



November 2023

NEWSLETTER



Sharing the Joy of Garden Railroading Since 1990 !



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

From Fred Weber

November 2023

The club is steadily moving forward to bring our members closer together. Bushnell Station runs every Wednesday and Saturday. If you would like to run your trains or run the club's trains, you're more than welcome to do so. Bushnell Station will be running a Christmas special in December every Friday and Saturday night. It's a great way to see the holiday lights. The LGB Christmas Cars are available with a 10% discount for club members. LGB has a USA only Christmas car this year that is a limited edition.

The Nature Coast Botanical Garden & Nursery will have a special event in December. The club will have the kid's layout at this event. For more details see the article below or contact Phil Barcelona.

For Halloween at Crew's Lake, we ran the Kids layout while their train ride was in operation. Phil Barcelona will be working on the G scale layout there very shortly. This will give our Tampa Bay area members a great place to meet and run trains. Ideas for track placement would be very helpful. We plan to have this location up and running by February of 2024 for the Central Pasco and Gulf Railroad Stream up.

All members on the East Coast! We will have a meeting in February in a location just south of Jacksonville that could become an additional opportunity for club members to run trains locally. More details about this meeting will be coming soon.

Lakes Park in Fort Myers is planning to build a G scale railroad outdoor layout sometime in 2024. We will be needing members locally to assist with this project. Details to follow as they become available.

I'm hoping all members will take advantage of the places close to their own homes to promote the hobby of garden railroading while having fun running trains.

Keep the weekend after Labor Day of 2024 open for a great trip to Ohio. The trip to EnterTrainment Junction alone is worth the drive. Chip Danneker, Mike Walls, Phil Rizzuto, and I are working to bring you a great 4-day event of fellowship, trains, and other points of interest.

Several board members have been in their current positions for years. Plus, the need for volunteers to run trains at events is increasing. I'm asking for more members to step up and get the work done. It's as easy as running the kid's layout for a couple of hours or setting up and running the big layout. We will need members to run trains at Crews Lake and Bushnell for a few hours. We need new board members with new ideas. Please consider running for one of the available positions on our board to keep the momentum going with the growth of the club. Your club needs your ideas and leadership!

May your tracks be clean of turkey feathers!

Happy Thanksgiving!- *Fred Weber*, **FGRS President 2023**

P.S. – It's that time again! Please send in your dues and any changes in your info to our Membership Chairman - still just \$25!

Mail check to:

**Florida Garden Railway Society (FGRS)
Attn: Ray Lambert, Membership Chairman
410 S Center Street
Eustis, FL 32726**

Cover Photo: Trainload of FGRS members out for a scary evening trainride at Bushnell Station
"Track or Treat" 2023. *Photo by Paul Wagner*

FGRS 2023 BOARD MEMBERS



FGRS President
Fred Weber
410-310-6001
Fgrs.president@gmail.com



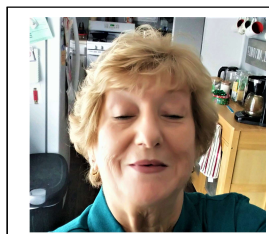
FGRS Vice President – Eastern Region
Phil Barcelona
386-562-4859
fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com



FGRS Event Coordinator
Chip Danneker
214-543-5133
chipdanneker@gmail.com



FGRS Secretary
Millie Weber
941-224-2996
Fgrs.secretary@
gmail.com



FGRS Treasurer
Inga Thaw
352-341-7799
Thawwillie42@
gmail.com



FGRS Newsletter
Paul Wagner
941-445-0409
Fgrs.newsletter
@gmail.com



FGRS Membership
Ray Lambert
954-551-3392
fgrs.membership1992
@gmail.com



FGRS Board
Member at Large
Phil Rizzuto
845-590-1624
ptoytrains@aol.com



FGRS Board
Member at Large
Don Carter
352-207-5434
doncarter521@embarqmail.com

2023 TRAIN SHOWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

November 18, 2023 - Regal Railways Model Train Show

New Port Richey, Florida

Elks Club in New Port Richey, at 7201 Congress Street, New Port Richey 34653

9:00am - 3:00pm, Admission is \$6. Early birds can enter beginning at 7:00 for an extra \$2.

Vendors will be selling trains, sets, and accessories of all gauges.

There will be layouts and a test track. Food is also available.

<https://regalrailways.com/>

November 29th, 2023 - FGRS Work Day at Central Gulf and Pasco Railroad Crews Lake Wilderness Park - 9:00 am - ?

Crews Lake Wilderness Park is located at 16739 Crews Lake Drive in Spring Hill, Florida

For a map go to <https://cp-grr.com/location/>

Central Gulf and Pasco Railroad has given FGRS the opportunity to establish an above ground layout for use by the FGRS members.

Let Phil Barcelona know at jpbBarcelona55@gmail.com or leave a message at 386-562-4859 of what unique talents you will bring to this project!

December 1 – 30, 2023 - Bushnell Holiday Express – Every Friday and Saturday 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

AKA “The Gulf Coast and Central Florida Railroad Museum”, it is located at 6470 County Road 476 West, Bushnell, FL 33513.

Take a journey along the half-mile long “Holiday Express” and enjoy the lights and holiday characters that come to life only at this time of year. You will stop at our new pavilion along the way to enjoy a complimentary snack and beverage and view additional exhibits. FGRS will be operating our outdoor garden railway.

Donation - \$7.00 - \$12.00

December 2, 2023 – Nature Coast Botanical Gardens: “Holiday in the Gardens” Tree Decorating

9am till 1:00pm

1489 Parker Ave, Spring Hill FL 34606

Clubs, Business, organizations and individuals will be decorating live trees at this event.

The gardens will provide refreshments and live music with a Childrens parade at 11:00am while the event is free donations and support are always appreciated.

FGRS will be setting up our KID Zone at 8am. Any of you folks who would like to participate let Phil Barcelona know at jpbBarcelona55@gmail.com or leave a message at 386-562-4859.

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The Nature Coast Botanical Gardens are always open to the public and trains are run every Saturday from 9 - noon. Everyone is welcome to come any Saturday to run their trains and enjoy the botanical gardens.

December 2, 2023 - - Melbourne Train & Toy Show 9am - 2pm

The Melbourne Train & Toy will be held at the Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne, Florida 32935 on Saturday, December 2. The show will run from 9am - 2pm.

For more information contact Andy Schultz at andy.schultz69@yahoo.com or at 321-805-1963

December 2, 2023 - Suncoast Model RR Club Show - Pinellas Park

The Suncoast Model Railroad Club is hosting a show at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center located at 4951 78th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781. The show will run from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Admission is \$7 for adults.

December 2, 2023 - Regal Train Show - Crystal River

The Regal Railways Christmas show will be held in Crystal River on December 2 from 9:00am - 2pm at the Florida National Guard Armory located at 8551 West Venable St, Crystal River, FL 34429. Admission is \$6 for adults/Kids under 12 free. The show will include vendors and model train layouts in multiple gauges. Food is available.

December 7 - 10 - The Villages Christmas Model Train Show

The Villages Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd, The Villages 32162 Displays will be open 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Thursday - Saturday and 10:00am - 3:00pm on Sunday. The show will feature multi-gauge operating layouts, raffles, and of course Santa Claus. Admission is free.

<http://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com/>

2024:

January 13-14, 2024 - Florida Rail Fair – DeLand, Florida

9:00am - 4:00pm

The Volusia County Fairgrounds

FGRS will set up our large modular layout and the Kid's Zone

EAST COAST TRAIN SHOW!

January 20 – 21, 2024 - Martin County Model Railroaders Annual Train

Show and Sale - 10 AM – 3 PM both days

Martin county Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Highway, Stuart, Florida

Contact Gary Hawkin - hawkenga1@outlook.com, phone 772-692-9017

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(Events Continued from Previous Page)

August 23 – 25, 2024 – G-Scale Southern Regional Get-Together, Atlanta Georgia



2024 G-Scale Southern Regional Get-Together

Friday – August 23rd – Layout Tours

**Saturday – August 24th – Vendor Hall
The 65th Atlanta Model Train Show • Duluth, GA**

Sunday – August 25th – Layout Tours

**To be a vendor or exhibitor for the 1-day 65th Atlanta Model Train Show
contact Charlie Miller at rrshows@aol.com or 703-536-2954**

**Additional info coming soon to:
GGRS.info**

You may have heard that there will likely not be a National Garden Railway Convention in 2024, so the Georgia Garden Railway Society has teamed up with Charlie Miller of Golden Spike Enterprises (the force behind many of the train shows here in Florida) and will present a convention in the Atlanta area.

Visit Bushnell Station every Saturday from 10am - 4pm

In addition to the special Christmas Holiday Express openings, as always, you can get your train fix by visiting Bushnell Station every Saturday as well as a RR work day on Wednesdays.

AKA "The Gulf Coast and Central Florida Railroad Museum", it is located at 6470 County Road 476 West, Bushnell, FL 33513.

The museum is open every Saturday from 10am - 4pm. As you know, FGRS is deeply involved with the museum and has an outdoor G scale layout up and running. Feel free to bring your trains for a run. There are many layouts of all scales inside the cool air conditioned museum. Don't miss the café, serving (as Fred likes to say) the best hotdogs in the state! <https://bushnellstation.com/>

For a list of many other Train Shows go to
http://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html

Newsflash!

The FGRS KID Zone at Holiday in the Gardens

Place: Nature Coast Botanical Gardens

1489 Parker Ave, Spring Hill FL 34606

Date: Saturday December 2nd 2023

Time: 9am till 1:00pm

Clubs, Business, organizations and individuals will be decorating live trees at this event.

The gardens will provide refreshments and live music with a Children's parade at 11:00am.

While the event is free, donations and support are always appreciated.

FGRS will be setting up our KID Zone at 8am. Any of you folks who would like to participate let Phil Barcelona know at jpbarcelona55@gmail.com or leave a message at 386-562-4859.

FGRS at Crews Lake Wilderness Park

WE BE WORKING ON THE RAILROAD!

Host: Central Gulf and Pasco Railroad

Date: Wednesday November 29th, 2023

Time: 9:00 am

Central Gulf and Pasco Railroad has given FGRS the opportunity to establish an above ground layout for use by the FGRS members. This is part of an ongoing strategy that FGRS will be implementing in 2024 in establishing layouts where our members go and run their trains. We will be working to establish relationships throughout Florida with 7 ½ train clubs, railroad museums, private entities, and FGRS members to further the goals of FGRS.

The Work Plan:

Garden Part: Weed whacking, limb cutting, general pickup.

Maintenance: Water sealant applied to existing track deck.

Engineering: Figuring out how to incorporate a bridge to access center of layout

Chorus: Singing track laying songs!

Let Phil Barcelona know at jpbarcelona55@gmail.com or leave a message at 386-562-4859 of what unique talents you will bring to this project!

This Just Received From the Greater Cincinnati Garden Railway Society:

Marc Horovitz was hit by an SUV while he was walking in his neighborhood on Friday, October 27th. He is in Denver Health Hospital with major injuries.

Marc is a co-founder of the The Denver Garden Railway Society, and founder of Garden Railways Magazine.

Our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Marc and his family.



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***HERE WE GO AGAIN TO RUN THE
TRAINS AT CHRISTMAS TIME!***

**December 9 - 10, 2023 – Don and Lenojo
Carter Christmas Open House
& Garden Railroad Fun Run
Ocala, Florida**



**Saturday Dec 9 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday Dec 10 2:00 AM-6:00 PM**

(Don and Lenojo Carter Christmas Open House Continued from Previous Page)

Don and Lenojo Carter are hosting an FGRS Christmas Open House and Fun Run at their home in Ocala, Florida. If there is a possibility of rain please note we won't be able to run trains in the rain, so contact me if there is a question as to whether or not we will be operating.

Phone - 352-207-5435

Email - doncarter521@embarqmail.com

If you would like to bring a picnic lunch, there are seats and tables provided.

For those who have not been here before, here is a short description of the layout:

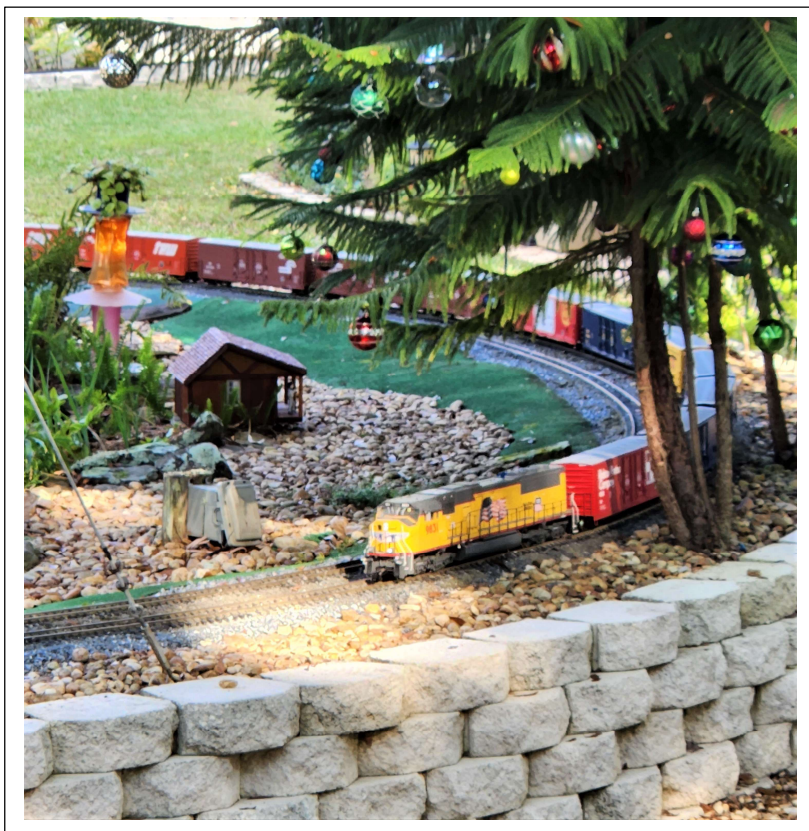
There is over 1900' of track located on over 1/2 acre. The railroad is mostly elevated off the ground. The trains travel along a 100' stream to and around a 30' oval pond. There is a 40' oval setup elevated 4' off the ground for those who bring their trains to run. This also serves as a reversing loop for the main line.

This year we have a new addition for the children to run trains - a double track on a 16' oval that is elevated on a table top arrangement. The town will be decorated for Christmas with lots of lights so if you come later in the afternoon you will get the full effect.

As usual if you have a train to run feel free to bring it and we will work you into the traffic.

Water and snacks will be available, and we will have a scavenger hunt for folks to find all the hidden objects.

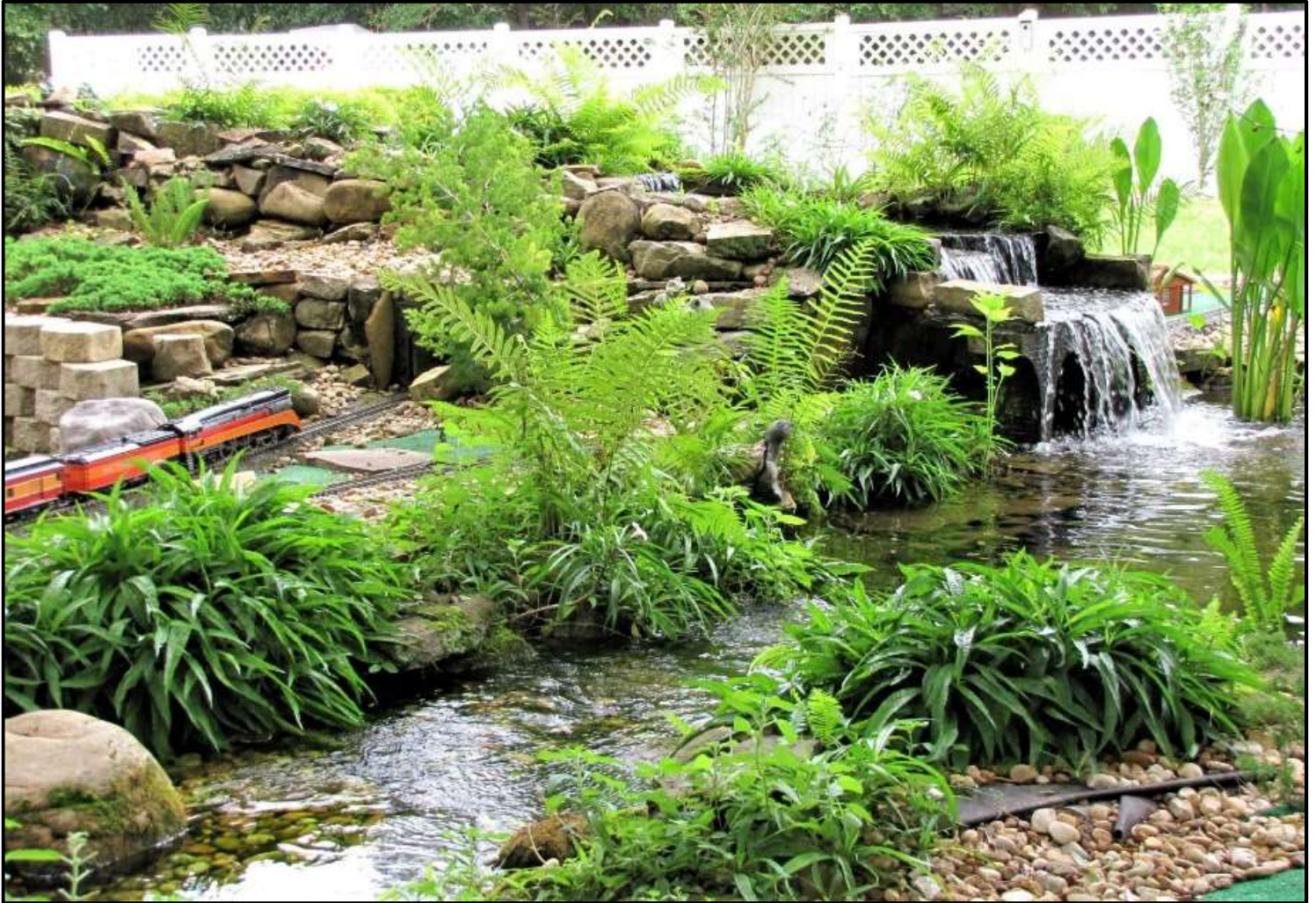
Directions for out of town guests are as follows:
I 75 exit SR 40 East through Ocala to NE 7th street. Just pass Ocala Golf Club turn right onto NE 7th street. Continue east on NE 7th to SR 35. (Baseline Road) cross over SR 35 continuing East to NE 61 Terrace. This is "Green Ridge Acres" development.



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(Don and Lenojo Carter Christmas Open House Continued from Previous Page)

Turn right and continue to the top of the hill to NE 3rd Place. (Look for the signs)
Park along 3rd Place, as it is a dead end street beside the house.



Enter through the side gate at the house driveway.

THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC EVENT BUT IS FOR INVITED GUEST ALONG WITH FRIENDS
AND FAMILY. PLEASE NO PETS !!!
PLEASE DO NOT POST PICTURES OR INFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Looking forward to seeing you.

- Don and Lenojo Carter

[6130 NE 3rd Place](#)

[Ocala, FL 34470](#)

352-207-5435

doncarter521@embarqmail.com

If you are interested in hosting a Fun Run contact:
Chip Danneker – FGRS Event Chairman
chipdanneker@gmail.com 214-543-5133

Product News

November 2023

You can download an LGB catalog of LGB's *New Items* at https://www.lgb-trains.com/lib/catalogs/issue20-29/pubs/LGB2023_383062_NewItems_EN.pdf

Bushnell Station is our LGB dealer and the President of Bushnell Station, Craig Hurst, tells us that he has three new products from LGB:

Christmas Rail Truck #24181 List - \$360.00 Member Price - \$324.00

2023 Christmas Car #36023 List - \$175.00 Member Price - \$157.50

2023 One Time Limited Edition Christmas Car for the North American Market ONLY

#36923 List - \$175.00 Member Price - 157.50

There are NO SHIPPING CHARGES when the item is picked up at Bushnell Station

You can get a complete LGB catalog when you drop into the Bushnell Station hobby shop when you come out to run trains on our layout, ride the train, and visit the museum exhibits there.

Gulf Coast and Central Florida Railroad Museum at "Bushnell Station" is at

6470 WC 476 (County Road 476 West), Bushnell, FL 33513

Phone: 352.901.0829

Cell/Text: 352.250.0905

Email: BushnellStation@gmail.com

Website: www.BushnellStation.com

Piko-America has new Christmas trains and accessories that are now available. Go to

https://mcusercontent.com/aed9b664cc784383e4f42f5f2/files/f2ee3334-691f-5a05-0309-280c8d8dd134/PIKO_Autumn_G_News_2023.pdf

for the Christmas items.

Their complete website is at:

<https://www.piko-america.com/pages/g-scale>

Fred Weber has 2023 Piko catalogs. Contact Fred at 410-310-6001 if you would like to arrange to pick one up.

Catalogs and tech info are also available online for free download.

Split Jaw Products has discontinued their line of signals in order to concentrate on rail clamps, bridges, turntables, track products, and new developments. They have introduced wider radius curved bridges for 2023; and have purchased and are now producing the HR stainless steel track line. They also carry a line of custom and rare large scale trains in their "Custom Shop" department. Split Jaw Products can be purchased at Bushnell Station. Look for an announcement of new Split Jaw products next month.

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

Model Train Technology, a manufacturer of signals and signal control systems is introducing a new under the track NANO Precision Detector (suitable for all scales) for detecting approaching trains and controlling signals.

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

Bachmann Trains is now shipping the Dash 9 Diesel Locomotives in a variety of road names. They are also shipping parts for this locomotive which should be interchangeable for the similar unit previously produced by Aristocraft. Star Hobbies and others are stocking these.

https://shop.bachmanntrains.com/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=255

USA Trains is now shipping the 4-8-4 FEF-3 Locomotive with Sound, and some new Christmas decorated cars

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

Halloween “Track or Treat” at Bushnell Station

October 23, 2023

Photos by Paul Wagner except as noted

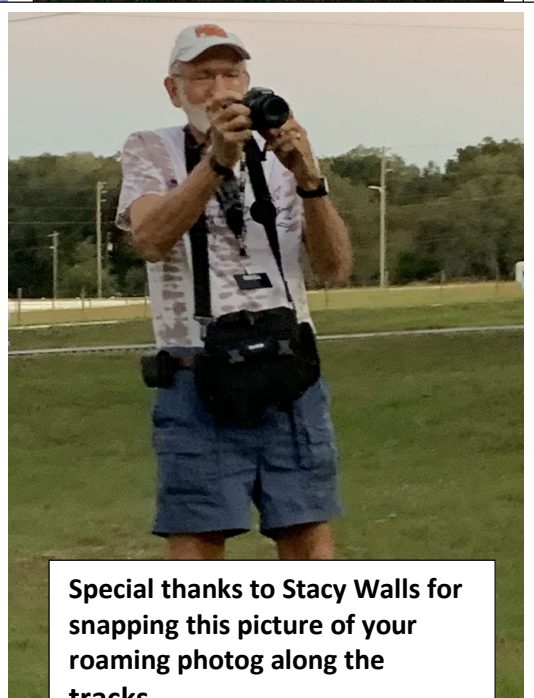
group



The trainride through the wild Halloween surroundings was the high point of the afternoon, with FGRS volunteers crewing the trains. Here Mike Walls runs the diesel as it heads out for the scary scenes, while folks in the background enjoy the FGRS garden railway and the Museum.



Ghosts and Goblins greeted us along the ride, and there were some surprising special effects in the spooky tunnel as we rode through.



Special thanks to Stacy Walls for snapping this picture of your roaming photog along the tracks.



Here, Mike Walls does double duty as he climbs down off the engineers seat and runs trains on the Kids Zone layout in a pavilion along the tracks out in the field.

Meanwhile, Don Carter and Kevin Mars run trains on the FGSR garden railway outside the museum. This layout was designed and built almost entirely by Don Carter and other FGSR members. Notice the attention to detail and realism on this layout.



John & Katie Abbott's Halloween Fun Run

Melbourne, Florida, October 29, 2023

Photos by Charles Moore

John & Katie Abbott hosted a Halloween fun run at their home in Melbourne. They are the most active garden railroaders on the East Coast, and have traveled far and wide to attend railroading functions. Attendance was light, but with family and friends, a good time was had by all! Their Halloween special train was running fine, and they say if you couldn't make it for this one, they'll do it again for Christmas in December. More on that next month.



John and Katie have done a great job of setting up and operating this railway in the front of their house, where everyone in their neighborhood can come by and enjoy it with them.



Even the miniature village has Halloween decorations. As an added treat, John showed off his extensive railroad shop.



Kid's Day at Central Gulf and Pasco Railroad

Halloween Train Ride

Crews Lake Wilderness Park

October 20, 2023

This event was planned as a Halloween train ride on the amazing Central Gulf and Pasco 7 – ½ inch Railroad, but we at FGRS saw it as an opportunity to get kids involved with garden railroading. We look forward to doing more in the future with this enthusiastic group of railroad enthusiasts, and, as you will note in an announcement in this newsletter, we are planning a work day to come here to help them rebuild an old garden railroad on the grounds.



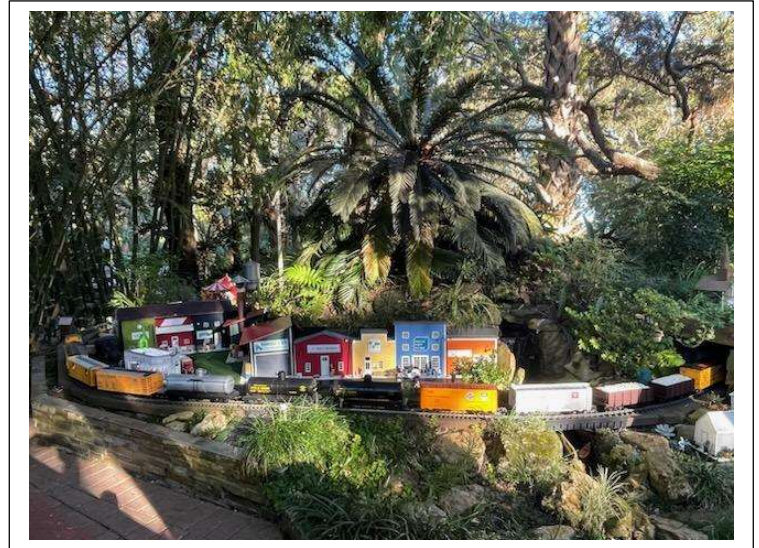
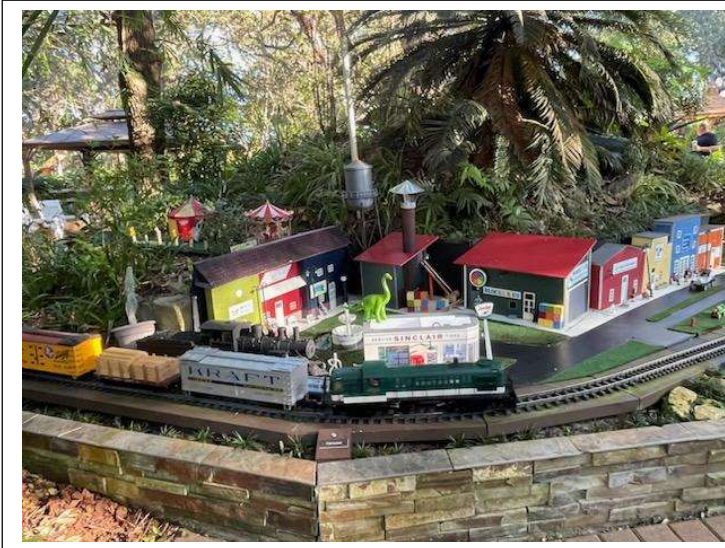
A Day in Spring Hill

November 4, 2023

By Doug Brainard and Don Carter

We started the day at the great garden railway at Nature Coast Botanical Gardens.

Botanical Gardens Photos by Doug Brainard

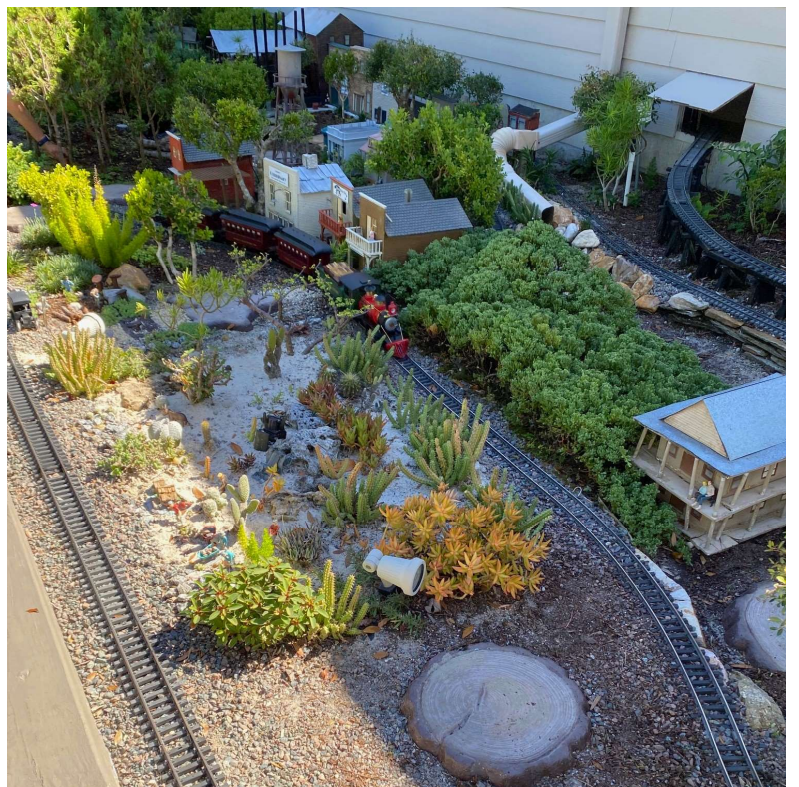


Next, we moved on to Doug Brainard's house, the home of his fine layout. Doug demonstrated one of his live steam locomotives (a two-truck Shay) which was very impressive. The plants are expertly trimmed to simulate full sized trees, and everyone who came agreed it was well worth the time to visit.

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(Spring Hill Event, Continued from previous Page)

Photos below by Don Carter



Member Train Items For Sale

Looking to buy or swap something? Send in
your request- FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com

This page has been created solely as a convenience to our members who want to buy and sell from other club members. FGRS takes no responsibility for the condition of the items or sale of items. Any transaction is completely between the buyer and seller.

Please submit items you would like to buy or sell to Paul Wagner, FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com

Ads will be run for 2 months if they are not renewed. Please notify me when an item is sold, so it can be removed from the following newsletter. – Paul Wagner

Kathy Caldwell and her late husband Robert "Bob" Caldwell, were among the founding members of the Southwest Division of FGRS. Kathy is auctioning off a large inventory of collectables of all kinds, including a large collection of G scale trains, most in like new condition and never run. This is a Public Auction which has a fairly short bidding time, so check back at the auction50.net website. Her most recent lot closed prior to this Newsletter posting date, but a new lot which includes some G scale trains will be posted soon on

<https://auctions50.net/Public/Auction>
as "Auction 3024"

Hit "View Items" to see the items being auctioned off.

There is no standard provision for shipping, they prefer that items be picked up from the auction house in Port Charlotte, Florida, but if you desire shipping contact the auction Project Manager with questions: Maggie 941-769-0355 or maggie.auctions50@gmail.com or Text Todd@ 941-769-2973

Bruce Benardo in Englewood, Florida has two Christmas train sets for sale:

I have the following Christmas train sets for sale. Both are in like new condition with very little run time and all have been updated to steel wheelsets. All have Aristo Knuckle couplers.

The first set is a Aristocraft #31025-3 Sierra Style Passenger Car set consisting of 1-combine, 1-coach, and 1-observation, all lighted and have been converted to solid axle steel wheelsets, No more plastic sleeves to crack and fall apart.

Beautiful Artwork & Trim. The set retailed for \$527.00 back in 2011. Asking \$375.00. Pictures below



(Pictures of Sierra
Passenger Cars
Continued Next Page)

(Pictures of Sierra Passenger Cars Continued From Previous Page)



The second set is a Christmas Aristocraft & USAT combined Freight car Set with USAT Locomotive, Caboose , Sound car, and 7 Aristo Freight cars consisting of the following:

ART-46025 Boxcar, ART-46125 Stock, ART-46225 Reefer, ART-46325 Flat Car with Custom Load, ART-46525 Piggyback, ART-41025 Gondola with Custom Load, ART-41325 Single Dome Tank, USAT #R13018 Christmas 2000 Refrigerator Sound Car, USAT # R12158 Center Cupola Caboose, and USAT # R22040 NW-2 Diesel Locomotive



(Pictures of Christmas Freight Train Continued From Previous Page)



Also included are a couple of small boxes of add on Christmas Decorations. The sound car plays a medley of Christmas tunes and requires a couple of batteries to operate it. There is a switch located on the bottom of the car to activate it. The roof comes off for easy access. Serious Offers only and can be seen at my home in Englewood, FL, 34223 . Bruce Benardo EM = Landline 941-474-2792. Leave message if machine picks up and I will call you back, or email me. bc1226@comcast.net

Don't Forget to Order Your New Shirt!

Traditional "FGRS" Shirts

All shirts are \$35 which includes embroidering your name, taxes, and shipping to your home. The shirts are made by Core365 and are 100% Polyester – Moisture Wicking, Antimicrobial, UV protection, and easy care.

Men's shirts are available either with or without a pocket. Men's "Tall" sizes are only available without a pocket.

Color choices are True Royal (Blue) or White.

Sizes start at S,M,L,XL,2XL,3XL,4LX, and 5XL

Ladies sizes start at XS,S,M,L,XL,2XL, and 3XL

Youth sizes start at S,M,L,XL

Ladies sizes are true to size. Women who wear a men's large would need to order a ladies "extra large". These shirts are very comfortable and easy to care for. You will love them! All arrangements have been made. Order yours direct from the dealer using the form sent out in a separate document. Be sure to include your email address on the order form so they can contact you if there are questions about what you want. The order form is being sent as an additional attachment with this Newsletter and also is available on the Members page of the FGRS.org website.



FGRS Membership Application for 2024

The Florida Garden Railway Society (FGRS) invites you to join a group of people who share a common Interest in large scale trains, both indoors and outdoors, or modules. We are a group of individuals, couples, and families who enjoy socializing with others and participating in train related activities.

Dues for 2024: \$25/YR for single or family memberships.

Annual dues includes a subscription to FGRS Newsletter, via web and email. If you cannot receive the newsletter via internet, a printed copy will be mailed to you. All renewals are due in January. If you are interested in joining FGRS, or to renew your membership, please complete this application and send a check payable to

Florida Garden Railway Society (FGRS)

Attn: Ray Lambert, Membership Chairman

410 S Center Street

Eustis, FL 32726

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: _____

E-Mail: _____

Would you like your information shared with the club members (only)? Yes___ No___

Name badges are \$15 each. If mailed add \$1.00. The badge has two lines: One for your name, and the other line can have the town where you live, or the name of your railroad.

First Badge:

Name: _____

Town or RR Name:

Second Badge:

Name: _____

Town or RR Name:
