



2020 National Garden Railway Convention

Nashville, Tennessee

May 31 to June 6, 2020

Welcome to the second 2020 NGRC newsletter. The Nashville Garden Railway Society is pleased to host the 2020 convention – the first time the convention visits Nashville. We have a lot of exciting events and activities planned that can be enjoyed by the whole family. We look forward to welcoming you to Nashville and sharing our Southern hospitality.

In this newsletter we provide updates on registrations and clinics along with information about the Opryland Hotel and Resort, the Opryland Mall which is within walking distance of the Hotel or by using the complementary shuttle bus. Finally, we provide information about the history of the Kentucky Railroad Museum. The convention train excursion will be on Monday June 1st.

Registration

About 1/3 of the block of rooms being held for the National Garden Railroad Convention at the Opryland Hotel and Resort have been booked. In addition, the BBQ at the Wild Horse Saloon has a maximum seating capacity of 275 attendees due to fire code regulations. Early registration is recommended as the hotel and seating for the BBQ are quickly filling up. On-line registration can be entered at the official convention website: www.NGRC2020.com or via Facebook at: 2020 National Garden Railway Convention – Nashville.

Clinics

The convention organizing committee is working on clinic topics and lining up featured speakers. At this convention we are planning a clinic which might be of interest to women. Also, for the youth (17 years of age and younger) attending the convention there will be two “make and take” clinics they can participate in; one is decorating a small wood building and the second

clinic is where they take a flat car and add a load of their choice to the car. Both youth clinics have a minimal charge for materials. Parental assistance is encouraged to help promote interest in the garden railroad hobby by your children. The finished products can be entered into the Youth Division of the model contest. Details are available on the Convention website.

If you have a suggestion for a clinic topic of interest to you please send an email message with your suggestion to: ngrcnashville@gmail.com. Suggestions for potential speakers is always welcome and appreciated.

Opryland Resort



The Opryland Resort is minutes from the Grand Ole Opry Museum and the Grand Ole Opry. This 4-star resort is close to Opry Mills Mall.

Make yourself at home in one of the 2888 air-conditioned rooms featuring refrigerators and Smart televisions. Cable programming provides entertainment, and wired and wireless Internet access is available for a surcharge. Private bathrooms with shower/tub combinations feature designer toiletries and hair dryers. Conveniences include safes and desks, as well as phones with free local calls.

Pamper yourself with a visit to the spa, which offers massages, body treatments, and facials. You're sure to appreciate the recreational amenities, which include 2 outdoor swimming pools, a state-of-art waterpark, a nightclub, and a fitness center. Additional amenities at this resort include complimentary wireless Internet access, concierge services, and an arcade/game room. If you'd like to spend the day shopping, you can hop on the complimentary shuttle bus to Opry Mills Mall or take a 10 minute walk.

Grab a bite to eat at one of the resort's 18 restaurants and 2 coffee shops/café's, or stay in and take advantage of 24-hour room service. Relax with a refreshing drink at one of the 5 bars/lounges.

Opry Mills



While you're in Nashville, a stop at the famous Opry Mills shopping and entertainment venue is a must.

The facility, the largest outlet in the Nashville TN area, features hundreds of retailers and outlets, including the Bass Pro Shop, American Eagle Outfitters, Disney Outlet, Ann Taylor Factory Store, Coach, J. Crew Factory, Dressbarn, Hagger Outlet, Levi's Outlet, Victoria's Secret, Nine West Outlet, The Children's Place Outlet, and much more.

Of course, Opry Mills doesn't limit you to just shopping. There is also entertainment available in the mall including the Regal Cinemas Opry Mills Stadium 20 & IMAX, where you can catch the latest feature flicks. Other entertainment options include Dave & Busters, the Tennessee Treasures Play Area, and live musical performances at the Opry Mills Stage, presented by Wholesale Inc.

Kentucky Railway Museum



The Kentucky Rail Museum offers many interesting attractions in addition to train rides, including: An entire building dedicated to the exhibit of model and toy trains, an in-depth look at the history of railroads, several pieces of railroad equipment, and cars from past and present. There are more than 100 pieces of rolling stock at the museum including flatcars, cranes, refrigerated cars, box cars, hopper cars cabooses, and passenger cars.

The Kentucky Railway roots trace back to 1948 when a small group of rail enthusiasts formed a local chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. In the early 1950s the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad was asked to donate a steam locomotive to the museum to become the centerpiece for the museum exhibits. In 1954 the L&N Railroad donated steam locomotive 152, a 4-6-2 Pacific to the museum. A group of museum volunteers in 1972 began the enormous task of restoring L&N 152 into full operating condition. It took 13 years to complete the restoration of the locomotive. In September 1985 the locomotive moved once again under its own power after a 30-year retirement. All restoration occurred in an outdoor facility with volunteer labor. This locomotive at that time was one of the best examples of a preserved operating steam locomotive in the US. The museum was notified its lease would not be renewed when it ended in 1993. The search for a new location for the museum was on. CSX Railroad was considering abandoning the old L&N mainline from Boston, KY to Mt. Vernon, KY. With the support from a foundation and a state economic development grant the museum purchased 17 miles of track from Boston, KY to New Haven, KY for \$30,000.00 / mile! Two brothers donated six acres of land and a building which became the current museum headquarters in July 1990. A new 5,000 sq ft. building which is a replica of the old L&N New Haven depot opened in 1995. Currently L&N 152 is out of service for boiler and running gear repair.

The 22-mile train ride offers a scenic trip through the historic Rolling Fork River Valley from New Haven to Boston and back. The convention train ride will be on Monday June 1st.

