

Election of RCGRS Officers

All members should have received their ballot for election of RCGRS officers. **Please return your ballots so that they are not post marked later than November 1, 2007.**

Work In Progress Railroad

Steve and Mimi Cogswell hosted an open house on October 14th for their “work in progress railroad”

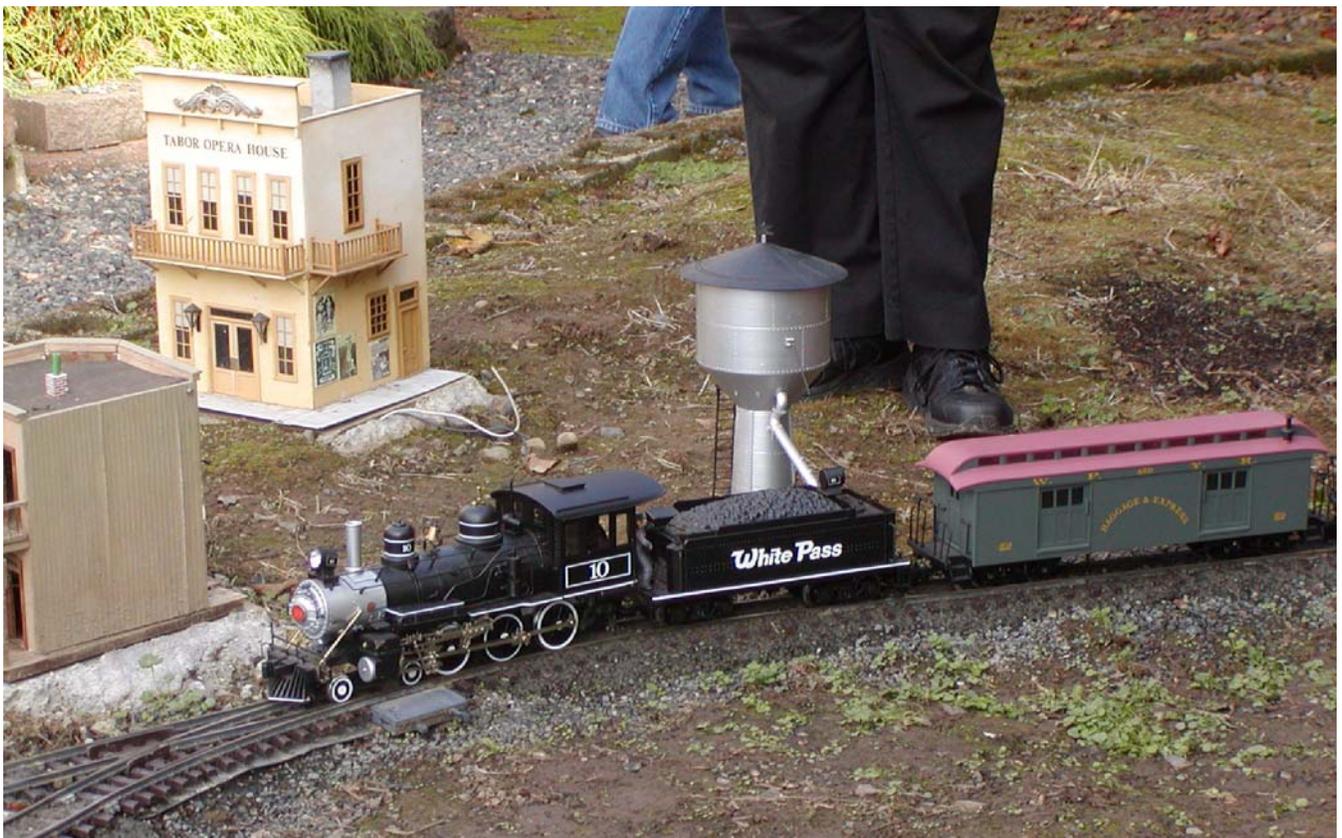
in Oregon City. The track is complete enough to operate trains and is DCC track powered. Some basic landscaping is done and construction of a railroad village is well underway. The railroad is built on the side of a steep slope which requires ascending and descending loops in order to keep the track grades reasonable. There is a section of track leading to the village that has a grade of over 3% which limits the lengths of trains to a few cars and will probably be reevaluated. The railroad has the potential to become quite interesting as it matures.



A short passenger train enters the village.



The Village



A White Pass 10-wheeler pauses for water after it has negotiated the steep grade (probably with some help from the giant in the background).



An emergency track crew regrades the track after a subsidence of the road bed

**Scale Grass
Miniature Rush Ground Cover**
By Rex Ploederer

During our first open house for the RCGRS two summers ago, Odell Lee looked at the stream that ran between the two mountains in our front yard

and commented that it looked like some of the places he'd seen in eastern Oregon. Odell and several others were particularly interested in the ground cover that was growing in and along the stream shown in the photos below. (See the photo with moose wading the stream and the anglers busily fishing.)



While this is a great compliment for achieving realism, my wife and I cannot claim the credit. Devel-

oping well beyond our intentions, the ground cover had jumped the pond liner and grown in our shal-

low streams. This was as much of a surprise to Fran Hopkins, owner of **Under A Foot Plant Co.** (Step-

ables brand ground covers), as it was a thrill to us garden railroaders.



Stepables calls the plant “Miniature Rush” or *Eleocharis radicans* for the Master Gardeners among us. We planted it to look like range grass or “Buffalo Grass” found in the western high plains. In this photo, you can see it on the left side of the train on the far side of the bridge.

Granted, our ponds and streams had become filled with silt before the ground covers began to fill in and hold the soil. And I’m sure the silt helped the plants by providing a footing in which they could grow. But last year we removed all of the silt and placed clean pea gravel in the bottom of the

streams. Yet with little but the pea gravel to sustain them, the plants have returned this year and are once again thriving.

The description from the tag follows: “Thousands of tiny grass-like blades rise just above ground. This lawn substitute is deep green topped by white, tiny flower beads. Readily reseeds itself. Loves wet feet and is perfect for pond border.” My guess is the last sentence explains why it grows in shallow water.

The plant goes dormant in winter. It may suffer from cold and snow but makes its return each

spring. The photo below shows a close up of the ground cover, which to me in or out of water, looks very much to scale on a garden railroad.

Eleocharis radicans (Spike rush) (CYPERACEAE) is one of about 250 marginal aquatic annuals or perennials from bogs and ponds of the tropics to the arctic. *E. radicans* is most common in the southwestern coast states of the U.S., but is also known as far north as Michigan. The *Eleocharis* genus comes in many sizes ranging from 1-inch to 20-inches. Some of the species, such as the *E. tuberosa* (Chinese water chestnut), are also classed as herbs and used in Asian cooking.



RCGRS Clothing Orders From Margaret Kookan

RCGRS clothing orders will be taken at the banquet on November 10, or accepted via email or phone call to me at 360-695-0389 until November 16. Members who can not attend the banquet will be given an opportunity to order by e-mail or phone call.

You may order shirts, hats, or other types of clothing with the society logo. You can order a trucker style or engineer hat with society logo or with your own railroad name if you wish. A current catalog with current prices will be available at the banquet.

Your check should be made out to RCGRS and given or mailed to Steve Cogswell, club treasurer.

Schedules & Timetables

Make sure you check the calendar on our Website at <http://www.rcgrs.com/> for the most up-to-date schedules and timetables.

Anyone interested in having an Open House or sponsoring an event, please contact **Christina Britain**.

November 3, 2007, Saturday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.:
Halloween open house at Bill & Jean Dippert's, 2650 NW Robinia Lane, Portland OR 97229, 503-646-9783, bandjippert@zcloud.net

A-E Main Dish,
F-M Side Dish,
N-S Salad,
T-Z Dessert.

Bring your Halloween decorated car or train. The railroad is track powered.

November 10, 2007, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Annual RCGRS Banquet (Luncheon/Buf-fet), Kingstad Conference Center, 15450 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton, OR.

Informative workshops
Gourmet catered luncheon buffet
Real world RR luncheon speaker
Well-known professional model maker
Roundtable problem/solution session
Rousing member-made model contest
Terrific raffles and prizes
Presentation of 2008 Club officers
And more

Registration form will go out around 10/22 with full details. \$25 per person to attend, Includes luncheon, all workshops and education sessions, and 1 free raffle ticket. **WHAT A GREAT DEAL!!!!**

Open to RCGRS members, family, and friends.

December 14, 2007, Friday: Jan & Rae Zweerts are hosting an open house. Their houseboat is at Jantzen Beach, The Christmas ships will be sailing past their house that same evening. Jan's European railroad which is on a floating deck next to the houseboat will be in operation.

See the accompanying invitation from Rae and Jan Zweerts.

Editor's Note: The deadline for the December 2007 newsletter is November 25th, 2007.

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