

# telegraph

Volume 9, Issue 9

September 2012

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## August CIGRS Meeting at Doggett's

The August meeting was hosted by Doug and Cindy Doggett's on Sunday, August 19, 2012 at their home in the country north of Bondurant. Prior to the meeting, Doug and Cindy were selling various train items to include a large assortment of track, buildings, engines and rolling stock.

talk about their Maple Creek RR. Doug said he was hooked on G Scale trains in 1998 after seeing a display that Bob Lewis, then owner of Trains and More in Windsor Heights, had put together at the Flower and Garden Show in Veterans Auditorium. For his birthday, Cindy took him to the store and they purchased track, a starter set, one additional engine and extra cars. The first layout they built was 20' x 50' that included two loops. This layout was featured on the 2009 Garden Railroad Tour. For the 2010 tour, they decided to expand the layout. They moved in 15 tons of boulders

### Business Meeting

President John Myers called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. He asked if there were any guest in attendance. There being none, he then called on Doug and Cindy to

and 20 tons of dirt and built many trestles. They battled 30 days of rain to complete the 2800 square foot layout. They finished laying track and testing the power supply sometime after midnight the day of the tour. For the 2012 tour, they added a whimsical feature that Doug calls the "The Twisted Track



Photo by Ron Mash

### Upcoming Events

- *September CIGRS Meeting is the 16th at Rene's*
- *October Meeting at Myers*
- *November Meeting at WDM Police Dept*

**Special Thanks to the Des Moines NTrak Club for making the 2012 Tour a special event for our guests.**

**See pics on pg 6**

## Doggett Meeting Continued

Line". It's not prototypical, but lots of fun to watch an engine or rail truck navigate this line. Doug also talked about the engine he designed around a Cub Cadet garden tractor. It has two saddle tanks and a compressor that blows the whistle. He also has built gondola cars so he can haul kids of all ages around the farm.

The next order of business was the treasurer's report. Howard Hoy went through the expenditures and receipts. The club is in excellent financial condition. Thanks Howard.

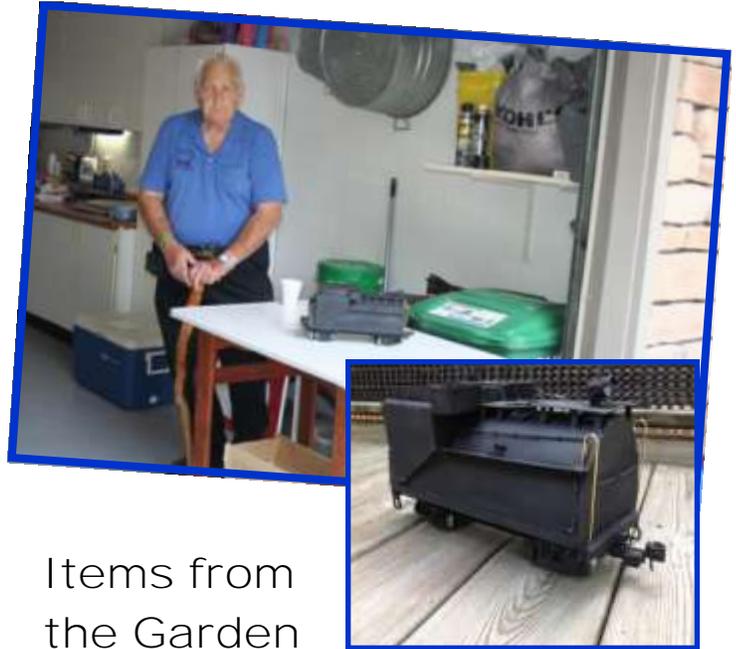
John Myers then asked for committee reports. The modular committee had nothing new to report. Jay Nugent reported that the tour attracted about 300 attendees taking in \$575 dollars offset by \$170 in expenses. John Olsen reported on the newsletter thanking all who have contributed articles as well as suggestions for improving the publication. Great job Ole.

### New Business

President Myers moved on to new business. Richard Potter asked if the club could organize a workday so that newer club members could build some cross-buck signals like those that were built for each site on the 2009 tour. John Olsen said he still has the plans, and Jay Nugent said he would check at Kidman Tree Farm to see what materials were left and what needed to be ordered to complete additional signals. John Myers talked about the National Garden Railroad Convention. Congratulations were extended to Mike Kidman and Dick Isard and his son Rick on being invited to present clinics at the National Convention.

### Show and Tell

Gene Pritchard talked about the tender that he is kit-bashing. He started out with a 1217 tender. He cut the original apart and lengthened it with styrene to look like the tenders that the Rock Island RR used. Impressive work Gene!



### Items from the Garden

Cindy said she would have some shade tree plants that will be available in the fall. Call her at: 515-967-4955 or electronically at: [garden-mom422@yahoo.com](mailto:garden-mom422@yahoo.com)

### Drawings

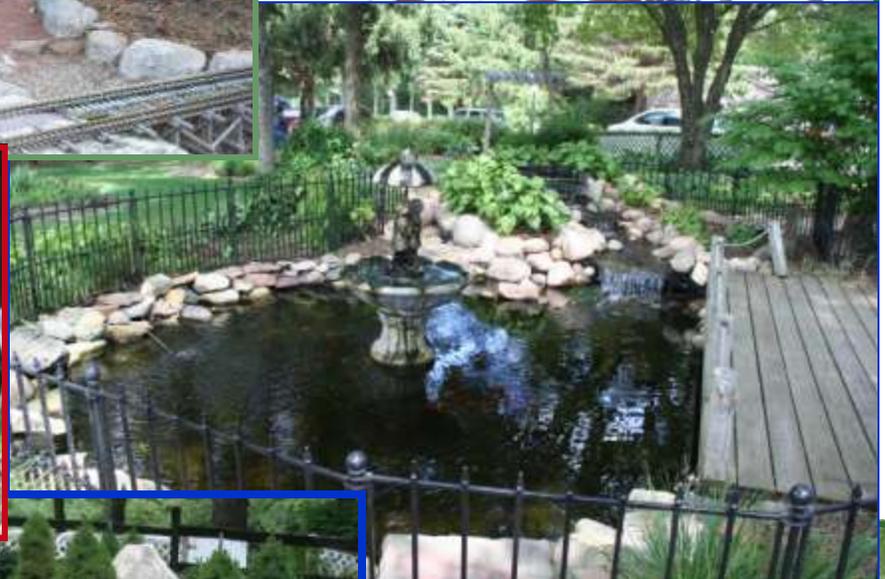
There were a number of items in these month's drawings. **Thanks to all who brought in items.**

### Final Information

Phil Deats is a volunteer for the Boone and Scenic Valley RR. He says they can still use additional volunteers. Everyone starts out as a brakeman, but once you pass the 'rules test' you can choose what you want to do. Talk with Phil to find out more information.

Jay Nugent, Secretary

# More Photos of Doggett's Maple Creek Railroad



Photos by Ron Mash  
These photos and others will soon be posted on the CIGRS Website.



National Garden Railroad Convention

**Many CIGRS members attended the event in St. Charles, IL including: the Swessinger's, the Sorenson's, the Magnuson's, the Cox's, the Nelson's, the Nugent's, the Kidman's, Mike Meston and his 3 boys, John Carl, Walt Smith, John Myers and Ole Olsen. At least these are the ones who made themselves visible from time to time.**

**We saw many wonderful layouts. It was very clear this was LGB Country! Many of the layouts we visited have been in operation for some time but others were just getting started. Everyone was having fun. Even in the rain.**

**We saw an exciting Modular Layout built by the Midwest Rails Club and an LGB Club layout that was on the floor at the entry of the Vendor Hall which reminded me of the terrific layout we see down in Albia annually for the Christmas Stroll built by Richard Burkman and Ron Hohneke.**

**Next year's convention will be in Cincinnati, Ohio and down in Florida in early June of 2014. I always appreciate the fact many garden railroaders are challenged by the same issues we are and some will invest loads of resources into their hobbies but it was a great reminder that each layout is a work of art and we all have different ideas and dreams for our backyards. The value in attending a national convention is to be inspired by other peoples ideas and hopefully apply something creative to my own layout. There are some big dreamers out there. The bulk of the Iowa contingent enjoyed dinner together on Friday evening. A good time was had by all.**

More NGRC  
pics in the next  
Telegraph

Article & Photo  
by Ole Olsen



Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

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By: The Band Man

Featured in this month's "In the Spotlight" column is



Louis and Hillary Miner. Louis and Hillary joined CIGRS a little over a year ago after showing up at Kidman's Tree Farm where Mike made his pitch. Over the past year, they have become more and more involved with garden railroading and club activities to include volunteering to work at both Renes' and Doggett's layouts for this year's Garden Railroad Tour.



Louis was first introduced to model trains at the age of three when his father and grandfather surprised him with a HO scale train set for Christmas. He put it to the test throughout his childhood, but while in high school, he gravitated to N scale. He continues to model in N scale and has built a number of layouts. Hillary's grandfather worked for the Rock Island RR, but her interested in model trains came after she and Louis were married (the band man suspects that Louis may have had a little influence here). They first heard about G Scale trains after viewing the Channel 8 TV promo that was shot at John Olsen's to promote our 2009 Garden Railroad Tour. They were not able to take in the tour due to obligations, but the story and their path to G scale gets better. About a year and half after seeing the TV promo, they vacationed during spring break in Eureka Springs, Arkansas where they stayed in a restored Burlington Northern caboose at Livingston Junction. After coming home, Louis began to search for the largest model of the caboose he could find. His quest turned up a G scale Burlington Northern caboose that was to be only on display. But any G scalar will tell you, once you see the large scale trains, you then need a layout.

At this point, they sought out Kidman's Tree Farm that was recommended to Louis by a colleague from the Polk County Sheriffs office that knew that the farm also had a large train store. Louis and Hillary visited the farm and also met John Olsen who was out to pick up some supplies. After visiting for two hours or so, they went home and started planning a 10 x 10 foot L shaped layout. Hillary likes the landscaping and plant side of the hobby, while Louis likes the challenge of planning and building. Presently they are making plans for a larger layout that will measure about 20 x 30 feet and feature wide curves, a water feature, a tunnel and a minimum of three main lines. Hillary also says there will be a small mountain and small miniature trees. Louis will first build the layout in N scale over the winter, then start construction on the real thing this coming spring.

Louis and Hillary both graduated from Des Moines North High School in 1995. They presently live in Bondurant. Louis is a Patrol Officer and Suburban Emergency Response Team (SERT) operator for Altoona. Hillary initially graduated from DMACC in fashion/design and worked for Younkers doing their visual merchandising, but decided to change careers about five years ago. In her new career she works as a one-on-one with a child at Centennial Elementary School in Altoona.



## Important Dates and Observances In September

### Birthdays

Michael Kidman	9-9
Jim Darby	9-12
Gene Pritchard	9-12
Jack Lundy	9-14
Dick Tinder	9-19
Carrie Cozad	9-20
Dick Shellenberg	9-23
Richard Roemer	9-25

### Anniversaries

Gene & Donna Pritchard	9-9
Peter & Sandra Paeth	9-14

## Scratch Built Engine House is Lookin' Good!



### Train Trivia

A "Sherman Necktie" is a name given to a piece of rail which was heated over a fire then twisted around a tree making it unusable. The Union troops under General William T. Sherman used this approach to destroy miles of southern railroad track during the famed "March to the Sea" in 1864.

Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston used the Manassas Gap Railroad to transport approximately 10,000 of his troops from Shenandoah Valley to Manassas Junction, Virginia on July 20th and 21st of 1861. Some of the troops marched directly into battle after disembarking from the train. This action helped the Confederate forces win the first major engagement of the Civil War and demonstrated the strategic and tactical importance of the railroad during the war.

Got these from a Christmas Gift Calendar

Provided By Peter Paeth

***"Here I have added hail screen in the windows to simulate lots of little panes. This idea was from Fred. I have started to paint the trim, and it will have Burlington colors, green trim and rust colored body."***

**Thanks for this update Karla. This Engine House is really coming along.**

# More Pics from the 2012 Central Iowa Garden Railroad Tour



Photos to the right & below by Nancy Fusco

Photos above & below by Ron Mash



Photos above & below by Eric Kamp



Photos by Scott McConathy and Jeff Henze  
Contributors to the T Trak layout were. Brion Oakley, Scott McConathy, Tom Newell, Drew Cannon. Byron Clark, and Jeff Henze contributed for set up and operation during the tour



These pictures and more will soon be posted on the CIGRS website.

## September Meeting Preview

### Amy and Rob Rene's Bassett Creek Railroad

By Amy Renes

Of course since the last meeting at our house many things have changed. We sold our little single car garage last summer and build a new one that would technically be considered a 3 car garage. This was the beginning of our latest transformation.

With all the construction taking place on the garage the railroad took a back seat last year so this year we had a lot

serious havoc with upkeep of the pond. This spring we tore out the stream, made it into a walking path, did some landscaping to create a nice patio area and extended the track by almost half. We now have a bubbling rock in the layout for our water and with the extension we added some trestles to create height. Next year we hope to run track along our back fence to then loop around where it can then

enter the garage for storage and staging.

We have many new plants in our railroad. We added a lot of Alberta Blue Spruce this year, a new Japanese Maple and a couple Ginkgo Trees. Rob has started a couple new hobbies which include Bonsai Trees and Miniature Hostas. We have the Bonsai's placed around the water feature so we can enjoy them while watching trains. The miniature hostas have been planted in the railroad and fit right in. We don't have any new buildings or residence as of late but Rob hopes to start doing some scratch building this winter.

*Photos by Eric Kamp*



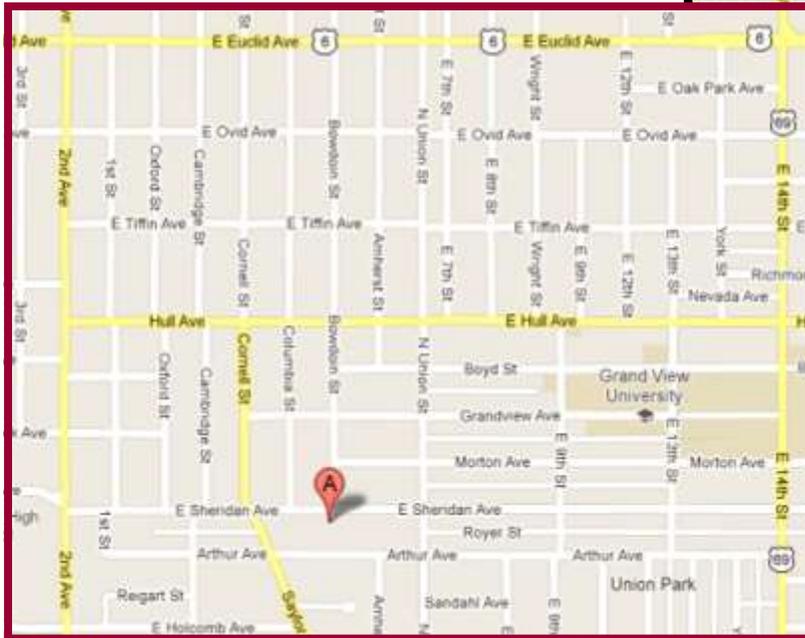
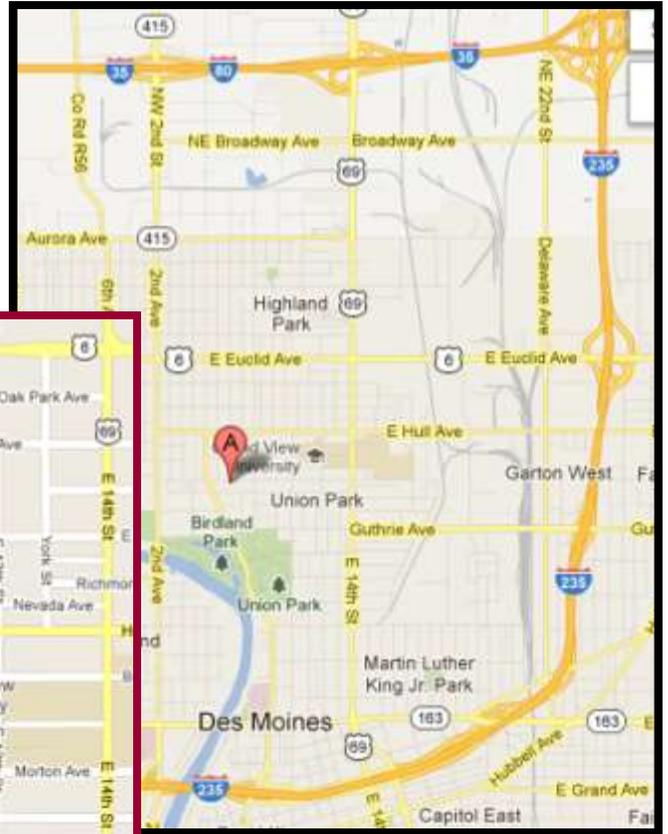
of work to do to get things up and going. Of course two years ago we added a beautiful water feature with a pondless waterfall. We loved the layout but unfortunately we have a LARGE cottonwood tree in our yard and it caused



**The Home of Amy and Rob Renes  
425 E. Sheridan, Des Moines, IA 50313  
515-681-2502**



Big Picture View to the right  
View from the "Hood" below  
**2nd Ave to Sheridan, turn east to the top of the hill at the intersection of Bowdoin and Sheridan.**



The Central Iowa Garden Railway Society has regular monthly meetings at which we discuss one another's current projects, hobby news, and the latest products on the market.

Programs are presented at some meetings, either by one of our members, or by someone brought in from outside the organization. The programs generally cover some element of the hobby, from the history of local and other Railroads, to rolling stock to track work, to locomotives, includes electric operation, battery-powered and trains that actually run on live

steam. Most of our members have, or hope to have, gauge G, or gauge 1 railways in their gardens or back yards.

Meetings are generally held on the third Sunday of each month. Specific dates and times, as well as program topics, are announced in the CIGRS Telegraph. Club members are encouraged to involve themselves in any of a variety of functions, including special model railway exhibitions that are staged in the area.

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**We're on the web:  
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