



# Telegraph

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Garden Railway Society



Volume 13, Issue 3  
March 2016

## February CIGRS Meeting Highlights

### MARCH

#### Birthdays

Mary Ann Nolan	3-1
Murray Bouschlicher	3-1
Joe Godfroy	3-6
Cindy Doggett	3-7
Louis Miner	3-18
Gordon Cox	3-21
Marilyn Shellenberg	3-25
Dawn Paeth	3-28
Anniversaries	
Mike & Renee Kidman	3-7
Phil & Barbara Deats	3-17

Although the February day was a cool one, there were sunny smiles and warm welcomes in the Redfield Community Center! Members arrived early, towing the CIGRS track and supplies. Tables were quickly arranged, tracks laid, and trains began running. In addition to members, a local youngster dropped by and was delighted to have the opportunity to run trains.

After the first two Clinic presentations, we broke for lunch. As usual, there was more than enough. Lots of delicious entrees, salads and side dishes followed by delectable desserts.

After lunch, there was a final clinic presentation then members voted on the entries for the Modeling

Contest. We have many talented, creative members, so this year we expanded the categories to include: Locomotives, Rolling Stock, Caboose, Photos of RR Gardens, Fairy Gardens, Arts and Crafts with a Railroad Theme, G-Scale Structures, and Dioramas. The Gary Elden Travelling Modeler Trophy was awarded to Ron Huntimer for the overall best model. Ron started with a Smith Pond Junction kit purchased from Kidman's for his saloon and added an upper floor. For his covered bridge he used Go Board which is waterproof and light weight. A 3' X 5' sheet was purchased at Menard's for \$21. Congratulations, Ron.



Following Show and Tell, several members brought merchandise to sell and had an opportunity to describe and promote during Show and Sell.

### APRIL

#### Birthdays

Nancy Swessinger	4-5
John Kilmer	4-11
Sandra Paeth	4-12
Mary Buczek	4-18
Phil Deats	4-28
Ron Mash	4-29



**We're on the web**  
**[www.cigrs.net/](http://www.cigrs.net/)**

## Flower Lawn and Garden Show Update

Lou reports good progress in planning for this event. John passed around the sign-up sheet for volunteers to set up the display, man the booth, and tear down at the end of the show. John encouraged all to consider sharing a structure or scenery.



### Lost and Found

#### LOST

#### Rare Buddhist Scripture

The Tibetan scholar was so excited to see London mayor Boris Johnson riding the Tube that he accidentally left his laptop on the train. The computer contained the lama's life's work: two unfinished books and nearly 1,000 pages of rare 17<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist scripture.

#### FOUND

#### A Boa constrictor named Penelope

In 2011, a woman wearing a three-foot-long snake around her neck realized the pet serpent had slithered away. Since nobody could find it, authorities confidently declared that "the trains are absolutely snake-free." Turns out, they were wrong. Penelope hid out in an adjacent car for an entire month.

## Annual Garden RR Tour June 25

Ole announced there will be a BBQ at his house following the tour on June 25<sup>th</sup>. ALL CIGRS members are invited. Plan to join in the fun, frolics and fellowship! Ole is working with members to promote this event. The plan is to distribute fliers at the Flower Lawn and Garden Show.

## CIGRS Christmas Party December 10<sup>th</sup> ■ Save the Date

Correction: The party will be held at the Grandview Church of Christ Building on Hubble in Des Moines. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. This will be a time to celebrate our accomplishments, recognize those who have contributed to our successes and plan for 2017. If you wish to help with party planning or preparations, contact Richard or Beth Potter.

## Welcome

We were honored to have Janet's Daughter, Deanna join us for the Fairy Garden clinic. Thanks Deanna!

A hearty handshake to new members, Michael Armstrong originally from Davenport and now residing in West Des Moines. Shared he is in the process of building his third railroad. Special focus will be a covered bridge.

## Unique Products used for Scratch Building

**Building** with excerpts from the clinic and handout

Howard Hoy shared building construction tips on unique products used for scratch building in G Scale. He demonstrated use of Trovicel to construct buildings. In his handout, Howard noted, "Trovicel is lighter than styrene, not as strong, but easier to cut and shape. It can be sawn, cut with a knife, sanded, filed, planed, drilled, or carved. Trovicel can be purchased at a sign shop. It bonds well with Omni-stick which is avail-

able from Kidman's or Hobby Lobby. Tip: use small bungee cords to set the corners. Omni-stick dries in approximately 2 hours.

Howard also introduced participants to Ozark Miniatures that carries products in 1:24 scale for building structures. The embossed styrene panels are available in a variety of building exteriors. Although the sheets can be cut with a knife or scissors, Howard's preferred method is a paper shear. He uses the Omni-stick to bond the panels to the backer board. He reports it holds well out

doors and will not etch the panels. He cautioned, "Avoid adhesives with MEK or toluene as they will etch the plastic."

When you are ready to paint, Howard said, "Ozark's panels accept enamels or acrylics. Avoid lacquers as they may etch the plastic, causing crackling and bubbles." Further, Howard noted, "If painting trim a different color than the field color, paint the trim first and insert in openings after the field color has been applied."

Thank-you for sharing, Howard!

Suppliers referenced during Howard's presentation:



**Reindeer Pass Railroad**  
*Your garden railroad headquarters!*

<http://www.reindeerpass.com/>

Kits and supplies and equipment.



<http://www.ozarkminiatures.com/scripts/default.asp>

Source for windows, doors, trim and other scale Building materials



<http://www.grandtline.com/>

Great for chimneys.



[info@rstoneworks.com](mailto:info@rstoneworks.com)

Also a source for windows.



**Dolls and minis**

<http://www.dollsandminis.com/>

Dolls and Minis is a source for block and brick stencils and Fairy Gardens



## Using Wood for G Scale Building Projects with Karla Gunzenhauser

As a rule, we can count on Karla for architectural masterpieces from scale model sale barns to whirligigs to a grist mill. During the clinic, Karla shared tips for building projects.

**Start with a plan.** Karla always captures her ideas on paper before she starts to build.

**Use 1:24 scale.** For this scale you divide the measurement in feet of the item you are replicating by 2 to convert your measurement to scale in inches.

Use the right glue.  
Titebond II for indoor models  
Titebond III is waterproof  
Probond for use outdoors.  
Welder Glue for use outdoors.  
Caution: will melt Tronix.

**When making a building, put the walls on first.**

**Tools and accessories:**  
Stanley FatMax Cutter  
Tiny Hinges, Butterfly hinges available from Hobby Haven- used for airplane modeling

**Karla's best advice is: Measure, Cut, Glue, Clamp, Wait!!**



## Fairy Gardening with Janet Moser

A couple of years ago, Janet's daughter, Deanna gifted her with a lovely miniature ceramic cottage she acquired from a local thrift store. She commented on how it would look lovely in a fairy garden. That started Janet on a most creative and interesting journey. Janet advise most of the props in the fairgardens she creates were \$1.00 or less at various thrift stores.

During her clinic, Janet demonstrated how to create

a fairy garden using a seed-starter planting tray (approximately 14"X 24"), potting soil, miniature plants such as Irish moss, Hen and Chicks, Miniature palms, Creeping Artillery, Butterfly Syngonium, and Baby Toes. Janet noted that Pintrest is a great source for ideas about putting your garden together and decorating. Once the buildings were in place, she accessorized with the miniature plants and finished

with small rock pathways. Deanna and Janet displayed tables, stools and other accessories they had created from jewelry beads and buttons. Enchanting and Ingenious!

Janet said the Fairy Garden has been a fun and whimsical addition to their train layout.

Look for a fairy garden at the CIGRS display March 17-20 at the Flower Lawn and Garden Show.

Thanks for sharing your tips and talents, Janet!



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CENTRAL IOWA GARDEN



**Iowa Flower, Lawn & Garden Show  
2016**

**Iowa Flower, Lawn & Garden Show  
3/18/2016 - 3/20/2016**

**Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines IA**

# Save the date:

\*\*March 18th–20th—Iowa Flower, Lawn & Garden Show

\*April 17th –Hotel Patee, Perry, Iowa 1:30 PM

\*\*\*May–Kidman’s Polk City-Potluck date to be determined

\*\*June 25th Annual Garden Railroad Tour 9 AM to 4 PM

\*July 17th Steven & Cheryl Evens, Knoxville , Potluck

\*\*\*August 13th Jay & Cheri Nugent, Cookie & Lemonade

\*\*\*September Isard, Cedar Rapids, date to be determined

\*\*\*October Open

\*November 20th Durham School Services, Ankeny ,Annual Business Meeting:  
Election of Officers, Planning for 2017, Review Member Surveys

December 10 Grandview Church of Christ–Potluck–time to be determined

\* Business Meetings

\*\* Events

\*\*\* Open House



Central Iowa Garden  
Railway Society

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## HOTEL PATTEE to host C.I.G.R.S. April Meeting

Jay Hartz, owner and manager of the historic **HOTEL PATTEE** in Perry, Iowa, announced that the **HOTEL PATTEE** will once again host a monthly Meeting of the **Central Iowa Garden Railway Society (C.I.G.R.S.)**. This year the Hotel will host the April Meeting on Sunday, April 17, 2016 commencing at 1:30 p.m. in a meeting room provided by the Hotel at no cost.

For those C.I.G.R.S. members who wish to spend Saturday night at the Hotel before the Sunday meeting, the Hotel has made available at least five rooms for Saturday, April 16, at a special rate of \$89.00 (regular price \$139.00) on a first come first served basis. To book reservations, call the Hotel at 515 465-3511, identify yourself as a C.I.G.R.S. member, and ask for that special rate. For those coming in on Saturday, consider having dinner at **David's Milwaukee Diner** in the Hotel. To review the menu selections and cost, go to [www.hotelpattee.com/](http://www.hotelpattee.com/) and click on **EAT** then **David's Milwaukee Diner**. Scroll down until you see **Menu**. Then click once on "Dinner Menu\*". Dining hours are from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. From 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. you could stop by the lobby and enjoy Fireside Music provided by the hotel, which selects talented musicians to perform for your listening pleasure.

On Sunday, when you arrive at the Hotel, you can enjoy breakfast in **David's Milwaukee Diner** from 7:00 a.m. until right before meeting time. Order breakfast from a selection of delicious entrees, or just have a cinnamon roll and a cup of coffee or glass of milk. To review all the breakfast selections and cost, use the same process as above, except when you get to **Menu**. Then click once on "Breakfast Menu\*".

For more information or details concerning the Hotel, spend some time looking through its web site [www.hotelpattee.com/](http://www.hotelpattee.com/).

\* Click once and wait for menu to load. To enlarge menu, click on + sign on bar at bottom of screen.

We wanted to pass this offer along to the CIGRS membership. It was posted on the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad Facebook page yesterday. It would give everyone the opportunity to ride the train at a discounted rate.

Regular price for the dinner train is \$67.25.

Regular price for the excursion train is \$22 adults / \$9 children / under 3 free.

Thanks,  
Barb



**BOONE & SCENIC VALLEY RAILROAD**  
& MUSEUM

**Spring Fever Deal**  
*Coach Class Tickets*  
*Buy 1 Get 1 Free*

Valid on regularly scheduled trains in May, June, and July, 2016.  
Tickets are not upgradable. Sale ends May 15, 2016.

**Call 1-800-626-0319**  
must mention promo code "Spring2016"



**BOONE & SCENIC VALLEY RAILROAD**  
& MUSEUM

**Diner Deal**  
*\* Saturday nights in April \**  
*Dinner train tickets are only \$55.25*

Valid on regularly scheduled dinner trains in April, 2016.  
Seating is limited. Offer ends April 30, 2016.

**Call 1-800-626-0319**  
Must mention promo code "Dining16"