



## 2020 National Garden Railway Convention

### Nashville, Tennessee

### May 31 to June 6, 2020

Welcome to the first 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.

We intend to make the newsletter a regular publication and use it to keep you informed with news and developments related to the convention. In future editions, we will describe some of the highlights of the convention. We kindly refer you to the convention website: [www.NGRC2020.com](http://www.NGRC2020.com) or our Facebook page: 2020 National Garden Railway Convention – Nashville for more specific details about the convention.

To make this convention one to remember, the convention will be held at the luxurious Opryland Resort in Nashville. The Opryland Resort has 2,800 hotel rooms, 19 restaurants, multiple large climate-controlled garden atriums, a leisurely boat ride on an indoor ¼-mile river with waterfalls, and a new \$90 million state-of-art waterpark. Also, located at the Opryland Resort complex is the renowned Grand Ole Opry Concert Hall, the Opry Mills Shopping Mall with over 200 stores, and the General Jackson Showboat. In upcoming newsletters, we will spotlight these and other Nashville area landmarks you may wish to explore.

#### **Registration**

On-line registration for the convention is now open using the official convention website: [www.NGRC2020.com](http://www.NGRC2020.com) or via Facebook: 2020 National Garden Railway Convention – Nashville. Hotel room reservations can be made using the following link:

<https://book.passkey.com/gt/217389666?gtid=40ba6ecf4df71034513b8cb1cc2121f2>

There is a highly limited number of hotel rooms available on a first come, first serve basis for May 30<sup>th</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> for those arriving early or staying in the Nashville area after the convention concludes. These dates conflict with other activities on going in the Nashville area. The rooms were not part of the convention block and will rent for the normal hotel rate. If you need a room on one of these dates, please book early with the Opryland Resort.

The first 200 families that book a room at the Opryland Resort and stay at the hotel for a minimum of five nights, will receive the 2020 Convention car for **FREE**. This is a \$70.00 value. Only one car per family. Below is a picture of the 2020 Convention offset-side hopper car produced by PIKO that we wanted to be a perfect memento for NGRC 2020. The design includes [NC&StL#576](#) "The Stripe", a regional steam train icon for the Music City which is currently being restored into working order. We also asked our graphic designer to add our images of downtown Nashville and a well-known sign from Music Row. PIKO agreed to use their digital printer to produce this design, so we can't wait to see it produced in near photo-quality. Many folks have already signed up for more than one!

### NGRC 2020 Convention Car



### Train Excursion

The train excursion will be held on Monday June 1. The convention committee has scheduled bus transportation from the Opryland Resort to the Kentucky Railroad Museum located in New Haven, KY. There, we will board an excursion train for a 22-mile round trip between New Haven and Boston, KY. The tracks we will ride upon go through the Rolling Fork River Valley and have seen attacks during the Civil War and carried equipment and men during WWII. Lunch will be provided at noon.

### Garden Railroad Layout Tours

Tours of local garden railroads will be held on June 2, 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>. Tour buses will be available for those that do not wish to drive in Nashville traffic, but not all layouts are accessible by bus. Those layouts not accessible via bus will be noted in the convention book. For those riding the buses, lunches will be provided as part of the package deal. On Tuesday June 2, the tour buses will end up at Fiddler's Grove Historic Village in Lebanon, TN. Here you will see a one-room log cabin, one-room school house, a blacksmith shop where cooking utensils and farm equipment were made, and many other buildings from an era gone by. Also, at Fiddler's Grove is a model railroad museum to see.

### Ice Cream Social

The ice cream social will be on Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>, just prior to opening the doors to the vendor hall. After a busy morning touring garden railroads, stop by for a scoop of cool, refreshing ice cream before going to the vendor hall.

## Vendor Hall

The vendor hall will be open only for registered convention attendees from 2 to 6 pm on Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>. From 8 am to 6 pm on Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> and from 8 am to 2 pm on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> the vendor hall will be open for convention attendees and also to the general public.

## BBQ Dinner

The BBQ dinner will be held on Thursday night June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Wild Horse Saloon in downtown Nashville. The Opryland Resort will provide free bus transportation to and from the hotel to the Wild Horse. We have reserved an entire floor of the Wild Horse Saloon, but registration for the BBQ is restricted to 275, so sign up early. The Wild Horse Saloon is located in the Music Row district of Nashville where many famous Nashville Honky Tonks are located for those that enjoy country music. An instructor from the Wild Horse Saloon will teach line dancing and the Texas two-step for those interested in learning these dances.

## Banquet

The banquet will be on Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Opryland Resort. A surprise guest and band will provide live entertainment during the banquet. The convention committee has contracted to have five USA Trains SD70MAC locomotives custom painted in the CSX Spirit of Nashville livery for the convention. These will be given away in a random drawing. Attendance at the banquet is required to win one of these beautiful locomotives. A picture of the actual locomotive is shown below:



## Clinics

Clinics are being planned for the 2020 convention, including two youth clinics (17 years and younger accompanied by an adult). If there is a specific topic you would be interested in for an adult clinic please email your suggestions to: [ngrcnashville@gmail.com](mailto:ngrcnashville@gmail.com).

One youth clinic will consist of painting a small pre-built wooden building, which can be entered into the youth model contest and the second clinic is adding a load of the youth's choice to a USA Trains flatcar. A nominal charge applies. Paints and brushes for the building decorating clinic will be provided by the convention hosts. Pre-registration is required and there is limited space. Tickets for the youth clinics are now available online at the National Garden Railroad Convention website.

## **Model Railroad Contest**

The rules for the Modeling Contest have been posted and are available on the NGRC2020 website. We are especially excited to be hosting two divisions. An adult division and new this year, a youth division. The youth division was added to stimulate and encourage interest for our youth to keep the hobby enthusiasm growing. There will be some nice prizes in the youth division so we encourage you to come join the fun. Trophies will be presented to the adult winners for bragging rights.

## **Contact Information**

Questions about the 2020 NGRC or any issues involving registration for the convention or with hotel reservations should be emailed to: [ngrcnashville@gmail.com](mailto:ngrcnashville@gmail.com). We will do our best to promptly respond to your message with answers to your questions about the convention or assist in resolving any issues with registrations.

National Garden Railway Organizing Committee  
Ken Miller, Chairman