October 2026

2027 National Garden Railway Convention

James E. Ward Agricultural Center

Lebanon, TN

May 31 to June 5, 2027

Welcome to the second 2027 National Garden Railway Convention newsletter. Online registration for the convention is open using the convention website (https://www.ngrc2027.org). Just a reminder, Individual and Family Platinum Bundle registration packages end on January 31, 2027 and early-bird registrations end on February 28, 2027. Thank you to those who have already registered for the convention. We greatly appreciate your early registration and look forward to seeing you beginning on May 31, 2027. While registering for the convention, you can use the links under "Accommodations" on the menu for hotel portals to book reservations in a local hotel. We have negotiated more than 200 hotel rooms at seven different hotels with discounted rates for our guests to use during the convention. After April 30, 2027 any unsold rooms in the blocks at each hotel will be returned to their general room inventory and the regular room rates.

Saturday June 5, 2027

An email message arrived asking about the activity scheduled for Saturday, June 5. What we are hoping for, but it is too early to know yet if it will happen, is a train excursion from Nashville to Watertown, TN with the train pulled by the restored Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis 576 steam locomotive. For those that attended the 36th National Garden Railway Convention in 2021, one stop during the tours was at the Tennessee Central Railroad Museum where the 576 was being disassembled as the restoration process was ongoing. Below are two photos of the locomotive as it appeared in 2021. In March 2026, the 576 underwent a hydrostatic test which it passed with flying colors. On July 16, for the first time since 1952, the boiler on the locomotive was fired up. Below is a link to a video from the Nashville CBS affiliate of this next step in the restoration process. https://youtu.be/fhpuYQC2Rnk?si=4GfbxvFvwvtvkPyB. The locomotive will have to be operated many hours before it will be certified to be used to head up excursion trains. Hopefully, this testing will happen later this year. We will continue to monitor the progress of the restoration of the NC & StL 576 and will provide updates as warranted. If the testing is not completed in time, we have another option under consideration.





Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis 576 locomotive in 2021.

2027 National Garden Railway Convention Car

Our order of 2027 National Garden Railway Convention cars have arrived from USA Trains and they look fantastic. The 40-foot boxcar are painted in the livery used by the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railroad, with the convention logo added to the side by the door. A convention car with road number 2027 is included with each Family Platinum Bundle or Individual Platinum Bundle registration. A second road number, 2576, is also available for sale if you would like two boxcars.



Clinics

One of our goals during the 2027 National Garden Railway Convention is to emphasize how modern technology can be used in the garden railroading hobby. There are several systems available where locomotives are battery

powered and can be controlled with either a dedicated handheld controller or with a cell phone or tablet computer. Don Sweet, from Radio Control Systems of New England, will discuss this technology during his clinic about battery powered and radio-controlled locomotives and what the future holds for those who prefer DCC control of their locomotives.

Another area rapidly developing is the technology advances for using 3D printing. 3D printing is now being used to print models of locomotives and modern rolling stock which are unavailable from the manufactures. 3D printing is now being used to print structures for garden railroads, doors and windows and even repair parts for older locomotives and rolling stock which currently are not in production. During the layout tours, one of our members has effectively used 3D printed signs using different colored filaments for businesses on his layout. With the development of 3D scanners, it is now possible to scan yourself and place a 3D printed figure of you driving a locomotive. The possibilities are nearly endless on how 3D printing can be used in the hobby. We are asking for a volunteer to lead a clinic on this fascinating, and growing part of the hobby. If you are interested in leading a clinic on 3D printing, please contact us through the convention website.

We will welcome and value other suggestions for clinic topics during the convention. Please reach out to us with your ideas and suggestions.

Contact Information

Convention website: https://www.ngrc2027.org Convention email address: info.ngrc2027@gmail.com