

Thank you for your interest in the **Georgia Garden Railway Society**.

We are a group of about 50 families, most of whom live in the northern half of the state, that share an interest in running G-scale (“G” for “Garden”) model trains. While track layouts in the garden are most popular, many families have indoor layouts at their home or place of business, used to have such layouts, or are simply thinking about, planning, or building a layout. Others love touring gardens. Generally we gather once a month during warm weather months April through

September at a member’s home who has volunteered to host the monthly gathering. The society provides a stipend to the host to provide a meat entrée and those attending bring a potluck dish to share for lunch. Gatherings run from about 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and in addition to lunch, announcements of upcoming railway events, and tours of the member’s layout, may include a 15-minute “how-to” clinic, a plant swap, or a train accessories yard sale.

Other events during the year for those interested may include a scheduled group train ride excursion, exhibiting a club G-scale layout at one of the regional train shows, a gift exchange annual meeting in January, or attending the annual convention of the National Garden Railway Society, scheduled in Nashville, Tennessee, in June 2020 and in Denver, Colorado, in 2021.

To answer some of the most common questions about our society, we provide the following information:

How much does it cost to join? Dues are \$25 a year for a family. The first year also includes the incentive of a free club T-shirt for one family member. Additional shirts can be ordered. Dues are generally used to host gatherings and maintain a traveling G-scale exhibit.

Is it an expensive scale of trains? As with most model train collections, costs vary widely depending on your interests and personality. A simple starter set of 30 feet on brass track is inexpensive. Buildings, vehicles, animals, roads, etc. are not in as ready of a supply at local hobby shops as other scale trains, but the Internet fills that gap, and club members often sell such accessories, engines, and rolling stock in good used condition at great prices. Club membership will help direct you quickly to popular vendors and resources in Georgia.



Would my spouse enjoy the events? Both the husband and wife from member families attend most gatherings. Often, one is most interested in trains and one in gardening, but that’s what often makes it a fun family activity. We encourage all family members to attend and will send notices of events to all the emails desired at a given address.

Are events child friendly? Monthly gatherings are typically adult oriented, but older members will bring grandchildren and some younger families’ real “train masters” are their children. Some hosts invite the children to run the trains and other layouts and gardens may be for “seeing” and not touching (which can be challenging for excited young railroaders). You’re always welcome to visit with the entire family to see if the age range for your children or grandchildren works well in a garden railway setting.

What if gardening is not my thing? Some families rely mostly on artificial plants (especially indoors), some have layouts in wooded areas where plants don't flourish, and some have "Gardens of Eden"! You may benefit from those who have tried a variety of "miniature" plants in the past to save yourself time and costs in picking G-scale plants, but all types of plants large or small can complement a garden railway. Members also swap plants with each other regularly.

Do the layouts stay outdoors year round? Track is typically laid with permanence in mind, so it stays out year round. Most keep their buildings, vehicles, animals, and figures out continually during warm weather months unless a piece happens to be especially valuable or less weather resistant. Some members only bring out their accessories on selected days of the year. Engines and cars are usually brought in when not in use.

How much maintenance is required? Brass track is most popular and needs a light buffing occasionally depending on how much it has been used. Accessories made of plastic or cedar require less maintenance than other wooden structures. Like a birdhouse, a little paint or annual scrubbing might be needed over the winter for your structures. Layouts in wooded areas require more regular maintenance (removal of leaves, pine cones, sticks, etc.) than those in open, sunny areas.

Other questions? Please contact us:

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