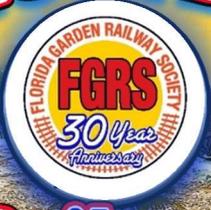
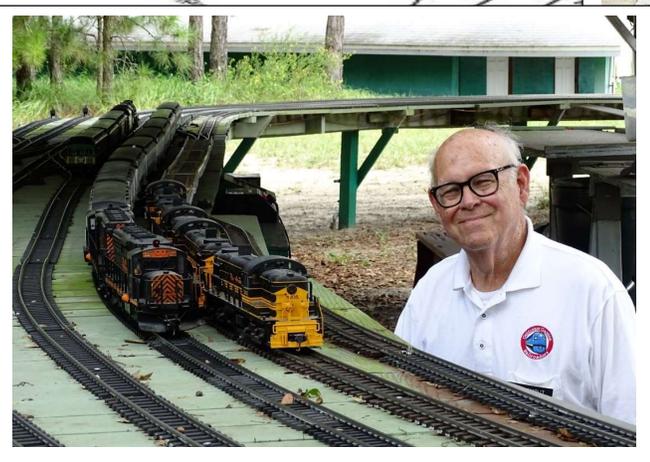


FLORIDA



Garden Railway Society

October 2022 NEWSLETTER



Sharing the Joy of Garden Railroading Since 1990!



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM FRED WEBER

October 2022

Hurricane Ian hit the state very hard. Many of our members were without power and water for days, and some have had severe damage to their homes and garden railroads. Wind speeds were very high depending on where you live. Like many of you, I'm still picking up tree branches from my railroad. No trains are currently running. This would be a great time to reach out to some of our club members living in the affected areas to be sure they are ok. If any of our members need help with anything we should help them if we can. Sometimes just a friendly phone call would help. When the time comes to work on a member's railroad to restore from Ian, let's make it a club effort, especially in the hardest hit areas where Ian made its way across the state. Let your board members know if the club can help.

We are happy to announce that we now have an event chairman. Chip Danneker, who lives in Oviedo, Florida, has agreed to take on this position. He will be the single point of contact for all FGRS activities, and will compile and send out a monthly announcement of the listings to all of us. You should have already received your first "All Aboard" – "FGRS Upcoming Events" bulletin which Chip created, and which he will produce monthly as a separate publication. We hope that 'All Aboard' will reinforce the communication regarding meets, shows, runs, and other get-togethers among our members. You'll receive this bulletin around the first of each month as a separate email, and then it will be updated and added to the monthly FGRS Newsletter. The FGRS Newsletter will come out mid-month. If you'd like to host a run or a visit to your layout please contact Chip at chipdanneker@gmail.com. Please welcome Chip to the board! All Aboard!

October will see us at Bushnell Station for the Scary Halloween train event on the 20th.

November 5 will see us at a new venue for us, the "Big Boots and Western Railroad". Details on these events are in this newsletter.

We hope everyone reading this is safe and sound after the massive storm that affected so many! Keep the trains running!

- *Fred Weber*, **FGRS President 2022**

Cover Photos: Upper-right: John and Katy Abbott hosted a meet at Ridge Live Steamers in Dundee on September 17. They brought out their beautiful Alco road switcher to pull us all around the massive 7 – ½" gauge railroad. Center-left: Old friend of FGRS, Les Smout came out to set up the G Scale railroad there, running a pair of impressive custom built circus trains, and helping Paul Wagner, Gary Nichols, and others run their trains. Lower-right is a view from the train looking down at the 1:8 scale village as John guides the big diesel into the high steel bridge. Photos by Paul Wagner and superimposed over the track plan of the Ridge Live Steamers amazing railroad.

Don't Forget to Order Your New Shirt!

Both 30 Year Anniversary *and* Traditional "FGRS"

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.



Traditional Shirts
Available in True Royal (Blue) or White



30 Year Anniversary Shirts
Available Only in "Platinum"

Men's shirts are available either with or without a pocket. Men's "Tall" sizes are only available without a pocket. 30 Year Shirts are not available in "Tall" or with a pocket.

Color choices are True Royal (Blue) or White. 30 Year Shirts come only in "Platinum"

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. The form with 30 Year Anniversary Shirts added is being sent out again as you receive this Newsletter. 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 available on the Members page of the FGRS.org website.

FGRS 2022 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

**YOUR PICTURE
COULD BE HERE!**

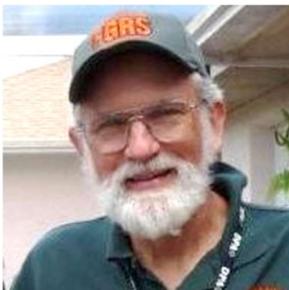
**FGRS Western Region Vice President & Event
Coordinator**
Position Open – This can be you!



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



FGRS Treasurer
Inga Thaw
352-341-7799
**Thawwillie42@
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FGRS Newsletter
Paul Wagner
941-445-0409
**Fgrs.newsletter
@gmail.com**



FGRS Membership
Ray Lambert
954-551-3392
**fgrs.membership
1992@gmail.com**

2022 TRAIN SHOWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

October 20 – 23, 2022 – York TCA Train Show

York PA

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

October 22 – 23, 2022 - HR Trains Train Show

10 AM – 5 PM, Show and Clinics

Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center,
4951 78th Ave N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781
(Just behind the HR Trains & Toys store)

Go to <https://hrtrains.com/blogs/news/74th-train-show-october-22-23-2022>

November 11th - 13th, 2022 - Sugar Express Steam Engine No. 148 Excursion

The Florida East Coast Railway Society has opened this private event to welcome new members! For details go to

<https://fecrs.square.site/product/USSC/148?cs=true&cst=custom>

This is a three-day event primarily for people who would like to spend the entire long weekend in Clewiston, and will feature a night photo session on Friday, November 11th, an all-day adventure behind Sugar Express No. 148 with photo run-bys on Saturday, November 12th, and a Raisin' Cane tour of U.S. Sugar on Sunday, November 13th. We will try to get details of the train movements for those who would like to make a day trip to photograph the train under steam.

Additional dates and events are arriving soon!

December 3, 2022 - Melbourne Train & Toy Show

9am - 2pm

Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne, Florida

Go to <http://schultzspacecoasttrains.com/> for information

January 14 - 15, 2023 – 79th Railfair, Deland, Florida

9am – 4pm

Volusia County Fairgrounds

FGRS will set up the event layout

Go to <https://10times.com/rail-fair-florida> for more information

January 21-22, 2023 - Martin County Model Railroaders, 16th annual Train Show and Sale

9-3 both days

Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 S Dixie Hwy, Stuart

\$1 off coupon and more details on their website:

www.martincountymodelrailroaders.com

February 18-19, 2023 – Real Rail Train Show, Palmetto (Bradenton), Florida

Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd, Palmetto, Florida

FGRS will set up a display layout and booth

Go to <https://realrail.org/upcoming-events/rail-pass/> for more information

February 18-19, 2023 - Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival

Time: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

530 N. Donnelly Street Mount Dora, FL 32757 – 3524553171

FGRS will set up the event layout

February 25, 2023 - Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival

Clay County Fairgrounds

2497 State Road 16 West, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

FGRS will set up the event layout

May 06, 2023 - VENICE MUSEUMS DAY

Historic Venice Train Depot

303 E. Venice Ave., Venice FL 34285

FGRS will set up the event layout

July 1, 2023 - July 8, 2023 - NGRC 2023

Santa Clara Convention Center 5001 Great America Pkwy.,

Santa Clara, CA

For more information go to <https://ngrc2023.org/> (See ad, next page)

For a list of many other Train Shows go to

http://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html



WWW.NGRC2023.ORG

38TH NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION JULY 1 - 8, 2023

HYATT REGENCY, SANTA CLARA, CA
SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

RECEPTION & FIREWORKS

BBQ & TRAIN RIDE AT ROARING CAMP RR

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & VENDOR HALL

ACCUCRAFT BANQUET

"The place to be in '23!"



UPCOMING FGRS FUN RUNS/OPERATING SESSIONS AND FGRS MEETS AT SPECIAL TRAIN ATTRACTIONS

Thursday, October 20th, 2022

Special Halloween Fun Run Meet and dinner at Bushnell Station and Train Museum

4 PM – 7PM , open until 9PM. The cost for this event for FGRS members will be \$15 per person (Including dinner, total event value is over \$20). See details on the following page.

Bushnell Station is located at

6470 W County Road 476, Bushnell, FL 33513

Please RSVP to Fred Weber, email fgrs.president@gmail.com



Halloween Special Event- "Track or Treat" at Bushnell Station

Thursday October 20th, 4 PM Until 9 PM

Warning be careful of the engineer or passengers on train ride!!!!

The Halloween Special Event will be a meeting and train ride for Florida Garden Railway Society members on Thursday, October 20th. The Museum will be decorated for Halloween featuring Specialty Lights, Fog, Witches, and of course Ghosts. There may even be a skeleton or two lurking about. The best time to ride the train will be after dark but the train will be running the whole time we are there. There will be a contest on the train switch layout with prizes.

The meeting will start at 4:00 PM. You will have time to take a tour of the museum, take a turn at the switch puzzle, and ride the ghost train.

You will also be able to run your trains on the outdoor layout if you wish. At 5:00 PM we will



have a short meeting before dinner. At 6:00 PM the museum opens to the public and nighttime train rides begin. All activities will be available to us after dinner.

Dinner will be included with your choice of the Bushnell famous Hot dog combo (Hot dogs, chips, and a drink, plus potato salad, coleslaw, and some haunted cake) or pizza with the trimmings and a drink!

The cost for this event for FGRS members will be \$15 per person, which includes a donation to the museum to cover the visit to the inside exhibits, train rides, and the dinner. Please RSVP so we know how much food to get so no one goes hungry! Include whether you want hot dogs or pizza. Email fgrs.president@gmail.com

Don't miss all the fun and exciting entertainment. If you haven't seen the FGRS garden layout our members have built since it has been completed, now is your chance. And don't forget about the

excellent indoor G layout, which is now augmented by the new “Switching Puzzle and several other small scale layouts.

Bushnell Station is located at
6470 W County Road 476, Bushnell, FL 33513

And just saying, it might be a good time for those of you from far away to plan a “STAYCATION” in conjunction with this event. There are no suitable hotels in Bushnell, but there are many in nearby towns, such as Springhill, where you could see the Springhill Gardens on the Friday after (with its garden railway); the old village of Tarpon Springs (if you haven’t had your fill of Greek food and belly dancing lately); or Wildwood, where there are some of the best antique shops in the state.



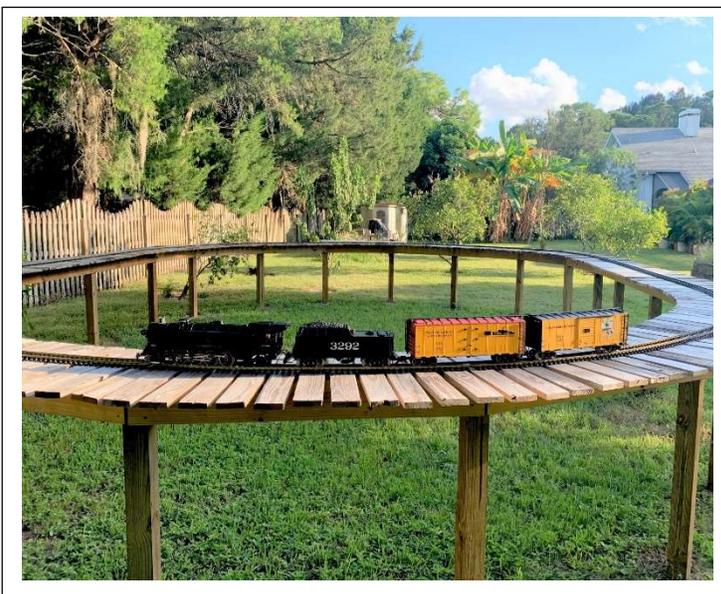
October 29, 2022 — John & Katie Abbott's Halloween Fun Run

5170 Laguna Vista Dr, Melbourne, FL

John & Katie Abbott are hosting a fun run at their home on October 29 from 10 am to 6:00 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.



November 6, 2022 - Big Boots and Western Railroad Steam-Up

11701 SE 108 Terrace Road, Belleview, FL 34420



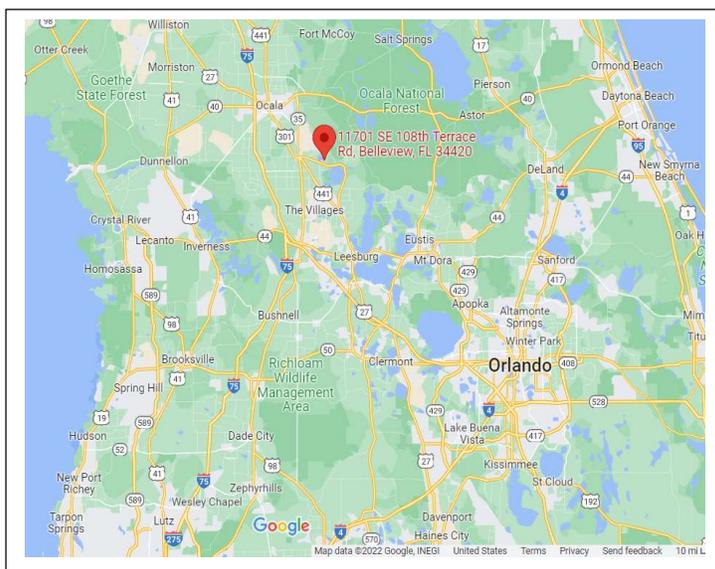
The Florida Garden Railway Society has been invited to The Big Boots and Western Railroad Steam up on Nov 6, 2022. The Steam-Up is a week-long event and we were invited to come and have an FGRS meet all-day Saturday, November 6. However we are welcome to come at any time.

FGRS President Fred Weber will be on hand from about 11am until 2pm. Plan on bringing lunch and a

chair and enjoy this amazing train display.

The BB&WRR has 3 miles of 7 ½" scale track, 3 separate freight yards and an industrial park. The railroad features bi-directional running with 28 signals and plenty of passing sidings with many route options. They have more than 125 switch tracks, 5 diamonds, 2 wyes and a 60-foot tunnel. You'll see plenty of 7½" scale trains running including live steam engines pulling a great variety of cars. There will be time to enjoy a ride or two over this beautiful property. The pavilion is complete with ice machine, refrigerator, TV, VCR, DVD, and surround sound. Located adjacent to the pavilion is a beautiful, paved picnic area with picnic tables and bonfire pit. It can be a little sunny so you may want to bring a chair to sit in the shade.

There is also a G scale layout set about 30 inches off the ground. They are running Digitrax system. It may be interesting to learn why they picked this system which will be of interest to many of our members.



December 9, 10, 11, 2022

**Open House Fun Run at the Home of
Don and Lenojo Carter**

6130 NE 3rd PL
Ocala, FL, 34470
Phone 352-207-5434



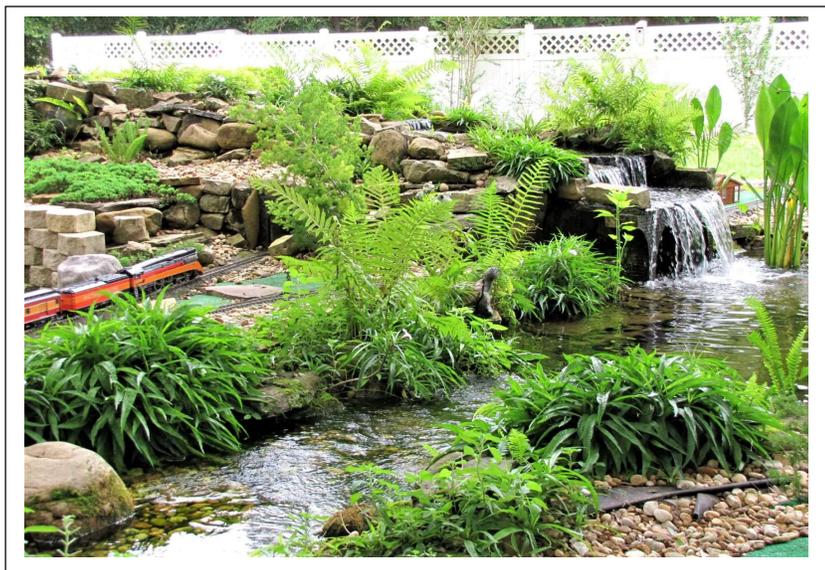
We are hosting Florida Garden Railroad Society from 10:00 AM - 2:00PM on Saturday which will be a great time for you to come and meet other people who share in this same hobby. If this is not convenient, you are welcome to come at these other times:

Friday, December 9 - 2:00 PM - 6:00PM

Saturday, December 10 - 10:00AM - 6:00PM

Sunday, December 11 - 2:00PM - 6:00PM

We will provide drinks and snacks. We ask if you come during lunch time that you bring your own picnic lunch.



The Open House Fun Run @ The SILVER RIVER RAILROAD will be open to friends and family.....

Come see us and bring a friend. This is not a public event and we ask that you not post this event nor pictures on Face Book or other outlets.

The layout is track powered with 1,900' of track over 1/2 acre. There is a 30' oval fish pond, a 100' stream, and 8' bog

with a small town, Silver River. There are lots of houses and people hidden along the way. There will be a scavenger hunt for you and the children to see if you can find all the objects hidden along the way. The era is small town America 1950 something.

A new addition has been added, to the elevated platform 35' X 45' oval, designed for live steam operation. This area also serves for easy train setup and eye level operation for children. This addition is now connected to the main layout to access the complete area.

Another addition is a semi-elevated track that circles the back and road side fence to ground level, about 437' as a reverse loop. It crosses over the back drive way on a 12' bridge. Please note there will be no access from the back gate when trains are running.



Please enter from the side gate by the house driveway. Look for the signs. As before, park along NE 3. Park on an angle on both sides of the street to provide room for all.

Directions from Ocala: (I-75):
Take SR 40 East to NE 7 Street, just past Ocala Golf Club. Turn right.
Go East on NE 7th Street to Baseline Rd, (SR 35).

Cross over Baseline and go one long block to NE 61 Terrace. (Green Ridge Acres)
Turn right off NE 7th Street onto NE 61 Terrace go to the top of the hill to NE 3 Place. Turn right on NE 3 Place. Go to the end of the street and park. (Short block dead end)
The trains are behind the white fence. Look for the R/R sign's.

We're looking forward to seeing you all –
Don & Lenojo Carter
352-207-5434
doncarter521@embarqmail.com

Many FGRS Meets and Fun Runs are in the works.
Contact me if you are interested in hosting a Fun Run.
Hope to see you at the next event -
Chip Danneker
chipdanneker@gmail.com
214-543-5133

Hurricane Ian

Our hearts go out to all of those who have lost their homes, their belongings, their livelihood, and even their loved ones in this horrible storm. Please share your stories and your needs with us and we'll pass them along to other members and friends - Your Board Members at FGRS

Hurricane Ian Knocks Out Seminole Gulf Railway

By M.T. Burkhart



A total of six bridges — three near Fort Myers and three near Arcadia — were destroyed in the storm. *Photo Courtesy of Seminole Gulf Railway.*

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The Seminole Gulf Railway in southwest Florida suffered significant damage from Hurricane Ian in late September and may be closed for months, according to the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*.

A total of six bridges — three near Fort Myers and three near Arcadia — were destroyed, and the rail yard in Arcadia remained underwater for days after the hurricane’s passing, Robert Fay, executive vice president, told the paper. It’s expected to take six months to restore service.

“Some customers are going to have to divert additional traffic to trucks, which causes all kinds of headaches,” Fay said.

Seminole Gulf’s popular dinner train has also been suspended until repairs are made.

Seminole Gulf acquired 118 miles of CSX trackage in 1987 between North Naples and Arcadia, as well as between Oneco and Sarasota. Its traffic included much of the region’s building materials, newsprint, LP gas, plastics, stone, recycled materials, steel, and other commodities.

This article was posted on Railfan.com website: October 10, 2022

Homecoming at the Baker House

This past Saturday, the FGRS traveling layout was setup in Wildwood at the Baker House. This 10-year anniversary celebration featured the 4th generation of Bakers who lived in the house. Tours were guided by tour guides dressed in 1890's clothing, there was a demonstration of 1890's dancing and several other time period events.



The layout was downsized from the normal 30' by 40' size but was still a success enjoyed by everyone visiting the home. It was a great house tour with lots of historical facts. Thanks to Phil and Phyllis Rizzuto, and Millie for making this a very fun day.

The Baker House has a ghost tour around Halloween and a Victorian Christmas tour special. Check their web site for details at www.wildwood-fl.gov for dates and more information.

- *Fred Weber*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jim Royal – Jacksonville, Florida

I am a returning member to the FGRS. I was active back in the nineties and enjoyed the 1996 Orlando Convention we hosted that year. There is presently not much going on in Jacksonville model railroading wise. Locally, we have a model railroad/railroad artifact show in January. I always find something I can use there. I rejoined the Florida Garden Railway Society this year and I will watch for events I might attend.

My family and I went to the Denver Convention this year, and we enjoyed everything about the convention (except for catching the COVID).

Both my grandson and I entered models in the convention's contest this year. We each won a prize.



Jim Royal and grandson, Mathew, in Denver, with their contest prizes



This scratch-built gas station won "Adult Best in Show" at this year's National Garden Railway Convention. I had shipped the model which I planned to enter in the contest to one of the members of the Denver Garden Railway Society, Bob Leise. Bob immediately texted me to say that the package arrived damaged. When I arrived at the hotel, I found the model broken into several pieces. Thankfully, the tubes of cyanoacrylate adhesive I'd packed in my checked luggage had escaped the TSA's attention. I repaired the model in the hotel room before the contest.

My grandson entered the Youth Modeling Contest, as he did at the

2021 National Garden Railway Convention in Nashville. The challenge was to create a load for a center beam flatcar. He cut 1x2 pine boards to fit the flatcar and created wrappers to protect stacks of plywood. He named his fictional lumber company after his dog and my dog: the Pepper-Murphy Lumber Company. My grandson will age out for the Youth Contest next year and is challenging me for competition in the Adult contest. My granddaughter is also wanting to enter the Adult contest too so I will have some real competition.



Matthew works on his flatcar load for the contest. Photo by James Royal

I got started in model railroading with my Dad back in the 1950s. He had a modular Lionel O scale layout in our attic with a Santa Fe Super Chief AB set with freight cars that was about 8 x 24 feet and included several operating accessories such as the milk can platform. I started in HO scale in 1960 with a 4 x 8 plywood layout in our garage which grew to about 8 x 16. I built several other HO layouts over the years, including one for my two boys for Christmas in 1979. I subscribed to Carl Ardnnett's website while he was alive. He promoted small layouts and I did a coffee table layout in Gn15 using HO track and engine mechanisms called the Lunar Glow Distillery tram way.



Lunar Glow Distillery Layout - Photo by James Royal

Several times I displayed it at the local Lionel Club shows. I let the children attending try to find all of the animals I placed on it using a printed sheet giving them clues. If they found most of them I would give them a "Safe Tracks" sticker as their prize. The layout is now at my home in South Carolina for me to play with when I am up there. I enjoy trying to introduce the youngsters to model railroading.

My favorite part of the hobby is building different structures from garage and thrift store finds or to scratchbuild them from materials I find in the craft and big box lumber stores. My least favorite part of the hobby is probably building an outdoor layout now. I haven't had one in at least 10 years and my aches and pains from age makes another layout iffy. I still enjoy seeing what others have done, hence my attendance at the national conventions. I am planning to go to the next National Garden Railway Convention in The San Francisco area next year.

I have a full unlimited subscription to Trains.com, as well as many of the online forums, and Garden Railroading News to see what everyone else is doing. I think that these will keep your interests alive in the hobby and give you a ton of information and ideas to use. The Trains.com Unlimited subscription is pricey but I use it to look for older articles that interest me. Last year's contest model in Nashville was a reverse copy of the Atlas lumberyard kit from the fifties I found there. Art Curren did an article on enlarging it in the Model Railroader magazine several years ago. I found the article in the archives section of the Trains.com resources. I had several unbuilt kits that I had planned to use to copy his article. The kits had detailed instruction sheets and I used them to make a G scale model of the lumberyard for my future layout. This is the model that won me first place in the Adult division contest at Nashville.



I built this farmhouse from drawings in a 1992 issue of Model Railroader, scaled up to 1:25.5. I used a scale ruler to easily make the conversions.
Photo by James Royal

Another benefit of the subscription is that you don't have file cabinets of past issues taking up space in your home (I have over sixty years of Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman and Garden Railways magazines in three file cabinets in my garage). And there are no takers if you try to give away your past issue collections. I can't bring myself to just dump the magazines in the garbage yet.

You can access any issue of Garden Railways, Model Railroader, Trains, Classic Trains, and Classic Toy Trains on Trains.com. You can search for any article or subject by doing a word search and bringing up the issue/article on your computer. I have posted several articles on the online Garden Railways Newsletter, as well as a few in the old print Garden Railway magazine. Most of the FGRS get-togethers in Florida are a little far for me to attend on a day trip so I would welcome some contact with modelers up here. I know there are a few of you nearby, so contact me and we will see what we can do. In the nineties we had about a dozen active garden railroaders in the Jacksonville area and we got together many times. I don't have a layout currently since I had several personal problems that precluded working on one, but I am thinking of doing one sometime in the future. I am looking forward to hearing from other garden railroaders in the state. Drop me a line. Who knows, maybe we can do another convention somewhere here in Florida some year!

Jim Royal

jamestroyal@gmail.com



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

No Items For Sale have been 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 2022: \$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 \$12 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: _____
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