monorail Line

The park formerly operated a monorail line, the Wgasa Bush Line, which ran clockwise through the Wild Animal Park. What tribal language did the name come from? What does it mean?

Answer on page 12.

Highballing down the Track



WWW.NGRC2023.ORG

38TH NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION

JULY 1 - 8, 2023

HYATT REGENCY, SANTA CLARA, CA
SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

RECEPTION & FIREWORKS

BBQ & TRAIN RIDE AT ROARING CAMP RR

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & VENDOR HALL

ACCUCRAFT BANQUET

"The place to be in '23!"



Go West Young Man...

...to the National Garden Railroad Convention, that is. The 2023 NGRC will be in the San Francisco Bay area from July 1 through July 8. The Bay Area Garden Railroad Society has hosted the event several times and do a great job.

One major draw is the guided trip PRIOR to the convention. This was available last time the group hosted the convention and we even had GGRS members on the trip. The trip is called The Great Western Rail Adventure and features 11 train rides and several museums in a seven-day period. More info can be found at www.TRAINTRIPS.BIZ on this June 24-30 convention add on.

NAPA Valley Wine Train will have a special event for the convention on June 30. The real convention starts July 1 and runs until July 8 with garden railroad tours every morning. The vendor hall opens July 6 through the 8 with the famous BBQ at Roaring Fork and Big Trees RR on Tuesday night, July 5, Ice Cream social on July 6, and the Accucraft sponsored Banquet on Friday, July 7. July 10-11 will have post-convention layout tours in central California. Finally, the National Summer Steam Up for live steamers will be in Lodi, California July 12 through the 14. The 2023 convention car will be a USA Trains wood sided reefer painted especially for the convention. The hotel will be the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara. More info and registration forms can be found at www.NGRC2023.ORG. This looks like it could be a fabulous three-week trip out west!

Since the NGRC is basically on the west coast and is during a peak holiday travel time, an alternative or addition might be the **2023 Big Train Operator's Convention** June 19 through 24 held in Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania.

This is a long day's drive from north Georgia. This group originated from the old LGB Conventions, of which the 2001 event was held in Atlanta and hosted by the GGRS. There will be a Welcome Aboard Party with buffet on Monday evening, June 19. Off site steam train rides are offered on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and include Strasburg RR, Northern Central Railroad with a visit to Howard Tunnel (second oldest continually used tunnel in US), and Harrisburg, Lincoln, & Lancaster RR. Wednesday will be a day of trains at the hotel featuring seven operating layouts, a build your own layout contest, model train or structure building contest, an operating track all the way around the hotel fish pond, clinics, and vendor room.

The convention car will be a special lettered PIKO 25-ton diesel locomotive. A wine and cheese party for the women, an ice cream social, and a banquet will be held at the hotel. You must be a member of the BTO Club to attend. Registration, membership, and more info can be found at www.bigtrainoperator.com. **Annual dues are \$50 per year.**

No matter if you choose the west coast trip, the Pennsylvania trip, or both, you can have fun at a large-scale garden railroad convention this coming summer. They are both packed with train rides, opportunities to socialize, chances to see model trains operating, clinics, and vendor halls to shop. I do hope you will attend one and give a report back to the GGRS membership.

San Diego Zoo Safari Park Monorail

The name is totally NOT tribal, and was a joke name chosen by the designer Chuck Faust.

The San Diego Zoological Society became interested in developing the Wild Animal Park in 1964. The main purposes of this zoo were to be species conservation, breeding of animals for the San Diego Zoo as well as other zoos and providing areas where zoo animals could be conditioned.

On June 30, 2010, the San Diego Zoo board of trustees voted to change the name of the park from the Wild Animal Park to the San Diego Zoo Safari Park to clarify what it offers, since some visitors were unclear as to the difference between the zoo proper and the "animal park". The name "safari" is supposed to emphasize "the park's spacious enclosures of free-ranging animals" (as opposed to "the closer quarters of the zoo"), encouraging visits to both.

The park operated the Wgasa Bush Line monorail, which ran clockwise through the Wild Animal Park. The name of the monorail was originally chosen by chief designer Chuck Faust as a profane inside joke, with "WGASA" being an acronym for "who gives a sh*t anyway". Andy Faust, son of zoo designer Chuck Faust, confirms the story. "They were having a brainstorming session to come up with a name for the line and had hit a brick wall. No good ideas at all. Someone, in frustration, said 'WGASA'. No-one knew what he meant. 'Who gives a sh*t anyway?' came the reply."

Chuck Bieler, one of the zoo officials sent it to be approved by the committee. "Wgasa was just a neat African-sounding name. They said, 'That sounds great,' without any knowledge of what it meant. I was one of the few who did. We got a lot of chuckles out of it, and it survived the years." Bieler, who later became the zoo's executive director took to telling people that the name actually stood for "World's Greatest Animal Show Anywhere."

The Monorail line has been retired, partially due to high maintenance costs. It was dismantled and replaced by truck-pulled trams that run on biofuel.





Those who travel to the National Conventions each year have great things to say about them. Fun, sites, adventures, bargains, etc. Everyone who goes usually enjoys the event and remembers great times for years. Some folks, however, have reluctance set in when the convention is held way over yonder on the other coast. Many look for alternatives, or simply say, "Not this year."

One alternative looks very attractive to us on the East Coast this year, as the Big Train Operators (BTO), formerly the LGB club is holding its Convention June 19-24, 2023 in Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania. Yep, that's a place!

There is a \$50 membership into the club, which gets you quarterly slick page magazines, calendar, and the opportunity to attend the convention. You can't attend without being a member. HOWEVER, these folks do things a little different, and being a member for one year and attending the convention might cause you to become a repeat member year after year.

Several differences between the National Conventions and the BTO Conventions may be obvious, while others might be less so. The similarities also may be an, "in the eyes of the beholder" moment. One difference is less personal layouts-on-tour, and more emphasis on 1:1 opportunities. The convention social get together may be similar, but there are opportunities listed as: Trivia Contest, an Al Lentz Model or Special Interest Contest, Drag Races - featuring a new format this year, and a Build-Your-Own-Layout Contest at the hotel site. Sounds a little similar and a lot different to me. Maybe you want to join a crew of GGRS members already planning to attend the Big Bird Express in PA this year. Details on membership at this link:

https://bigtrainoperator.com/Info/join_us.shtml

Activities this year include:

Strasburg RR & PA Train Museum with or without shop tour Boxed Lunch included (Shop Tour has steep stairs)

Northern Central RR Charter Steam Ride Boxed Lunch included

Harrisburg, Lincoln, Lancaster Railroad at the Stone Gables, Elizabethtown, PA and also on same day.

Train Collectors Assoc. (TCA) museum. Italian Lunch at the Olive Garden included



Current Schedule

Sunday June 18, 2023

4:30 pm Board of Director's Meeting

Monday June 19, 2023

9 am-3pm Runnin' Trains Everywhere

3 pm Registration

3:30 pm-9pm Convention Rooms Open

Raffles & Silent Auction

5pm-7pm

Ralph's All Aboard Party

Free Raffle & Silent Auction

Joe Hylva Trivia Contest

Tuesday June 20, 2023

8:15 am Depart Hotel for -

Train Museum of PA & Strasburg RR

7-10 pm Convention Rooms Open

Clinic #1

Raffles & Silent Auction

Joe Hylva Trivia Contest

Wednesday June 21, 2023

Train Day at Bird in Hand

9am Annual Members Meeting

10am-noon Convention Rooms Open



Garden Railroading News

Edition 1 of 2023 has been released at www.GRNews.org It includes articles about:

Richard & Melinda Murray's lovely Green Hills steaming railroad

A new train barn for the fabulous Emerald Heights RR

Track laying at ground level

Unique Displays for Train Shows

And more !

10 am-3 pm Runnin' Trains Everywhere
 2:30 pm Tim's Almost Famous Drag Races
 3:30 pm-5 pm Convention Rooms Open
 4 pm Ladies Wine & Cheese Get Together
 7 pm-9 pm Convention Rooms Open
 Clinic #2
 Raffles & Silent Auction
 Joe Hylva Trivia Contest
Thursday June 22, 2023
 9 am Depart hotel for Northern Central RR Charter Steam Ride w lunch
 7 pm-8:30 pm Ice Cream Party
 7 pm-8:30 pm Build Your Own Layout Contest
 8:30 pm-10 pm
 Convention Rooms Open
 Raffles & Silent Auction
 Joe Hylva Trivia Contest
Friday June 23, 2023
 8 am Depart hotel for Harrisburg, Lincoln & Lancaster RR,
 TCA Museum with Olive Garden Meal
 7 pm-10 pm
 Convention Rooms Open
 Clinic #3
 Raffles & Silent Auction
 Joe Hylva Trivia Contest
Saturday June 24, 2023
 All Day Runnin Trains or check out Things to Do in Stachnik's best
 seller Travel Guide
 6 pm-9 pm
 45th Anniversary Banquet



2023 Convention Engine
The 2023/Bird-in-Hand, PA convention car IS AN ENGINE!

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

Celebrating 45 years of Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains!
shipping late February 2023

CONVENTION T-SHIRT ORDER FORM



2023 - Bird-in-Hand, PA Convention T-shirts (Navy blue with white graphics)



Please indicate the quantity ordered for each size.
 Women: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ 3X ___
 Men: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ 3X ___

SPECIAL PRICE IF PICKED UP AT CONVENTION: \$17 each

SHIPPED PRICING*:
 2 for \$ 54
 3 for \$ 79
 4 for \$ 99

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.)

Your shirt is dirty! Get a new one !

Embroidery Design and Gifts
Georgia Garden Railway Society
Club Shirts
Each Shirt will have the club logo
on included in the price.

Contact Sally for other designs



Men's	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	Price
Grey Pocket t-shirt							\$10.00
Carbon or Burgundy Polo							\$20.00
Carbon or Burgundy Pocket Polo							\$20.00
Long Sleeve Denim							\$22.00
Short Sleeve Denim							\$22.00
Name on Men's Shirt							(Specify Name) \$5.00
Ladies	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	Price
Grey T-shirt							\$10.00
Carbon or Burgundy Polo							\$20.00
Long Sleeve Denim							\$22.00
Name on Ladies shirt							(Specify Name) \$5.00





Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com

Check out our online store and updated website at
www.traininstallations.com

Think about other ways or things we can help you with while we are stuck at home over the next few weeks including.

- Layout planning and CAD drawings
- Custom bridges
- Overhead RR systems
- Model kit assembly
- Train storage shelving

Now is a better time than ever to distract yourself with the hobby of model railroading! Let us know how we can help.

Thanks - Dave 770-597-0038



Split/Jaw™



<https://www.railclamp.com/>

NEW Dwarf Signal (pair) \$68.95

SKU: SJ G8101X

Add color and realism to your G scale layout. 2 per package. Available in Black or Silver. Our new Dwarf signals are easy to use, and built for outdoors. We use a fiberglass reinforced polymer that can withstand over 200 Degrees C. Each light can display Red or Green aspects, depending on how you install it. Use these in fixed-mode (hardwired to the color of your choice) or attach to your own switch or control system.

Each light has potted, moisture-resistant electronics inside a durable 3D printed PETG housing. No wispy wiring for us - we use a robust oversized wire that is easy to solder, or attach to a connector. Our LEDs will operate from approximately 11V DC up to 24V DC. We designed our dwarf signals so users would have the option to connect them directly to track power, or to a control system of your choice. Sorry but we do not include any sensors or other control electronics - just a simple, reliable, signal.

Prototype use guideline: North American Railroads installed these on the right-hand side (i.e. Engineer side) of the track. Trackside dwarf signals were used to indicate the turnout position: typically one on the approach side and two on the diverging side.

Wiring is easy. Tested in hot, wet subtropical Georgia weather.

Have you been to your church's layout recently? SAW WHAT?????????

During the Kansas City Garden Railway Society tour, Mike Martin met the pastor of the Heartland Community Church in Olathe, Kansas. Dan, and his father, Mike who was from California had his own railroad garden. The display featured two loops of track, structures, details, and even plants. Dan told me his church had an enclosed area in the lobby called a "light box" that might be a good spot for a railway garden. The enclosed area is open to the outdoor sky, weather, and sunlight.

The "light box" area in Heartland Community Church was a perfect spot for a garden railway display during the holidays. Dan agreed to help them build it. Since the layout would be exposed to outdoor winter weather and was a temporary display for the Christmas season, they chose battery remote control trains instead of track power.

In September, Mike, his wife, a church staff member, and Dan began work on the project. We drew a two-dimensional diagram of the space and taped off the dimensions of the proposed layout on a storage room floor. The light box already had a pond and water feature. The panes of glass and steel in the light box enclose a garden area with pine trees, shrubs, a memorial stone bench, mulch, and an 8-by-6-foot pond with three large water pillars and three lower spouts. They stacked large stones from a local nursery to elevate one loop of track and also decided

to have a second unelevated track section. Roadbed was cut for both the ground level and elevated track plans. Flextrack was used and a rail bender formed the curves. Track was placed on the prepared roadbed sections. All 135 feet of track was screwed down and rail clamps were added for good measure. They screwed wood bents underneath roadbed for the elevated portion. The "light box" allows the weather inside—and the snow makes for a beautiful scene. Their group built everything in sections, exactly as it was to be set up. The church theme for the project was "Light Will Shine." In December, they moved the sections into the light box, and it fit like a glove. The trains ran without a hitch. The church continues to display this railway every year around Christmastime, and it's a popular feature. <https://www.trains.com/grw/how-to/large-scale-layouts/church-garden-railroad-display/>



Yard Hostler

So we made it to 2023. Whew, what a ride. Congrats to Roy, and let's all pitch in and make 2023 the best year ever.

We still have a few open slots for this year, and two, yes two options for traveling across the U.S., one West, and one North for some fun convention time.

Also, we are looking forward to see what 1:1 options Ted might find for us this year. Gonna be a fun what I am sure.

Keep those submissions coming.

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette
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