



## 36th National Garden Railroad Convention Update

**May 30 to June 5, 2021  
Nashville, Tennessee**

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021. A perfect New Year's Resolution is planning to attend the 36<sup>th</sup> National Garden Railroad Convention in Nashville, TN from **May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center is a 4-star resort that serves as the headquarters for the Convention. Registrations for the Convention can be made on-line by using the Convention website ([www.ngrc2021.com](http://www.ngrc2021.com)).

The Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center is still operating with a reduced staff and their website had not been updated for on-line hotel reservations for the 2021 Convention. We apologize for this inconvenience. We have notified the hotel and their website and the link to it from our convention website now have been updated and are ready for on-line room reservations. Hotel room reservations can also be made by calling the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center at **(877) 351-5021**. Mention you are booking rooms for the National Garden Railway Convention and request the special convention room rate. This will save you a significant amount of money compared to their normal room rates.

With COVID-19 vaccines now available and with better therapeutics also available, the Nashville Garden Railway Society is looking forward to better days ahead and hosting the convention in 2021. **Please be aware we are still dealing with a very fluid situation due to COVID-19 pandemic. 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. We are trying to manage these situations as they arise to the best of our abilities. Rest assured we are not going to take unnecessary risks that jeopardize the health and safety of our guests or club members. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines and local health regulations. 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.**

In this Convention update newsletter, we feature five railroads on the tours during the Convention and our plans for the 2021 Convention car (see below for details). Future Convention updates will feature other layouts on the tours.

## Layout Tours



### **Small Town USA**

Carter and Patsy Johnson  
Tuesday June 1, 2021

The indoor layout is 18' x 20' in size with 150' of brass track and uses DCC. It is inspired by a 1960's small town, similar to any found throughout the USA. Lots of vehicles, figures and buildings show tons of detail. There are operating traffic lights and five bridges including various scenes that include a classic car show, a band playing in the park, mechanics working at a garage, and a drive-in hamburger joint. A typical town square anchors the layout. You'll be surprised at the disappearing mountain.



### **Evergreen Line**

Carter and Patsy Johnson  
Tuesday June 1, 2021

The outdoor railroad is located on a 10' x 60' raised planter consisting of mostly evergreen shrubs. The layout has 140 feet of brass track with a 10-foot-long tunnel and seven-foot-long bridge. The trains are battery powered.

## **WALTER'S MIDWAY**

Walter Ethridge  
Tuesday June 1, 2021

This layout was built by my very best friend Carter Johnson at his house. I never had a chance to have an outdoor layout. When I got out of the Air Force, I worked at a local amusement park in Nashville called Fair Park. I was the manager of the roller coaster for three years and this layout with all of the rides takes me back to the times when I smiled and laughed at other people having fun because of something I did. The layout has 140 feet of track and is track powered. At the amusement park, there are 14 animated attractions and four which are unanimated.



## **Colorado Memory Line**

William and Bettye Heald  
Thursday June 3, 2021

This railroad, with approximately 100 feet of brass track on the first loop and another 60 feet on the second loop, dates back to the early days of the Nashville Garden Railway Society. Different Colorado narrow gauge railroads between 1880 to 1930 are represented. Trains are battery powered. The layout is approximately 50 feet x 50 feet with a 10-foot-long curved trestle and four tunnels demonstrates what can be done with a limited amount of space, limited funds, and modest modeling skills. The station in the photo is scratch-built as are the numerous stores in the town scenes.



## **J2A Railroad**

Steve and Malinda Jungst  
Wednesday June 2, 2021

With two mainlines consisting of separate loops totaling 370 feet, this track-powered railroad has three bridges and three trestles. Lengths of the trestles are 7.5, 8 and 24 feet. Many scenes are rural America and agricultural related. Several buildings have been scratch-built or kit-bashed. Numerous varieties of plants and ground cover are used on the layout including 14 dwarf and miniature Japanese maple trees.



## 2021 Convention Car

We have received numerous inquiries whether there will be a new convention car produced for the 2021 National Garden Railroad Convention. The Nashville Garden Railway Society is pleased to announce we have made arrangements with USA Trains to have 150 convention cars produced. As a world, we have endured unprecedented challenges during the past year. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, two items were in short supply; toilet paper and hand sanitizer. When one went to the stores, the shelves were bare of these two essential items. Shown below is the initial mockup of what we have proposed to USA Trains as the 2021 National Garden Railroad Convention car. We are working closely with the design artist at USA Trains to finalize the design of the car and the picture below may not completely represent the final production car.



The CSX bulkhead flat car will be available with two road number options; 2020 or 2021. Your choice of the road number or road numbers you want. **We will only have cars produced IF 150 cars are pre-ordered and paid for in full, so to minimize the financial risks to our club.** If the demand exceeds 150 cars, we will increase the size of our order to match the number of cars ordered. The cars can be ordered using the 2021 National Garden Railroad Convention website: [www.ngrc2021.com](http://www.ngrc2021.com). Each car will sell for \$85. The convention cars will be shipped to Nashville for pick up during the convention. If you want to purchase a convention car but are unable to attend the convention, we have made arrangements with USA Trains to have convention cars drop shipped to your house for a \$12 charge per person whether you purchase 1, 2 or 4 cars. For international orders, we will determine the actual cost to ship your order to your home and notify you. We have to place our order with USA Trains by February 26, 2021. **Our deadline for receiving your convention car order and full payment is February 22.** We hope this car will be a reminder of your attendance at the 36<sup>th</sup> National Garden Railroad Convention and how this wonderful hobby has helped each one of us find a bright spot during the challenges of this past year.

## 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) 351-5021

