



GGRS Gazette

November, 2025

Official Newsletter
of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

Ted's Tickets



WOW! What we could call the 'Garden Railroading Year' in Georgia is coming to an end for 2025. We had new members host most of the regular GGRS monthly meetings. Specifically, I would like to thank the Chitwood, MacKarvich, Stotler, and Sagarin families for hosting, along with the Manning's for hosting our traditional swap meet. Next month, we will visit the brand-new facility of Trainz.

Continued page 3

November GGRS Meeting, in Store...(Literally)

GGRS members should take advantage of the next meeting site. While TrainZ will not be selling supplies, trains, cars, etc. while we are there, we will get a peek into their new facility, and maybe see something we can go online to purchase, or drop back by when they are open for business.

TrainZ has been a sponsor and member of the GGRS and there is probably not a single member of the club who hasn't supported their business at some time or other. TrainZ started in the basement of Scott & Milinda Griggs in 1997, as an eBay only store. TrainZ has steadily grown into the largest seller of toys and hobby products on eBay, buying preowned trains countrywide and shipping worldwide.

TrainZ is planning on ordering chicken fingers/tenders and has plenty of room for crockpots, so plan your sides, desserts, and other goodies and let's head down to 4195 Industry Way in Flowery Branch, GA, 30542, on Saturday, November 1 from 10:00 - 2:00.



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A preview from their September OPEN HOUSE! Looks like a fun tour is “in store” for us!

Ted's Tickets (Cont.)

September had GGRS members Roy & Pam Williamson organizing along with Peter & Lori Thomas promoting the event, and other GGRS members set up an amazing display of garden railroading for a GARDEN SHOW in Gainesville. As far as I know, this was only the second pure garden show we have participated in as a club, and it was met with lots of enthusiasm from the gardeners attending the show.

As we approach the end of 2025, I want to thank the current board members who have done a remarkable job with meetings and events, finances, membership, and communications. As I asked in last month's article, other GGRS members might want to become members of the board and bring new and exciting ideas that they can share to make 2026 and beyond even better in the world of Georgia Garden Railroading. There is still time to fill out a nomination for yourself or someone else and send it in (see article elsewhere in this issue).

Likewise, the board might not be aware of things that other members are doing to help with the group, or the hobby in general, so you could inform us. Please take the time soon to nominate someone or some family for the Georgia Garden Railroader of the Year (see article elsewhere in this issue).

Fall is upon us. So, take time in your garden railroad to run some trains. Share photos with us in future newsletters. Invite friends and neighbors to enjoy your garden railroad before winter set in and we are forced inside. We are fortunate to have milder winters in Georgia. I have run trains every month of the year, but spring & fall seem to be the best weather for us, trains, AND FLOWERS. Now, go run some trains!

Ted Yarnborough,
President

Hall Master Gardeners Expo

Roy and I would like to thank all of you so much for helping to plan, setup, break down and promote G-scale model railroading at the Hall County Fall Expo.

I know we brought smiles to the children with Lori's "Touch Train". Who knew all a child needed was a couple pieces of track, a re-railer, a stop and a box car to provide so much joy.

I'm not sure if we will get any new members but I know we put an idea/thought in many minds. Maybe they'll take their Dad's or Grandfather old train set out, dust it off and at least run it around the Christmas Tree.

Thanks again, we could not have done it without you.

Pam & Roy





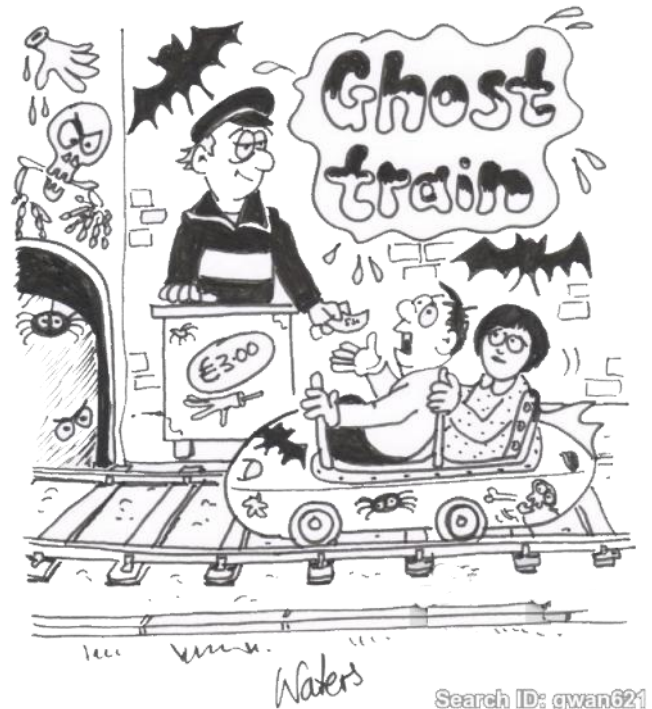
While promoting G-scale model railroading, the most common comment was "I have my grandfather's/Dad's trains in the attic". Hopefully we gave them the motivation to get that box out, dust it off and run those trains around the Christmas Tree.

There was a bit of excitement on Saturday. Roy saw the LGB Lake George & Boulder Stainz and tender do a little shimmy as they passed the garden chair and pansies. The train came to stop just before the bridge. As Roy approached, he saw something that appeared to be hanging from the bottom on the tender. He thought, what kind of electronics can be coming out of the tender? When he put his glasses on, he stood and started to shout "*Animal Control*" "*Animal Control*". It was not electronics coming out of the tender, we had a stow away, a Hobo, a snake. The snake took a ride on the slides of the tender. What a commotion. An Expo attendee in the next booth picked up the Hobo, fondled it and we're pretty sure she took the snake home. The trains continued on, none the worse for the wear.



A big GGRS THANK YOU to Peter & Lori Thomas, Ted & Deborah Yarborough, Pete & Trish Hartes, Kenny & Denise Pugh, Bob & Pat Reh, Russ & Leslie Ann Bundy, Carol Steidle, Paul Dallas, Roy Williamson and our niece from FL/ IN Krista McDivitt for making our GGRS layout a success.





"What happens if you get scared half-to-death twice?"

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



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 Preacher Cake

1 cup chopped pecans (optional)	3 cups all purpose flour	1 cup vegetable oil
	2 teaspoons baking soda	2 teaspoons vanilla
	1 teaspoon salt	$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon
	1 20 oz. crushed pineapple	2 cups sugar
	1 cup flake coconut (optional)	3 eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 13 x 9 pan. Combine flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon and whisk together. In another bowl combine sugar, eggs, oil, and vanilla and whisk until combined. Stir in pineapple with juice. Stir flour into wet ingredients. If adding stir in coconut and pecans until well blended. Pour cake into pan and bake for 45-55 minutes or until done. Cool completely before frosting with cream cheese frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting

8 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, room temperature
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 2 cups powdered sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup finely chopped pecans for garnish (optional)

For Frosting:

Whip cream cheese, butter, and vanilla until fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add powdered sugar and mix until smooth and creamy. Sprinkle pecans, if desired, on top.



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 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.

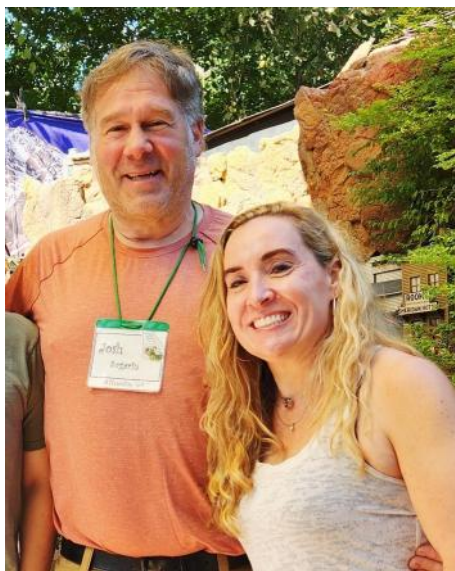
Current Board

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

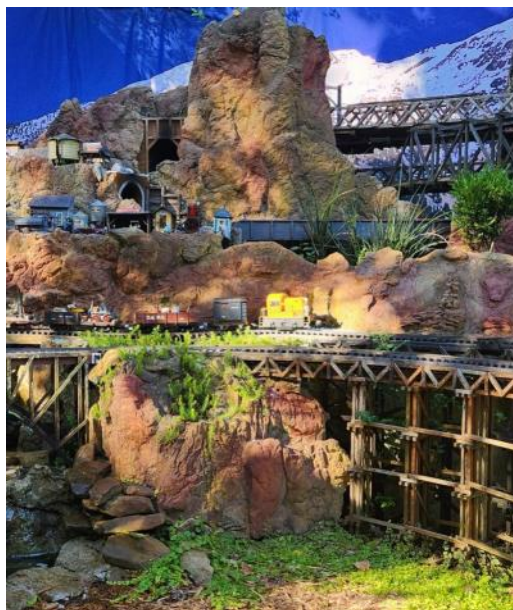
Track Warrants

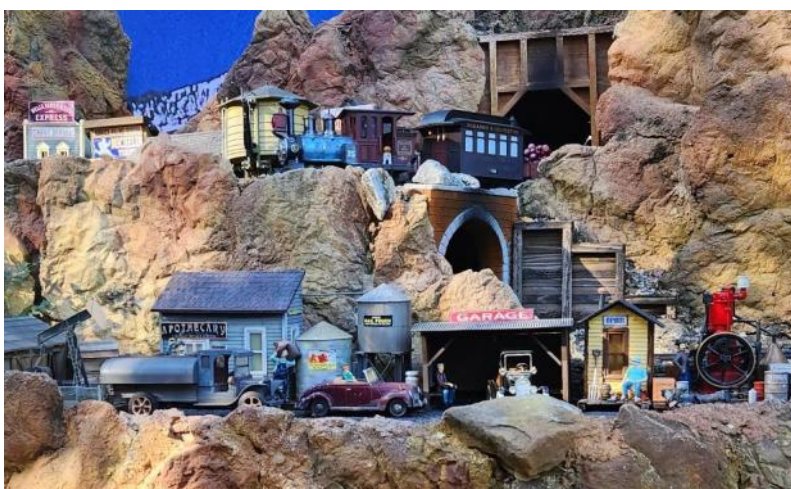
*** NOTE: The Calendar contains some Rail related events that are NOT GGRS events! Due to timing of events and newsletter deadlines,, some updates may not have been posted. Contact host for additional info.

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	Complete
GGRS Club Mtg	TRAINZ	Nov 1, 2025	Active
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

October's Club Meeting

Josh & Margaret,
Thank you so much for hosting the October GGRS meeting. Your home and garden RR are both very nice. I heard lots of positive comments from members today. Thanks again for sharing!





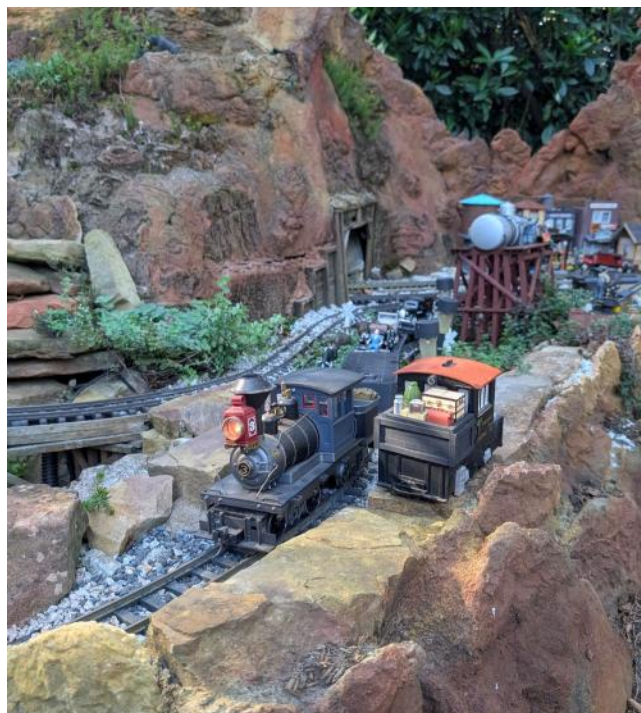
Josh Sagarin highly recommends this little blower for removing acorns and leave from your outdoor railroad.





Nancy & Steve Smith - first time GGRS Club Meeting attendees









<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.

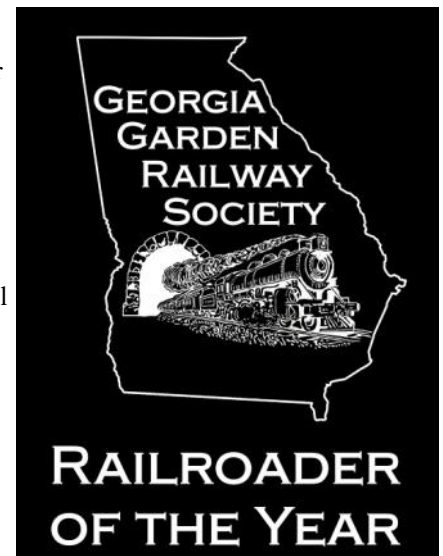
Meanwhile, Meta reports that GR News reached 100,000 accounts via its s Facebook and Instagram posts since E2 was released, with Facebook leading the way with 75,000 accounts reached, so we are getting the word out that Garden Railroading is a great hobby.

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

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 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!





The 2025 Piedmont Pilgrimage is almost here!



Join us for five exciting weekends of model railroad open houses throughout the greater Atlanta area, starting this Saturday, October 25. This year, we have over 60 layouts on the tour, featuring N scale, HO scale, O scale, G gauge, steam, and diesel models—something for everyone!

The Pilgrimage is presented by the Piedmont Division of the National Model Railroad Association and is open to everyone at no cost.

For more information, head over to our website: <https://piedmontpilgrimage.com/>

We hope to see you there!



The Rip Track

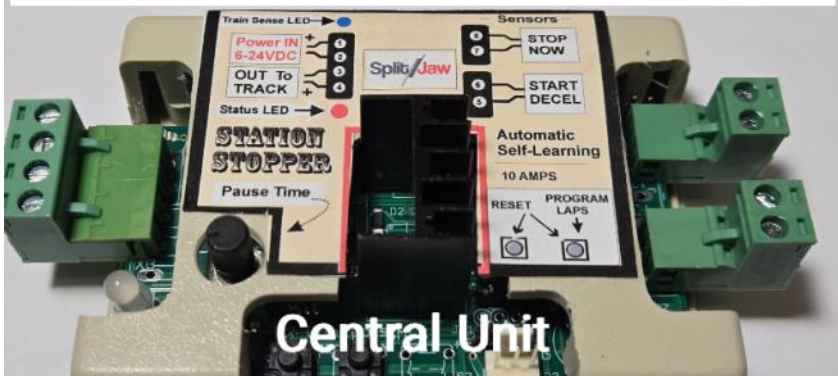
**Need Repairs? Supplies?
Buy Good Stuff from
our Members**

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.





Check out our online store and updated website at

www.traininstallations.com

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- Dave 770-597-0038



Yard Hostler

November. Time to eat lots, put away outdoor items, and move inside to start working on that worktable project you kept for the cold weather. Take some before and after photos and let's publish them in the newsletter. Christmas trains, etc. You know! You Show! So why not share with us? And the Annual meeting is just around the corner.

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

