

# Trees as Supporting Actors

**Adding Variety To Your Layout's Visual Story**

**Palmetto Division NMRA**

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# A little about me . . .

- Chuck Jenkins—South Miami, Florida; USCGA; GWU.
- Family—Married 34 years, three daughters, one grandson.
- Working Life-- Nine years USCG, shipboard engineering; thirty-two years private sector engineering, development, operations. Lead a global engineering team—six sites—US, UK, Holland, Italy; travel.
- Non-working Activity—Gardening, home remodeling and repair, woodworking, (slow) running, reading, travel.
- Model railroading:

# 1' x 8' Shelf Layout—HO Scale

- Started out, 1920's rural Georgia. Sandborn Maps, Waynesboro, Millen, Statesboro. Settled on a Waynesboro track pattern.
- Small steam locomotives from kits. Bought a Varney SW diesel and now plan to alternate between the 1920's and the 1940's.
- A few industries, simple switching, functional MOW. Many details yet to be added; industries to be built for swap-out.
- For now, DC power but working on assembling and using a DCC system based on an Arduino microcontroller and JMRI.









# Trees as “Supporting Actors”--Introduction

- Scenery helps create the stage for our model railroad world in miniature.
  - Buildings, roads, people, cars, trucks, horse & wagon.
  - Trees, rocks, water, grass, hills.
- Let's look at a few real trees for ideas.
  - Industrial park.
  - Roadside.





2





# Highway Roadside

**I-85 North Ramp from  
Hwy. 14**

**Dead tree in background**



# Three Methods To Make Trees For Your Layout

- Purchased kit from Woodland Scenics.
- Sedum garden plant to make small, filler trees.
- Azalea prunings to make “dead” trees.

# Woodland Scenics® Trees

- Bought a kit to make 3” upswept trees off eBay.
  - Soft metal molded trunk and limbs.
  - Clean off flash.
  - Wash in soap and water.
  - Prime, paint with flat gray primer.
  - Finish mist with flat or satin black, tan, white paint.
  - Finely ground foam in mesh.
  - Cut and apply as foliage.
  - Plant on layout.

# WOODLAND SCENICS

P.O. BOX 266

AWNEE MISSION, KANSAS

785-262-5552 66201

Woodland scenics offers a complete line including: tree kits, turf, foliage, flowers, fruit and stumps.

A COMPLETE SYSTEM allows virtually any size or specie of tree, bush, ground cover, grass, shrub or weed — a system that is specially designed to work within itself — means no need for you to search for compatible landscaping materials. Woodland offers a complete system.

## OTHER PRODUCTS INCLUDE:

### FOLIAGE LINE

|               |      |              |      |
|---------------|------|--------------|------|
| Light Green   | F-51 | Shrub        | T-41 |
| Medium Green  | F-52 | Early Fall   | T-42 |
| Dark Green    | F-53 | Yellow Grass | T-43 |
| Conifer Green | F-54 | White Grass  | T-44 |
| Early Fall    | F-55 | Green Grass  | T-45 |
| Late Fall     | F-56 | Weeds        | T-46 |
|               |      | Fruit        | T-47 |
|               |      | Flowers      | T-48 |

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# How to Create Simple Trees From Sedum

- Dried flower heads and stems create simple trees.
- Harvest in December or January.
- Shake or brush flowers and leaves off, leaving structure.
- Spray with weak solution of bleach (optional).
- Spray with flat gray primer.

# How to Create Simple Trees From Sedum

- Mist with flat or satin black, tan, light green (moss), white.
- Use acrylic craft paints for accent colors on the tree “trunks.”
  - Tan, white, gray.
- Lightly spray adhesive on the tips.
- Dip in ground foam of varying colors and sizes.
- Plant in a hole in the layout.



































# Azaleas as Dead Trees

- Evergreen and deciduous varieties available locally.
- Opportunities as you prune or remove dead sections.

# Preparing the Azalea Trees

- Must be completely dry, not green.
- Remove loose bark with a wire brush. Cut off twiggy growth.
- Spray with a weak bleach solution then follow with soap and water for possible insects.
- Allow to dry.
- Prime with flat gray primer.

# Preparing the Azaleas (cont.)

- Paint with craft paints: Tan, brown, black, white, gray.
- White edging around “holes” in the dead tree.
- Drill and insert small nail if from a larger plant. Otherwise, drill a small hole in the layout base material.
- Plant on layout.



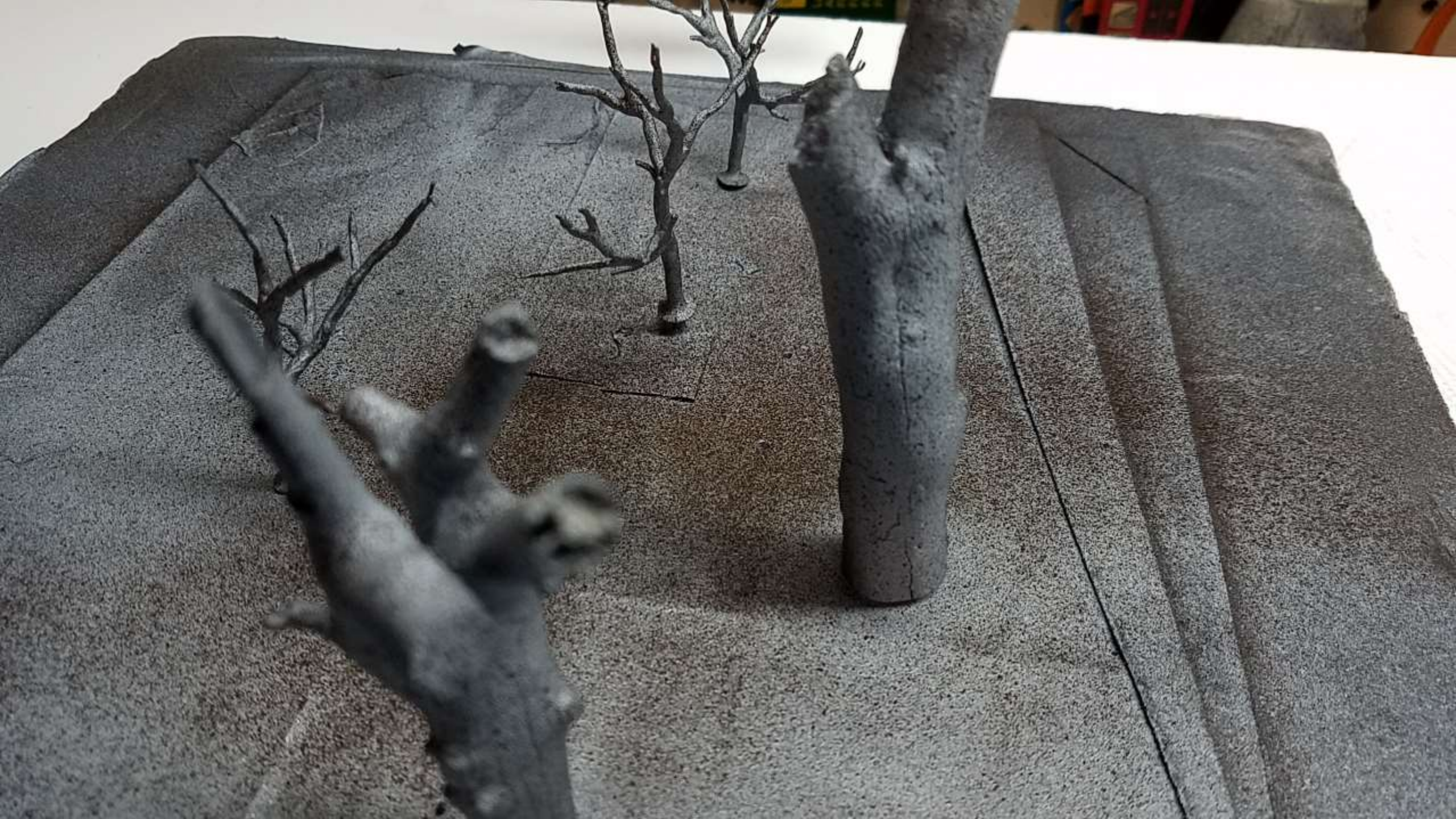


















# Combined Effects On The Layout

- Living trees.
  - Leaning trees.
  - Dead logs.
  - Fallen limbs.
  - Low growth.
- 
- Woodland Scenics kit trees, sedum trees, azalea dead trees.





# Trees as “Supporting Actors” —Finale

- Scenery sets the stage for our model railroading world in miniature.
- Trees can be purchased complete, made from a purchased kit, or made with a combination of natural and purchased materials.
- Nature shows us variety everywhere we look. Use that variety to create added interest on your layout.