

## WRITING ABOUT YOUR GARDEN RAILWAY FOR GARDEN RAILWAYS MAGAZINE

All of us like to read about other garden railways. For these stories, the general “how I did it” sort of articles are among the most popular. The best ones cover the following ground, as appropriate: the general theme or philosophy behind the railway; how it was planned; how it was constructed; how any special problems were overcome; the line’s rolling stock, locomotives, and structures; landscaping considerations and plants, including things of unusual interest; any particular climate challenges; family and friends’ involvement; and the melding of multiple hobby pursuits. Finish up with a few words about the future of the railway.

The story should be in the range of 2,000-2,500 words, including all captions, plant lists, and other information. Please make sure that all photos have complete captions with them and that the caption numbers correspond to the photo numbers.

In addition to the railway story, we’ll need a few more things to enhance the story.

These include:

**A paragraph or two about the author or the builder(s)** of the railway

**A photo of the author or builder(s)** of the railway

**A trackplan.** This can be anything from a scale drawing to a rough sketch. Be sure to label things like industries, towns, significant features, or anything else of importance

**A plant list, including common and Latin names.** If this is a problem for you, our Horticulture Editor can help out—just let us know

**The “Railway at a glance” questionnaire, reproduced here:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of railroad: \_\_\_\_\_

Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Gauge: \_\_\_\_\_

Era: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Motive power: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of mainline: \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum gradient: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of track: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum radius: \_\_\_\_\_

Structures: \_\_\_\_\_

Control system: \_\_\_\_\_

Website/blog (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

## Pictures

We like to have around 20 or so photos of your railway to choose from. Usually 10-12 are used with an article. Please include close-up shots of specific interesting scenes, some backedoff shots to show the scenes in context with the railway, and one or two very long shots that show the entire railway in its surroundings, if possible. Please read our [digital-photo guidelines](#). Shoot your pictures on a bright, cloudy day, if possible. Try to avoid harsh shadows and mottled (mixed sun and shadow) light.

## When will it be published?

Generally, there is a lead time of several months after we accept a manuscript. This will vary, depending on the type of article, what's in line ahead of it, the completeness of the story, and whether we already have something similar in our files. For instance, if you send us a story about a logging railroad and we already have two in the files, it may take a while for yours to be published.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to [kjohnson@gardenrailways.com](mailto:kjohnson@gardenrailways.com)

## CHECKLIST

- Inquiry to editor
- Body text
- Photos and photo captions
- Trackplan
- Author biography with photo
- Plant list
- Railway at a glance form
- Text, captions, and photos in electronic form
- Hard copy of text with your contact information
- Self-addressed envelope of you'd like materials returned

## SEND ALL QUERY LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPTS TO:

**GARDEN RAILWAYS Magazine**  
P.O. Box 1612  
Waukesha WI 53187-1612  
262-798-6556  
[kjohnson@gardenrailways.com](mailto:kjohnson@gardenrailways.com)