

# GGRS Gazette

## December, 2025

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

### Ted's Tickets



Nothing goes better together than Christmas and Trains! I bet many of you received your first train as a gift from Santa. I did. I am sure many of you have a train running under your Christmas tree as well. I do.

I received my first electric train set for my 6th Christmas. I told Santa that I did not want a Lionel train because it ran on track with three rails, and even at a young age, that just did not seem right to me.

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### November in TrainZ Land

GGRS members attended TrainZ's hosting of the November club meeting. Afterwards, many went to Pam and Roy's house to run trains.

The TrainZ's meeting was covered in the Nov. Edition, but the trip to the Williamson's was not. Photos of both were submitted and here are a few to get you caught up.

Need a specific part for your train? Imagine having to sort through a box of motors to find the right one. Luckily, we have the good folks at TrainZ to search for us.



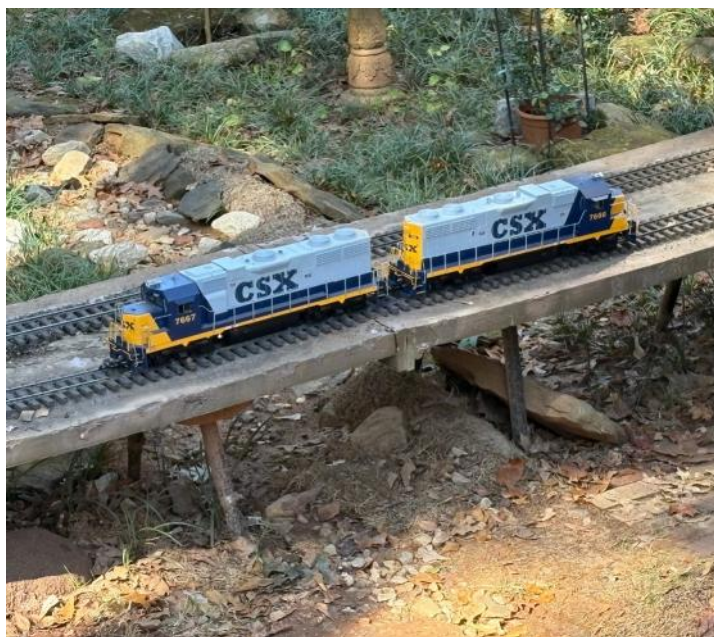
Guts, works, or parts, you name it, and TrainZ either has it or can get it, if anyone can.



*Continued page 2*



Always a joy to visit the layout at Pam and Roy's.





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

So, Santa brought me an American Flyer train set with a big black steam locomotive & tender, yellow reefer car, a gray gondola, and a caboose. I ran and ran and ran that set until it was completely worn out. I then moved on to HO scale trains as a teen and even into young adulthood. It was in the late 1980's after a trip to Colorado that I moved to G scale trains indoors. My first G scale cars were purchased from Scott Griggs, well before Trainz, when he had a set up at an indoor flea market mall on the outskirts of Atlanta. I ran those D&RGW yellow passenger cars with a Bachmann Big Hauler 4-6-0 Rio Grande Southern locomotive. It wasn't long until I figured indoors was not the way to go for G scale trains and moved outdoors. I have been a garden railroader ever since.

The full size tourist railroads fully understand the connection with trains and Christmas. The ones in our area will have special trains for Christmas. The Tennessee Valley Railroad will have the North Pole Limited and Christmas dinner Trains both out of Chattanooga, as well as the Hiwassee Christmas Train departing from Delano, TN on Highway 411. I may be a bit partial to the Tennessee Valley Railroad as I do volunteer there (you might find me working Santa's Private Car on the North Pole Limited). The Blue Ridge Scenic Railroad has 1 hour Christmas trips running throughout December. These are short and great for families with younger children. The Great Smoky Mountain Railroad has 'official' Polar Express train rides and these follow the movie script closely. First class is my favorite on this trip. Please note, all trips require reservations and sell out early (you may have to start planning next year's trip now).

Please share your Christmas train experiences, stories, and photos with us (send them to our editor, Emil Decker). I do want to wish all of you a great Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas Season!

*Ted Yarborough,  
President*

## Membership Report

### Membership News – October 2025

Thank you to – David Buchia, Todd Buchia, Bill & Peggy Delmar, Peter & Trish Hartes, Bill & Liana Hewitt, Ron & Kristy Humphry, Josh and Margaret Sagarin, Roy & Pam Williamson who paid their dues that day. Also, I received dues from R.A. & Barbara Barr and Dustin & Vanessa Foster by mail.

Our dues of \$30 are for a calendar year and are due before January 2026. To continue to be in the on-line membership directory, receive the monthly newsletter, and attend the January Christmas luncheon – please pay your dues.

### November 2025

Thank you to – Richard Deberg, Scott Griggs, Terry & Ginny Manning, Kenny & Denise Pugh, Bob & Pat Reh, and Dan & Carol Steidle for their payment that day. I also want to welcome back to Paul and Mary Ann Galvin who also attended and paid their membership. I also received dues from Jim Redmond and Greg Harris by mail.

Remember as GGRS members you will –  
continue to receive the monthly newsletter,  
be included in the on-line membership directory  
you will be able to vote for new officers at the annual January Christmas luncheon.

Please don't let the holiday activities delay your membership.  
Checks of \$30 should be made out to GGRS and mailed 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)

## Pullman Yards

Thanks to Liana Hewitt

After the October meeting, several members went to The Pullman Yards to explore. While the current modern use is for hosting private events, entertainment, dining, and the like, it has a varied “train” history, as the name implies.

### Pratt Engineering Company (1904–1926)

Originally the Pratt Engineering Company built up the area in 1904. The site was originally a sugar and fertilizer processing plant. (one would hope they didn't mix the two!)

During World War I, it was used to produce fertilizer bombs. (BOOOOOM!!!)

It was also used to develop and patent liquid carbonated gases. This technology was later purchased by The Coca-Cola Company.

### The Pullman Company (1926–1955)

The Pullman Company purchased the site in 1926 and expanded it, giving it the name “Pullman Yards”.

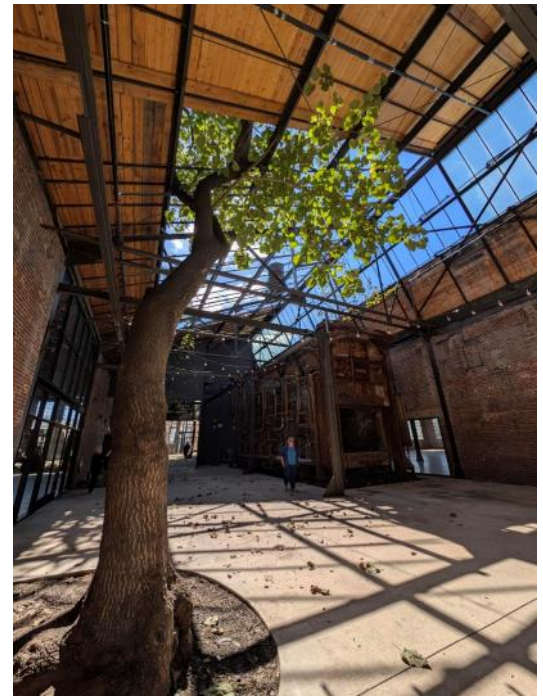
It was used as a facility for manufacturing and repairing its luxury passenger railcars. The yard was a major employer for African American men, including the Pullman Porters, who later formed the “*Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids*”. This was the first African American labor union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

### Post-Pullman and abandonment (1955–2017)

In 1955, the Pullman Company sold the property to the Second American Iron and Metal Company, and railcar manufacturing and repair continued until the 1980s. The Georgia Building Authority acquired the property in 1990 after the rail line was abandoned. The site was mostly left untouched but was used as a filming location for major movies.

### Redevelopment into an entertainment hub (2017–present)

In 2017, Atomic Entertainment purchased the property with a vision to transform it into an arts and entertainment district. The revitalized space now hosts events, live music, immersive exhibits, restaurants, and activities like roller skating and pickleball. The site has received accolades for its successful redevelopment - <https://www.pullmanyards.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!

**Ted says both recipe's are great!**

### *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*

## 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
Annual Business Meeting	TBA (Provino's???)	Jan 10, 2026	In Planning Stage
Golden Spike	Duluth, GA	Jan 17, 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	Bill & Liana Hewitt	Sep 12, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Becky & Rich Chitwood	Oct, 2026	In Planning Stage

## Trains around Christmas

Ted informs me that Jewel, the Chief Engineer of the Christmas Tree Express in Chatsworth wants to see your Trains. Send in your Holiday Excursions for the New Year's Edition of the GGRS Gazette.

## The red trolley on 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood' traveled 5,000 miles annually.

The beloved children's television program *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* used signals to tell its audience when to get ready to listen and learn. At the start of every episode, host Fred Rogers entered his TV home and sang "*A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*" as he changed from a sport coat and loafers to his signature sweater and sneakers. Next, he typically introduced a topic — sometimes veering into sensitive subject matter like divorce or depression — before beckoning the Trolley to transport viewers into the Neighborhood of Make-Believe.

In a given year of the show, Trolley's commutes covered 5,000 miles, according to PBS, more than the length of the world's longest river, the 4,123-mile Nile.

Trolley's precise origins are somewhat mysterious, but we do know the one-of-a-kind model was hand-built from wood by a Toronto man named Bill Ferguson in 1967, the year before *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* premiered. (Rogers likely met Ferguson when he was living in Toronto and taping *Mister Rogers*, which aired on CBC-TV from 1961 until 1964.)

The TV host's love for trolleys went all the way back to his own childhood; during one 1984 episode of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, he visited the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum and remembered accompanying his dad on long trolley trips. Young viewers often wrote to Rogers with questions about the show's trolley, such as why there were no people aboard, to which the host responded that the lack of passengers encouraged kids at home to visualize themselves aboard.



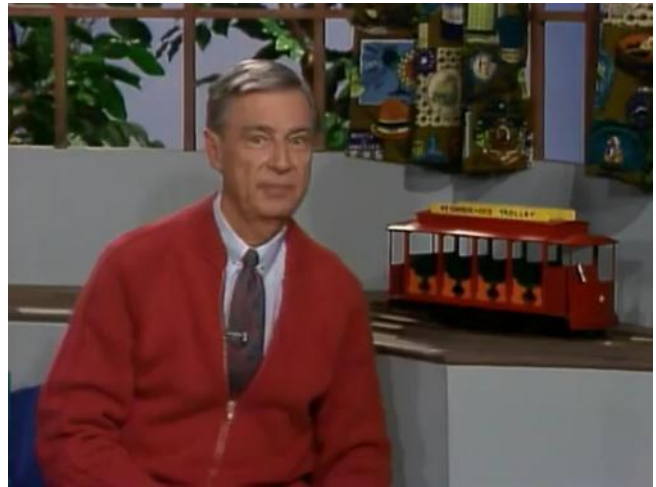
Today, Trolley is on permanent display at the Fred Rogers Center at Saint Vincent College in Rogers' hometown of Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Visitors to Latrobe will have no trouble spotting bumper stickers around town that read **"My Other Car Is a Trolley."**

Number of songs Rogers (who had a music composition degree) wrote for "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" **200+**

Episodes of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" that aired from 1968 to 2001 (the show's original run) **895**

Year Rogers became the first foreign guest on the Russian show "Good Night, Kiddies" **1987**

A Mars-crossing asteroid that was renamed "MisterRogers" after Fred Rogers died in 2003  
**No. 26858**



## Please Help!

Our 6 social media channels were established to promote the GR News magazine. Fast forward to today and they are playing a more expansive role - to promote our hobby. In October, we reached 500,000 social media accounts.

Our audience growth has been driven by the posting garden railroad videos **daily**. To date all videos have been sourced from less than 10 garden railroaders.

**We need more video contributors to sustain our momentum and are asking you to help us recruit them.**

**You know which members shoot videos of garden railroads. Please put them in touch with me via the email link below.**

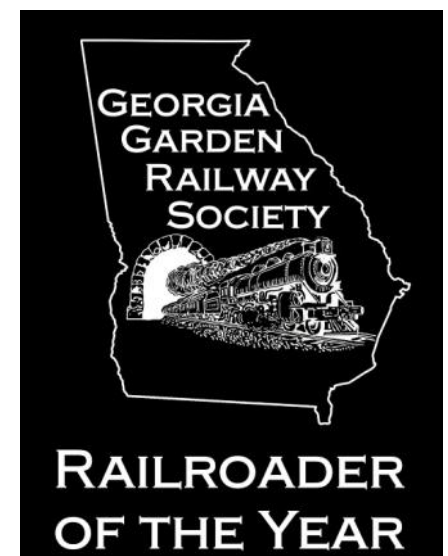
**We never reveal garden railroad addresses but we do give credit to railroad owners and videographers.**

Thank you - Mick Spilsbury - GR News Social Media Director

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

## Georgia Garden Railroader of the Year Nominations

Going to assume you have made your nominations..... If you have not, then a generous bribe would be in order to consider your late nomination.. Just kidding. Truly, we have received some nominations, and will be delighted to inform you of the latest winner of this prestigious award at our Annual Meeting.



## 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.)*



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## Yard Hostler

December. Christmas trains, and other wrappings of the season can now be seen, and its only November. (OF COURSE, if you were in Walmart you saw it all in September, or maybe even August.) Don't let the commercialization of the season distract you from the real reason and the joy of the season. Stay tuned for more updates on the Annual meeting, which is just around the corner.

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