



March 2022

NEWSLETTER



PHOTO ABOVE: ANTICIPATION BUILDS AS FGRS MEMBERS PREPARE TO BOARD THE "MURDER MYSTERY DINNER TRAIN" FOR THE FGRS 30 YEAR CELEBRATION!

INSIDE:

PREVIEWS OF UPCOMING MEETS AND EVENTS; 30 YEAR CELEBRATION PICTORIAL; REFLECTIONS FROM LAST MONTH'S SCOTTISH FESTIVAL EXHIBIT; AND MORE! LEMONADE STAND, EDITORS DESK, AND LAYOUT CONSTRUCTION ARTICLES WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH.

GO TO WWW.FGRS.ORG, "EVENTS" PAGE TO SEE PHOTOS FOR OUR UPCOMING FUN RUNS. . GO TO THE "MEMBERS SIGN-IN" TO SEE THE CURRENT MEMBER ROSTER, NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES, AND MORE!



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM FRED WEBER

March 2022

The 30th anniversary in Ft Myers was a great success and was very well attended. Thanks to all the members who opened their homes for our club members to enjoy. And a very special thank you to Phil Barcelona, Cindy Baron, Paul and Patty Wagner, Ross and Amy Marvin and of course Millie Weber for making this event work. I would also like to thank Marty Lydecker and Tim Smith from the Railroad Museum of South Florida for their work with Lee County Parks and all their help with our dinner. And Jim Morse from Fine Scale for keeping his club open for our membership. Members are still talking about the weekend. Yes, we are planning another event, but more on that later.

The work on the Bushnell Station layout continues. We are looking for donations of buildings, plants and any other items that we can use on the outdoor layout.

Check out the activities in the coming months to continue enjoying our garden railroading!

- *Fred Weber*, FGRS President 2022

P.S Again, please note that the address to send membership renewal checks and applications has been changed. The old club P.O. Box has been closed out, and while the Post Office has agreed to forward mail until April, our experience has been that letters from a forwarded P.O. box are often lost. If your check has not been cashed in 30 days after sending it, or if you are not receiving your FGRS Newsletters, please contact our new Membership Chairman, Ray Lambert at rlvtfl2010@yahoo.com Phone 954-551-3392
The new address to mail your membership dues and applications is

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

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. Watch for the order form which is being sent out in a separate email today.

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!**

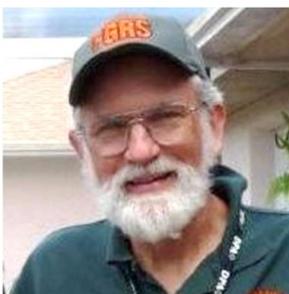
FGRS Vice President – Western Region
Position Open – This can be you!



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



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



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



FGRS Membership
Ray Lambert
954-551-3392
**rlvtfl2010@
yahoo.com**

2022 TRAIN SHOWS AND EVENTS

June 19th - 25th, 2022

NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION 2022

Denver, Colorado

This is the BIG ONE! Deadline for early registration discount is March 31!

The narrow gauge capitol of the world, and one of the greatest centers for garden railroading in the country. Tour over 50 garden railways, attend clinics presented by such notable garden railroaders as Marc Horovitz, Kevin Strong, Nancy Norris, and other folks you will recognize.

See two full size Bigboys (hopefully in steam), tour and ride full size narrow gauge railroads with pre-convention tours, or stay for an extra few days, and do your own tour. You'll be just a few hour's drive from the famed Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, and the Cumbres and Toltec. See details on following page or go to: <https://www.ngrc2022.org/>

Apr 1 - 2, 2022, East Coast Large Scale Train Show - Annapolis, MD

9:00 AM –5:00 PM EDT

1564 Whitehall Rd

Annapolis, MD 21409

The East Coast Large Scale Train Show is an event that brings train lovers together from all over the world. This event specializes in large scale model railroading. Everyone is welcome to this event; no membership is required. Tickets are \$10 a day or \$15 for both days. Kids 9 and younger are free.

For more info go to

<https://www.facebook.com/eclsts/>

April 9, 2022, Deland Train Show

10am – 4pm

Volusia County Fairgrounds

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

For a Complete list of Train Shows go to

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

DENVER welcomes you in 2022

37th National Garden Railway Convention

JUNE 20-25, 2022



DENVER GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY



- ◆ 50+ Layouts with Encore Saturday Tours
- ◆ 40+ Clinics featuring Marc Horovitz, Kevin Strong, Nancy Norris & Steve Berneberg
- ◆ Model Contests with Prizes for Youth & Adult Categories

REGISTER ONLINE OR PRINT FOR REGISTRATION BY MAIL

SAVE \$25 WITH EARLY REGISTRATION!

◆ Individual Registration

\$75 by March 31, 2022 - \$100 thereafter

◆ Family Registration

\$125 by March 31, 2022 - \$150 thereafter

REGISTRATION INCLUDES ▶

- ◆ Visit 50 + Layouts Scheduled for the Convention
- ◆ Access to Vendor Hall, Welcome Reception, Clinics and Convention Store
- ◆ Participation in the Convention Model Contest and Youth Model Contest
- ◆ Convention Bag, Program Book, and Commemorative Convention Pin

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS ▶

- ◆ Four Pre-Convention Bus Tours – Transportation, Admission, and Lunch
- ◆ Post-Convention Bus Tour – Includes Transportation and Admission
- ◆ Banquet, Ice cream Social and BBQ at the Colorado Railroad Museum
- ◆ Bus Transportation to Layout Tours and BBQ

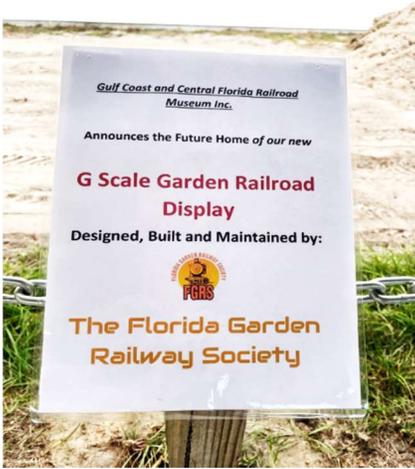
◆ Limited Edition Logo-branded Rio Grande Caboose Only \$98 with Registration

REGISTER NOW!

VISIT NGRC2022.ORG

Bushnell Station and Florida Garden Railway Society

Outside Garden Layout Progress By Fred Weber, President FGRS



As of March 2nd, the tunnel is complete and the pond has been installed. The photos, below, show how much of the hard work has been completed. Now for the fun part - the track is the next thing to be done. Don Carter, Mike Walls, Joey Munoz and Ray Lambert have been working hard building the new layout.

We are looking for donations to add to this layout. We need buildings of any shape or condition, even kits would be appreciated. In the near future, we will be looking for plants to complete the layout or anything else that you think would enhance this layout.



If you would like to help with the construction, or learn how to build a layout, Wednesdays are our work days, and all hands are welcome. If interested, please contact Don Carter or Ray Lambert for more information. Remember, this is a layout that any FGRS member can use to run trains when completed. Your Club, your layout!

Don Carter: 352-207-5434

Ray Lambert: 954-551-3392

You can also contact me with any questions.

- *Fred Weber*, FGRS President 2022
Cell - 410-310-6001

Address of the Gulf Coast and Central Florida Railroad Museum in Bushnell is:
**6470 County Road Rd 476 W
Bushnell, FL 33513**

The Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival

The Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival at the Clay County Fairground outside Jacksonville on February 26 had an overwhelming attendance . We had visitors from 9 AM until 5PM. The crowd enjoyed the club's big layout as well as the Kids Zone. Ray Lambert had his White Pass with rotary snowplow on the front of a twelve car maintenance train. So many people had no



idea what a rotary snowplow was, so being from Florida we had to tell them it was a *sunshine* plow!



Thomas the Tank Engine is always a big hit at the kid zone manned by Phil Barcelona and Cindy Baron. If you have never been to an event like this, please plan to join us next year.

It was a fun filled day with many events and lots of train enthusiasts.

Jim Overby, a member of Florida Garden Railway Society for several years, and who was an instrumental leader in getting our club into this festival passed away a week before this event. He had a love for trains and our club, and in spite of a debilitating illness, he came to several FGRS Fun Runs. We found out that Jim had been picking up the cost of having our club at these festivals. Plus he paid the club \$500. Jim, may you Rest In Peace and we hope you're drinking the best scotch in Heaven. We thank you for all you've done for the club and we will miss you.



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

JIM OVERBY

Over the many years of his involvement with the Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games, Jim was involved in all levels of planning and execution of the festival. As a member of the Board of Directors, he held positions of Member at Large, Vice President, Chairman and Chairman Emeritus. When the Games moved from UNF to Clay County, Jim championed the role of RV Reservations Chair and was diligent in making sure every camper had a safe and enjoyable experience at the fairgrounds during our festival. Before and after his time as a Board member, he and his wife, Kathi, have been devoted committee members for many years. They not only supported the NEFL Games with countless hours of their time, they also made significant financial contributions to our organization including donation and maintenance of our blow-up mascot, Angus. Jim was an avid train enthusiast and fostered a relationship with the Florida Garden Railway Society that has resulted in train demos of the Hogwarts Express and the Flying Dutchman at our games the last several years. Jim loved good single malt whisky and never missed an opportunity to share a dram with a friend. One of his favorite games events was the whisky tasting held the Friday night before the festival. He could always be counted on for



quick witted humor and never missed an opportunity to crack a joke. As our resident curmudgeon, he relished every opportunity to take an opposing view in any discussion just to make sure every decision we made was well thought out. Jim was proud to be a part of our organization and took every possible opportunity to share his love of Scottish culture. He will always be a cherished part of our organization and will be dearly missed by his Scottish family.

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

Saturday, March 19, 2022 –

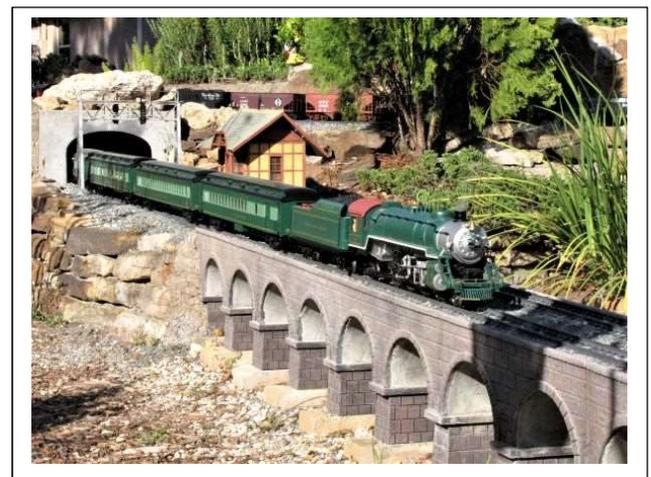
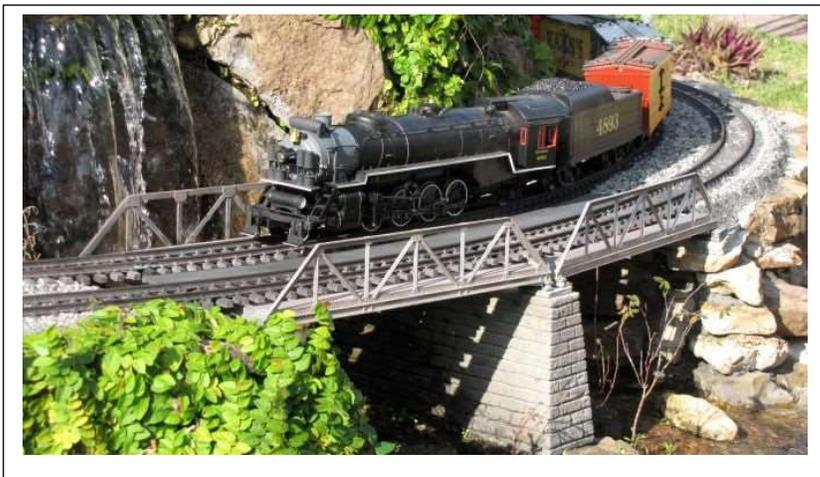
Fun Run at the home of Paul and Patty Wagner

11 AM - ?

1781 S Cranberry Blvd, North Port, FL 34286

Phone 941-445-0409

Email: wagstation@aol.com



Bring chairs and a picnic lunch, and a train to run. Paul will provide soft drinks and water.

The layout was designed for 1:29 scale rolling stock. The clearances will not allow most 1:20.3 to run. Battery power or live steam only.

This layout is patterned after the South Fork Division of the Southern Railway in the Lake Cumberland area of Kentucky. The layout depicts the Southern Railway as it would have appeared near the end of the steam era (circa 1945). There is a double track mainline which can be operated point-to-point between two towns, or as a single, long “dogbone” for continuous operations. Some of the newer track has been laid with the “PVC Spline” roadbed described by Kevin Strong in a recent Garden Railways magazine series.

There are stations, a logging spur, and a coal mine along the way. There is 300’ of main-line and 6 stub sidings set up for switching operations. Sharpest curves are 12.5’ diameter with #6 turnouts. Mainline grades are 2%. The layout covers 23’ x 72’ of hilly terrain with a pond and cascading waterfalls.

(Upcoming Fun Runs, Continued next page)

(Upcoming Fun Runs, Continued from previous page)

**Sunday, April 24, 2022 - Fun Run at
the home of Charlie Beall – Noon – 4PM**

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



Always an enjoyable day at a spectacular Garden Railway layout! Bring chairs and a picnic lunch, and a train to run. Charlie will provide soft drinks and water. 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.

CALENDAR PLANNING FOR FUTURE FUN RUNS

We're looking for members to host Train Operating Sessions and Fun Runs for the coming months.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Paul Wagner, the FGRS Newsletter Chairman at FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com



THE 30 YEAR FGRS ANNIVERSARY

We Finally Did It!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

FEBRUARY 18 TO 20, 2022

THREE DAYS OF RAILWAY FUN IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA!

We stated off on Friday, February 18th with the great Layout Tours in North Port, Englewood, and Port Charlotte. Dean Crewsdson welcomed us to see his layouts, one action packed indoor layout, and a rambling winding layout outdoors, featuring a cement cast model of Mount Rushmore!

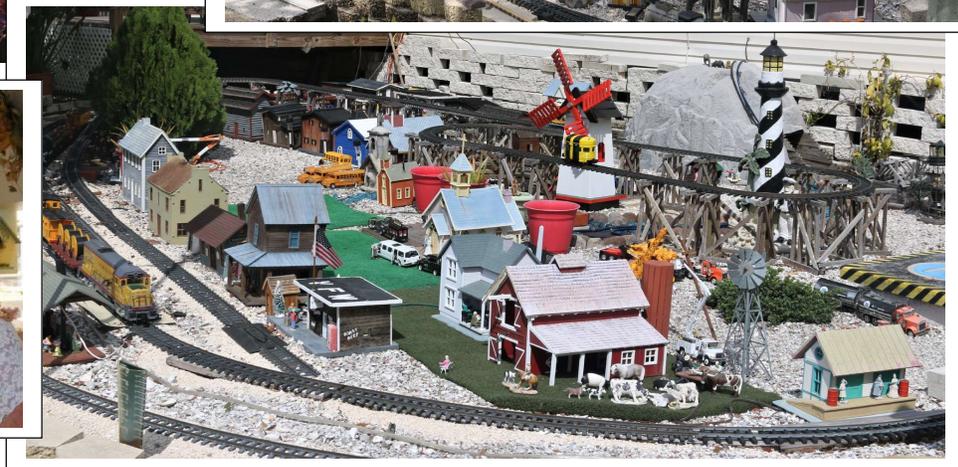
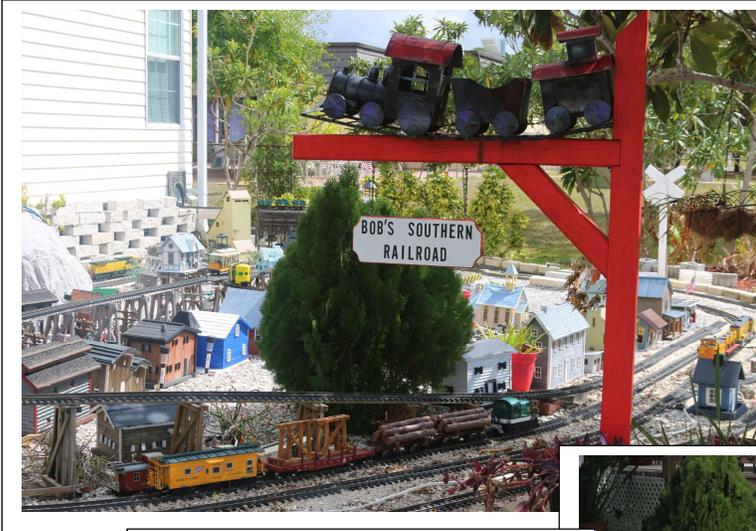


Paul and Patty Wagner (Pictures below) were running trains through the “Mountains of Kentucky” in North Port on the Big South Fork Division of the Southern Railway.



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Then on to the home of Bob and Irene Anttila, also in North Port. Bob is modeling a different kind of *Southern Railroad*.



Englewood was the last stop in this area, with the great layout of Corky and Wanda Eckman. They had trains running everywhere, through tunnels, over trestles, and all the way around the house!



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The Murder Mystery Train was every bit as exciting as we hoped!



Rarely seen these days, a brightly painted F7 headed up our Mystery Dinner Train.



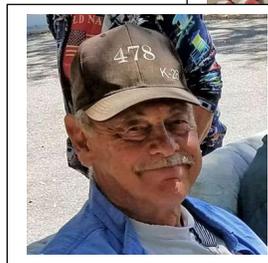
After an enjoyable gourmet dinner, the murder was committed, and the suspects, of course, all accused each other of the crime. Most of us didn't have a clue! Finally, a super sleuth emerged- Jan Kerr- whom I believe was the only person on the train to correctly put the rather nebulous clues together, and nailed our murderess!

(Continued from Previous Page)

Bright and Early on Saturday Morning, it's off to more Garden Railroads! Many of us drove the longest distance right out to Riverbend Railway near LaBelle. We were greeted by many new friends, and old ones that we hadn't seen since before the pandemic. The trains were running to the delight of young and old who gathered along the tracks.

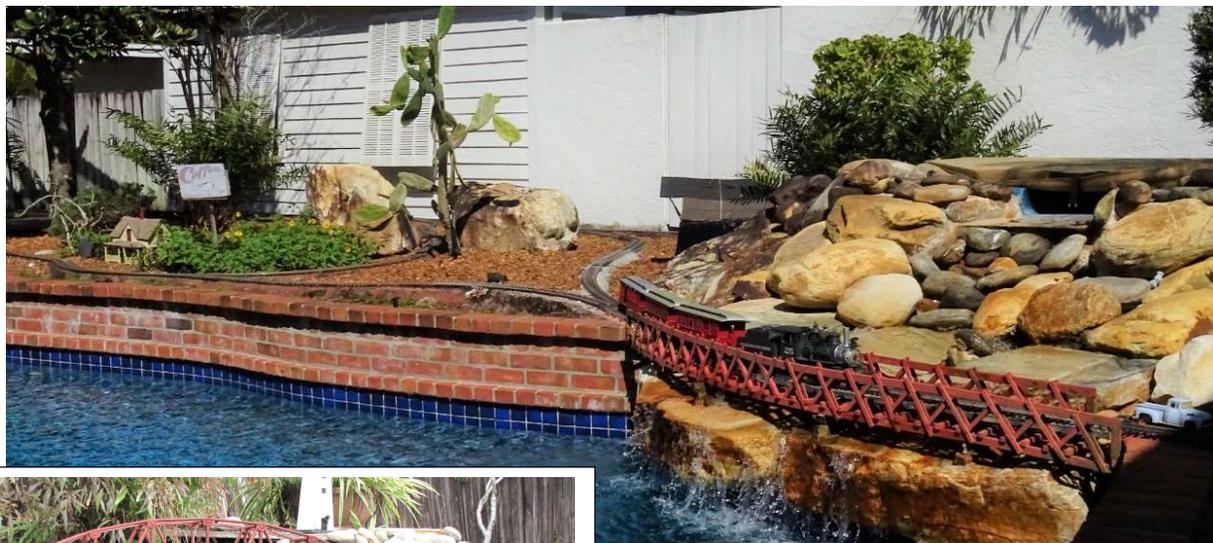


Bill and Diane Severns, while still at work on a new "Mountain Division", opened their layout for a pleasant run around "Colorado".



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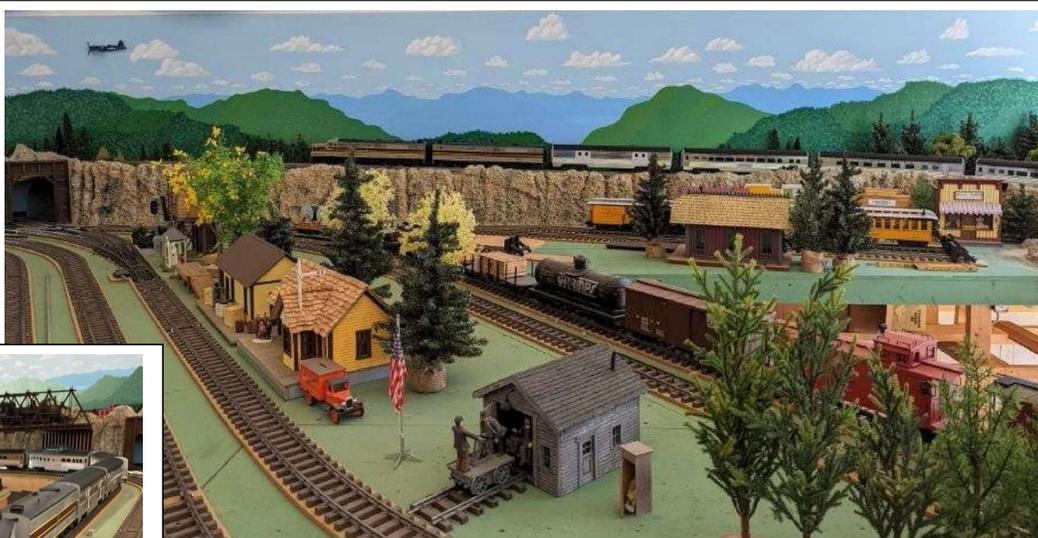
Then on to the home of Jack and Anita Zwick, whose wonderful layout and unusual collection of trains was on the tour for the the 2014 Garden Railway National Convention.



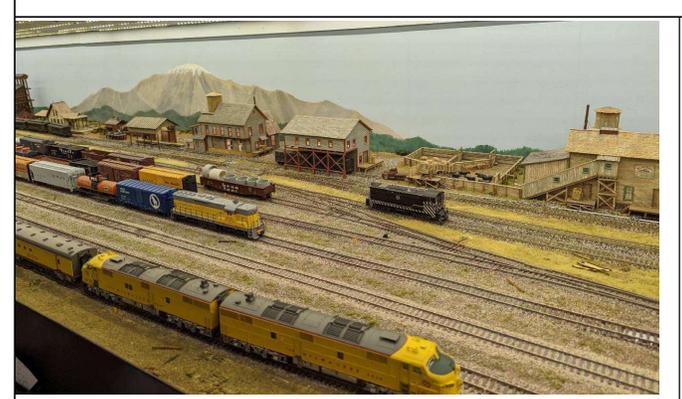
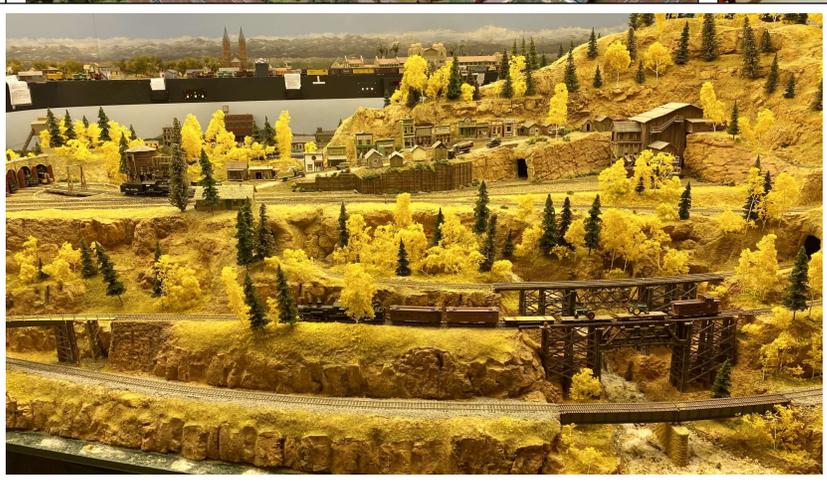
...And if you don't have a yard, where do you build a garden railroad? Jim and Ginny Jerele rented a warehouse and built a superlayout inside! With 30 turnouts, built on three levels, with mountains, trestles, and tunnels, there's plenty of railroading in here!



Exciting operation on Jerele's layout



Our visit to the "Scale Rails Club Depot" with their huge two-level HO layout with an HOn3 extension, plus a large N scale layout (Pictures Below) was an amazing model railroading endeavor with much to learn for garden railroaders and small scale railroaders alike. Many of us started out in HO, so it brought back memories of working on these tiny trains.



(Continued from Previous Page)

As the sun began to go down, we headed over to Lakes Park, for the museum, 7-1/2 inch gauge train ride, and the banquet dinner. This was every bit as enjoyable as we had anticipated.



The train ride through the palm trees was as scenic as you will find anywhere, with in-scale miniature scenes depicting early southwest Florida and wild life, and they included a tour of the railroad shops especially for our club.



The museum's S gauge layout and many RR exhibits were fascinating, and our own Tim Smith gave us a special presentation.



And finally, after an amazing Italian dinner, while gathered in a lodge in the park, we had the culmination of this entire effort, the 30 Year Celebration Cake! (Sorry, we were all so busy enjoying the dinner and partying with all our fellow garden railroaders, no one thought to take any pictures of the entire group! Trust me – it was a gratifying, heartwarming experience!)



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Sunday Morning found all of us who didn't have to get back home, in the hotel parking lot displaying, buying, and selling our surplus treasures. Due to the hotel being full, we were rather spread out, I hope everyone found all of our members with things to sell. It was another perfect day, weather wise, and soon we were off to our last event, a tour of the Edison Winter Estate and Museum. Their



garden shop was unusually well stocked, and many of us came away with some nifty things for our gardens at home.

This was the ideal place for one last visit with friends, old and new, some of whom had come a long way for this event. Here, in the Edison Estates coffee house, we have one last sit-down with Cliff Tavernier, who had come all the way from Silver City, New Mexico for this. Cliff was one of the founding members of FGRS, and was accompanied by two sisters-in-law, seen here in this picture.



We had many founding members here for the celebration, and there are others I know who could not make it. I am in awe of the work you have all done to get such a great organization going. I am also in awe of the work that Fred Weber has done to make this event a success. I join him in thanking his wife, Millie, Phil Barcelona, Cindy Baron, Ross and Amy Marvin, Marty Lydecker, Tim Smith and my wife, Patty for making this event work.

I would also like to thank all those who sent me photos to include in this article - Don Carter, Brian Landau, Chip Danneker, Tracy Walls, and Tom Hite.

I hope to see you all again soon,

- Paul Wagner

FGRS Newsletter Editor



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

FGRS has received some specialty items that we are offering for sale to members (Below). There will be a general online sale similar to the one we had during the pandemic later in the year in which we will offer a number of pieces of railroad rolling stock, track and structures – watch for an email for those.

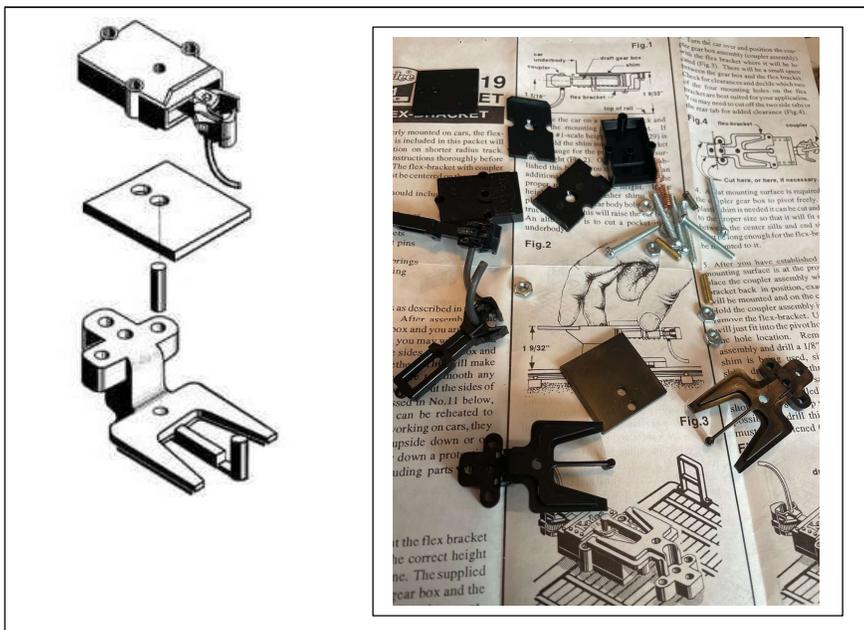
55 Pairs – Kadee “One Scale” Couplers Kadee #819 Packet - \$4.00 each pair

Contact Fred Weber

FGRS.President@gmail.com

This stock number will come up on a search as an “O” scale draft gear box. It is apparently an old stock number that has been changed. This packet contains a pair of KADEE #1-SCALE #882 FLEX-BRACKETS & #820 #1 SCALE COUPLERS with draft gear box.

Kadee uses the #1 Scale designation to indicate that it is smaller than the couplers usually used for G scale. It is primarily for use with 1:32 rolling stock, but some use them for 1:29 or even 1:20.3 as they are actually closer to correct scale size for all of these scales than the “G” scale couplers. However, it is our experience that the larger ones work better, thus most G scalers use the larger couplers which are designated “G” scale. If you like the #1 Scale couplers, this is less than half price.

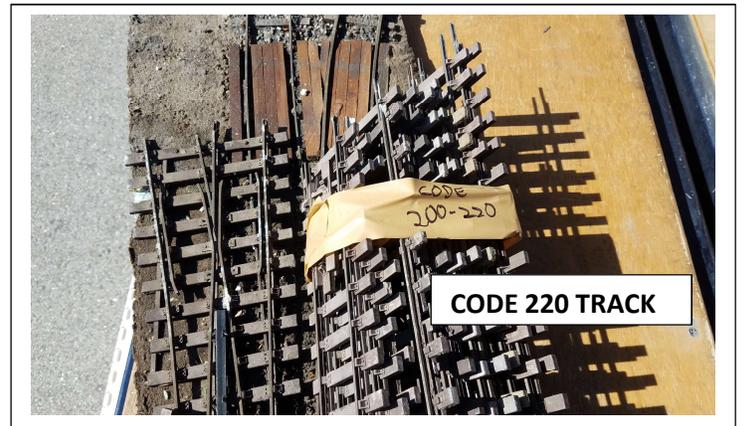


(Member Train Items For Sale, Continued)

One bundle of Code 250 track, nickle-silver, including two #5 switches. Old and dirty, some stuck to foam board, but serviceable. Approximately 20 feet. Also included a bundle of odds and ends of Code 220 and Code 200 track. Nice for industrial spurs even if you are using Code 332 track. \$20 for the lot.

Contact Paul Wagner

FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com



FGRS Membership Application for 2022

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: _____ |
|--|---|