

Highlights this issue >>>

MODELING TRIUMPH

Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces meets the challenge!

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE TRAINFEST!

Independent Hi-Railers Midwest Division sonnet.

TRAINFEST AWARDS

A celebration of great layouts and hobbyists.

THE EMPIRE BUILDER'S DREAM LIVES ON!

Great Northern Railway Historical Society.



December
2010
VOLUME 1
ISSUE 7

Trainfest Express



MODELING TRIUMPH

Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces meets the challenge!

Always a Trainfest Favorite, the Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces (WBNP) made sure they delivered a first-class, unbelievably detailed set of modular layouts that depicted the four seasons of Wisconsin.

As many of you know, the group's beloved and award-winning previous layout, a 10' x 24', two-level exhibit at Trainfest for the past 18 years, was sold to a private collector late last year and now resides in Colorado.

However, in early April, the WBNP gang decided to up the ante and try to create a brand new slightly smaller layout from scratch for Trainfest 2010. It gave them a five month window from start to finish!

Lo and behold...not only did they make the mind-boggling deadlines they faced, they delivered an incredible model railroad layout.

(Modeling Triumph continued on Page 14)



Photo by Bob Gallegos

Table of Contents

Trainfest EXPRESS December 2010, Volume 1, Issue 7

Features



**Page 1,
14-17**

Modeling Triumph

*Wisconsin's Bits
'n Pieces Met the
Challenge!*



Page 3

What is Trainfest?

*A Delight
for the Senses!*



Page 5-10
**Trainfest
Awards**

*A celebration
of great layouts
and hobbyists.*



Page 12-13

Twas the Night before Trainfest!

*Independent
Hi-Railers Midwest
Division Sonnet.*



Page 18-20

The Empire Builder's Dream Lives On!

*Great Northern
Railway Historical
Society.*



Page 21-23

Trainfest 2010 Favs

*Highlights Captured
in Photos.*

Columns



Page 4

From the Caboose

*Comments from
John H. Tews, MMR,
Trainfest Executive
Director.*



Page 4

Crossings

*A Bird's Eye View
from Ruth Johnson,
Editor, Trainfest
EXPRESS.*



Page 25-26

Discover

*Focus on the Young
at Heart.*



What is Trainfest?

A Delight for the Senses!

40th ANNIVERSARY
November 12-13, 2011
Saturday & Sunday
9:00 am-5:30 pm
Wisconsin Exposition Center
State Fair Park
8200 W Greenfield Ave
West Allis, WI 53214
www.trainfest.com

Mark your calendars!



An enriching family and hobbyist experience, Trainfest is America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show, 39 years strong!

Every November, tens of thousands of visitors of all generations and lifestyles from North America and around the world fill the Wisconsin Exposition Center. They gather to connect with the sights and sounds of everything railroad, scaled down to a miniature size.

Over fifty clubs, historic organizations, groups and railroad modelers display truly exquisite and fully operational layouts that superbly represent the uniqueness of model railroading.

New and vintage trains loop continuously around a myriad of settings and fabulous scenes from train depots to entire cities. All in intricate detail complete with people, animals, vehicles, equipment, buildings, landscaping, retail shops and more!

120 manufacturer and hobby dealer exhibitors display unique products and services, technology and equipment and consult with visitors on the perfect items and newest releases.

Model railroad historical societies are featured along with 20-25 clinicians and demonstrators plus several manufacturers share their knowledge in Trainfest clinics.

Join us at *Trainfest 2011* for a wonderfully interactive opportunity to explore this legendary world.

Tour the award-winning layouts, take photos, watch demonstrations, hear steam whistles or the clickety-clack of wheels on rails and see the excitement of children of all ages.

O-Scale Interurban Railroad



Kenosha Garden Railway Society



Northwestern Wisconsin



Crossings

A Bird's Eye View

By Ruth Johnson, Editor, Trainfest EXPRESS

At a loss for words! That is where I find myself as I try to describe my first ever Trainfest event.

I cannot remotely begin to fully communicate the vastness and magnificent array of every kind of layout imaginable in every scale possible along with manufacturer and retail displays and clinician demonstrations.

This issue spotlights several show highlights including award winners, some of my favorite layout features and several child-oriented layouts.

However, even a year's worth of issues cannot scratch the surface of what you see when you attend Trainfest in person.

I must have taken at least 1,000 photos and could easily have snapped 1,000 more! I only stopped because I was twisting and turning so much to get just the right shot, that I wore myself out each day before I could get the second 1,000 shots.

Imagine seeing everything from tiny ponds with real goldfish in them to miniature buildings so small and detailed, you would think they couldn't be topped.

That is, until the creator removed the roof and you saw that the interiors were completely furnished as well.

On the way home, I found myself looking at the world in a new way. I would see a weathered building and think how nice it would look miniaturized on a layout.

As always, send me your thoughts to editor@trainfest.com.

Warm wishes,

Ruth



From the Caboose

Comments from
John H. Tews
MMR, Trainfest®
Executive Director



Record-breaking! Trainfest 2010 was held November 13-14 to such a tremendous crowd, that we broke all previous records with an outstanding attendance record of 23,476.

In addition to the brand new attendance record, we also set an all time Sunday attendance record.

THANK YOU to all of our exhibitors, volunteers and attendees for making Trainfest 2010 such a success and for your involvement in the model railroading world!

Next, it is onto Trainfest 2011! Planning has been in the works for several months and it will be very exciting.

2011 will mark Trainfest's 40th anniversary! It will also be my 20th year with Trainfest.

Watch **Trainfest EXPRESS** for information as the celebration plans get finalized.

Also check out the WISE division website, www.wisedivision.org for information on our free monthly model railroad meets.

I hope you and your families and friends had a truly blessed Thanksgiving and continue to have a safe, great and enjoyable Holiday Season.

Trainfest EXPRESS is sent free via email as a PDF or on the Trainfest website in an interactive, online paging-style format. You can also print out the pages or articles you desire.

We continue to look for your input on articles you would like to see in the **EXPRESS**. Send them to us at john@trainfest.com or editor@trainfest.com.

In the spirit of Model Railroading,
Clear Signals
Always,

John



Trainfest 2010 Award Winners

BEST OF SHOW!



BEST OF SHOW LAYOUT: Lake County Society of Modular Engineers

Shown above, Mike Ciesielka accepts the award for overall layout scenery and display. Photo by Richard Cecil.



1st PLACE LAYOUT: Wisconsin Garden Railroad Society

Shown above, Terry Seese and club members accept the award. Photo by Richard Cecil.

(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued on Page 6)

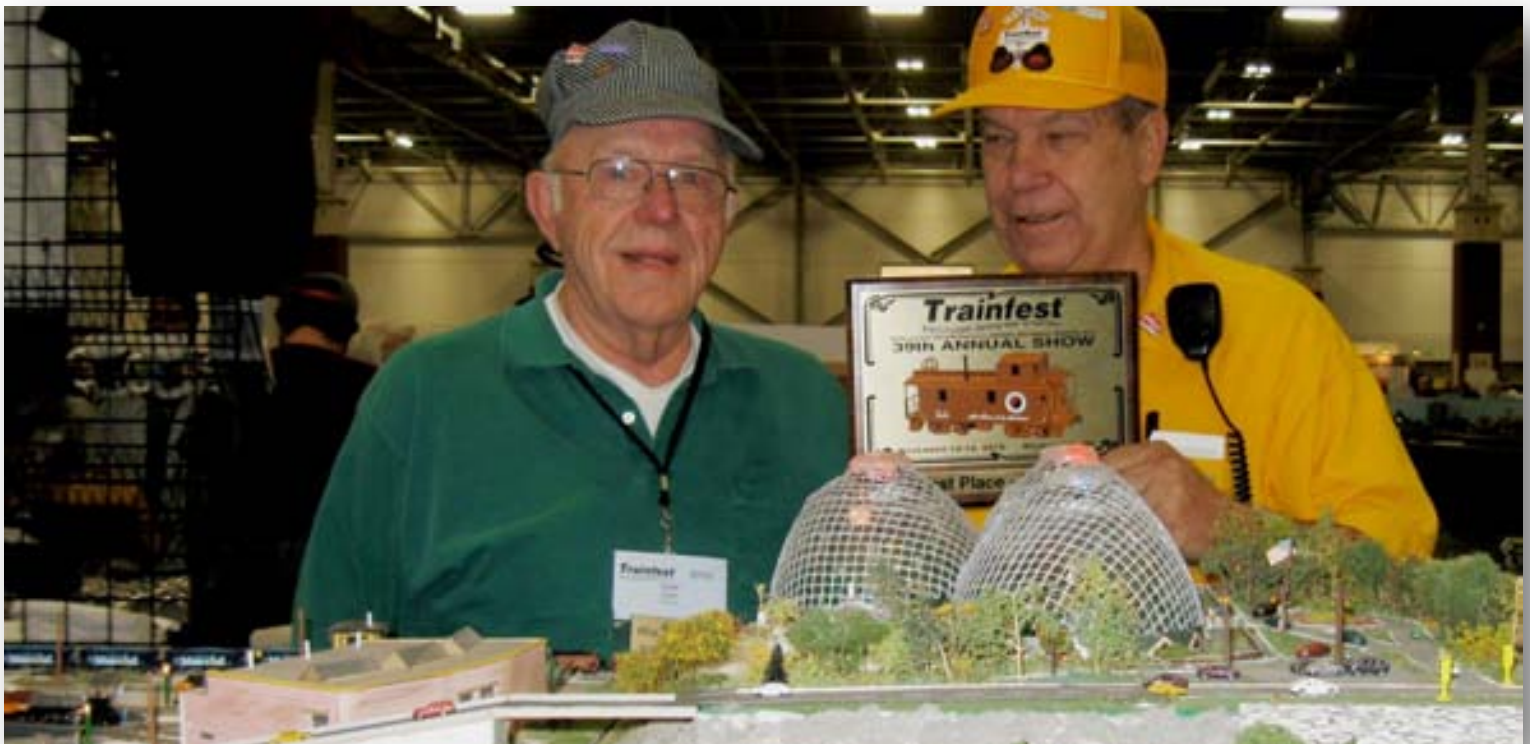
BEST OF SHOW!



(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued from Page 5)

BEST OF SHOW MODULE: Cream City Traction

Shown above, Don Dellman, coordinator for Cream City Traction layout, accepts the award for the detailed traction module. Photo by Richard Cecil



1st PLACE MODULE: Wiz Kidz

Shown above, Clyde Ehlers accepts the award for the Mitchell Parks Domes Scene included in the Wiz Kidz Z-Scale layout. Photo by Linda Sukup.

(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued on Page 7)

BEST OF SHOW!



(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued from Page 6)

BEST OF SHOW DISPLAY MILWAUKEE Area N-Trak

Shown above, Jerome Schuh, MANTRAK layout coordinator, accepts the award. The award recognizes the layout's detail and effective use of floor space for the overall layout. Photo by Richard Cecil



1st PLACE DISPLAY: STODDART'S LTD

Shown above, Allison Stoddart accepts the 2010 Manufacturer's Display award. atoddart's Ltd is a new manufacturer exhibitor at Trainfest 2010. Photo by Linda Sukup.

(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued on Page 8)



(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued from Page 7)

HONORABLE MENTION: Rapant's Rusty Rails Layout

Shown above, Mark and Fred Rapant accept the award for their Lionel layout complete with operating accessories. Photo by Richard Cecil.



HONORABLE MENTION: Mini Mod U Track

Shown above, Bob Myers of Palatine, IL, accepts the Honorable mention for his Boxcar bridge scene in the Northwest N-Trak display. Photo by Richard Cecil.

(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued on Page 9)



(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued from Page 8)

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD TRAINFEST: Ron Schlicht's Badgerland S Gaugers

Shown above, Ron Schlicht accepts the award for his kids-friendly layout which makes effective use of vehicles and people. Photo by Richard Cecil.



CHAIRMAN'S AWARD HMA-MRD: Lionel, LLC

Shown above, Tom Nuzzo, Mike Reagan and the crew from Lionel, LLC accept the Chairman's Manufacturer's Award. Photo by Richard Cecil.

(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued on Page 10)



(Trainfest 2010 Award Winners continued from Page 9)

COMMITTEE AWARD TRAINFEST: Trains4Kids/Kalmbach Publishing

Shown above, Editor Angela Puzstai-Pasternak accepts the award for the TRAINS4KIDS activity area. Photo by Richard Cecil



COMMITTEE AWARD HMA-MR: Bachmann Trains

Shown above, Bud Reece accepts the 2010 Trainfest Committee Manufacturer's Award. Photo by Richard Cecil.





Trainfest EXPRESS

SPONSORING PUBLISHER

Wisconsin Southeastern
(WISE) Division Inc., NMRA

PUBLISHER

John H. Tews, MMR
john@trainfest.com

EDITOR

Ruth Johnson
editor@trainfest.com
715-340-4525

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Ruth Johnson
editor@trainfest.com
715-340-4525

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Bob Gallegos

ADVERTISING

Ruth Johnson
editor@trainfest.com
715-340-4525

SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT

Mercury Communication
Partners, LLC.

WEB DESIGN

Mercury Communication
Partners, LLC.



Trainfest Committee >>>

John H. Tews, MMR, Executive Director, email: john@trainfest.com

Richard Cecil
Asst. to the Director

Robert Sherman
Treasurer

Linda Sukup
WISE Superintendent

Cedor Aronow
Security

Ed Padgett
Volunteer Coordinator

Gary Kamin
HMA-MRD Advisor

Scott Porinsky
Computer Services

Kurt Wamser
Floor Director

Mercury Communications
Advertising Agency

Trainfest is possible due to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and board members. If you would like to volunteer for America's largest operating model railroad show, contact us via email: volunteer@trainfest.com. Trainfest is sponsored by the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division, Inc., NMRA

Twas the Night before Trainfest...

Article & Photos by Jerry Zeman
Independent Hi-Railers Midwest Division

Twas the night before Trainfest,
and all through the town, all the creatures are sleeping,
except for this clown.

I got a new project that I want to complete; it has me
all under, a slight bit of heat.



All year I have had, to get off my arse. Instead I watch
hockey, our team is a farse.

So now I work hard, to finish the beast. When it is done,
only then will I feast.

We leave in the morning, the trailer is full. I hope that the
AV will be able to pull.



On Jack. On Ed. On Paul. On Jims R and M. On Terry...no
wait, he's still asleep in his bed.

He passed on the fun so he can work very hard. We may all
chip in, for a sympathy card.

On Doc. On LJ. On Rich and On Mark. If we get up there
early, our breakfast we start.

OGR will not be there, they will miss all the fun. Several
years straight, it was a heck of a run.

Now I will have, to spend my own cash for pizza and beer,
ain't that kinda rash?

Our scenery, it looks, completely redone. For the most part,
it was a might bit o' fun.

To take something ragged, and give it a fix, with trees,
rocks and grass all thrown in the mix.

So I didn't just sit, on my large oversize a**. I actually
worked and gave football a pass.

Mark, LJ, and Jims, they worked very hard too. And, Paul
built a building, it fits like a shoe.

Into a nice scene, that will photograph well. I think that
the folks will think it is swell.

(Twas the Night before Trainfest continued on Page 13)





(Twas the Night before Trainfest continued from Page 12)

I had hoped to bring, some new freight cars to show. But time constraints make that a tough row to hoe.

So I'll go to the show, and have a great time. And, finish those up, when my time is more mine.

I gotta stop writing this stuff, and go back to work. Otherwise progress will wane, and I'll feel like a jerk.

So come out to Trainfest, and have a great time. I'm sure you will think that the show is quite fine.



Independent HiRailers Midwest Division members pictured above
Top Row: Rich Trowbridge, Jim Marek (SantaFeJim), Mark Holmstad, Ed Opyd, Little John Sanberberg (Sasquatch).
Bottom Row: Jack Wheelihan (Hotwater), Jim Robellard (NYCJim), Jerry Zeman (gnnpnut), Terry Wellman (mwhirailer).





(Modeling Triumph continued from Page 1)

The original founders of Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces in 1992 were Ed Varick, Jim Lorbiecki and Chuck Gerard. Jim created the 2010 layout's Winter module and following is his story and bio along with photos of the entire layout.

THE WINTER SCENE by Jim Lorbiecki

The Winter module now shows Wisconsin Dells as well as a portion of Eagle River area since it has so many winter activities.

Scenes include Eagle River landmarks, *Track Side* and the *Ice Castle* along with downhill and cross-country skiers.

Also depicted is ice fishing on the Chain of Lakes, snowmobiling and a party at a member's home that lasts into the early morning hours with a giant bonfire as the focal point.

I constructed this little slice of heaven using ceiling tile and Homosode and built it up with Styrofoam and sculpture mold dusted with plaster and clear craft glitter.

All buildings are lit. I use *Magic-Water* on the Dells area lake and a new method to create the ice in the Chain of Lakes.

The magic of the Winter season shines again on Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces.

(Modeling Triumph continued on Page 15)





The crew gathers at Trainfest 2010! Left to right above: Ed Varick, Wayne Dunbar, Russ Ennett, Bob Sulok, Len Baraga, John Klink, Jim Lorbiecki, Bob Frey, Chuck Gerard, Tom Mabile.



(Modeling Triumph continued from Page 14)

I have been involved with trains ever since Santa gave me a Lionel train set for Christmas.

My Dad and I would go down to the lake in Milwaukee and watch the freight and passenger trains. I guess that is why I have a love for the Milwaukee Road and the Everett Street Station.

As an adult, my jobs always involved art work. Before I uncoupled from my career and ended up on a siding known as Retirement, I worked in drafting, visual aids and technical illustration, along with advertising, point-of-purchase display and various other art-related fields.

I feel art has been a great help in creating my own layout, *The Northwest Timberline*, and my work with Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces Railroad.

(Modeling Triumph continued on Page 16)





(Modeling Triumph continued from Page 15)

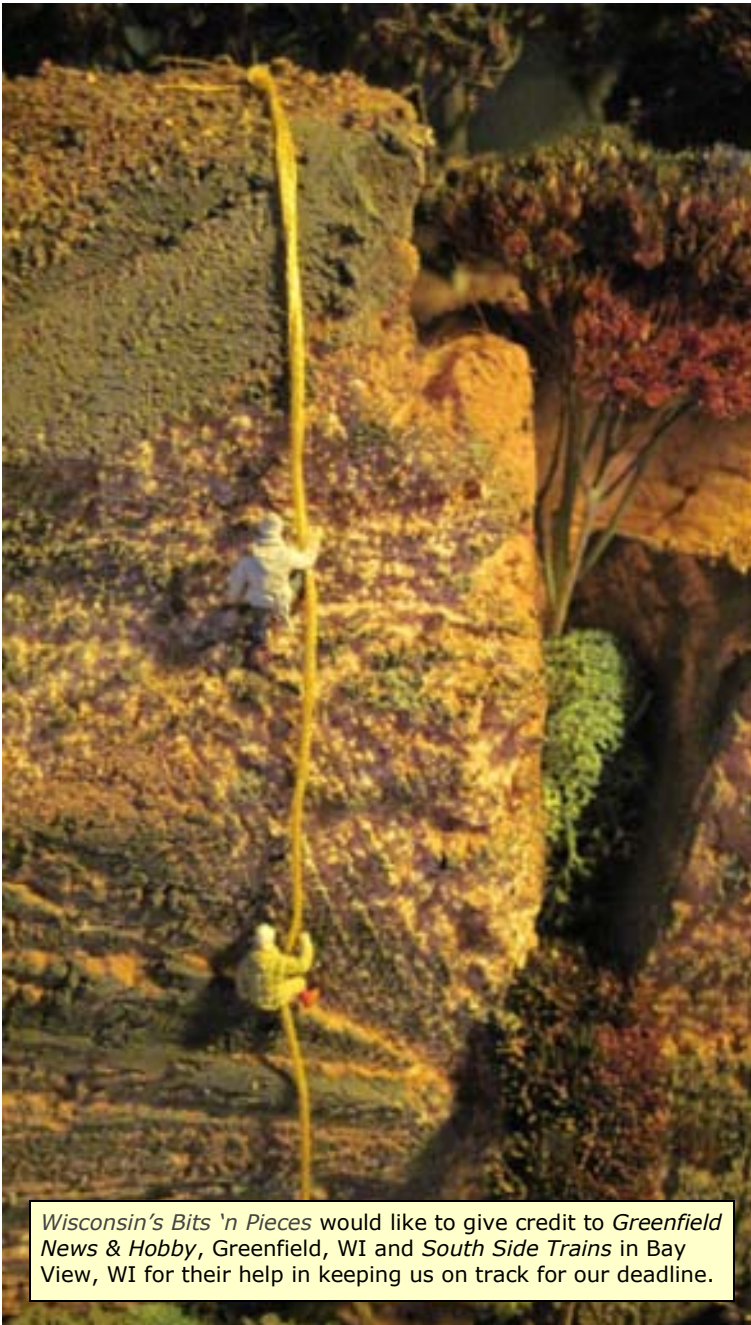
I feel I am able to look at our layout and see it as a display or showcase. I try to keep in mind, "What will draw people to want to stop by and view our layout."

I enjoy talking to people and answering any questions they may have. I like to share any of my methods and ideas on how I do things.

Being able to pass on information with other model railroaders is what this great hobby is all about. Talking and exchanging thoughts and ideas is a "Win-Win" situation for everyone.

(Modeling Triumph continued on Page 17)





Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces would like to give credit to Greenfield News & Hobby, Greenfield, WI and South Side Trains in Bay View, WI for their help in keeping us on track for our deadline.



(Modeling Triumph continued from Page 16)

The end of this article may be in sight but Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces continues onward, constantly evolving with new additions and scenery. Who knows what changes will occur next year? Attend Trainfest 2011 to find out!



Left to Right: Ed Varick, Wayne Dunbar Russ Ennett, Bob Sulok, Len Baraga, Jim Lorbiecki, John Klink, Chuck Gerard, Bob Frey, Tom Mabie.



THE EMPIRE BUILDER'S DREAM LIVES ON

Great Northern Railway Historical Society by Phil Gjevre

As a non-profit 501(c)3, the Great Northern Railway Historical Society (GNRHS) is an educational historical group chartered in Illinois in 1973. With about 2000 members worldwide, it is dedicated to preserving the history of the Great Northern Railway (GN).

FINANCIALLY STABLE HISTORY

GN was the dream of the Empire Builder, James J. Hill. It was the only Class I railroad that never went through bankruptcy or receivership and was built without the aid of land grants or federal funds.

In 1893 and prior to GN, Hill gained control of Northern Pacific (NP) railroad. NP had previously gone through bankruptcy several times since its founding in 1870.

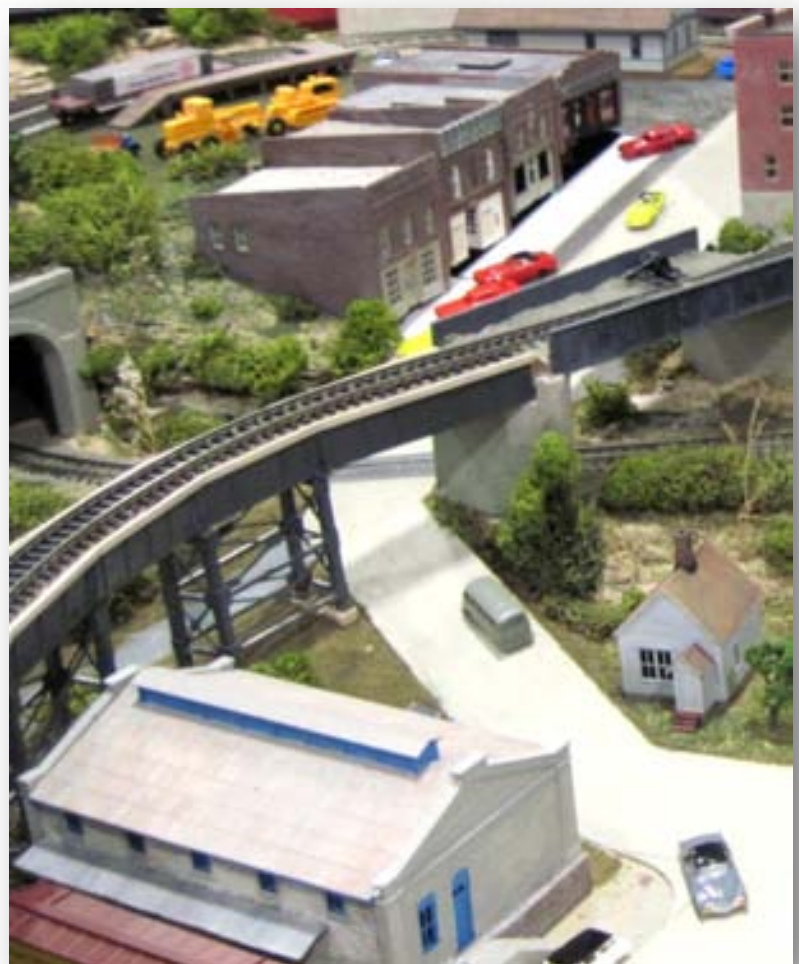
Jointly, the GN and NP owned the Chicago Burlington and Quincy (CB&Q) and the Spokane Portland and Seattle.

Efforts to merge these were unsuccessful in the early 1900's ending with the famed Northern Securities Case in 1910.

MORE MERGERS

The railroads operated as independent entities until 1970 when they were combined as the Burlington Northern. This railroad then acquired the Frisco and ultimately the Santa Fe.

(The Empire Builder's Dream continued on Page 19)





(The Empire Builder's Dream continued from Page 18)

Following this purchase, the railroad was renamed Burlington Northern Santa Fe and became the BNSF, as it is known today and owned by Berkshire Hathaway.

SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

GNRHS visits various train shows in the region to help retain local members and recruit new members.

The GNRHS publication, *The Goat*, which is a quarterly informational bulletin accompanied by Reference Sheets, is displayed at the shows. The Reference Sheets examine a specific topic of historic significance that has been thoroughly researched and written.

GNRHS publish a calendar and other items of interest to modelers, historians, present and former railroad employees.

At shows, GNRHS volunteers enjoy meeting the public and explaining membership benefits.

SHOW STOPPER

To help attract attention to their booth, several members decided to develop a GNR N-Scale model train layout for show display. Hence, the *N a Case*® layout was created.

The original *N a Case* was a 26" by 40" Styrofoam unit that fit into a small travel case. *N a Case* was first shown at GNRHS information tables in 1997.

Soon, it took on a life of its own and grew out of control! The society members were pleased to present it for the enjoyment of train show visitors.

It turned out to be a great way for everyone to learn about and consider becoming members of the Great Northern Railway Historical Society.

(The Empire Builder's Dream continued on Page 20)





(The Empire Builder's Dream continued from Page 19)

The GNRHS volunteers also know younger visitors want to see a model railroad at their viewing height, which is uncommon at most major train shows. That is why it is always shown on a table. Others can get a bird's eye view.

A strong belief that any model railroad should be reliable and fun to operate, while still enjoyable to view, guides the organization.

The GNRHS layout featured a styrene base created by *Terrain for Trains*. It was modified and decorated by the owner.

Mountain Modelcraft scenery products were used among others, and the group relies on the quality of *Micro-Trains* trucks and couplers. We also appreciate the stamina of *Kato*, *Atlas* and *Life-Like* motive power.

Digitrax DCC control provides continued, reliable operation for multiple GNR trains on a very small layout adorned with many tunnels and bridges.

N a Case is owned by Phil Gjevre and was shown by the GNRHS at selected train shows in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Over a quarter of a million people viewed Phil's display. It won several awards but his most treasured one was the Trainfest Honorable Mention plaque in 2006. *N a Case*, retired from mobile shows, is now incorporated into Phil's permanent layout.

The concept of using a model railroad to entice visitors remained with GNRHS, which now displays the 2' x 4' layout shown in this article. The layout features multiple levels, bridges and tunnels.

The group is especially happy when their little layout inspires people to say, "I would have room for a small model railroad like this."

For further information about the Great Northern Railway Society, check out their official and active website: <http://www.gnrhs.org>.



**Walthers Decorated Christmas tree -
"Merry Christmas to all!"**



TRAINFEST 2010 FAVS

Highlights captured in Photos.
Article and photos by Ruth Johnson.

Focused on standouts, I scoured the Trainfest layouts and exhibits to find those wonderful gems that just reach out and grab at your heart. I must admit that I am a detail freak and I always remember the modules whose creators went beyond the norm and crafted a memorable treasure.

(Trainfest 2010 Favs continued on Pages 22 & 23)

Northwest NTrak miniscule N-Scale buildings with fully furnished interiors



O Scale Interurban Railroad's period homes



Waukegan Modular Model Railroad Club detailed train station

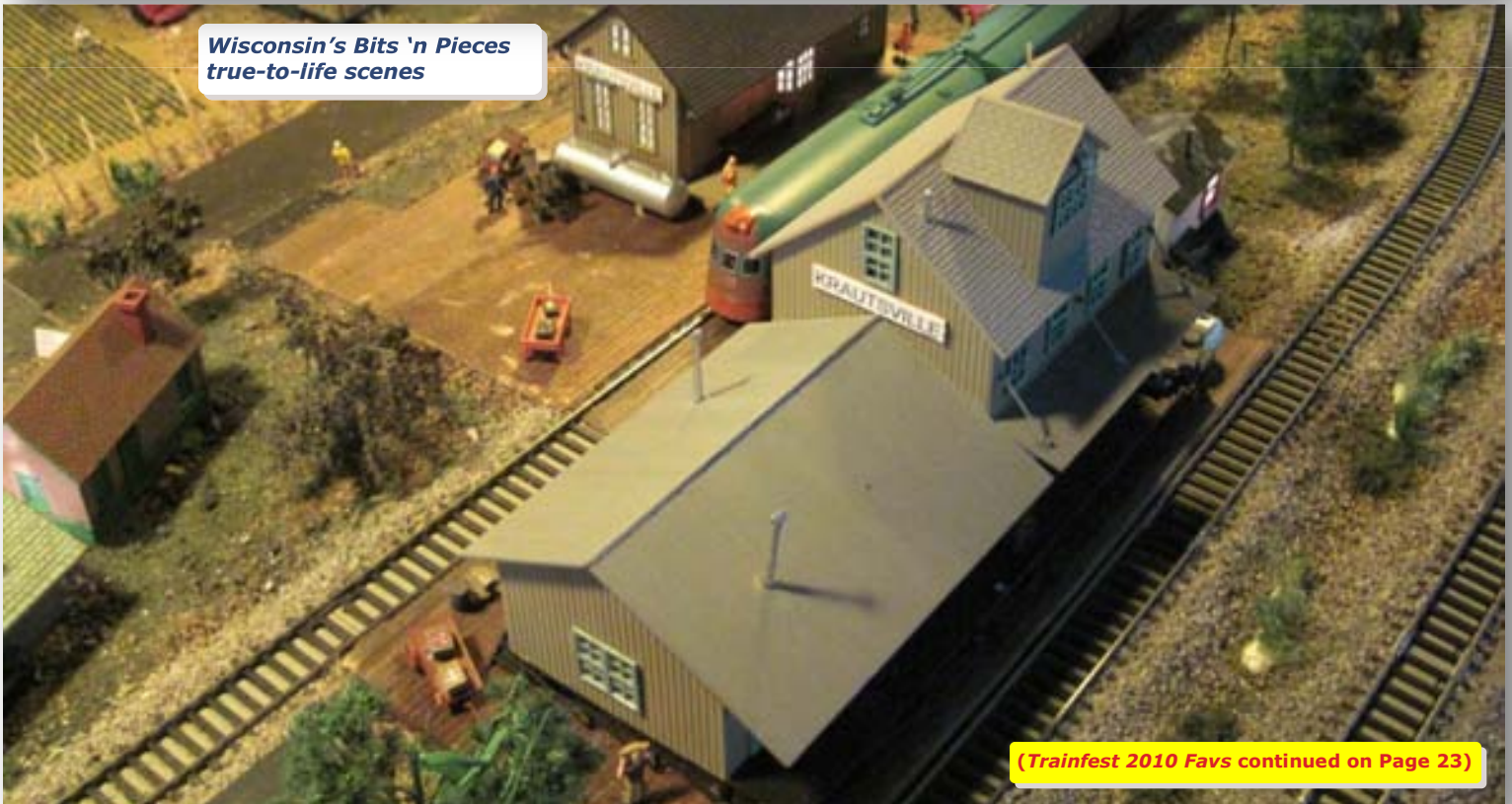




HO Track Modular's weathered buildings and highly detailed scenery



Capital City Engineers "The Story of Hodag" module - a favorite Wisconsin tall tale



Wisconsin's Bits 'n Pieces true-to-life scenes

Midwest Large Scale Modular Rails
scratch-built engine house w/copper roof



(Trainfest 2010 Favs continued from Page 22)



Rapant's Rusty Rails Railroad's
ponds with real goldfish

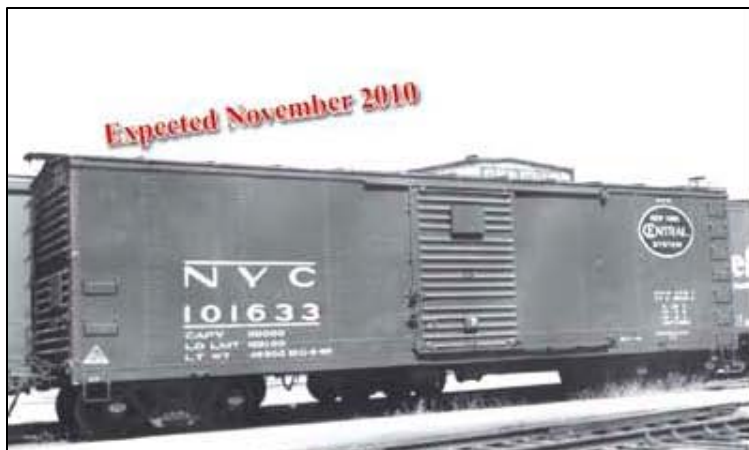
Lionel® Model Railroad Club-Milwaukee's farm
scene makes me miss my home state of Iowa



Zeren's Colorado Narrow Gauge's realistic,
minutely detailed landscape



Northeastern Wisconsin Exhibition Railroad's
real working "starship-style" train



NYC Steel Box Car, HO

Available in 4 numbered 4-packs and 1 unnumbered, unlettered 4-pack. 8 separately sold cars are also available. There are no overlapping numbers across all cars and packs. These are our most detailed cars to date and they are designed to wow even the most discerning enthusiast!

MSRP: 29.99 / 4-Pack: 99.99



USRA Mikados, HO

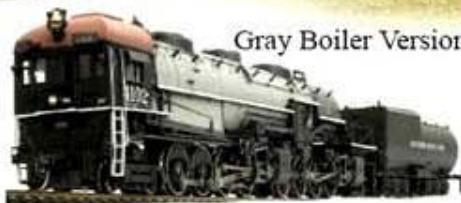
Available in both Light and Heavy configurations. *Numerous new road names.* Dual-Mode DCC, Auto-Pilot and Industry-Best Slow Speed Operation. *NOTE: Due to space restraints, this unit does not include smoke.

MSRP: 249.99



SP AC-4/AC-5 Cab Forward, HO

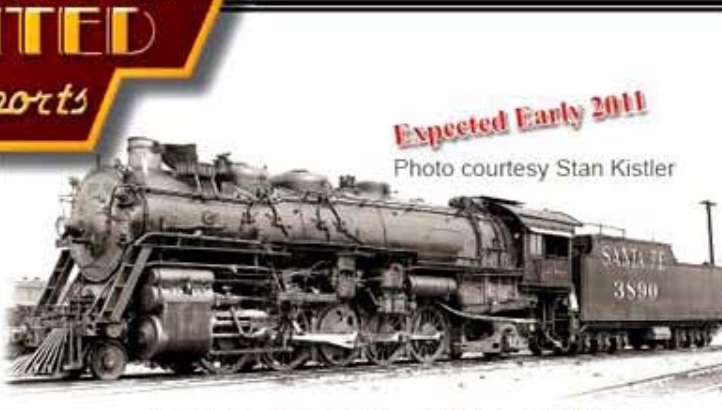
Available in black as well as gray boiler configurations. Articulated engine like the prototype locomotive for smaller radius tracking. Dual-Mode DCC Sound, equipped with Puffing Smoke, Auto-Pilot and Industry-Best Slow Speed Operation.



Gray Boiler Version



MSRP: 449.99



ATSF 2-10-2, HO New Modernized Version

An ATSF classic comes back with new features like extended cab, raised running boards, drifting valve gear, LFM disc main driver. Available with Dual-Mode DCC Sound, Auto-Pilot and Industry-Best Slow Speed Operation.



MSRP: 349.99

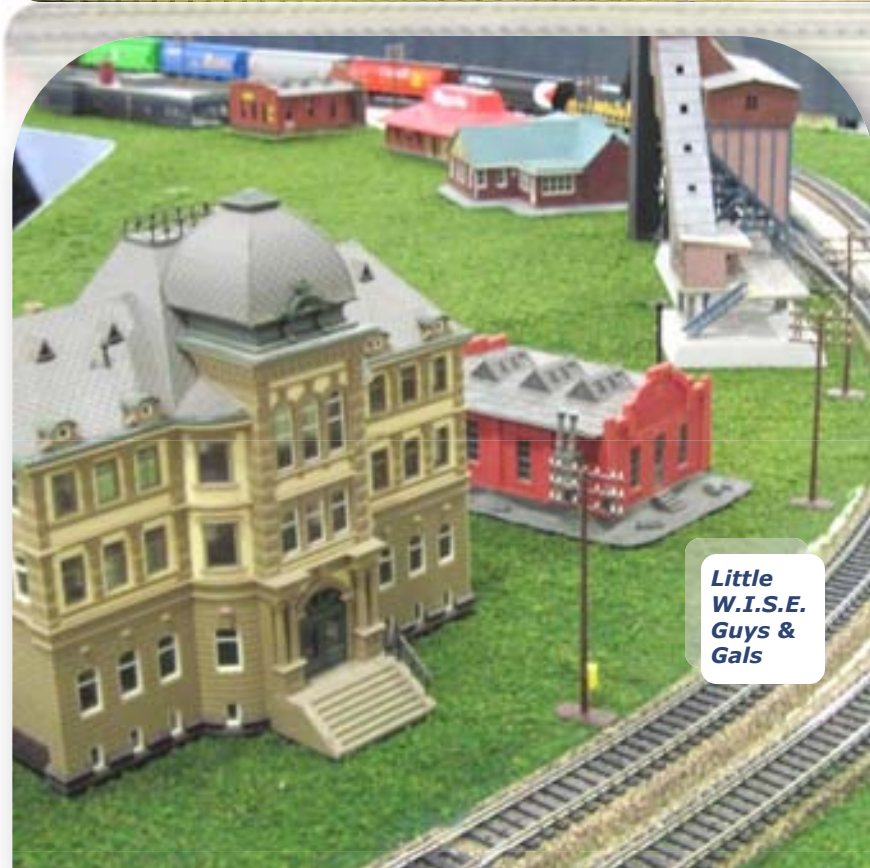
COMING SOON IN LIMITED SUPPLY. PREORDER TODAY!

www.broadway-limited.com

Reserve today: 386-673-8900



Kenosha Garden Railroad Society



Little W.I.S.E. Guys & Gals

DISCOVER!

Focus on the young at heart.

Plenty of eye candy for children and young adults! That is what families found at Trainfest this year.

An unprecedented number of layouts were geared specifically to younger enthusiasts or tailored to provide one or two modules that served up interest for the younger ones.

STROLLER CITY

Snuggled in their Mother's arms, perched on Dad's shoulders or sheltered in the comfort of their strollers, children of all ages, turned out in droves to view the magical world of model railroading.

From Radio Disney® and TRAINS4 KIDS story time to trains you could control yourself, crafts and layouts galore, there were plenty of youth-oriented attractions to keep children of all ages busy.

The photos on these two pages are just a sampling of the many fine things children experienced at Trainfest 2010.

(Discover Continued on Page 26)



Lionel Model Railroad Club



Milwaukee Light Engineering Society
(Sized just right for a child to ride.)



Midwest Large Scale Modular Rails



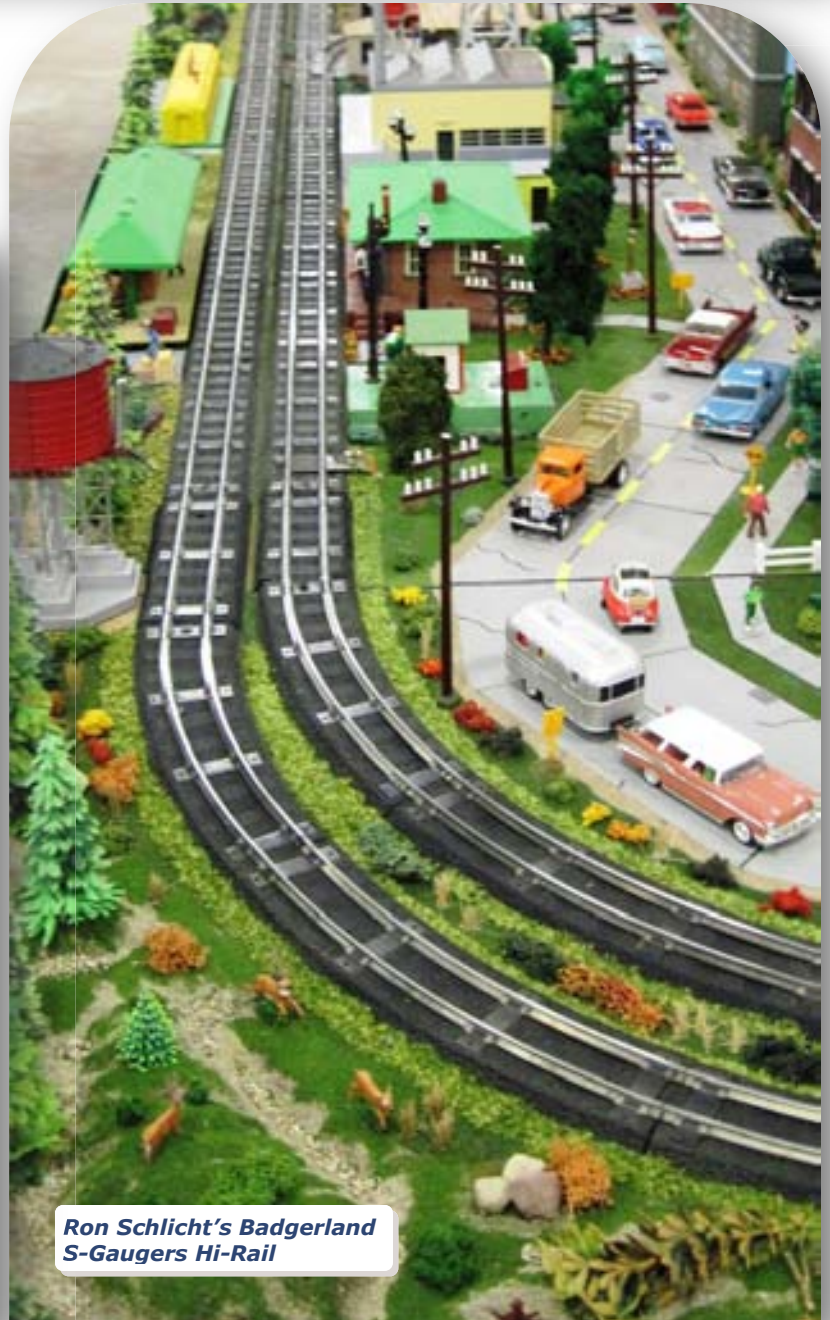
Pewaukee Road LEGO® Train

(Discover Continued from Page 25)

Be sure to check out all the new wonders at next year's Trainfest!



G-Whiz Gang



Ron Schlicht's Badgerland S-Gaugers Hi-Rail