

Swift Creek Railroad open house May 25

Written by George Browning
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Swift Creek Railroad, a large and varied outdoor miniature railroad display, is preparing for their first open house of the year, the Memorial Day Run on Saturday, May 25. There have been some new features added to the display since they closed for the season in 2012.

In addition to the original G-gauge garden railroad, a new outdoor O-gauge set has been laid out. This new display includes sweeping curves and 42 foot straight sections of track for showing off Swift Creek's miniature, fully functional trains. Come view the new engines as they pull over 50 car trains down the main line.

Also new to the railroad this year is an oil refinery. This one of a kind piece was made specifically for garden railways and is a must see for fans of model railroading.

Swift Creek Railroad was founded and constructed by long-time railroad enthusiast Bob Irmscher. He sold the property in 2007 to his friend Harry Munzer, who is Swift Creek's President and CEO, as well as the current caretaker of the railroad.

This year, Irmscher is also pleased to offer his own person O-gauge indoor model train layout for your viewing pleasure at his home. "Bob's Trains" is a floor to ceiling, fully landscaped display featuring mid-twentieth century steam and diesel locomotives. The layout also includes vibrant buildings, automobiles and trucks representative of "Small Town America" during the 30's, 40's and 50's.

"Bob's Trains" is available for viewing through appointment only. Call 502-592-5597 for more information or to make reservations.

Swift Creek Railroad is located on 6265 Buttontown Road in Greenville. The Memorial Day Run is the first of three public open houses they traditionally hold throughout the year. The next open houses are the Freedom Celebration, Saturday, July 6, and the Autumn Special, Saturday, August 31.

Private or group viewings are also available throughout their running season by request. For more information, or to arrange a private viewing, call Bill Poteet at 502-645-8205.