



**The Newsletter of the
Piedmont Garden Railway Society**

December 2022

Editor: Wayne Hamilton

Greetings

Season's Greetings to all of our club members. This time of year is perfect for those holiday train layouts and photos you can share with us. Please also remember to share data about your railway. Please send any idea, project, photo, something you found surfing on the Internet, etc., no matter how great or small they may be, to your newsletter editor. Send your materials to: railman1959@aol.com Special thanks to this month's contributors.

J.R. Snider reminds us how our layout should appear with this quote by Frank Ellison in "The Art of Model Railroading" from Model Railroader Magazine 1944.

A model railroad is a theatrical production.
The tracks are the stage.
The bridges and scenery are the setting.
The trains are the actors.
And the operation schedule is the plot.

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Club Messages

The PGRS Board met on Nov. 11, 2022. In attendance were Don Watson, Bill Huntman, Randy Theis, Larry Williams, and Jim Redmond.

Topics of Discussion:

Next Trainfest: The board decided the next Trainfest would be held in Mid-March of 2023. The format would continue as before with an annual meeting and presentations, a question-and-answer period, food (coffee and doughnuts and a cold lunch) and drawing for door prizes. The members can bring RR-related items to sell. We are expecting to hold the event at the same location as last spring (Lutheridge in Arden, NC). Annual dues will be collected at this meeting. We will be polling the membership for ideas on topics for presentations.

PGRS Sponsored Classes: The board is considering holding classes on the various aspects of large-scale railroading. These classes could include track laying, maintaining electrical conductivity and powering your track, glues for modeling and outdoors, weathering rolling stock and structures, finding deals on the internet, maintaining switches and powering sidings and hosting Gandy Dancer events. These classes would be limited to no more than 10 attendees at a time and located in a small facility.

PGRS Web Page: A discussion was held as to the future of the PGRS Web Page. It is currently underutilized and difficult to maintain. A decision on its future is forthcoming.

Another Board meeting will be held in January.

As always, consider sharing this newsletter with friends who might be interested and if they wish to become members ask them to contact our PGRS Secretary/Treasurer for a membership form. Dues can be mailed to PGRS Secretary/Treasurer at:

Doc Watson
125 Mistletoe Trail
Hendersonville, NC 28791
docwatson@morrisbb.net

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Railfanning - Prototypes to inspire a garden railway layout.

Alabama Train Travels

Part One

By: Wayne Hamilton

During our last camping excursion into the deep south, we visited several historic depots. The 1905 fully restored Decatur Union Depot was Alabama Main Street's 2015-2016 Historical Preservation Project of the Year for Public Buildings. It houses both a museum and police station. We were given an informative personal tour by Dave Breland, the City's Historical Resources Manager.

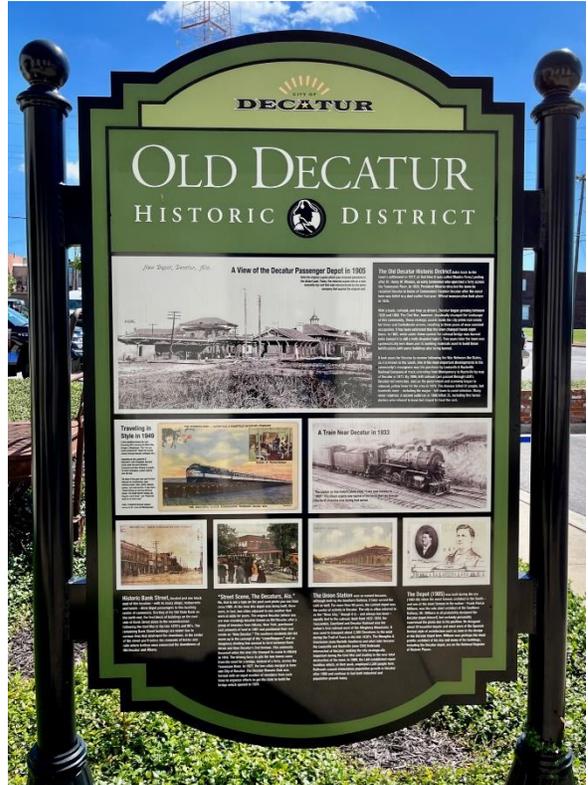
The depot is a symbol of the city's rich railroad heritage which extends back to the 1830s when the first railroad west of the Allegheny Mountains, Tuscumbia, Courtland, and Decatur was built. A union depot was the result of the joint use of the depot by two railroads, the Southern and the Louisville & Nashville railroads. For the rail fan this is a "Double Hot Spot" for train watching. We saw several CSX trains pass through while we were visiting.

You can view multiple scale model train layouts plus numerous rare model trains. They have a small theater room with railroad videos. Graphic panels tell the city's railroad history from 1834 to present. Rare 1905 memorabilia and artifacts can also be seen. Railroad tools and restored signage, devices are just some of the artifacts on display.

They have an excellent train viewing platform, complete with a G scale outdoor layout, and picnic area. The depot is a Bluestar By-Way in honor of the hundreds of military personnel who traveled to or from the depot during the era of passenger service. Open: M-F 10 a.m.- Noon and 1 p.m-3 p.m. Saturdays by appointment and free to public.



Depot Entrance



Historic Markers



Trackside views



The outdoor layout and their viewing platform.



Their town scene



A 1:1 scale visitor during our tour

Inside the depot there is a club HO Scale layout. A nice feature of the layout is a model of the depot with a full detailed and lighted interior.



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The Backshop – Modeling Tips and Projects

West Side Lumber Company Water Car

By: Bill Huntman

The West Side Lumber Company (WSL) built water cars to supply water to the logging camps in the woods. WSL built several water cars over the years. As most logging companies did, they used what was available. Many of these cars followed a similar design, but many varied in the details on each car. There is very little information about these cars, except for one car that was photographed and measured in the 1950s. I decided to build this car in 1:20.3 scale. This is a photograph of the car.



I was able to locate this $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale drawing of the car. I converted the $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale measurements to 1:20.3 scale to build my car.

Brief note about the car frame and trucks. The WSL had several hundred 24' flat cars used to haul logs. to the sawmill. When WSL needed another specialized car, they frequently used an existing flat car and built the new car on the flat car frame. Most of the water cars were built on a flat car frame, and this was the approach I used.

Once the car and flat car frame was completed, I painted the car in WSL red. This is the correct color for the WSL paint. According to the available records, they purchased iron oxide pigment and mixed the pain in their shops. I used a dusting of weathering powder to simulate light weathering.



The finished car

**A 40ft Southern Boxcar
By: Wayne Hamilton**

I picked up a couple of unpainted USA Trains 40 ft boxcars a while back. These come just molded in gray plastic. The have good detail and are a joy to disassemble for

painting. I used custom decals in 1/29 scale and Tru-Color paints. This is the result fresh from the paint shop. It still needs to be sealed, weathered, and detailed.



My model versus the prototype below



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Railroad Trivia

This month's trivia question needs our readers for the answer. I ran across this mystery caboose in Vicksburg, MS. I couldn't locate a road name or number. Anyone know what the small doors in the caboose sides are for? If we find out, I'll post the answer in next month's newsletter.



It seems to be hinged from the bottom of the door.

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**A PGRS Member Photo for Fall
By: Randy Theis**



MOW department cleaning up sidings old school without using herbicides.

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Businesses associated with our Club



Jim's Train Sales

O & G Gauge New & Used Trains

Jim Hendley

Etowah, North Carolina 28729

Lionel, MTH, USA Trains, PIKO, LGB
Bridgwerks Power Supplies, Bachmann
Split-Jaw Rail Clamps, O & G Gauge Track

Garden Railroad Design, New and Used Track
You can now reach Jim at: hendleyjim4@gmail.com
Or...(828) 333-2523



Peggy Keyes
Owner / Chief Conductor
RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com
828/625-5551

The Right Track Toy Train Museum
A non-profit museum to benefit Pancreatic Cancer
research
2414 Memorial Hwy (Rte 64/74)
Lake Lure, NC 28746
Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Right-Track-Toy-Train-Museum-141291999274246/>

I am planning to close the Right Track Toy Train Museum at the end of 2023. Hours for both years are Fri., Sat., Sun 1- 5 PM.

2022 - everything that is for sale in the museum - 20% off.

2023 - everything that is for sale in the - 50% off.

A reminder to all our members of the Train Lovers Luncheons:

The Asheville Train Lovers Luncheons are on every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Post 25 restaurant in Arden, NC at 11:30.

The Greater Greenville Train Lovers Luncheons. They are on the first Tuesday of every month at the A&P Restaurant in Greer starting at 11:30 AM.

The Columbus Luncheons at Rural Seed are held at 12:00 on the Third Thursday of each month.

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Web Bits

You can celebrate the holiday season as Tweetsie Railroad transforms into a winter wonderland for a Tweetsie Christmas on December 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30.

Tweetsie Christmas offers holiday activities for the whole family, including a 20-minute nighttime train ride in an open-air car behind one of the park's historic steam locomotives on a three-mile route lined with over 1 million Christmas lights, a heartwarming, toe-tapping, live Christmas variety show, kid-friendly amusement rides, meetings with Santa in his Gingerbread House filled with candied furnishings, and roasting s'mores over an outdoor fire.

[Tweetsie Christmas - Celebrate the holiday season at Tweetsie Railroad](#)

The Craggy Mountain Line in Woodfin has announced their 11th Annual Jingle Bell Trolley rides.

They offer a 25-minute, 2-mile, round-trip ride down the mountain and back in an open-air trolley. Be sure to dress for the weather!

At the depot area you can visit with Santa! Each child will receive a gift from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Walk over to Santa's Christmas box car where you will be served chocolate and cookies by Santa's elves. While you're there please you can tour their beautifully restored railroad cars and take festive holiday pictures.

On Saturdays, trolleys run on the hour from 10 o'clock in the morning 'til 6 o'clock in the evening. On Fridays & Mondays, trolleys run on the hour from 3 until 6 o'clock in the evening. Tickets are \$19 per person and as always, children three and under are free!

Come out for a wonderful, old-fashioned, nostalgic Christmas experience like our grandparents used to have. You can purchase your tickets today at:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/craggymountainlinerailroad>

Others Christmas themed trains include the:

The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum @ <https://www.tvrail.com/>

The North Carolina Transportation Museum @ [the-polar-express-train-ride](https://www.ncdm.org/the-polar-express-train-ride)

The Great Smoky Mountains Railroad @ [GSMR Polar Express](https://www.gsmr.com/polar-express)

Denton Farm Park @ [country-christmas-train](https://www.dentonfarm.com/country-christmas-train)

For something completely different, these are pictures of a live steam layout on an apartment balcony in Moscow, Russia. It is a great example of how small a space one can use for a nice G scale layout. It has a lift bridge section to gain access and even has a turntable. More photos @ [Small Balcony Garden Railway - Garden Railway Forum](https://www.smallbalconygardenrailway.com/)



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