



# The Conductor

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July 2005

The Official Newsletter of the North Texas Garden Railways Consortium.



## July 10, 2005 (2:00-4:00: pm) Ed & Myrna Acklin

Ed Acklin is one of our newer members and has been working on helping the club with some of our projects. He is very anxious to start his garden railway and wants input and maybe some sweat help in starting his railway.. Ed has graciously offered us temporary storage space for our trailer and club equipment.

Ed & Myrna Acklin  
3612 Candelaria Dr.  
Plano, TX. 75023  
Phone; 972-801-9021

From the intersection of Coit and Parker (not Park) go east to the first signal light. That is Mission Ridge. Mission Ridge is half way between Coit and Independence. Turn north on Mission Ridge and go 3 streets. That is Candelaria and Candelaria intersects Mission Ridge from the west. It does not cross Mission Ridge. Turn west on Candelaria and we are the 3rd house on the south side of the street. Ours is the only house on the street with a circle drive.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please give me a call.

ED

## *Presidents Letter by Rusty Wells*

Bummer Dude..... Rusty Wells

"Stalled out" would be a good term to use for the process of building a permanent layout for our club. I received a grand total of four responses on the Questionnaire sent in the last Conductor.

There was 3 votes for a permanent layout and 1 vote against. Given that response, I am not jazzed up about recommending to the board that we proceed any further. There is simply not enough interest at this point in time to make it worthwhile. If you are interested in this issue, I urge you to attend the July meeting and voice your opin-

ion. You can only be heard if you are there.

The gracious folks at Texas A & M need an answer soon so we need to make a decision now. The board did not meet this past month so our July meeting becomes even more important for getting input and coming to a resolution. I have had time this summer to work on the C.H. and O.O. and I can say, "my worst day on the railroad is better than my best day at my job". Things are actually moving forward. Congratulations to Ron Natinsky on his election victory. The Dallas City Hall will change for the better with his leadership.

Happy Training, rw

# Open House Comments

I went to my local water garden store today. They were nice enough to hang our flyer and my pictures on their door. They said they had a lot of people coming in and asking for our map. They said a lot more came in for our maps than people who came in for the pond tour info. This fits with our little survey that found that virtually no one who came to see our garden RR was also visiting the pond tour.

I thought of another reason why we might consider a date earlier in the spring for the G-Day open house tour. By having it earlier, we would be having it when more people would be visiting the water garden stores and nurseries.

Allan Gartner

Attached below this note are some feedback e-mails from visitors of the Wishbone Railroad from the 6/18 and 6/19 NTGRC Tour. I thought this feedback might be helpful for your future group efforts and events.

I am still thinking on feedback to give you regarding ways to improve next year's tour.

Dear Joe & Dixie:

Amelia and myself loved your display the very best! You were so wonderful and kind to allow us to photograph and admire your beautiful display, we can't wait to tell my husband (our personal Joe) all about it.

Please give Wishbone and hug and kiss from us and tell him to continue to enjoy those dog day of summer.

Thanks again,

The Mugavero's

Dear Joe & Dixie,

We want to thank you again for opening up your wonderful railroad to the public. We enjoyed all of the locations we went to Saturday and Sunday and were able to take away good ideas from each. I must tell you that the system that the two of you have built captured what we are wanting to accomplish on our first adventure into garden railroading.

While I have been reading Garden Railways Magazine for over three years and thought that I new what I wanted to create, it was not until we arrived at your home Sunday afternoon that we each separately knew the style that would best suit us.

Again, thank you for the thrill of seeing what can be accomplished and enjoyed.

Sincerely,

Jerry & ClaudetteJoe (and Dixie)

We started out with your layout and only saw two others due to time restraints. We definitely would vote for yours as the best we saw, even though we know there wasn't any type of competition (I think it was the herbs that put you over the top). However, we did observe the same willingness from the other two to explain the concept and approach that met your benchmark.

We do appreciate your willingness to open your garden to a bunch of strangers. We enjoyed the experience of witnessing your commitment and expertise with your hobby and meeting your wife, who m we learned coincidently works very close to our neighborhood.

We were telling our daughter of our experience today and she remarked that she had no idea that

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such a "sub-culture" existed! But I do know a bit about railfans and I thought of my father (on this Father's Day weekend) while seeing your real life example of what he would have love to have done and belong to this "sub-culture". He was a railfan from the word "go" and would have been absolutely enthralled with your accomplishments.

Thanks again for sharing your experience and your passion.

Bill and Linda

Another smooth running, god weather, and well attended open house was had. The publicity worked very well. Even without television coverage, we still had almost 50% more people than last year. We had 334 people - just 12 shy of our record. We even had some people leave and come back later in the day with more people with them!

Apparently people couldn't find whatever we had at the Texas A&M location.

This year we surveyed our guests to find out who was also visiting the pond tour. Only one party indicated that they were. Having our tour coincident with the pond tour doesn't seem to be helping us. It would then seem that the club could have our event earlier in the spring when our flowers look good and it is a little cooler. I know a lot of people I invite do not come because they are celebrating Father's Day. Also, perhaps if we had it on cooler days, more layouts would participate. We tried something new to help our guests see all the things that we put on display for them. We made an 18 item scavenger hunt of things for them to find. Young and old seemed to enjoy it. We organized the items on the scavenger hunt so that people would progress from item to item in a single direction around our backyard. I was concerned this hunt would choke the flow of people through our backyard, but it did not. People didn't have too much trouble finding the things and traffic flowed smoothly.

This year we featured the handcrafted rolling stock, trolley, and figures of Jack Wollschlaeger. In particular, Jack solved our need for people that we have never found available. He carved a shotgun wedding scene complete with pregnant bride, crying mother, a preacher, the groom and a father with a double-barrel shotgun. He also carved several figures that were fishing, the Petticoat Junction women, and a pair of legs to go under a pick-up truck jacked up on cinderblocks. Jack's rolling stock and figures can be seen at his website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/jwollschlaeger> or my website [www.WiringForDCC.com/finch.htm](http://www.WiringForDCC.com/finch.htm). We are also working on molding the figures so that everyone can afford them.

The No Down Lo Down had 71 visitors on Sunday. A number wanted to know where Nelson was. Quite a few liked the idea of an elevated RR. The children really enjoyed the trains as they were closer to the action.

## Interested in Joining the Club.

My name's Tyler, and I am 19. I've been interested in garden railroads since I discovered G scale when I was 10 or 11. I don't have a house or a yard of my own, so it is more or less impossible for me to have a garden railroad, however I would love to attend your meetings or help some of the members build, expand and operate their railroads, and I might want to become a member myself also... I think I like garden railroads, because, being a Geology undergrad, I like the outdoors and it seems like something entire families can enjoy. Anyway, I think I would really enjoy participating in your club, if you would like to have me.

Sincerely,

Tyler J. Hargrove

## Interesting Websites

[www.lejarditrain.com](http://www.lejarditrain.com)

## Clark Gardens 2006

March 18 and 19 for the club dates for Clark Gardens Botanical Gardens in Mineral Wells in 2006. I just got off the phone with Vi and those are workable dates for them. They also sent us a check for \$750 as a share of the proceeds from the day we were out there. Next year I want to expand our presence with possibly some local vendors etc. Let me know what you think, rw

### *Wanted Newsletter Editor*

In January 2005 I volunteered to publish the Conductor temporarily until someone comes forward to take over this responsibility.

It has come time for me to step aside. This will be my last newsletter I will publish for now. The reason for this decision is the new job I have taken at the Gaylord Texan Hotel in Grapevine. My time will not be there to do both the newsletter and the website.

My job will be to play trains and get paid for it. They have an aggressive schedule till the end of this year and will take most of my time to complete the tasks.

Dennis

### *Be a Host Just contact a Board Member*

NTGRC contributes \$25.00 to the person or family hosting the club meeting to help defer the cost of refreshments. Any indoor, outdoor layout that is complete, in process, under construction, in design or dream stage is a candidate for a club meeting. Don't feel that you have to have a finished and completely landscaped railroad in order to host a meeting.

It can be very inspiring, especially to the newcomers, to see a railroad under construction. Our home meetings are a great way for all of us to become better acquainted. We need volunteers.

Check the calendar on the club website for an open date, then email or call one of the board members. New members as well as old members are encouraged to volunteer, you pick the date and time for the meeting. We enjoy giving and getting ideas from each other.

## Name Badge

Our club's badge are available from any Office Depot store for around \$6.49 plus tax.

You want to order a 2EB1 (SKU 320751) badge size is 1" x 3", it comes standard with a pin on the back, if you want anything different you must add that to the order.

The Style is S23, that is a **Pine Green** background with White lettering. You can have up to 3 lines of text.

Typestyle = B04 All Capitol Letters

All members are encouraged to wear their badges to all club functions. Not only does it help new members to put names with faces, but it also gives our host a good feeling to know there are no strangers in their house.

NORTH TEXAS GARDEN  
RAILWAY CONSORTIUM  
YOUR NAME HERE

### Board of Directors 2005

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Dr. Jon Williamson (2006)  
(817) 429-2259  
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## NTGRC Shirts

NTGRC has arranged for PANDA Embroidery located in Grapevine, Texas to provide members with NTGRC logo and clothing. They offer a wide variety of styles and price range. Simply visit their facility one street north and 1/2 block east of the Grapevine Railroad Station and choose the style, color, price range etc. They will embroider the NTGRC logo for you.

Panda Embroidery  
351 E. Hudgins Street  
Grapevine, Texas 76051  
(817) 488-4151



## The Conductor's submission policy

The Conductor is sent to you between the first and tenth of each month. Either via email or US Post Office.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the prior month.

Please submit your article(s) the way you would like to see it appear in the newsletter.

Make sure that it is accurate and concise.

You do not need to be an expert.

If it concerns a membership function make sure it has the four W's, (Who, What, When, and Where).

The Conductor is held to an even number of pages every month, therefore the content of your article may be subject to editing for the

primary purpose of fitting into the newsletter.

Submit your articles using any means possible.

Use Email, Word processing or text files, Adobe Acrobat, even hand-written. Pictures in digital format only at this time. I do not have a scanner.

Don't be shy, you have valuable information from your experiences in garden railroading. Share it with other club members, it might help another member with a problem.

Thanks for your articles, they are appreciated.

Remember, this is your newsletter, your help is always needed.

Dennis Cherry, Editor  
ntgrcnnewsletter@swbell.nett

## The Conductor

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**We're on the Web at:**  
**[www.ntgrc.org](http://www.ntgrc.org)**

**If you are in Garden Railroading then your on the right track**

## Calendar of Events

July 10, 2005 Meeting  
Ed & Myrna Acklin

August 2005 Meeting  
Cooks Children's Hospital  
(Tentative)

Sept 2005 Meeting  
Open

October 2005 Meeting  
Open

October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
23<sup>rd</sup> annual LMRA Show

November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>  
North Texas Council Fort Worth Area  
Train Show

December 2005 Meeting  
Open

### **Remember:**

**Check the club website "Local Events" calendar  
for any changes, corrections or additions.  
Go to <http://www.ntgrc.org>**