

Lake Shores Limited

Newsletter of the Lakeshores Division of the Niagara Frontier Region,
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

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Next Lakeshores Division Meet – September 29, 2012 – Medina, NY



A steam locomotive at the New York Museum of Transportation, location of the LSD 2012 summer picnic.

LSD 2012 Summer Picnic – July 29th

News from the Division Superintendent

Summertime Railroading by *Harold Russell, MMR*

How to Make Realistic Scratch Built Conifer Trees by *Richard Senges, MMR*

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News from the LSD "Super"

Summer is almost here and it is time to think about the Lakeshores Division Summer Picnic. The Lakeshores Division annual summer picnic will be held at the New York Museum of Transportation with an excursion to the Rochester and Genesee Valley RR Museum on Sunday, July 29. The NYMT opens at 11AM. Put the date on your calendar and plan on joining us for a fun day at the museums. Look for more detailed information later in this issue.

Some news from National Office:

- At Grand Rails 2012, there will be a drawing for four cab rides from among the participants in the Little River Railroad tour. The cab rides will be in the railroad's #110, a 4-6-2 Pacific built by Baldwin, during its trip to Quincy and back.
- More convention news: The Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society is producing an HO-scale model of a true local railroad landmark: the Bridge Street Signal Tower. The prototype, still standing near the convention hotel, was built by the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad to stand guard over the railroad's crossing of five streets. Only 100 of these craftsman laser-cut kits will be available at a special Grand Rails 2012 Convention price of \$65. Members can see photos and get a brief history of the crossing tower at www.gr2012.org/towerkit.htm.
- The 4th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region has signed on as a co-sponsor of this year's Narrow Gauge Convention in Seattle. The 4th Division will be signing up members for the NMRA throughout the event.
- Because the NMRA's Online Archives has been such a rousing success, several prominent photographers and collectors have begun to donate portions of their collections to the NMRA. The first is noted author/photographer Louis A. Marre, who's donated hundreds of large-format negatives of many subjects. Gregory Sommers has also donated a large collection of freight car slides, and David Lange has donated a large number of scanned images from the collection of the late Jim Morris. Watch for these exciting additions to the NMRA Online Archives in the near future.

I received an interesting email recently from one of our members.... He said we should all check out the latest issue (July '12) of the NMRA Magazine, pages 28 through 31. Something of interest to all of us! Hmmmmmmm!

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Lakeshores Division, NFR, NMRA Summer Picnic, Sunday July 29, 2012

Location:

New York Museum of Transportation

6393 East River Rd. Rush, NY

Take I-390 to Exit 11, Rt. 251

Go West on Rt. 251 to E. River Road

Turn North, travel 1.5 Miles to NYMT on Left

This event will be held on a normal operating day of both the New York Museum of Transportation and The Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. NMRA Members and their guests will each pay the normal admission to the museum (\$7 Adults, \$6 Seniors, \$5 Students). This one fee covers the admission to both museums, trolley and track car rides.

(More information: <http://nymtmuseum.org/> and, <http://www.rgvrrm.org/>)

Here's how it will work:

1. Museum hours are from 11AM to 5PM.
2. Park and enter at the New York Museum of Transportation. After you enter the museum, please go to the "Spaghetti Warehouse Trolley" to register with the LSD at a table near the trolley. We will have a "donations" jar at the registration to pay any costs we will have for the day. Any extra money will be donated to the museums after our costs have been paid.
3. You will need to bring your own meal: meat, side dishes, non-alcoholic beverages, and table service. We will have a charcoal grill(s) set up for your use for the picnic.
4. We plan on eating around 12:30PM and will have a short meeting at the end of the meal. Bring a model to share for "Modelers Showcase" (Show and Tell)
5. We will taking the 2PM Trolley to Midway Station and then track cars to the R&GV RR Museum.
6. At the R&GV RR Museum we will be treated to a tour of the renovation building. A wonderful chance to see up close the work being done to restore and preserve history.

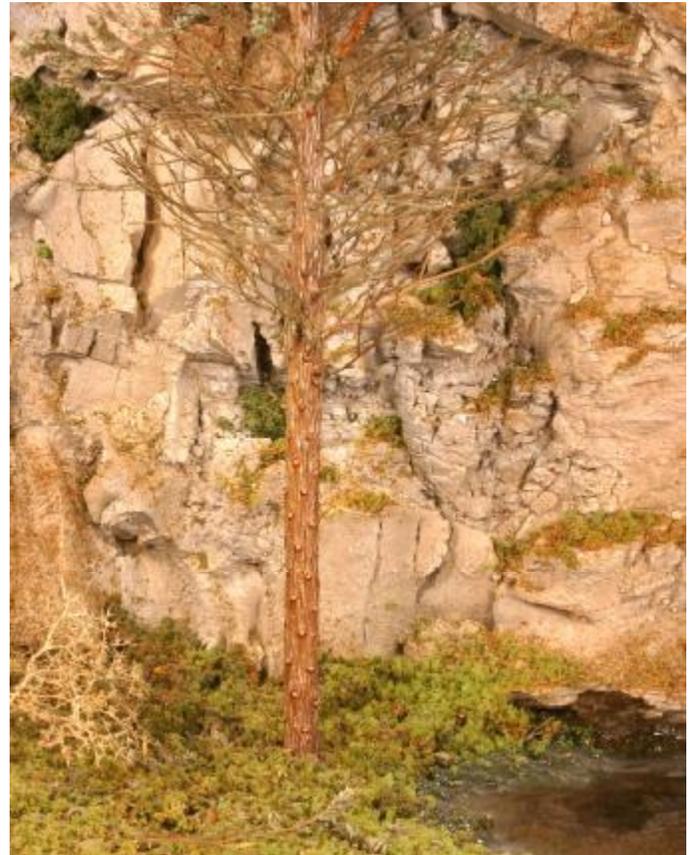
Please let me know if you are coming to the picnic and **how many** will attend by **July 22, 2012**. (We need to know for both our needs and to let the museums know how many will attend. Thank you!) You may contact me at the email address below (preferred) or call me at: 315-789-4801.

For more information contact: Ray Howard at superintendent@lakeshoresdivision.org

How to Make Realistic Scratch Built Conifer Trees

by Richard Senges, MMR

1. Collect straight, thin branches of discarded Christmas tress after the holidays. Norway spruce works well. Look for a tree that has some straight branches and small round spots around each needle. In HO scale, a 12" section is an 87' tree, not counting the tuff at the top. So you may want to go with a 6" to 10" length.
2. Cut a section to be used for the trunk, and pull out all the needles. You should see small round spots where the needles had been. If there are some small branches, break these off leaving about 1/2" on the tree to simulate dead branches.
3. Sharpen the thin end of the trunk to a fine point, gradually tapering the point to the rest of trunk. Darken only this light shaved area with paint/stain to match the bark of the rest of the tree before proceeding. I used some thinned *Polyscale Oily Black* here.
4. Insert a double sharpened nail into the base of the trunk and glue with white or yellow glue.
5. Insert the nail into a small piece of *Homasote* or foam for a stand while working.
6. Procure caspia from a craft store or florist and lay out on your worktable. Sort sections with flowers and those sections that look dead. Pick out a nice looking vertical piece for the top tuff of the tree. I used very old caspia that had faded and now looks much more realistic. The newer dark green caspia may look too bright green.



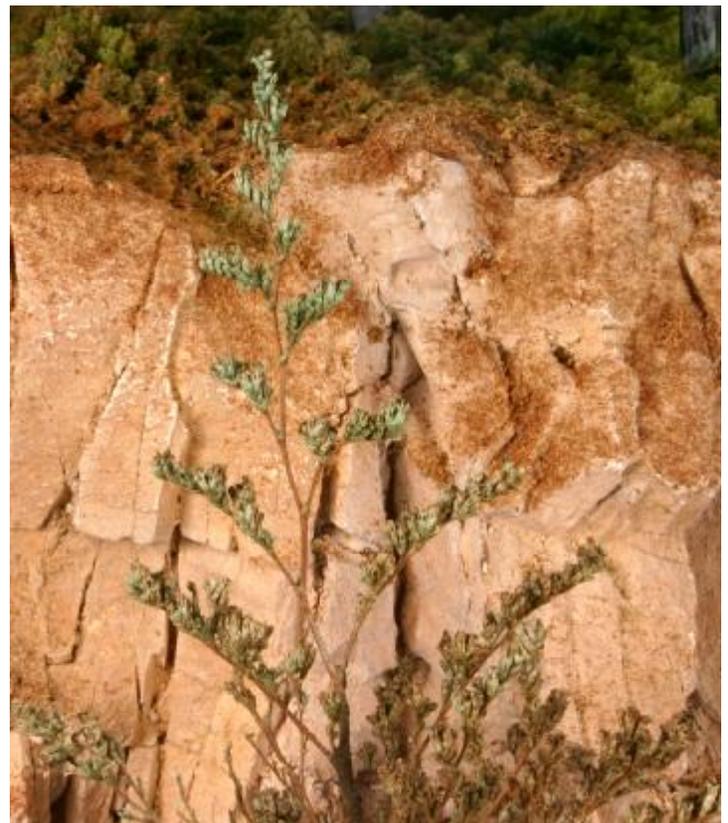
7. With your needle probe, carefully poke a small hole (or split) in the very top of the tree trunk. Glue the selected top tuff into the tree using white glue. Since the branch is relatively green, the probe should go into the tree easily. This soft green tree makes the job much easier than drilling each hole into cedar wood. Also, the green tree branch can be bent to straighten out small bends.

8. Add more white glue where the top tuff meets the tree trunk so that the taper from the tuff to the tree is gradual. Cover this small glued area with sifted dirt or brown chalk as necessary to blend colors.

9. In the area that was carved or sanded, poke random holes into the tree and glue caspia pieces into the tree with white glue. Put a small amount of white glue around each branch where it goes into the tree to enhance the appearance that the branch is actually growing out of the tree. In the area that was not sharpened or sanded to a point, poke the holes into the *small round spots* that are on the tree branch where you removed the needles. If you populate the tree using every small round spot, the tree will look very realistic. Your new branches are now “growing” out of the holes where the needles once grew.

10. Put the smaller pieces of caspia on the top of the tree, larger pieces in the middle, and smaller dead looking pieces (the more brown pieces) toward to bottom of the tree.

11. Plant tree on your layout in odd number groupings (3, 5, 7, etc.).



See: www.OilCreekRailroad.com for more articles on making trees. Click on Index on the Home Page. Go to Trees. Note Issue. Go to Home Page. Click on Back Issues. Click on issue desired.

Summertime Railroading

by Harold Russell, MMR

It is summer again and time to do some different railroading.

Inside

On the really hot days, you can retreat to the basement if that is where you model railroad is located that is usually nice and cool.

If you do not have one, I suggest you invest in a dehumidifier of fairly large capacity. We should be concerned about excess humidity that can cause any fibrous materials such as *Homasote* or similar materials (even wood) to expand. My roadbed is *Upson* board and I have seen it expand to the point of buckling. Try to maintain the relative humidity at about 50 to 60%.

If your basement is heated during the winter with hot air, shut off the registers during the summer so that the cool air conditioned air (if appropriate) does not enter the basement. The registers while 'shut off' still leak a small amount of air. The basement is probably cool enough so tape a piece of plastic over them to get a better seal.

If your railroad is located above grade and is exposed to large temperature variations, you do not have to worry about thermal expansion of your rails as it is minimal. (Expect about 0.001" per a 10" length of rail for a 10F degree temperature change.) Humidity that you probably cannot control is your worst enemy. Long runs of expandable material can have cuts made in them so that these cuts can be filled during periods of high humidity instead of the material buckling.

Outside

The warm weather can give us some different opportunities. I had a friend who had a nice shaded porch. Some of my most pleasant model building times were spent there watching the traffic go by and sipping a cool beverage.

If you like to paint and do not have a spray painting booth, try spraying outside using mother nature's ventilation system. I usually do this at the entrance to my garage after moving the cars a safe distance away. This is even better if a gentle breeze is blowing.

Summertime is your opportunity to visit some of the railroad museums in the area. Some of those that could be considered a one day drive are:

Displays: Angelica, Central Square, Dunkirk, Manchester, Salamanca, Utica, Williamsville, Crogan, and Medina. .

Rides: Arcade & Attica, Arkville, Cooperstown. Of course we have our New York Museum of Transportation and Medina that the LSD has visited in the past.

In all cases it is best to contact these museums for the hours they are open. For a good listing and information visit: www.NYTrains.com

Following the path of abandoned railroads in the area can lead to many good modeling opportunities. Many have been converted to walking trails. For example a telltale was recently found on the abandoned LV right-of-way in Sterling, NY. Many of the old depots are still present in various stages of decay or are being used for other purposes. Charles Woolevers' web site, www.ny.existingstations.com is a good source of what still remains.

Visiting small towns where the railroad still runs or ran can lead to finding some interesting structures that you may want to model. Such was the case for the mill in Linden, Benhams Feed in Canandaigua, an Octagonal Blacksmith Shop in Alloway. I know someone who may be induced in making the plan for you.

Restaurants

You may want to visit some of the old depots that have been converted into restaurants. Two examples are the BR&P depot in Le Roy (the D & R depot is one of my favorites) and Leicester that served the DL&W.

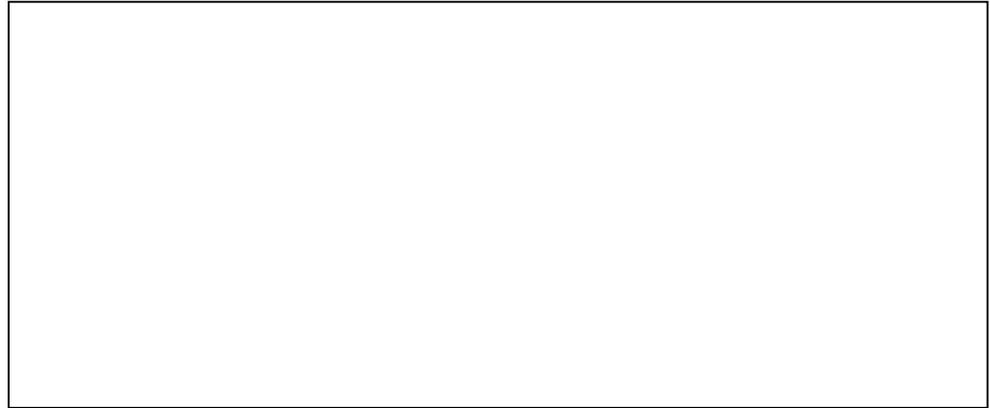
The Achievement Program.

For those of you who are interested in pursuing an Achievement Certificate for any of the categories NMRA offers, please contact me as I am willing to assist you in any way possible.

New Master Model Railroader in the Lakeshores Division

I am pleased to announce that Richard Senges, our esteemed editor, has been recently issued the *Master Model Railroader* certification. Congratulations Dr. Dick.

**NMRA NFR LSD
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Next LSD Event – The Summer Picnic

Sunday, July 29, 2012

Location: New York Museum of Transportation
<http://www.nymtmuseum.org/>

Next LSD Meet - September 29, 2012

Medina Railroad Museum