



April 2023
NEWSLETTER



Sharing the Joy of Garden Railroading Since 1990 !



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM FRED WEBER

April 2023

Ohio Trip: After going over the numbers in our survey, it has been decided that we will plan for the Fall of 2024. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered. Chip has volunteered to get more details and put the trip together. Thank you Chip! The date will be the weekend after Labor Day, somewhere around September 4th to the 9th. The Ohio Club open house is September 7, 2024 in Columbus. I know the EnterTRAINment experience in Cincinnati will be a half day minimum. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame is 2 hours north of Columbus and is another half day tour as well. There will be other activities added to make this a 3 or 4 day event.

Bushnell Station: We had a large number of members attend the LGB open house. The seminars were really crowded and I hope some of our members were able to attend. I did get to speak with a lot of our members and the consensus was positive. Just to let everyone know the 2023 LGB Catalog is available at the Museum for free. Stop by, run your trains on the FGRS outdoor layout and take a train ride on the Museum's 7 1/2 inch scale railroad. The Museum is open every Saturday 10 until 4. Bushnell Station is at 6470 W County Route 476, Bushnell, Florida.

TCA is coming to Bushnell Station! On May 6th the Museum is hosting a train show of the Southern Division of the *Train Collectors Association*. Our club will be operating our outdoor layout and will have a couple of tables with different train related items for sale.

Union Station – Tampa: *Train Day at Union Station* is May 13th. The club will be setting up the big layout and the Kids zone. We will set up Friday May 12 and run trains all day on Saturday the 13th. Your help will be appreciated on one or both days. Anyone is welcome to run your trains on the big layout on Saturday. Look for times in our *All Aboard!*.

Central Pasco & Gulf Railroad at Crews Lake: We are working on getting their G Scale layout up and running. They have agreed to let us use this elevated layout. The layout needs some work to get it running. It was built for battery power g scale. There is about 700 feet of track that will be perfect for those long trains. We will have use of this layout every day. They have a club house and lots of 7 1/2 inch trains. The location is in Pasco County at Crews Lake in Wildness Park, 16739 Crews Lake Dr, Spring Hill, FL. Look for a fun run here in the near future. If you would like to help replace track let me know. For our newer members, this would be a great opportunity to learn how to install and connect track.

(President's Notes Continued Next Page)

(President's Notes Continued From Previous Page)

Venice Historic Depot: We will be taking the big Layout to this event. Paul Wagner will be handling this event on May 6th. You will be able to run your trains and help with this club activity. This display will have a Circus theme. Bring any circus models you would like to show off. Check All Aboard for more details.

Deland Train show: It was good to talk with so many members at the show. If you missed it, there were some great deals to be had. The kids at the Kids Zone were having a fun time running Thomas. Working with kids running trains is the future of our hobby. Nothing like a little one putting her toy cow on a train for a ride.

Membership. As a member you are invited to participate in all the Club activities. We are always looking for volunteers to help run these events. You are always invited to bring some of you closeted trains or the ones still in the boxes to run. So come join fellow Florida Garden Railway Society members enjoying the benefits of your club.

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

Cover Photo: A passenger train steams on through a perfectly bonsaied red cedar forest on Doug and Lynn Brainard's garden railway in Spring Hill Florida on March 25, 2023. See story of FGRS Meet in this issue.
Photo by Paul Wagner

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,4XL, 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 2022 BOARD MEMBERS



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



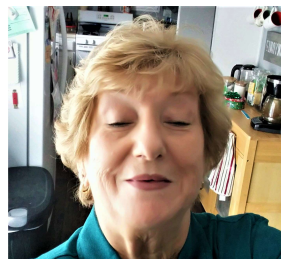
FGRS Vice President – Eastern Region
Phil Barcelona
386-562-4859
fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com



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.membership
1992@gmail.com

2022 TRAIN SHOWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

May 06, 2023 – VENICE MUSEUMS DAY

Historic Venice Train Depot

303 E. Venice Ave., Venice FL 34285

The Venice Area Historical Society will be hosting a train exhibit at the Historical Venice Depot on Saturday, May 6 from 10am - 2 pm. The Depot is located at 303 East Venice Avenue, Venice, FL, 34285. We will set up our layout in the baggage room of the Historical Depot. Additionally, the depot features a tour of the stationmaster's office, a caboose, and a circus passenger car which represents the 31 years that the Ringling Circus wintered in Venice. The FGRS will set up circus themed scenery modules with our layout, and run some circus trains courtesy of our members. – Call Paul Wagner to volunteer to help.

941-445-0409

May 06, 2023 – Bushnell Station is hosting a train show of the Southern Division of the *Train Collectors Association*.

FGRS will be operating our outdoor layout and will have a couple of tables with different train related items for sale.

May 13th, 2023 - Union Station – Tampa: *Train Day at Union Station*

This event is put on by the Tampa Union Station Historical Society and will take place at Union Station; 601 North Nebraska Ave, Tampa. We will be setting up the big layout as well as the Kids layout. Set up is on Friday, May 12 at 11am. We will run trains all day on Saturday the 13th. Your help will be appreciated on one or both days. Anyone is welcome to run your trains on the big layout on Saturday. Call Fred Weber to volunteer to help.

410-310-6001

June 03, 2023 - - Melbourne Train & Toy Show 9am - 2pm

Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne, Florida

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

July 1, 2023 – July 8, 2023 – National Garden Railways Convention 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



The Southern Division
of the Train Collectors
Association is hosting
an
OUTDOOR SWAP MEET



Benefiting the Gulf Coast and Central Florida Railroad Museum

Saturday, May 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(Rain Date: Saturday, May 13, 2023)

Bushnell Train Station and Museum
6470 West County Road 476, Bushnell, FL 33513 (352) 901-0829

Admission is *Free to attend the Swap Meet*

(However, the Southern Division encourages everyone who attends to make a donation to the museum.) Southern Division members will have their display tables set up with trains for visitors to admire and purchase.

The Bushnell Station (www.bushnellstation.com) is relatively new and is the home of the Gulf Coast and Central Florida Railroad Museum. This attraction is a must-see experience, and what better time to visit than on the day of our outdoor swap meet!

Museum and Exhibit Admission Prices:

Adults: \$8.75

Seniors (65+, Military and First Responders): \$7.75

Students and Children (3+ years): \$5.75 Children under 3: Free/

Train Ride Outdoor Train Ride: Free for All Ages



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!"



Product News

April 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

You can purchase 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 has a few models that have recently arrived and are currently available - 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>

Split Jaw Products is introducing wider radius curved bridges for 2023; has purchased and is now producing the HR stainless track line, and is offering a line of three-color signals.

<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/>

EggHaulers, a company producing an innovative line of freight cars based on the Aristocraft (Now Bachmann) Eggliner powered units are offering an updated Easter Carrot EggHauler with new carrots, and a new Honey Bee Gnome's Express (3 EggHaulers), now on sale. <https://store-egg haulers-com.3dcartstores.com/>

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

Sunday, May 7th. 2023 – Fun Run at Charlie Beall's!

7839 Sloewood Dr
Mount Dora, FL
Phone 352-383-3976



9AM till 4 PM.

Drinks and paperware provided. Bring a covered dish to share. Charlie has two picnic tables, chairs on the porch and down on the dock on the lake. More chairs are always good to have, so bring 'e if you got 'em.

You won't want to miss this spectacular Garden Railway

layout! The layout is roughly 70 feet x 90 feet, and has four mainlines. Including sidings, there is about 1200 feet of track. It was built in 2006 and has been featured in Garden Railways magazine. There is a waterfall, koi pond, long truss bridges, and a varied, beautifully landscaped terrain throughout the layout. Charlie has 20 locomotives and 111 cars.

May 27 - 29 — Carter Open House & Fun Run — Ocala

Don and Lenojo Carter are hosting an FGRS open house and Fun Run Memorial Day weekend at their home located at 6130 NE 3 Place, Ocala, FL. 34470.



The Carter's will open their home on Saturday from 10:00 - 6:00; Sunday from 2:00 - 6:00; and Monday from 10:00 - 6:00. Don recommends that FGRS members visit on Saturday. The Carter's Silver River Railroad is a 1900' powered layout that covers 1/2 acre. There is an impressive water feature with a 30' pond and plenty of structures. In addition there is a 30' by 45' elevated oval track designed for steam engines. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Come join the fun and bring a friend. Don's phone # 352-207-5434.



Many FGRS Meets and Fun Runs are in the works.

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

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

Report on March and April Events, So Far!

**March 25, 2023 – At the Nature Coast Botanical Gardens, and
Open House Fun Run at the Centralia Garden Railroad
Doug and Lynn Brainard, Spring Hill, Florida**

Doug and Lynn hosted a two layout meet – starting out at **Nature Coast Botanical Gardens**, and then moving on to their home, showing off their fine garden railway. We had lunch and fellowship at the gardens in a new covered pavilion there, ran trains, and talked about garden railroading to the many visitors to the gardens. The Nature Coast Garden Railroad is newly refurbished and is quite impressive. The construction of this layout was headed up by Doug.



Great time together in the pavilion as we break bread.
Lots of interaction with old and new friends.



After lunch, we all drove over to Doug and Lynn's house. Doug trains ran and showed off the railroad, while Lynn and fellow musician, Jeff played and sang a very progressive "bluegrass" concert for us. They laid out delicious desserts for us, and we all enjoyed seeing and hearing about the many upgrades they have made to the buildings, upgraded tracks, and amazing dwarf tree plantings, many of which they have cultivated in their own nursery on the edge of the property.



Lynn and Musician friend "Jeff" played a refreshing style of Bluegrass for us.

Look at those lush miniature trees - They're everywhere on this layout!



Notice these dwarf white Cedars. They are rare in Florida, something Doug has nurtured in his nursery. One lonely yaupon holly in the foreground makes a nice contrast. All are perfectly bonsai'd, making it a magical wonderland!

Storm Shutter Train House

By Gary Hawken, Stuart, Florida

I'm not sure if anyone would be interested in this, but has worked for me. I was looking for something to cover my trains on a temporary basis. Something quick and easy. We had some storm shutters left from some renovations, and they cover 2 tracks. I added 8" 2 x 4's on each corner, and a short piece of 1 x 1 on each corner to hold them off the track. They store easily when not in use. If anyone is interested, we still have some storm shutters left over that I would be happy to give away. They are 5 1/2 feet long. You can call me at 772-692-9017.

Thanks,
Gary Hawkins



A New Loco for Lakes Park

By Paul Wagner - April 21, 2023

FGRS member Tim Smith is a regular volunteer at the Railroad Museum of South Florida at Lakes Park in Ft Myers, and has taken a great interest in the ride-on railroad there. Operating as Lakes Park and Gulf Railroad, the 1/8th scale trains run on a 7.5 inch gauge track that takes riders for about a mile-long ride around a lake, through the north end of the park with bridges over some waterways, and past many interesting miniature scenes.

When Tim learned that one of their gasoline powered “Geeps” was going to be replaced, he began looking around for alternatives to the old technology. At about that time, John and Katy Abbott, also FGRS members, were downsizing their collection of 7.5 inch gauge engines, and offered a battery powered “steam” mogul to the park at a reasonable price. Tim brought the parties together, and the deal was closed! John and Katy were so pleased that the engine would have a good new home, and went to great effort to deliver the engine to Lakes Park. They even assisted in getting it on the tracks and began training the Park’s engineers in its operation.



They’ve got the loco unloaded here – now we just need the tender!



Here’s John Abbott, one last time at the throttle. Looks like he’s going to miss her!

It was an exciting day for everyone at the Park, and several other FGRS members showed up for the unloading and the inaugural run on the railroad. Bill and Diane Severns came out and took the photos you see here. Marv Koenig and Pete Thornton also came out to lend a hand.

This engine, the park’s first with battery power, will be added to their fleet of passenger carrying locomotives.



They have already been using it for three runs per day, and will gradually increase that until they are confident the batteries will support the full day of passenger pulling, typical sixteen runs. It can be fitted with new Lithium-Ion batteries at a very low cost, which should more than double the run time.

Here's Tim Smith, who's already had some time with the engine back at the Ridge Live Steamers railroad, giving some tips to Bill Chaika, a Railroad Museum staffer.



Katy Abbott (on left) and John Abbott (far right) look on as the engine's new owners discuss getting her rolling. This engine promises to be more trouble free, easier to maintain, and eliminate the smoke that the old gas engine locos produce.

(A New Loco for Lakes Park, Continued from Previous Page)

Diane Severns wrote:

“Bill Chaika, (who is one of the ride-on railroad “gandy dancers”) was so gracious and welcoming to us when my Bill and I went to the train today. We had a nice chat with him in the museum and a great ride on the train. It's a beautiful layout and was a very nice afternoon. Bill, Tim, Mike, and John and Katy Abbott were all great and let us in on a great time to see the new engine during its first time on the track. Thanks to all them and their hospitality.”



Looks like Bill is so excited about the new loco he just can't contain himself!



Here she is, coupled up and ready to pull a train load of passengers!

If you can get down this way, be sure to come out to this park, see the railroad museum, and ride on this great little scenic railroad. Go to <https://rrmsf.org/train-ride/> for more information. It is open for riding weekdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, weekends 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

There is talk of adding an outdoor Garden Railroad here.....Hmm... sound familiar? There is lots of interest in railroading here in the Ft Myers area, it would be good to get a group from FGSR to come out and set it up!

Paul Wagner

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

Don Carter – Ocala, Florida

352-207-5434

doncarter521@embarqmail.com

I am handling the sale of a collection of trains for Mary Day, the widow of Ron Day, both members of FGRS until the death of Ron several years ago. For information and scheduling appointments to see the equipment contact Don Carter 352-207-5434 9:00am-9:00pm week days.

I can have items of interest to serious buyers at my open house in May for inspection. I will send a complete list to potential buyers by email (pdf) on request.

All items are new (1995) and newer, never run and in their appropriate factory box.

Prices are firm with cash or check and pick up only. (No shipping)

Trains are located in Umattilla Fl.

I will schedule and meet anyone interested in purchasing at her residence in Umattilla. (At Mary's convenience) A lot of the USA Trains items are beer cars with plastic wheels priced at \$40.00 each. Many other freight cars are similar.

The collection Includes:

44 USA Trains Freight Cars

11 LGB Freight Cars, One LGB #2019 Engine and Tender, 3 Reversing Units

LGB Cross Ties for 235 Code Track - Brown 1 ft. sections 2 1/2 Case

14 Aristocraft Freight Cars, 2 Aristocraft Engines

Bachmann: 25 Freight Cars; 6 Passenger Cars; 3 Engines

AML: 4 Freight Cars; 1 engine

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 \$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: _____
--	---