



*July/August 2023*

**NEWSLETTER**



*Sharing the Joy of Garden Railroading Since 1990 !*



## PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM FRED WEBER July-August 2023

Welcome Aboard! Phil Rizzuto has now joined the FGRS Board of Directors. Please thank him as he heads into a new journey in leading the finest G Scale club in Florida. His past leadership, railroad, and construction experience will help the club grow into the future.

A big thanks to Mike Walls and Chip Danneker who will be putting the Ohio trip together. Mike's past experience being president of one of the Ohio clubs has the insight into how the open house works and the other activities nearby that will interest our club members. Along with Chip's leadership skills this event will be one to remember. I can't let the cat out of the bag, but I can see three or four days of incredible train events. As the details come out, I'm sure you will hear more about this exciting trip as they put it together.

To all members it has been a very hot summer. Trying to find cool things to do this summer has not been easy. I thank you all for your patience as the club moves forward with fun events. Check *Events* and *Fun Run* pages of this Newsletter and your *All-Aboard* email for all upcoming events. Crews Lake G Scale layout is moving very slowly as the hot weather and rain continue. We will be having a contest for our members building facades and buildings for Crews Lake. After we get two new tracks in place, we will know how much room there will be for buildings. Facades may be the order of the day. Also, the buildings will be outside all the time. Keep in mind our club members will have access to this layout every day during daylight hours.

Bushnell layout is open to members every Saturday from 10-4. Look for October to be open Friday and Saturday nights for the Halloween train ride special. In December it will be open Friday and Saturday nights for the Christmas train ride special. If you would like to volunteer to run the FGRS layout or help in the museum during these special events, let me know. Remember our club members get a 10% discount on LGB and Pola.

Chip Danneker has sent out a survey so the board can keep moving in the right direction. So far, we have 35 responses from our 122 members. I encourage all members to fill out the survey. If you need another copy to fill out, let Chip know. This is important to better serve the club.

Enjoy Joey Munoz's BBQ and fun run this September.

Looking forward to cooler weather and trains.

- *Fred Weber*, **FGRS President 2023**

Cover Photo: A Porter tank engine negotiates a precarious trestle on the Crystal Cove and Rose RR of Roger Nicholson, in Union City, California during the 2023 National Garden Railway Convention at Santa Cruz, California. Photo by Paul Wagner

# FGRS 2023 BOARD MEMBERS



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



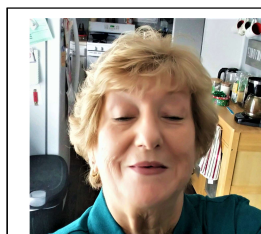
**FGRS Vice President – Eastern Region**  
**Phil Barcelona**  
386-562-4859  
fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com



**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

# 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.



# 2023 TRAIN SHOWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

## **Every Saturday! 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Bushnell Station**

6470 West CR 476, Bushnell, FL 33513 United States

Phone: 352.901.0829

Email: BushnellStation@gmail.com

Featuring 20 Model Trains Operating at One Time in All Scales, train ride, train shop, café, and more! (See article in this issue for details) Call Fred Weber if you want to sign up for a day operating the FGRS layout .

410-310-6001

## **August 26, 2023 - Regal Railways Toy Train & Collectable Show**

7177 58th Street North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781.

9:00am - 2:00pm. Admission is \$6.00 for adults - children under 12 free. Lunch is available. <https://regalrailways.com/>

## **September 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, September 2. The show will run from 9am - 2pm.

## **September 9 - Regal Railways Toy Train & Collectable Show -**

Hernando County Fairgrounds - The fairgrounds are located at 6436 Broad Street, Brooksville FL, 33601.

The show will run from 9:00am - 2:00pm.

Admission is \$6.00 for adults - children under 12 free. Lunch is available.

## **September 16 & 17 - The Villages Summer Expo Model Train Show & Sale**

Savannah Regional Center

1545 North Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages, FL 32162.

The show will run Saturday from 9am - 4pm and Sunday from 10am - 3pm.

Several layouts will be operating in multiple scales.

Admission is \$7 for adults with children under 12 free.

For a discount coupon go to <http://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com/>

## **October 7 - Suncoast Model RR Train Show/Swap Meet**

Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center

4951 78th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Show times are 9:00am - 3:00pm. <http://www.suncoastmrrc.com/>

## October 7 - Florida Rail Fair - DeLand

9:00am - 4:00pm

The Volusia County Fairgrounds. More details next month

## October 12 - 14 - NMRA Sunshine Region 2023 Regional Convention

John Trickle Center in Plant City

The convention is open to everyone. The three day event includes a train show with a variety of vendors, banquet speakers and clinics. Early registration ends August 16.

Details including accommodations options are in the link below.

<https://www.sunshineregion.org/region-convention>

## Visit Bushnell Station

As always you can get your train fix by visiting Bushnell Station. The Gulf Coast and Central Florida Railroad Museum is located at 6470 County Road 476 West, Bushnell, FL 33513. The museum is open every Saturday from 10am - 4pm. As you know the 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 in all scales inside the cool air conditioned museum. Don't miss the cafe 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](http://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html)

# Product News

July 2023

**LGB** has introduced a new trackside control unit to complement their DCC system. They are planning the release of a wireless handheld controller, and also offer an app that allows you to use your iPhone for a throttle.

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](https://www.lgb-trains.com/lib/catalogs/issue20-29/pubs/LGB2023_383062_NewItems_EN.pdf)

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.

**Piko-America** now produces a low cost wireless/battery power system that includes sound. A few locomotives that have recently arrived and are currently available are: Blue Goose 25T Diesel (38502), the C&S Mogul #3 (38235), and the UP Mogul #1209 (38236). There's also some models that will be arriving in May/June. These are the D&RGW Mini-Mogul #247 (38239), and a set of C&S passenger cars (38661 + 38662) + a caboose (38969)

<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** is offering a line of three-color signals including a signal bridge and dwarf signals. All the signals can be operated from aux contacts on your switch machines or from an optional IR signal controller. They have introduced wider radius curved bridges for 2023; and have purchased and are now producing the HR stainless steel track line. Split Jaw Products can be purchased at Bushnell Station.

<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/>

# UPCOMING FGRS FUN RUNS/OPERATING SESSIONS

**September 23, 2023 - Joey & Christian Munoz Layout Planning Barbeque**

912 Citrus Reserve Blvd., Davenport, FL 33837

Cell phone – 828-773-3035

Email – [joey3423@aol.com](mailto:joey3423@aol.com)

**Party starts at 10:30 AM Please RSVP via email or phone!**

**All food and drinks will be provided!**

“We hope to have the layout area filled and the soil tamped in so that we get a true feel

for area for the layout.

(See article in the June FGRS Newsletter for photos)

We hope to have a productive planning session with you all – we will have a “Vision Board” with ideas and images of what we are going for, and what our current inspiration has been. To help get us in a “Disney” state of mind, we will show off a custom Thunder Mountain train, a Disney World Main Street Station, Cinderella’s Castle, a Walt/Mickey Partners Statue, and a few others pieces that will go on the layout. We are looking forward to receiving expertise and advice on next steps and things we need to consider for our construction”

- *Joey Munoz*





## **October 29, 2023 (Sunday before Halloween) — John & Katie Abbott's Halloween Fun Run**

5170 Laguna Vista Dr, Melbourne, FL

John & Katie Abbott are hosting a fun run at their home on October 29 from 10 am to 4:00 pm. Hope everyone can make it

to see their Halloween display and 60' dog bone decorated layout. They also have a 20' oval elevated single track layout in the backyard. It's not powered but bring your battery and live steam trains for a run.

Chairs and drinks will be provided. If you can't make it for the Halloween display, they'll do it again for Christmas on December 17. More on that next month.



## **December 9, 2023 Christmas — Carter Open House & Fun Run Ocala**

Don and Lenojo Carter are hosting an FGRS Christmas open house and Fun Run at their home. Details coming next month



**Don't forget that Bushnell Station is open every Saturday, and visitors would love to see your trains run on the FGRS layout there. Call up some neighbors and head on out to help show off our layout, and also enjoy the indoor layouts exhibits and cafe in the air conditioned museum building.**

**Contact me if you are interested in hosting a Fun Run.**

**Chip Danneker – FGRS Event Chairman [chipdanneker@gmail.com](mailto:chipdanneker@gmail.com) 214-543-5133**

# **Deland Summer Train Show**

**July 8, 2023**

By Fred Weber

The summer show was not as busy as the recent winter show last January but there was a large selection of G scale trains for sale. We ran the FGRS kids' layout and, as always, the kids had a great time. We enjoyed seeing club members and past club members. Talking with everyone is always helpful in running the club. It was gratifying to have a couple of past members rejoin the club during this show. Members are always welcome to help run the kids layout any time we set it up. Even spending an hour running the layout would help give all the regulars a break.



# 2023 National Garden Railway Convention

## Santa Clara, California

By Paul and Patty Wagner

*Layout Photos by Paul Wagner*

I'm sure the prospect of a 2900 mile trip to Santa Clara, (near San Francisco), put the brakes on a lot of you for going to this convention. Still, there were at least eight of us from Florida that I knew of, and we all felt it was worth the trip, as did the some 800 others from all over the world who attended.

Patty and I started our adventure with a flight to Denver. Denver now has a dedicated rail line to whisk you from the



airport to Union Station where you can catch the Amtrak California Zephyr to San Francisco. They're running something like an updated version of the old Budd RDC's on the airport rail. A welcome contrast to the airline seats, the coach seats on the Amtrak California Zephyr are luxurious, more comfortable than ever, so we opted to sleep in them rather than climb into the bunk beds in the Pullman's. With a travel pillow and a cushion for my tush, it is definitely better

than trying to sleep on a "red eye" airline trip, but I wouldn't try it for anything longer than this 33 hour ride.

Most of the time we rode in the Amtrak Superliner's observation cars (called "Sightseer Lounges"), and the views while winding through the Rocky's were spectacular! If you're planning to come to the 2025 NGRC in Sacramento, I highly recommend this mode of transportation. After arriving in Berkeley, we spent two days commuting to San Francisco, riding cable cars, viewing museums, and trying to see the Golden Gate Bridge through the fog.



Then after a day visiting the “pre-convention” layouts in Marin County, we headed down to Santa Clara, 40 miles south of San Francisco, for the NGRC.

We opted to ride the bus for all the layout tours. As usual the bus couldn't get to all of them, but we never have when driving either. Including the pre and post-convention tours, there were over 100 layouts at this convention!

## The Layouts

Scratch-built structures of stunning quality were everywhere. Many of the layouts had been built on hillsides, and a number of layouts incorporated some impressive stone landscaping and molded rocks and cliffs.



This realistic ore mine was hanging on a natural embankment and was flanked by winding trestles and canyon roadbeds with narrow gauge trains climbing the grades. Note the jitney track in the background which had strings of ore cars bringing material out of the hillside mine.



There were bridges and trestles to compliment the ambitious landscaping on many of the layouts. The layout in this picture featured amazing crafted artificial rocks and cliffs.



Other layouts had landscape formations constructed with natural boulders and gravel. This layout is a depiction of a railroad that would have run through Yellowstone National Park.



Here is the West Yellowstone Station, one of many fine scratch-built structures we saw on these tours.



Another finely crafted scratch-built structure on a hillside



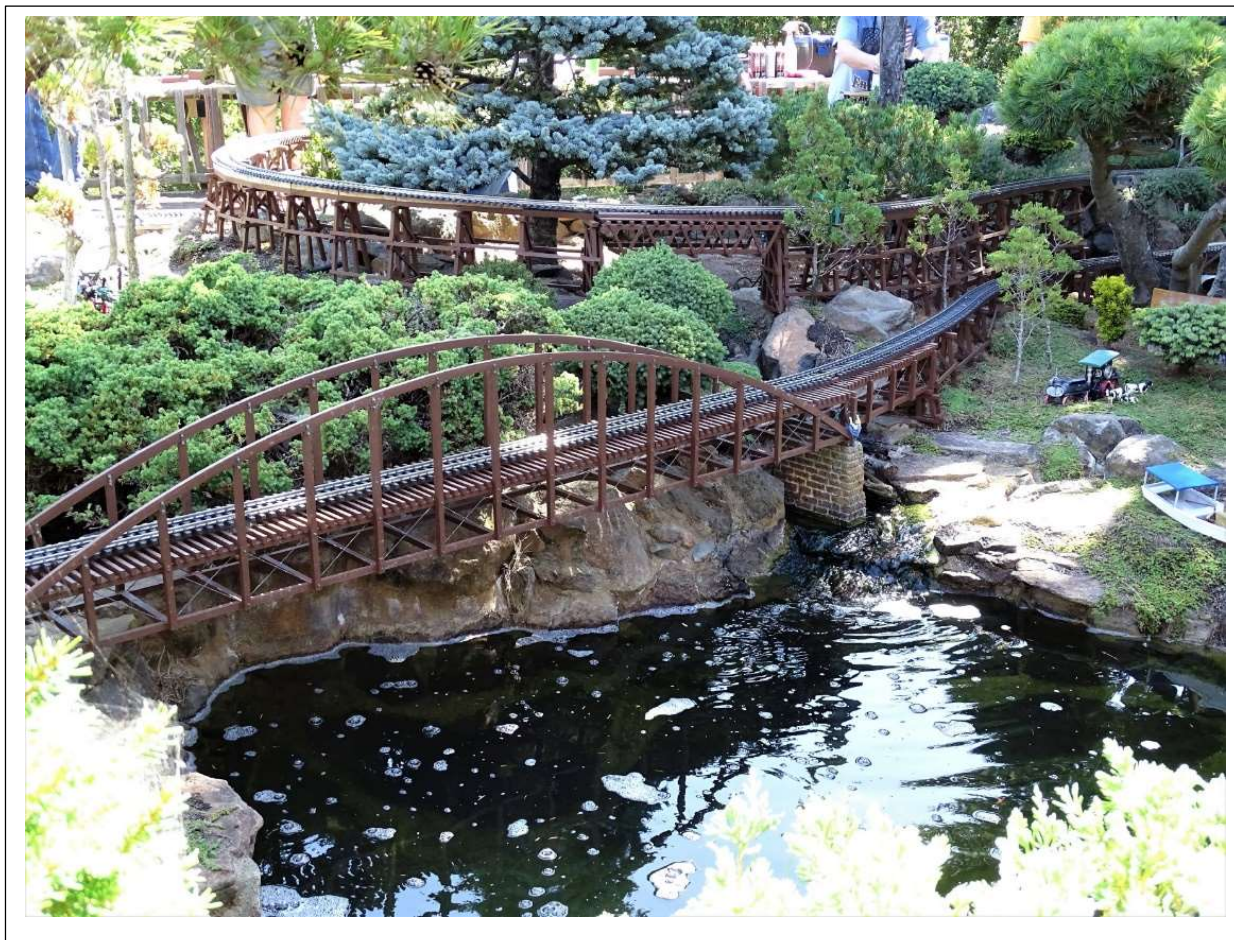
There were several layouts with a Disney theme. This fine scratch-built model of Disneyland Main Street was one of the best. Others included a "Pirates of the Caribbean", Disneyland train station, and several layouts had diamond mines being operated by the "Seven Dwarfs".



This sawmill was on the layout of well-known garden railroader, Jack Verducci, which featured many other masterpieces of scratch-building and lifelike village scenes, shown on the following pages.



This nifty little village scene was on Jack's layout. Is that a lighthouse on top of a railroad station? I guess he has a whimsical side, as did many other layout hosts. Jack operates mostly live steam, and as you can see in this picture, his layout was designed for switching operations.



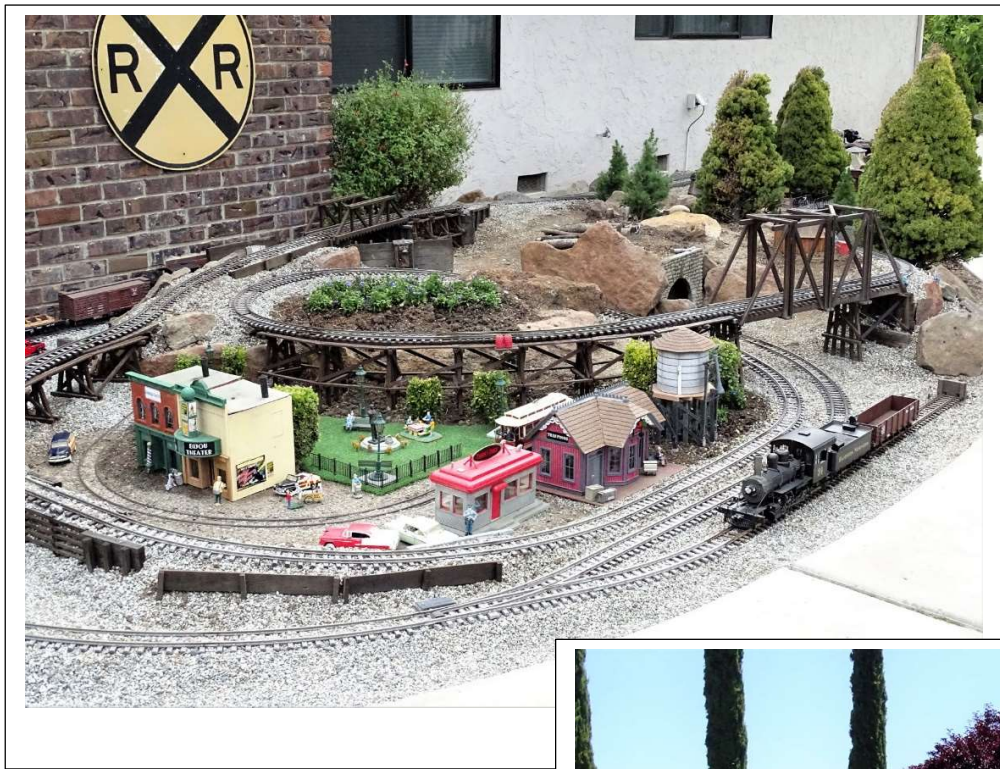
Most of the layouts featured lush forests of evergreen trees and ground cover, as well as being the shadow of full size spruce, and even some giant redwoods





We saw many astounding bridges and trestles





There were layouts of all sizes – from compact, to large. Some of the best ones were actually fairly small sized.

This layout on the left was a real jewel.

The layout below featured trains winding through Europe and Asia.

Lower right, this layout owner loved long trains, and had 30 foot diameter curves.

Directly below is a 3-rail O gauge layout. There was an outdoor On30 layout also, with HO gauge track





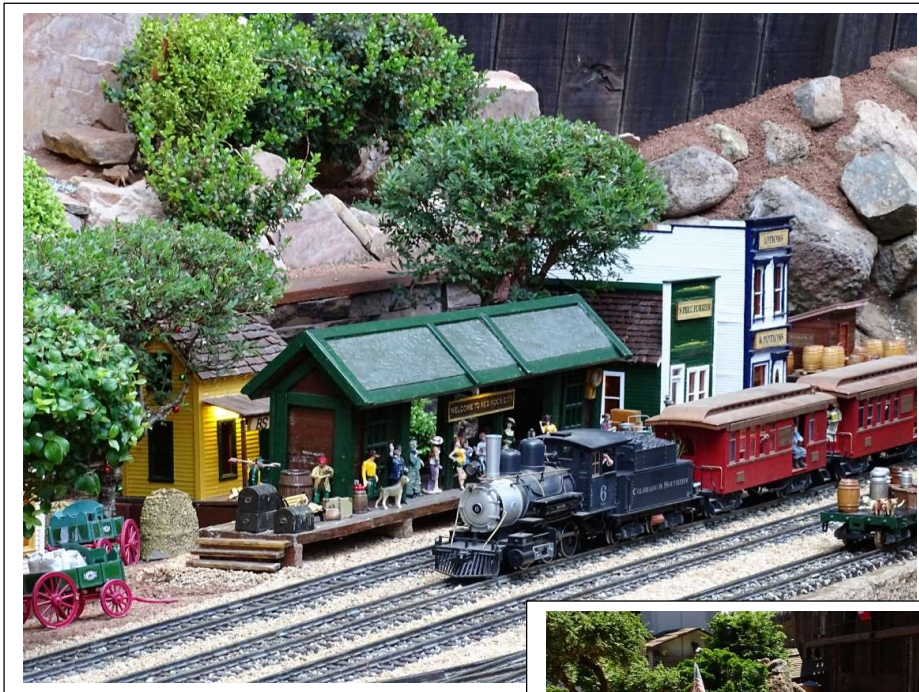
The innovation and originality was unimaginable.

Below, on one of the smaller layouts, you could lose yourself in the miniature forest on a hillside.



On the right is another 3-rail O gauge railroad, this one part of a train station museum housing a huge HO layout. It also tastefully incorporated G scale tracks and trains in a forced perspective motif.





The long history of garden railroading in the Bay Area was evidenced by the number of LGB Mogul locomotives and other early 'G' scale rolling stock.

There was also an abundance of unusual locos, including this 1/8 scale wood burner below on the left, and the rare G scale "Pioneer Zephyr", pictured at the bottom of the page.



And a trip to California would not be complete without a ride on the “Roaring Camp and Big Trees” Railroad! Patty and I rode it to the summit after an exciting ride through the Redwood Forrest, climbing through switchbacks on a 9.5% grade!



We hope you enjoyed this glimpse of the 2023 NGRC in California. If you'd like to see more NGRC layout pictures (I shot 2300 exposures) I'll post the best hundred or so on the FGRS website next month.

In the Newsletter next month I'll post some of the highlights of the Train Show in the Vendor Hall along with some notes about the manufacturers who set up exhibits and talked to us about their products and the future of garden railroading; and also be sure and take a look at my article about the Clinics I attended, and hear what I learned!

Hope to see you all soon,

*Paul and Patty Wagner*



## **Member Train Items For Sale**

**Looking to buy or swap something? Send in your request- [FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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*

**No For Sale Items were submitted this Month**

## FGRS Membership Application for 2023

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 2023: \$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: _____
--	---