BAY AREA GARDEN RAILROAD SOCIETY AND SOUTH COUNTY RAILROADERS INVITE YOU TO THE 18TH ANNUAL

GARDEN RAILROAD TOUR

Visit ten (10) stunning railways running through some of the most spectacular backyard gardens in Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister and Salinas.

To Benefit The St Joseph’s Center and Community Pantry

SATURDAY
AUGUST 18, 2012
9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Please help those in need by bringing a non-perishable food item (canned good, pasta, cereal, etc.) to donate to any of the layouts. Cash or check to the “St Joseph’s Family Center” or “The Community Pantry” are also gratefully accepted.

You can pick up a Tour Book/Guide after August 11th at these fine retail outlets.
Garden Accents, 1153 Lena Ave, Gilroy
(Off Highway 101, near the Mason exit)
BookSmart, 80 East 2nd Avenue, Morgan Hill
(near Depot Street at the RR tracks)

For more information contact Dale @ (408) 848-1440, dalemcanally@verizon.net or Dave at (408) 842-1843
Garden Railroad Tour

Welcome to our 18th Annual Garden Railroad Tour. We hope you have an enjoyable day visiting the special layouts in support of St. Joseph's Center and Community Pantry.

Garden Railroad Tour Etiquette

• We reserve parking in our driveways for the handicapped. Please park on the street unless you need the handicapped parking.
• Please sign the guest book when you visit us. Comments are appreciated.
• Introduce yourself to your host and ask all of the questions you want to. We enjoy sharing what we have learned.
• Plan your tour to avoid needing to use of your host restrooms. Some of us are on septic systems and cannot handle heavy usage.
• Carpooling is encouraged. Some sites have very limited parking and the fewer vehicles are better.
• Well behaved children are always welcome. Please do not allow them to climb on or walk thru our layouts. Many of plants, buildings and trains are fragile, unlike the toys they are used to. Unruly guest of any age will be asked to leave.
• Smoking is prohibited [engines may smoke at will.

Garden Railroad Information

1. Are the plants real? Yes – we spend a lot of time locating fine leafed plants that work in our layouts and look to be "in scale". Unfortunately, so are the weeds real.
2. May I take pictures? Yes – but please ask before you walk out on the railroad.
3. Do you leave it out year round? We leave the track out year round. The trains are usually taken inside. Buildings are sometimes left out – sometimes not [weather can be particularly unkind to wooden structures].
4. How much does it cost? A lot or a little. The major startup expense is track which can cost $3 to $10 per foot depending on the type of material and brand. You will have to buy enough for a viable layout all at one time [you can always expand]. Engines and rolling stock can be anywhere for $200 for a starter set to as high as $6000 for a highly detailed museum quality live steam locomotive. Plants can be found at local nurseries at reasonable prices. Structures are available in kit form or can be made from scrap found in the shop so price can vary from $0 to $1000 for a highly detail kit for a large structure such as an ore mine mill or lumber mill.
5. Where do the locomotives get their power? Usually from the tracks which have a 22v DC power applied by a power supply. Some also can run on battery power or real live steam engines [just like the real ones do]
6. Will I get electrocuted if touch the track? No – you may feel a slight tingle, but that is all.
7. How much room do you need for a Garden Railway? Not a lot. Today you’ll see layout as small as 20’x20’ to taking up the whole yard. It’s up to you.
8. Where can I find out more? A good place to start is by joining a club. The Bay Area Garden Railway Society www.bagrs.org is our local group. Most major metropolitan areas have clubs as well.
9. How is garden railroading different from other model railroads? Garden railroads are more of a family affair involving gardening, modeling, track installation, etc. Many families have divided responsibility for each aspect among its members. It also tends to be more social than other model railroad groups.
10. What is “the Community Pantry” and “St Josephs Family Center”? They are two independent local food banks that provide thousands of bags of food to the hungry in our community each year. Both have websites – www.communitypantry.com and www.stjosephsgilroy.org.
11. How much should I donate? The stock answer is “All you can and then some”. We do not set any donation amount so that all who wish to can participate. As a guide line consider donating what you can afford for you and your family for a full day’s entertainment. Should you wish to donate more as the day goes on, any site would be glad to accept and forward it to the food banks. If you give a check, please make it out to “St Josephs Center” or “the Community Pantry”. [we do not have a checking account, so we can’t deposit checks] Both food banks send acknowledgement letters to the address on the checks that they receive for tax purposes.
12. Can I give a gift card instead of cash or check? Yes – both food banks are grateful for gift cards. They really prefer Nob Hill or Safeway as both organizations are especially generous to them.
13. How do I find out about next year’s open house? Send an email to Dale at dalemcanally@verizon.net giving your email address and ask to be added to our list. We also get a lot of publicity from our local papers and merchants.

Garden railroading celebrates a time when trains were not only essential for the growth of America but a wonderful cultural and social opportunity with plenty of old time Harvey House hospitality.
Garden Railroad Tour - General Map Info:

Overview Map

Directions are given to each layout from Highway 101 starting in Morgan Hill and proceeding South to Hollister, Prunedale for each open house as well as from each railroad to the next one.

FOR THOSE WITH GPS

North-to-South

MORGAN HILL
1. L&G (LUCAS AND GRANDPA) RAILROAD
Gary, Jolene & Lucas Knoth
305 Kalana Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

2. PONDOSA & ALAMO WESTERN GRR
Mark & Colleen Grzan
680 Alamo Drive, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

GILROY
3. GARDEN ACCENTS NURSERY
11155 Lena, Gilroy, CA 95020

4. BIG IRON RAILROAD
Pat & Dale McAnally
9060 New Avenue, Gilroy, CA 95020

5. ALL ABOARD JUNCTION TRAIN STORE
Pat and Theresa DeLeon
7455 Monterey, Gilroy 95020

6. ELIA FAMILY RAILROAD
Bob & Linda Elia
8430 David Court, Gilroy, CA 95020

7. SISQUOC, SOLVANG & ZACA RAILROAD
Horace & Nan Fabing
505 La Sierra Way, Gilroy, CA 95020

8. HILARY LOGGING, LUMBER & MINING CO
Dave & Peggy Hartwig
6690 Devon Place, Gilroy, CA 95020

HOLLISTER
9. ROCKY HILLS RAILROAD
Stump Family
710 Donald Drive, Hollister, CA 95023

PRUNEDALE
10. SMITH FAMILY RAILROAD
Dan Smith
18043 Lillian Lane, Prunedale, CA 93907

CASTROVILLE
11. EASTERN PACIFIC AND COASTAL RAILROAD
Juanita & Bill Eldredge
13968 Monte Del Oro, Castroville, CA 95012

Almost 100 years ago June-September vacations nearly always started by riding in an ornate pullman sleeper, and dining cars, hauled by a massive 1 million pound stream locomotive. In those days, travel was measured in days not hours.
L&G (Lucas and Grandpa) Railroad: This is a 42 foot by 62 foot freelance mainline railroad on a raised planting area. The railroad is wheelchair accessible. It has been under construction for about four years. The landscaping is maturing nicely. Lucasville, the main town on the layout, is still growing and several new buildings have recently been added. There is a castle on the hill above “Castle Town.” A short tunnel and two 4’ long trestles are also part of the Castle Mountain loop. On the back side of Castle Mountain there is a waterfall into a lake and a second waterfall into a stream. There are two long dry washes with several bridges and an 18’ long curved trestle. The total track length is approximately 500 feet including a six track storage yard housed in a 6’ x 12’ garden shed. Also within the shed are many fixed shelves and two pull-out shelves which hold the rolling stock and locomotives selected for the current running session. The total equipment roster includes: 175+ locomotives; 200+ freight cars; over 40 passenger cars representing five different railroads. Eight year old Lucas likes to select the trains so it would not be unusual to see non-prototypical combinations of equipment.

This year an “Eye Spy...” sheet will be provided to children between 2 and 12 years old. Prizes will be given to the first 50 children who find all of the items on the lists. There will be separate lists for children from two to five and from six to twelve.

Directions: From 101 Southbound, exit on Bailey Avenue West to Santa Teresa, left on Santa Teresa [South] 2 miles and right on Kalana (Santa Teresa changes to Hale one block North of Kalana). The house is on the right about 200 yards from Hale. From 101 Northbound exit at Cochrane Road West to Monterey Road, right on Monterey [North] to Tilton Avenue. Turn left on Tilton to Hale Avenue. Turn right on Hale and go about 1 mile to Kalana, turn left on Kalana, the house is on the right about 200 yards from Hale. Gary, Jolene & Lucas Knoth, 305 Kalana Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA (408) 463-9412, gary.w.knoth@prodigy.net

Pondosa Alamo & Western Railroad

Pondosa Alamo Western: This is a logging/mining railroad built in 1994 and moved in 2000 is 187 feet long and 30 feet wide at places with nearly 1000 feet of track. Red ballast covers the track just like those on the McCloud River Line near Lassen National Park. The national park theme line is waist high and higher so that you can actually see the articulating movements of a steam locomotive. There is literally hundreds of tons of rock and fill give this layout its height. Unique to the railroad is the cinnamon hues of rocks known as desert rose that juts from the landscape like those found in the Pinto Basin of Joshua Trees National Park. Some of these rocks exceed 250 lbs. Large granite features emulate Yosemite National Park. You will see long trains in DCC operations in a large back yard, two new major water features and a 15’ tunnel have been added recently. New native and dwarf plants are in place including dwarf manzanita and tiny 16” Giant Sequoias! The landscape is picturesque, surrounded by railroad signs from the 1900-50ies allows for emersion into a time long past. Creeping wire fine is the dominate ground cover and is ideal for south valley temperatures.

Directions: From U.S. 101 take the Tennant Ave. exit west, (right). Go west about two miles, turn left onto Monterey Rd. heading south, go three-quarter mile, turn right on Watsonville Rd. heading west. Go to La Alameda, turn right, and then make a quick right onto Alamo Dr. Railroad is at the end of the cul-de-sac. Enter on left. Mark and Colleen Grzan, 680 Alamo Drive, Morgan Hill 95037. (408) 778-7816 fam.grzan@charter.net
Grass Farm's Garden Accents: This will most likely be the largest and most uniquely merchandised selection of garden art and plant material that you have ever seen. Fountains, statuary, water features, pottery and garden art are arranged in four theme gardens. It is in the English garden that you will find the small, but well done garden layout. Please stop by and use our clean restroom and enjoy complimentary refreshments.

Directions: From U.S. 101 take the Masten Ave. exit west. Turn right at Manna (first street), and right on Lena (again first street). The store is at the end of Lena on right side.

Grass Farm's Garden Accents, 11155 Lena Ave, Gilroy, CA (408) 846-4555 www.garden-accents.net

The Big Iron Railroad: Owned by Pat and Dale McAnally, began serving the south Santa Clara County area in 1997. The system consists of 950 feet of track winding its way through multiple tunnels, over several rivers and around several ponds, from the town at the base on to the mountains to the lumbering operations. These mountains are examples of how to use concrete. Motive power is all from the steam era just before the turn of the century.

Directions: From U.S. 101 Leavesley East. Go about two miles to New Avenue and turn left. Go about three-quarter mile, house in on the right side. Turn into to drive where there is plenty of parking. Pat & Dale McAnally 9060 New Avenue, Gilroy, CA 95020, 408-592-8797 dalemcanally@verizon.net

Carman’s Nursery & Plant Sale
There will be a unique plant sale at the Big Iron RR

Carman's Nursery, located in Gilroy, CA is a small, third generation family owned nursery specializing in rare and unusual plants, such as bonsai starters, dwarf conifers, herbs, rock garden plants, unusual perennials, and less common fruiting plants, including capers, and named varieties of fig, kiwi, and pomegranate. We also have a wide variety of variegated plants, collections of Rhodohypoxis and miniature ivies, hardy succulents, as well as many plants suitable for the backyard garden railroad enthusiast.

This year we have a huge new selection of dwarf conifers: 14 new Chamaecyparis, 3 new Cryptomeria, 7 new Juniperus (several columnar and/or variegated forms), 4 new Thuja, and it goes on. I kinda went crazy, because there is a chance my source for rooted cuttings might not be around next year. Carman's Nursery is going on the road for the South County Open Layouts, and will have a truckload of plants for sale.

Nancy Schramm
Carman's Nursery, 8470 Pharmer Road, Gilroy, CA 95020, (408) 847-2313 www.carmansnursery.com and greenthumb@carmansnursery.com
Bob & Linda Elia Family Railroad: Our railroad was started May of 2006 and just completed June of 2007. It has two loops on different levels. The lower section has 80 feet of track crossing two bridges and a tunnel. There is a town (unnamed) and farm with a passing siding and spur. A point to point trolley line operates in town. The upper section is a logging theme. There is about 30 feet of track with 2 spurs. It has a water fall and creek with 2 curved trestles. The layout is track powered. The rolling stock is both steam and diesel. This RR is not modeled after any particular era. The railroad features Bob’s renowned wooden bridges & trestles.

Directions: From Highway 101 take the Leavesley Rd exit and turn right. Leavesley Rd becomes Welburn. Turn right on Hanna Street, left on Sherwood Drive, left on David Court. Bob & Linda Elia, 8430 David Ct, Gilroy, CA 95020 (408)842-4075 rj67@elia@msn.com

Sisquoc, Solvang & Zaca Railroad: Started in 2005, this railroad does not represent any particular railroad or time period. There is approximately 190 feet of Llagas Creek track, with track power operating standard and narrow gauge trains. The dog-bone design has a farm on the south end with mountains, a tunnel and trees on the north end. On display will be two 7 1/2 gauge live steam locomotives and a diesel switcher. Also, an operating station board from the Winston-Salem Southbound Railroad.

Directions: From Highway 101 take Leavesley Exit West. Cross RR tracks and Monterey Street to Welburn Avenue. Turn left at Hanna Street, turn right at La Sierra Way. Horace & Nan Fabing, 505 La Sierra Way, Gilroy, CA nfabing@garlic.com
Gilroy City Tour

All Aboard Junction Train Store
Directions All Aboard Junction from Sisquoa, Solvang and Zaca Grr – Get back on Hanna, right on Welburn and right on Monterey. Right on 5th, left on Gourmet Alley to store - park in lot to right.

All Aboard Junction Train Store: Pat & Theresa invite you to stop by their store. This is a small local retail train store. Refreshments will be available.

Directions: From US 101 take the Leavesley exit West. Go about ¾ of a mile and turn left onto Monterey St. , Right on 5th, left on Gourmet Alley to store - park in lot to right. All Aboard Junction Train Store, Pat and Theresa DeLeon, 7455 Monterey, Gilroy, CA 95020. (408) 206-9933.
Hilary Logging, Lumber & Mining Co: This railroad has a service yard as well as a logging camp for its lumber jacks. A point-to-point elevated section has two bridges and a section of trestles. If you haven't got a lot of room, this is a magnificent example of what can be accomplished in a small space. The Hilary Co may have also struck oil as well as gold!!

Directions: From US 101 take 10th St. exit west, (right). Cross Monterey, to 2nd left, Rosanna, turn left. This street ends at London; turn right, left on Devon, 2nd house on left. David & Peggy Hartwig, 6690 Devon Place, Gilroy (408) 842-1843 davehart1@verizon.net

Rocky Hills Railroad depicts the 1930's to 1940's era. The layout is a small one consisting of a logging loop and a mainline for freight and passenger service.

Directions: take 101 south to highway 25. Proceed on 25 until you come to Shore Road/Airline Hwy and turn left. Continue on Shore Road until you come to Ridgemark Golf & Country Club. This is a gated community so you will have to check in at the guard station. Turn right on Donald Dr (1st street after the guard shack). Go about 3/4 mile to 710 Donald Dr which is on the left. 710 Donald Drive, Hollister, CA 95023 rojets@hotmail.com 831-212-4343
Prunedale and Castroville City Tour
Dan Smith Family Railroad
From Rocky Hills GRR Head back to 101 – follow directions below.

The Dan Smith Family Railroad: This layout is built on a sandstone hillside. Has 150 ft of code 215 track hand spiked. Layout is 5ft by 40 ft. On sandstone hillside. All built by hand. Hand bored tunnels, handmade custom trestles, and custom hand-built saw mill. Train whines its way up 6% grades through tunnels, past the mine, over many trestles, to the sawmill; before reaching the town or engine house. Train is battery operated by Shay, Climax, and Heisler Locomotives.

Directions: From US 101 south to Prunedale exit San Miguel Canyon exit. Go through 2nd signal, turn right on Langley Canyon Rd. At the Y, bear left on Valle Pacifico. Turn right on Lillian Lane to last house on left. It will have white corral board fencing. Turn in driveway past house and large red barn. Layout is behind the barn. Dan Smith, 18043 Lillian Lane, Prunedale (916) 919-1832 wboxes@gmail

Eastern Pacific & Coastal GRR
Directions to Eldredge [6.3 miles] Return to San Miguel Canyon and turn left back to 101, right]south on 101 0.6 miles, right on 156 at exit 336 4.1 mi to Monte Del Lago, right to Monte de Oro, right to open house on left across from 2nd cul-de-sac

The Eastern Pacific and Coastal Railroad has been gradually taking shape over the last two years in its present incarnation. The layout is a basic folded dog-bone shape with a passing track and a couple of sidings in an area roughly 15’ by 30’. The overall mainline run is about 100’. A variety of different plant keep the layout ever-changing throughout the year. There are 4 major bridges and 2 water features layout as well as an extensive rock garden. One of the unique features of this layout is its use of recycled materials in its construction. Bill & Juanita Eldredge, 13968 Monte de Oro, Castroville 831 632 0120 william.eldredge@sbcglobal.net

Directions from 101: Take 156 west at exit 336 4.1 mi to Monte Del Lago, right to Monte de Oro, right to open house on left across from 2nd cul-de-sac.

We hope you enjoyed the Tour and please accept our invitation to join us again next year!