



Volume 12, Issue 3

March 2015

Telegraph

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

Flower, Lawn & Garden Show Event

From start



To show





To Close



Save the date:

May 17 at Howard Hoy's B&RGW in Boone , come see the Lost Bullwinkle Mine and the Erica Jo Mine at Kay's Rocks

Dues are now due – still \$15.00 a year. Send to CIGRS at 615 S Marshall St., Boone IA 50036

Kit Bashing Contest April 19

We have several members skilled at “bashing”. Of course, that would be kit bashing. For those unfamiliar with the term, my husband, Richard, explained that “kit bashing” is when you take a kit, or the components thereof to create something other than the original kit item. Be sure to bring your favorite kit bashing projects with you to our April 19th meeting at the Hotel Pattee.

Although this is a contest for which there is no prize, the real pay-off is what we can learn from one another. So, come prepared to show off your work and share tips with your friends, April 19th, Hotel Pattee, be there or be square!

March Show



2015 Iowa Flower, Lawn and Garden Show: Tunnels, Trestles, Towers and Track

Late-Breaking News from Ole, Roving Reporter and All-Around Good Guy!

Another fantastic day at the fairgrounds with lots of visitors and accolades too. This morning the show director called all the vendors together and announced the 2015 award winners. The Central Iowa Garden Railroad Society received an Award of Excellence for our efforts. This makes it two out of the past three years CIGRS was recognized for Excellence. The layout really looked great with many members participating in the build out as well as the TEARDOWN. It is really too bad this event only lasts over a weekend. Members old and new brought trains to run from Friday afternoon thru Sunday afternoon. What a sight to see trains running at the ground level, two loops raised up a foot and a fourth loop raised two feet off the ground circling a mountain. These trains ranged from analog track power and battery power to digital command control. Flyers and business cards with and without magnets were handed out to promote the garden railroad tour the fourth Saturday in June. I am happy to inform you we have 4 tour hosts confirmed and are awaiting the final two confirmations soon. It is my hope to announce who our 2015 hosts will be at the CIGRS meeting at the Hotel Pattee in Perry in April.

I would like to thank all the CIGRS members who helped with layout design, to actually building stone retaining walls, laying track and creating a water element, to placing trestle bents and spreading mulch all of which helped bring this layout to life. Ron Huntimer and Howard Hoy brought in a wide variety of structures and dioramas. Fred's Beaver Valley Elevator was there. Larry Nelson and Gene Elphic brought in several very special bridges that were placed at different locations around the layout. There was no shortage of trains throughout the weekend. Some of the road names include: the UP, BN, GN, CNW, CN, CSX, B&O, Rock Island and others I'm sure.

Special thanks go out to Mike and Andrew Meston for not only picking up, but delivering and returning all the landscape stone and mulch that was used in the layout this weekend. Mike and Andrew are sons of CIGRS member Mike Meston. These young men work at T&T Sprinklers out of Johnston, IA. They brought a skid loader for unloading and loading the stone and mulch plus two heavy duty trailers to haul all of these materials. When asked to help out they were very quick to say, "just let us know what you need." They were on it! Clearly they went the extra mile in volunteering their time, talent and equipment for this project. If any members ever need assistance with irrigation systems at your residence or business, please consider **T&T Sprinkler Systems**. Thanks very much Mike and Andrew! Well done guys!

Hope to see you at the CIGRS meeting in April. If you plan to take part in the **RAILROAD CAMPOREE** at the Boone Fairgrounds **May 8 and 9**, please contact Ole Olsen and send him your T-Shirt size and \$15. This will cover all your meals and the cost of a pretty awesome T-Shirt worn by all program staff. Registration is required since this program is an official program of the Boy Scouts of America. Contact Ole with questions about helping out and the build out schedule. Over 1000 scouts are expected with about 500 adult leaders on hand to help these young men learn about train safety and transportation while earning their Railroad Merit Badge.

Good Night all ☺☺☺☺. It was a fun weekend!

John Olsen
Boulder Creek Railroad
www.cigrs.net

News and Notoriety and Awards at the 2015 Iowa Lawn and Garden Show

In addition to being presented with an Award of Excellence from the show organizers for the second year in a row, CIGRS made page four of the Des Moines Sunday Register, John Olson was interviewed by Van and Bonnie on Saturday and Mike Kidman was featured on Channel 13 News Sunday. Members chatted with visitors and distributed nearly 1000 fliers advertising our June Tour along with CIGRS Club brochures and business cards during the course of the Show. This was a great opportunity to spread the word and extend a welcome to young and old. In fact, it was at the Home and Garden Show that Richard and I first learned about CIGRS. This event continues to be an effective outreach for making contact with the community and attracting new members.





Garden train

Couple enjoys working with mini steam engines

By Juli Probasco-Sowers

Connie and Bill Joy with the steam engines that will run in their garden this spring.

Photo by Juli Probasco-Sowers



Bill Joy has set interest in steam engines on fire — literally. The retirement hobby began with a magazine from a German company selling steam engine sets that a person could buy and build. That was in about 2000 or so, he says.

Bill purchased a kit and set about making the large-scale model train that uses coal to run on steam, some track and cars to add on to the engine and the hobby began.

The large-scale trains are set on tracks that are built outside and left out all winter. Bill says his track isn't particularly fancy and is still a work in progress.

"We planted some trees that were supposed to be miniature as part of our garden that the train goes through, but they grew up kind of tall," Connie says.

Bill has added a feature that allows him to run his trains into the garage, onto a lift he can raise so he can move and work on the trains without having to bend over all the time.

Currently, Bill has two steam engines being repaired so they can be used again when the weather breaks this spring.

"The steam engines have a little damage on them... they caught on fire," he says.

Bill says he's not exactly sure why he likes the steam engines so much because they are a lot of work.

"It takes 45 minutes to an hour to get the coal fire going and ready, and then it runs for about 10 minutes," he says.

But, he says, he loves to watch steam engines at work and it brings back childhood memories.

He and wife, Connie, have made the pastime social by becoming members of the Central Iowa Garden Railway Society and attending monthly meetings.

"You meet people you never would have met otherwise. They are from all walks of life with the only thing in common," Bill says.

At the monthly meetings, which have been held in Perry a couple of times, the members share their ideas, their trains and their gardens with others. Sometimes they have workdays where members can go to help each other work on their gardens, tracks or trains.

"It is just a bunch of people enjoying playing with their toys," Bill says. "It is a great break from work and from retirement." □

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View the magazine at <http://www.iowalivingmagazines.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Perry-Feb.pdf>

Correction

The steam is generated by propane not coal.

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 to be held on Sunday, April 19, 2015 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 18th, 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](tel: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/ and click on **dining** then **David's Milwaukee Diner**. Scroll down until you see **Menus**. Then click on Dinner Menu. Dining hours are from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. And from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. you could stop by the lobby to enjoy Fireside Music with C.W. Smith, who is scheduled to perform.

On Sunday, if you arrive at the Hotel from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., you can enjoy breakfast in **David's Milwaukee Diner** by ordering from a selection of fourteen delicious entrees, or just order a Cinnamon Roll, or a bowl of oatmeal 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 **Menus** click on Breakfast Menu.

On Sunday, after breakfast and before the 1:30 start of the April Meeting, the Hotel will be offering tours of the Hotel for those interested. Tours will start in the lobby and are subject to the number of persons interested in taking a tour and the availability of a sufficient number of tour guides.

For more information or details concerning the Hotel spend some time looking through its web site www.hotelpattee.com/.

Welcome to the Hotel Pattee

1112 Willis Avenue

Perry, Iowa 50220-0307

[515-465-3511](tel:515-465-3511)



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

MAY

Birthdays

Barbara Deats	5-19
Marilyn Kirkpatrick	5-19
Cheryl Evans	5-19
Grant Boes	5-20
Andee Vocelka	5-24
Beth Potter	5-30

Anniversaries

John & Barb Kilmer	5-2
Gordon & Kathy Cox	5-5
Dave & Elaine Dunn	5-13
Dick & LaVonne Isard	5-14
Jim & Marilyn Magnuson	5-18
Hillary & Lou Miner	5-22

Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

Key Contacts for 2015

President

Joe Godfroy
 sjgtrail02@outlook.com
 (515)833-2270

Vice President

Mike Kidman
 kidman@att.net
 (515)984-6946

Treasurer

Howard Hoy
 howardandkayhoy@mchsi.com
 (515)236-4267

Secretary

Ben Hancock
 benhandcock@iowatelecom.net
 (641)203-0895

Club Librarian

Ron Huntimer
 huntimer4@aol.com
 (515)964-1851

Club Co-Historians

Janet Moser
 janm@netins.net
 (515)677-2124

Karla Gunzenhauser
 pkgunzy@iowatelecom.net
 Phone: (641)877-6226

Friendship Committee

Sheri Godfroy
 sjgtrail02@outlook.com
 Phone: (515)480-7701

Donna Pritchard
 (515)462-2542

Newsletter Editor

Beth Potter
 bethnrchard@gmail.com
 (319) 290-0678



Hotel Pattee
1112 Willis Avenue
Perry, Iowa 50220-0307
515-465-3511
Meeting starts at 1:30



The Central Iowa Garden Railway Society has regular monthly meeting at which we discuss one another's current project, 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 locomotive, includes electric operation, batter-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.

For more information, contact:

President
Joe Godfroy
sjgtrail02@outlook.com
(515)833-2270

Vice President
Mike Kidman
kidman@att.net
(515)984-6946

