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## 'TRAIN LADY' OPENS PRIVATE GARDENS AND MODEL RAILROADS FOR ONE DAY ONLY TO BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT INTERLOCHEN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

By ELAINE SILETS, [Community Contributor](#)

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Greater Metropolitan Chicago Area — Elaine G. Silets, internationally renowned designer and manufacturer of Model Railroads and Garden Railways who is affectionately known as “The Train Lady,” is opening her extensive private North Barrington gardens at Wandering Tree to the public for one day only on Saturday, June 29, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. All proceeds from the one—day event will benefit the Harvey M. Silets Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to deserving young students in all arts disciplines to attend Interlochen Arts Camp in Interlochen, Michigan.

For more than 30 years, the efforts of Elaine Silets and her family have provided much needed scholarships to nearly 50 students. These scholarship students have come to Interlochen from all across the United States and abroad, including places such as: Gurnee, Illinois; Homer, Alaska; and West Palm Beach, Florida — as well as St. Petersburg, Russia; Kowloon, Hong Kong; and Heredia, Costa Rica.

“It is my honor and privilege to host the annual garden walk and model train display benefit which provides much needed scholarship aid to deserving and talented students who are studying all aspects of the arts at Interlochen,” said Elaine Silets. “I believe that by bringing together such gifted and diverse students from all over the globe, we are — to paraphrase Interlochen’s motto — promoting world friendship through the universal language of the arts.”

This summer many famous artists again will perform for students and the public at Interlochen, including: Dwight Yoakam; Harry Connick, Jr.; Melissa Etheridge; Brian Wilson with Al Jardine, David Marks and Wilson Phillips; Trace Adkins; Garrison Keillor and his “Prairie Home

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Companion — Radio Romance Tour”; ZZ Top; Kris Kristofferson; and Interlochen alumnus, Josh Groban, among others.

Magic await kids and adults of all ages as they enter The Train Lady’s lavish private model railroad gardens. The extraordinary “Glorée & Tryumphant Garden Railway” consists of six thousand square feet of waterfalls, streams, lakes, bridges, trestles, city and country vignettes, as well as a circus, all replete with plant material and miniature trees of every description. The Garden Railroad operates 11 separate ½—inch G—Scale model trains.

The Gardens at Wandering Tree comprise ten acres of unparalleled gardens of different disciplines, including: the “The Shabui Garden Railway,” a Japanese water and stream garden with its own little train traversing the falls; the three acre pond garden; the wild shade garden with its centerpiece Burr Oak; the pleached allée of 24 interwoven crabapple trees; an herbaceous perennial border; multiple rose gardens; a pool garden; a sunken formal vegetable potager; the pink dooryard gardens; and the special Snoopy topiary that belongs to the Train Lady’s three grandsons.

Elaine Silets also will open to the public The Harvey M. Silets Memorial O—Scale Model Railroad Museum. She designed and built this Model Railroad Museum for her late husband, Harvey M. Silets, an internationally recognized tax attorney and litigator. Housed in an authentic replica of the famous Rico Train Station, this private model railroad museum that recreates the greater metropolitan Chicago area includes 16 trains, 2 trolleys, operating truck and car roadways, an operating drive-in movie theatre, 2 elevated trains, 2 subway trains, 2 helixes, and 54 interactive automations.

Two separate musical trios — a piano trio and a jazz trio — comprised of young Interlochen alumni will serenade visitors with live music throughout the day from The Train Lady’s picturesque garden gazebo. Representatives from Interlochen will be on hand at the Interlochen booth to answer questions. “Over more than three decades, the Silets family has been instrumental in helping provide much needed scholarship funds to nearly 50 talented young artists from around the world to attend Interlochen, where they have received the best training available,” said Jeffrey Kimpton, president of Interlochen Center for the Arts. “In the years to come these artists will be a positive influence on the arts and culture in our country, and around the world.”

Fiore Nursery and Landscape Supply (<http://www.cjfiore.com>), supplier of the largest selection of premium grade plant materials in the greater Chicago metropolitan area, will showcase many unique tree and plant specimens that will be available for purchase by the public. All profits will be donated directly to the Harvey M. Silets Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Chicago Botanic Garden, (<http://www.ChicagoBotanic.org>), a 385-acre living plant museum featuring 26 distinct gardens and four natural areas, will participate with a booth at this year’s event as well. Opened to the public in 1972, the Garden is managed by the Chicago Horticultural Society, accredited by the American Association of Museums and a member of the American Public Gardens Association (APGA).

Giordano’s Famous Pizza (<http://www.giordanos.com/community>), which has been serving its world—famous pizza since 1974, will be providing lunch, snacks and refreshments for purchase for the first time this year. “Giordano’s is very excited to participate in The Train Lady’s Annual Garden Walk and Model Railroad Display Benefit and to lend our support to Interlochen Center for the Arts,” said Russell Bry, Giordano’s Executive Chef. “Giordano’s is proud to be considered a Chicago tradition as we strive to make a difference in the communities we serve.” Based in Chicago, Giordano’s was founded by two immigrants, brothers Efren and Joseph Boglio, when they became discouraged by the lack of authentic

pizza available in the Chicago area. Giordano's has 40 locations in throughout the Chicagoland area and also is available for shipping anywhere in the continental U.S.

Stillman Nature Center (<http://www.stillmannc.org>), a not—for—profit center for environmental education that is located on 80 acres of woods, lake and prairie, will have a booth that will feature a live Eastern Screech Owl. Representatives from Stillman will help answer nature and wildlife questions.

To learn more about the one day only June 29th Garden Walk and Model Railroad Event to benefit the Harvey M. Silets Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to deserving young students in all arts disciplines to attend Interlochen Arts Camp, and to preview the gardens of Elaine Silets at Wandering Tree, visit: (<http://www.TrainLady.com>) or (<http://www.Interlochen.org/silets>) or (<http://www.Facebook.com/TheTrainLady>).