



## **April 2011 – Newsletter**

Visit our club website – [www.SVGRS.com](http://www.SVGRS.com)

### **SVGRS Calendar of Events 2011**

**May 15** – Sunday Open House at Phillip Shoop’s 1 PM till 5 PM. New addition for 2011, Refreshments.

**June 2 - Thursday 7:00pm** - General Club Meeting at the Train Station in New Oxford

**June 18** - Open House Bob McCrea, Walter Plank and Joe Mower

**July 9** - Open House Marlyn Geesey

**July 16** - Club Equipment Clean Up day

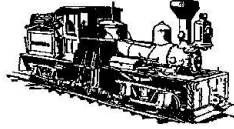
**September 17 @ 11:00 AM** - SVGRS Club Picnic in Rossville @ Church Retreat

**October 19 @ 7:00 PM** - General Club Meeting at the Brethren Home in Cross Keys

**December 3rd @ 5:00 PM** - SVGRS Christmas Party @ tbd

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The SVGRS mailing list is intended for use only by the SVGRS club officers. Members wishing to distribute information or Photos should submit information to a club officer listed at the end of the newsletter. Club officers will decide if the data should be forwarded to all members



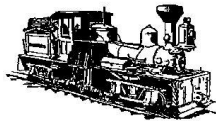
## President's Message

WOW!

What a layout you members created at York on the 24th to the 26th of March for the East Coast Large Scale Train Show. Everybody worked well together to create a beautiful layout that was enjoyed by all. I had lots of very positive comments from the people who walked by that it was almost a shame to tear it down on Saturday. And when it did come down, it only took about 1 and 1/2 hours to clean up and put everything back in the trailer and in proper order.

I want to give everybody and big "THANK YOU" for working together that made it possible. That means everyone from the layout workers, layout operators, clean-up personnel, to the fine ladies who provided the good sandwiches and tasty snacks (including Phillip's grandmother). Thanks again for a job (layout ) well done.

Don't forget our next planning meeting is on the 3rd of June at the New Oxford Train Station at 7:00pm. We will be discussing the SVGRS Club Picnic, and making plans for the Rocky Ridge show in November



## **Spring 2011 ECLSTS: Why we do this, or at least why I do this...**

*As the official chairman for this spring's ECLTS, my sincere thanks to a large list of club members, who in many cases, probably worked harder than I did to make this all happen . To say I couldn't have done it without each of you would be true. Special thanks to my Dad for building and sketching out the preliminary designs and also to Turk for building and bringing a bunch of equipment and mentoring me through the process. The culmination of all our efforts was another successful display for both new and seasoned Garden Railway enthusiasts who attended the show. Since I've been part of this club and participating in the efforts at this show, I've seen new and unique aspects of every display that keep me coming back. They say a picture is worth 1,000 words, so I don't have to write a*

*huge article to convey my message. The picture below shows one BIG reason I love doing shows, including this one!*



This is all the thanks I need! It seemed to me that there were more kids there this year. Some even asking for Thomas.



It's hard to complain about things when you get to play trains with your Dad!

*For those of you who might consider being a show coordinator in the future, the key is using the resources and the vast experience of our club members to it's maximum effect. You have only to ask. It's not that you have to take it all on yourself, but that you leverage each member's strengths and interests. For this show, the design started on a paper napkin and progressed to an early mockup in my Dad's garage.*



Laying some things out full size does help since sometimes what looks good on paper doesn't always work in reality.

*Those who were able to help on "setup day" saw us progress through the following stages of construction. Follow the sequence of pictures to see how it comes together. In retrospect, I wish I had been a little more on top of the actual process during set up, but through the chaos it still got done.*



Getting the major elements placed with the primary loop of track is a key phase.



As the track work completes, then wiring begins and some of the bigger elements of the "scenes" are placed.



With the track and wiring done, the track cleaner makes it's inaugural run. Major landscaping elements and mulch are next.



With a basic layer of mulch down, it's time to place the majority of the plants and buildings.



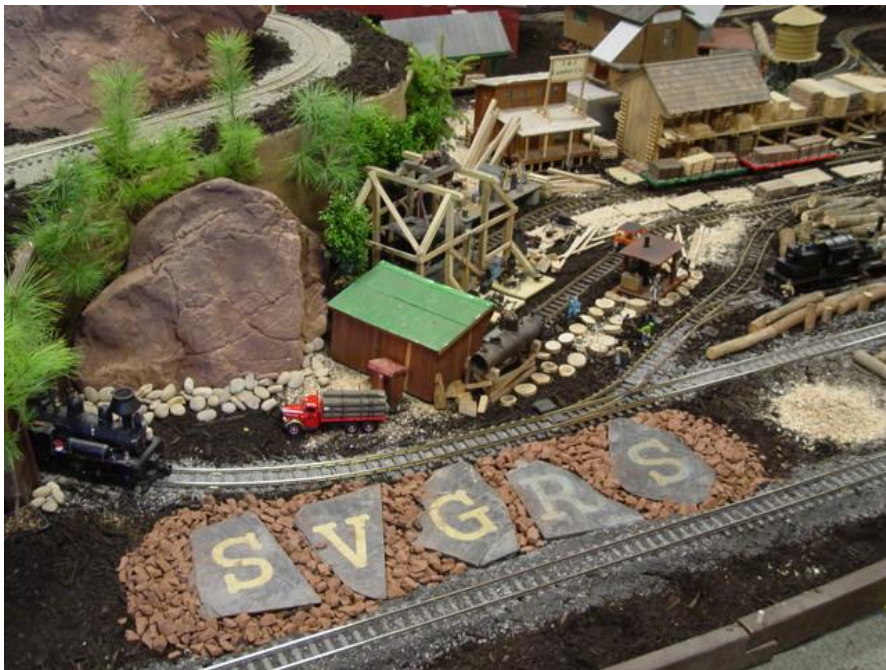
This is where the vision really starts to take shape as the plant material and the bulk of the theme related scenes are added.



Rocks of all shapes and sizes complement the plants as the degree of detail is added along with smaller plants.



With water flowing in the pond, ballast added to the track and trains on the rails it seems to come to life!



Take moment and consider the detail here that isn't always immediately obvious, but it all serves to make it really POP!





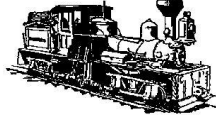
Cars, animals and people are about the last details added, but they are really no less important to the effect than anything else.

*A special shout-out to Walter and Jeanne Plank for loaning us the cable car system and preparing lunch. Much appreciated on both scores!*

*This show may have been a first on another level. My son who was home from college on spring break came along to help. Besides taking most of the pictures in this article, I think he gained a new appreciation of what Dad spends time doing because he got to do it too. I don't know that he's been "converted," but having three generations working on the same layout was pretty awesome.*

*I'm not going to say that it's not work, and dirty at times, but by the end of the day you can stand up, perhaps even straight after a few creaking bones, and relish the overall effect. This is what the public sees and enjoys. Personally I appreciate the process of building as much as watching it all run. Our hobby is "big enough" to have a very diverse set of interests be it the "rivet counters" or totally whimsical. We tend to find ourselves somewhere between for this show. I tended toward trying for a very realistic effect, but that's just me! My only regret is I didn't get to see the eggliner run!!!*

*I look forward to helping the next person achieve just as much success with their vision! - Rob Segessenman Jr.*



## **Chocolate Caramel Cookies**

1 Package (18 ¼ ounces) Devil's food cake mix  
1 egg  
¼ cup water  
3 tablespoons oil  
38 Rolo candies

In a large bowl combine the cake mix, egg, water and oil.

Roll rounded teaspoons full of dough into balls. Press a candy into each, reshape the balls of dough, making sure the candy is covered with dough.

Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet.

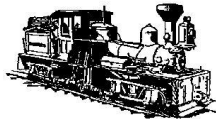
Bake at 350 degrees for 8 - 10 minutes or until tops are cracked.

Cool for 2 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks.

Recipe makes approximately 3 dozen cookies.

Note: If the dough is sticky spray hands lightly with no stick cooking spray before rolling into balls. PAM is Mary's preference.

**Recipe from the kitchen of Mary McGallicher**  
(Philip Shoop's Grandmother)  
**Submitted by Doris Geesley**



## **Open House**

**May 15** – The first open house for 2011 will be at Phillip Shoop's from 1 PM till 5 PM. Phillip has new addition's for 2011, Refreshments will be available. Phillip Shoop's address is 1918 Lyndon Ave. Lancaster, PA 17602; Phone Number is 717-390-0406

### **SVGRS Club Officers**

President – Barry McNew (717)762-2962 [bmcnew@pa.net](mailto:bmcnew@pa.net)

President Vice President – Turk Russell (717) 762-8873, [1turk@embarqmail.com](mailto:1turk@embarqmail.com)

SVGRS Secretary - Bob Segessenman 717-359-8515, [rob@robotronics.com](mailto:rob@robotronics.com)

Coordinator of Layout Tours. Joe Mower (717)241-6483 [jhmower@aol.com](mailto:jhmower@aol.com)

Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 530-0561 [shube@comcast.net](mailto:shube@comcast.net)

Newsletter Editor – Joe Mower (717)241-6483 [jhmower@aol.com](mailto:jhmower@aol.com)

### **Related Garden Railroad Businesses**

**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.smallplants4bigtrains.com](http://www.smallplants4bigtrains.com)

### **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, Ph. 717-354-7546

[martinsghse@juno.com](mailto:martinsghse@juno.com)

**Russell's Customizers** – 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.

**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