

# SVGRS NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2007



## TRAINS IN THE GARDEN

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### Calendar of Events

**April 15** The Great Leigh Valley Train Meet [www.leighvalleytrainmeet.com](http://www.leighvalleytrainmeet.com)

**May 12** Layout Open House hosted by Dale Bricker.

**May 18-20** Railfan Weekend Cass WV

**June 2** Annual Garden Railroad Seminar at Appalachian Nurseries-Chambersburg, PA. Prizes, food, fun. Save the date. 9:00AM till 4:00 PM

**June 23** Layout open house hosted by Robert McCrea.

**June 23-24** The Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairground, Timonium, MD

**June 16-24** Day out with Thomas  
800-872-0201

**September 15, 2007** Club picnic will be at the Akron Pavilion. More details on this event in future newsletters.

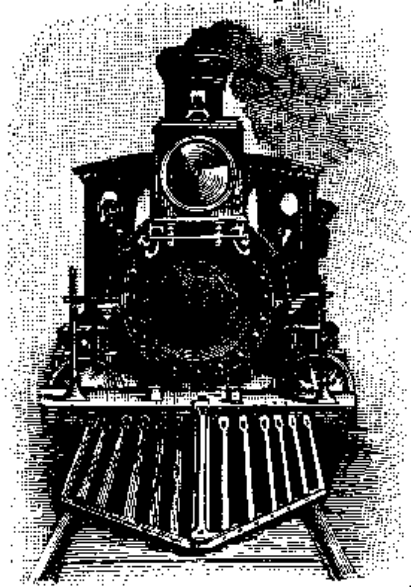
Sincerely, FRED WHITLEY 717-859-2679

**December 8** Christmas Party at Brethren Home, Cross Keys

**Club Picnic** –The club is looking for feedback from the members for picnic spending guidelines (cost per person). This is normally offered as a free event as a thank you for helping with club events and setups. Send any comments to Tom McCloud. [liner-man@earthlink.net](mailto:liner-man@earthlink.net)

**Layout tours** - If you would like to host an open house layout visit please contact Kirk Slenker (717) 244-3522 or e-mail [slenke@aaicorp.com](mailto:slenke@aaicorp.com) . We discussed having the layout visits as more of a club meeting type event where the host can explain his/her layout and cover any technical issues or answer questions about their layout.

**Dale's Garden Railway Depot**  
Located at Victoria's Timeless Treasures  
309 W. Franklin Street  
**Womelsdorf, Pa 19567**  
610-589-9000



The first Layout Open House for this summer will be on May 12 from 10 am till 4 pm, hosted by Dale Bricker at Dale's Garden Railway Depot in Womelsdorf, PA. Dale has large multi-leveled outdoor layout with 5 tracks.

The shop is located in his wife's gift shop, Victoria's Timeless Treasures at 309 West Franklin Street. Womelsdorf, PA.

Several festivities are planned including a blow out tent sale, light refreshments and two technical seminars. At 11am Jason Slenker will give a demonstration on weathering and painting graffiti on rolling stock. At 1pm, Dale Bricker and Kirk Slenker will give a presentation on ponds, water features and water plants.

You are welcome to bring your favorite engine to run on any of the 5 tracks. Live steamers will be there to show off their stuff, too!

AND while the boys are playing....the girls are invited to browse inside the gift shop of Victoria's Timeless Treasures. Other unique gift shops are located only minutes away for their shopping convenience.

#### **Directions:**

**From Lancaster:** Route 501 North to Schaefferstown, take Route 419 North to Womelsdorf, we are located in the mini mall on your left just off Route 419 at Franklin Street.

**From Harrisburg :** Route 322 East to Route 419 North to Womelsdorf, we are located in the mini mall on your left just off Route 419 at Franklin Street.

**From Route 78:** Exit at the Rehrersburg Exit onto Route 419 South to Womelsdorf, travel approximately 10 miles, cross over Route 422, travel 2 blocks. We are located in the mini mall on your right just off Route 419 at Franklin Street.

**From Reading:** Route 422 West to Womelsdorf, turn left onto Route 419 South, travel 2 blocks. We are located in the mini mall on your right just off Route 419 at Franklin Street.

If you get lost, call 610-589-9000

#### **June SVGRS Layout Open House**

Mark your calendars. The June open house will be hosted by Robert McCrea at 550 Summit Drive, Carlisle on Saturday, June 23 from 10 am until 4 pm. Roberts layout makes extensive use of home built trestles and at 11 am he will conduct a technical session in his work shop on how to design and build

trestles. At noon there will be a covered dish lunch. Please contact Robert at 717-258-8566 if you would like to bring a covered dish. At 1 pm there will be a second technical session. We have several possible candidate topics at this date, but have not confirmed the final choice yet. The June newsletter will have more information and directions to Roberts layout.

### **July SVGRS Layout Open House**

Mark your calendars. The July open house will be hosted by Marlyn Geesey at his home near Dallastown, PA on July 7 from 10 am till 4 pm. Marlyn has a large outdoor layout and a very unique indoor HO layout that features live catenary power and lots of GG-1's. Two technical sessions are planned including one on Kadee couplers. More information coming in the June newsletter.

### **Harrisburg Flower Show**

The Pennsylvania Garden Expo was held on March 6-11 2007 at the Farm Show Arena in Harrisburg Pa. This show was to be skipped this year due to lack of plant supplies, but as time went on the expo people kept pressuring us to do the show. So Turk offered to do a setup that would at the least secure our spot for future shows. They informed us that they would be shopping for a replacement if we could not make this years show. We did not want this to happen since it has been a good source of income to the club as well as entertaining new members.

Turk Russell and a few friends, as well as members built a 46x25 ft layout for the Pa Garden Expo. Although larger

than originally planned, Elizabeth and Terry Bush (show coordinators) went out of their way to provide us with many items not normally given to a paid event.

Turk took the whole week off since the show started on Wednesday afternoon and ran until Sunday. Saturday and Tuesday were setup days and we just beat the snowstorm by one day

Powered with the clubs new 4 train Bridgeworks power supply, we ran the usual Thomas the tank loop out front for the kids. Followed by a large outside perimeter loop, which featured 2 tunnels, the larger of the two (5 ft long) was built by Bob Segessenman. The other was a 3 ft stump log that had to cut and fitted in by Jeff Shubert and Jake Midhour. Tom McCloud helped get both of the tunnels decorated up so nice they were as real as could be. I added a little snow scene to the real log to add a different look. We also ran a large reversing track. A climax engine provided a coal dump to and from the coal tipple. The last loop had a reverse design of past years layouts with double-header shays pulling the log train up our new steeper trestles (built by Joe Mower) and over a larger extended pond and across a new wooden bridge (built by Wayne Warren).

New plant supplier Stoney Bridge landscapes provided the larger plants and Appalachian Nursery' provided the small plants. Even with 143 large plants and 130 small plants we were a little short so the logging town and boomtown was made to a larger feature. Randy and Doug Harbaugh created a rock cut valley though the trestle area and set up a complete logging skidder operation (provided by Turk) with the draw lines running right over the tracks and down to a steam donkey engine. Turk and Jeff

ran out of logs and lumber since the layout was so larger than usual. Bob, Jake and Wayne went home and came back with more and it worked out to be the most full featured town we have ever done. As for the landscaping, I would like to thank Tom McCloud and Melody Shubert for their expert visions in helping me create such a huge layout.

This year's show had the largest attendance ever with over 18,650 people attended. We handed out over 400 Beginning Garden Railways and Tips & Tricks for Outdoor Railroads books. This year's show proved to me and my helpers that "Garden Railroading" is on the rise based on the comments and questions we all received. Visitors at the show asked more questions like, "how can I do this" and "will this work for me at my house" rather than the usual comments such as "your layout looks great." Although, we did get a lot of those comments as well. A few even told us this layout blew away the Philadelphia Flower Show. Since this was not a full sponsored club event, we had greater expenses than before; . The club will still receive \$500.00. All in all, it was a great time for all, lots of publicity for the club and for the first time that I can remember we had no train derailments. Hurray!

Many thanks to all who participated

Turk

## Flower Show Photos 2007



Day 1



Day 2



Break Time

## East Coast Large Scale Train Show

The club displayed a layout again this year during the East Coast Large Scale Train Show. Fifteen club members showed up early Thursday morning to arrange the layout for the opening of the show (Friday morning). The layout was a circus and coal train theme having a

large outside loop and a figure eight trestle in the center area of the display. The figure eight was specially designed by Bob McCrea and built in sections for easy transportation and set-up. Mike Oberdick constructed many mechanical circus rides and other hand crafted buildings, which were very impressive. After the basic display was completed, Jeff Johnstonbaugh took the lead as landscape designer and had the others members assist him. I might add we had many favorable comments about what an outstanding job this club does on presenting a completed layout (landscape, design, theme and etc.).

A “Great Big THANKS” goes to Doris Geesey and Jean Plank for providing a wonderful lunch for the hungry members. I would also like to add that I saw them adding their own personnel touches to the display when the men weren’t looking.

Special thanks goes to Appalachian Gardens for providing the small plants for the display, Stauffers of Kissel Hill for graciously providing a wonderful selection of large plants and Quincy Hardware store for donating a load of mulch, pansies and perennials. Without business like these supporting our club our shows would not be a success. I suggest when you need a plant or two or maybe something else; buy from them and tell them how much we appreciate their support to the club.

The following members assisted during the show in setting-up, manning, and helping tear down the display. The committee could not have gotten it done without their help and we “GREATLY APPRECIATED” their support: Jim Dysant, Walter Plank, Marlyn Geesey,

Bob McCrea, Jeff Johnstonbaugh, Lou Stahl, Wayne Warren, Mel Pankuch, Jim Ingram, Terry Smith, Jake Middour, Mike Oberdick, Bob Segessenman, Rob Segessenman, Dave Watts, Don Sweet, Jim Herman, Kirk Slenker, Robert Charles, Rich Reese and Randy Mower.

As a member of the show committee I personally would like to thank Bob Segessenman for chairing this function and the other committee members Bob McCrea and Walter Plank. “You have done the club proud”

Submitted by  
Dave Watts  
SVGRS Secretary



Track Layout



Part of Circus Area

## Special Member Display by Clair Dise

I have really enjoyed seeing what other club members have been doing, so here is my contribution as well.

As most of you already know, I do not have a permanent layout (yet). Instead I do 2 or 3 weekend displays a year.

My displays for 2006 included 2 retirement communities and the one at Esbenshades. Elaine (my wife) usually does the correspondence and handles the PR work for me. I generally recruit help from family and friends.

This past November Marlyn & Doris Geesy, Rich Reese and myself put together a display at Esbenshade's Garden Center in Brickerville. This was the second year for the display.

For the people who care about numbers:

- There were 4 trains and 2 point to point tracks, one tunnel, 6 bridges and 80 artificial trees.
- Overall layout size was 18 x 27
- It took 3 trips in my little red Honda and 1 with a van to get the display to the store
- Set up took the 4 of us 5 hours (that did not include transportation, design time or setting up the pond)

My current dream is to bring some pieces of history to life. One of those is the main street in Ephrata, near where I live. Another one is a scene from the PA Oil Industry from the late 1800's – early 1900's. I am looking for other

members working on or thinking about similar projects.





Clair Dise

### Recipes by club members

Peanut Butter Brownies

CAKE

*1 cup sugar*

*1/2 cup margarine or butter*

*4 eggs*

*1 cup flour*

*1 tsp. vanilla*

*1 16 oz. can Hershey syrup*

*Mix and bake 350\* for 30 to 35 min. > Bake in 9" to 13" greased pan*

FILLING

*1 1/2 cup powdered sugar*

*1 cup creamy peanut butter*

*1/2 cup margarine*

*6 tsp. water*

*Mix and spread on cool cake*

TOPPING

*1 cup semi chocolate chips*

*6 tsp. margarine*

*Melt and drizzle on top*

By Joan Shearer

### SVGRS Club Officers

President – Tom McCloud (717) 762-9508 [liner-man@earthlink.net](mailto:liner-man@earthlink.net)

Vice President – Turk Russell (717) 762-8873 [1turk@earthlink.net](mailto:1turk@earthlink.net)

Dave Watts - SVGRS Secretary 717-264-8187 [suern@innernet.net](mailto:suern@innernet.net)

Coordinator of Layout Tours.  
Kirk Slenker - (717) 244-3522 or  
[slenke@aaicorp.com](mailto:slenke@aaicorp.com)

Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 530-0561  
Secretary/Membership – Dave Watts  
(717)264-8187 [suern@innernet.net](mailto:suern@innernet.net)

Newsletter Editor – Joe Mower (717-241-6483

Items for the newsletter can be submitted to [jhmower@aol.com](mailto:jhmower@aol.com). Please indicate SVGRS in the subject so it does not get deleted with spam.

### Treasurers Report

Beginning balance 1/1/07	\$5,444.86
Income	\$480.00
Expenses	\$407.30
Closing Balance 3/22/07	\$5,517.56

### Notice

**The next issue of the newsletter will be out approximately June 5. Please have any information for the newsletter to me by June 1.**

**If you have items for sale you would like posted please send me a list before June 1.**

**We are always looking for articles to publish. If you have an article you think would be of interest to other club members please let me know.**  
**Joe Mower**

### Related Garden Railroad Businesses

**Russell Stereo Repair** – Repairs to garden railroad equipment. (Aristocraft, Bachmann & LGB. Moderate pricing for Garden Railroad equipment, technical advice, rail mechanics & maintenance problems. Call evenings 717-762-8873 Turk & Renee Russell.

**RCS of New England** – Specializing in battery control throttles for G scale trains. They also provide sound systems and special lighting effects. 717-259-9523 Don & Donna Sweet

**Appalachian Gardens**- Specializing in miniature plants and trees for Garden Railroads. They also offer a full range of nursery products. Appalachian Gardens provides plant materials for club exhibits and displays. 717-597-8456 Tom & Fern McCloud Website,  
[www.appnursery.com](http://www.appnursery.com)

**Victoria's Timeless Treasures & Dale's Garden Railroad Depot** – Provides a full range of Garden Railroad equipment, accessories and supplies. They invite members to view their extensive multi-track layout. 610-589-9000 Dale & Victoria Bricker

**Cool Train Hobbies** – General train supplies and merchandise specializing in G scale trains. 717-898-7119 Ted & Kim Symonds.

**Martins Greenhouse**  
It is a small greenhouse business specializing in perennials. This includes rock garden plants & miniature conifers, which fit in well with garden railways.  
Noah & Marian Martin  
5489 Division Hwy.  
Narvon, Pa 17555  
717-354-7546  
[martinsghse@juno.com](mailto:martinsghse@juno.com)