



**Southern Tier Garden Railway Society**

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**STGRS Calendar:**

**At a glance section:**

**Friday and Saturday, September 24-25:** The East Coast Large Scale Train Show in York, Pa.

**Your Event:** Anytime you would like, Hometown, USA

**AND NOW FOR THE BEEF:**

**Friday and Saturday, September 24-25:** The East Coast Large Scale Train Show will be held at the fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Ave, York, Pa. The hours are Friday, 9AM to 6PM and Saturday, 9AM to 4PM. Admission for the two days is \$18.00 a person and a single day admission is \$10. Children under 12 are free. This last show did not seem as busy as the other years. There were three plant vendors and that made Gail very happy.

For more info the web address is [www.largescaletrainshows.com](http://www.largescaletrainshows.com) .

**Your Event:** Let me know the dates and times and I will get them into the newsletter. You don't even need a layout to host an event, just a willingness to get together with some club members. If the event is before the next newsletter, I will email all possible and let them know.

**THE GREEN SPOT:** by Gail Gunsalus

In the last article we discussed some wild flower choices for the shady areas of the railroad garden and learned that most are short lived and die back mid summer. These are well worth the pleasant but short surprises they provide. You can interplant them with other perennials to provide further color.

Here are four more choices. The first two are similar plants with a ferny leaf, but differing in color and texture. These are the Dutchman Breeches and Squirrel Corn, and they also differ in blooms. The Dutchman Breeches resemble an upside down white, with yellow trim, pantaloons while the Squirrel Corn is heart shaped white or cream with touches of pink to lavender. These 6" or so plants sprout on a fleshy, curved drooping stem from a corm composed of many tiny, clustered balls. The tiny balls which form the Dutchman Breeches come from are a pinkish color while the Squirrel corn is yellow resembling kernels of corn, but round, hence the name. Both are a puffy bloom composed of 4 petals which resemble one single bloom. A number of tiny blooms hang down along the end of the curving stem similar to the bleeding heart plant. They belong to this family. The root of these plants will wind themselves a long way up to the surface, wedging themselves between rocks and forest soil.

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Next is the Jack in the pulpit which will reach 12 to 18 inches in height. It was always exciting to find them in the woods when I was growing up. Jack is a cone shaped flower with the inside composed of a cylinder shape which eventually is lined with flowers which resembles a tiny preacher. The top of the cone sheath folds over the flower head and the inside of the top of the sheath is colorfully striped. The flowers turn into orange red fruits encasing the seeds. The sheath dries away in the fall leaving an interesting fall display. The flower has three leaves and one flower stalk each on its' own separate stem attached to the bulb root.

The last flower today is the adder tongue or trout lily also known as a violet or dog tooth. The last two names have no real relationship to the shape of the plant. You will see colonies of these little 6" plants under forest trees in the dappled sunlight. They have two long drooping leaves with the flower emerging from a fleshy stem in the center to droop towards the ground. The leaves are spotted resembling snakes' tongues or skins, thus the name adder tongues. The trout lily name is because these flowers grow near brooks or streams where trout swim.

The lily shaped flower in this area is yellow with brown spots on the inside with reddish brown stamens extending from the inside of the cup to entice insects to pollinate it. Other colors from white to pink and violet exist in other countries and states. I once bought pink flower bulbs, but never got any blooms.

An interesting fact I learned from my mother is that the lily shaped bloom will follow the sun, turning on its stem to find warmth.

Most of these wild flowers bloom early in spring in order to seek the sun before forest leaves block the sunlight from them. They like many spring wild flowers store food during the winter to help them grow and bloom early in the spring. Most of these prefer a slightly moist, rich soil, but many of these flowers survive in my garden in regular soil. You

will love the interest they add to sheltered spots in your railroad garden.

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### **York Train Show: by Gail Gunsalus**

We had another great weekend for the ECLST show in York, PA. It was sunny, but chilly and windy. Jim and I left on Thursday morning for a leisurely trip to our hotel with a few stops on the way.

Thursday, late afternoon, we went out to the local Wal-Mart to get an early start on this year's plant season. They had Primroses, Saxifrage, and other good stuff. I picked out some really nice ones and headed to the front to check out. On the way we were instructed to leave the cart and store immediately! No one would tell us why, but we found out that night on local TV there was a bomb threat. There was no bomb found, and the mall opened the next day. I had to go back and repick my plants before we left for the show that morning.

Imagine getting to the show and finding two additional plant sellers this year. Count them, THREE in all! There was the familiar Appalachian Gardens and then two new dealers Mulberry Herb Gardens which I have mentioned before in my articles and a gentleman by the name of Jim Shepard from Micro Scaping located in Columbia, NJ. Each place had a variety of same and totally different plants, more choices! We enjoyed browsing familiar tables with supplies, trains, and accessories, and soon we ran into Frank and Donna and then Iris trying to find Charlie. She finally caught up to him.

We visited the display room and stopped at Laurence "Yogi" Wallace and his wife Lois' table. We always enjoy seeing Yogi's new projects and his old ideas on roofs and windows. This year he was showing how to rust items.

Bob Temper was also there demoing his method for constructing your own railroad figures using foil,

wire and Sculpy, a polymer clay. His articles have been featured in the last two Garden Railway magazines. I have tried figures using Sculpy on a wire sculpture and have had good luck, but he has some great ideas for more stability.

Later, Frank, Donna, Charlie, Iris, Cliff, Pauline, Jim, and I met at Ruby Tuesday's for supper and conversation. We always enjoy ourselves.

The show lasted another day, but Jim and I only attend one day, and then we spent time doing other things in the area.

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**THE GREENE MODEL RAILROAD TRAIN SHOW: by Frank Moorhead**

Our club was invited to participate in the train show sponsored by the Greene Model Railroad Train Club on Saturday, February 27th in Greene. We set up the layout with a winter scene with the help of John and Cindy Skibitzki, Jane Conklin, Wilbur and Laura Decker, and Frank and Donna Moorhead. We had over a hundred visitors stop by and enjoy our work and ask questions about garden railroads. Thank you to all who helped us have a presence at the show.

Following the clean up several of us went out for supper to enjoy time together.

**The Storm:** by James Gunsalus

A week ago we had a very bad storm come through the area and it did some damage to our layout. It tossed the garden railway houses we had put out around the yard house causing windows to be knocked out, buildings to be broken and parts broken off. We got hit with the storm about 8PM and it was very violent. Jon and I were sitting in the living room when we heard the wind pick up violently. We heard the house creak and crack but saw no damage. We looked out the front and side window and saw nothing bad. The wind ended quickly and it was over. We were fine!

The next morning Gail looked out the back window and asked why the canoe was on the back deck. I said WHAT? We didn't move it. We went out and noticed the war zone. The canoe had been lifted over the above ground swimming pool and tossed on the back deck. It did have a slight dent in the side but nothing major. The garden railway was a mess. Some of the roll roof siding had been removed from the garage, a quarter of the roofing on the back of the garage had been ripped off, garbage cans and recycle bins from who knows where, were in my back yard along the garbage. By the garbage trail, we think these came from a dead end street that stops at the west side of our property. They had flown over the fence and made a mess. The furniture in the screen house was moved from the middle to the edge. A few days later we discovered that our camper had been moved about a foot and would have been pushed into the back yard if it had not hit the back board of the pad I had built for it.

Gail's main concern was the flowers the canoe was partially laying on. She had just planted them. You will be glad to know that Gail and the plants did survive the ordeal.

**Website Information:**

I do want to mention and thank Ray Taylor for doing a great job on the website for the club. The address is <http://www.ray-taylor.com/stgrs/> Ray does a fine job on keeping the site up to date. You can see photos from other club members older newsletters or just look around. Please take some time and visit.

**End of the Line:**

That brings us into the station. I hope you enjoyed the ride. Let me know of any events or articles for Your newsletter. I need to hear from you so the rest can be kept up on the news. Start planning now for the next newsletter. The deadline for the next edition will be June 19<sup>th</sup>. Have a great spring!