



## 2021 National Garden Railroad Convention Update

May 30 to June 5, 2021

Nashville, Tennessee

For nearly everyone, 2020 has been a very difficult and challenging year unlike any year we have ever experienced before. In less than 250 days on May 30, 2021 the 36<sup>th</sup> National Garden Railroad Convention, hosted by the Nashville Garden Railway Society, kicks off at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, TN. For the Nashville Garden Railway Society, we have renewed our focus on getting the 36<sup>th</sup> National Garden Railroad Convention back on track and hosting the convention. Why not make plans to join us and your fellow garden railroaders at the convention? In this newsletter we want to update you on several items related to the 36<sup>th</sup> National Garden Railroad Convention. **Please be aware we are still dealing with a very fluid situation due to COVID-19 pandemic. We are trying to manage these situations as they arise to the best of our abilities. Rest assured we are not going to take risks that jeopardize the health and safety of our guests or club members. We will continue to follow CDC recommendations and local health regulations. Schedules for the convention could change due to COVID-19 conditions or event locations forcing us to make changes which could be out of our control. If we become aware of a change that would affect any event you have purchased a ticket for, be assured we will contact you either by email or phone call. Changes affecting the convention will be included in future newsletters, posted on the Convention website ([www.ngrc2021.com](http://www.ngrc2021.com)) and also on Facebook.**

### Convention Registration

**On-line registration for the convention will open up on October 1, 2020.** For those of you transferring your registration from 2020 to 2021, we are very appreciative and THANK YOU! Registrations for the 2020 convention have been transferred to 2021 for the small group of people that did not contact us regarding a refund or a transfer of their registration. The Grand Ole

Opry, General Jackson, Kentucky Railroad Museum and Jack Daniels Distillery are closed and employees are still furloughed. The Grand Ole Opry and General Jackson will be opening up on a very limited scale with capacity restrictions in early October. When the convention was cancelled each of these venues indicated they would transfer our blocks of tickets to 2021. Ryman Hospitality Properties, parent company of the Wild Horse Saloon where the Convention BBQ will be held has purchased a building adjacent to the Wild Horse Saloon in downtown Nashville. After the renovation of the adjacent building the maximum seating capacity of the third floor where the BBQ will be held has increased from 275 to approximately 450 people (subject to COVID-19 social distancing mandates). If you did not sign up for the BBQ and wish to do so, there are plenty of tickets available for this activity. Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes so you join in on the fun of Line Dancing and doing the Texas Two-step. You might want to check the convention registration website ([www.ngrc2021.com](http://www.ngrc2021.com)) to review the optional activities we have available for you and your family to enjoy while you are attending the convention.

### **Hotel Room Reservations**

Marriott Properties, which manages the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, is now accepting reservations for hotel rooms for the week of the Convention. Our recommendation is to call the National Reservation telephone number to make your hotel reservations to ensure you receive the special convention room rate. The telephone number is **(877) 351-5021**. Mention you are booking rooms for the National Garden Railway Convention and request the special convention room rate. Our experience has been trying to get the discounted convention room rate has been hit or miss when trying to make room reservations on-line. If you encounter any difficulties please don't hesitate to contact us using the convention email address: [ngrcnashville@gmail.com](mailto:ngrcnashville@gmail.com).

### **Vendor Hall**

We thank all the vendors that transferred their booth space reservations in the vendor hall to 2021. We will be sending out new 2021 vendor hall contracts for you to sign and return. If you would like to increase the number of spaces for your booth, we have booth space available and the prices will be outlined in the new vendor contracts. We will be contacting you to review your contract by the end of this year. We look forward to having you and your business present at the convention. If the Nashville Health Department still requires social distancing when the convention starts, the vendor hall is large enough to allow us to have an open booth space between every two vendors.

### **Convention Banquet**

We are pleased to announce Ms. Irlene Mandrell and The 12 South Band will be performing at the convention banquet. Both entertainers were gracious and willing to transfer their

commitment to perform at our convention banquet to June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There are plenty of tickets available for the convention banquet.

Two lucky people, who stay a minimum of 5 nights at the Opryland Resort and Convention Center and are in attendance at the Convention Banquet, will have a chance to win a drawing for one of two beautiful USA Trains SD70 locomotives that have been custom painted in the CSX “Spirit of Nashville” livery by Fred Tennyson. These locomotives are absolutely stunning and Fred did outstanding work painting and decaling the locomotives.

### 2020 “Un-convention” Cars

A special THANK YOU goes out to everyone that has stepped up to help support the Nashville Garden Railway Society by purchasing one or more of the 2020 National Garden Railroad Convention hopper cars. In addition, we like to recognize one business and several individuals that have been contacting their club members to help us sell “un-convention” cars and collecting the money for us. To Mick Spilsbury, Richard Friedman, Mark Edwards, Roy Williamson, and Robby Dascotte from RLD Hobbies, we are sincerely appreciative for all you have done to help us out. THANK YOU! A significant number of cars have been cleared from our inventory, but we still have cars available for sale. If you are interested in purchasing a 2020 convention car, please contact us via email at: [ngrcnashville@gmail.com](mailto:ngrcnashville@gmail.com). At this time, no final decision has been made about producing a convention car for 2021.

Until our next newsletter, stay safe and continue enjoying your garden railroad. We look forward to seeing you in Nashville, TN from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### Contact Information

Convention email address: [ngrcnashville@gmail.com](mailto:ngrcnashville@gmail.com)

Convention website: [www.ngrc2021.com](http://www.ngrc2021.com)

Vendor hall: Steve Jungst at (615) 674-8281

Hotel reservations: [877-351-5921](tel:877-351-5921)

