State Historic Site
Cragfont

History for Kids
Steamboats Arrive

Tour the ‘Secret City’ of Oak Ridge

On the Hunt for Tennessee Fossils

Scrumptious Seafood
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Between the Lines

News from your community

Know the signs of a scam

It’s no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the “power company,” in today’s more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device via email, phone or text.

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don’t pay immediately. Whether this is done in person or by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don’t have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you’re concerned about your bill, call Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation directly at 1-800-987-2362. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, cemc.org. If the scam is by email or text, delete the message before taking any action. If you’re unsure, you can always contact us, or use SmartHub to check the status of your account. Remember: CEMC will never call members demanding payment, soliciting services or asking for credit card information either over the phone, online or in person.

Some scammers falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, though, scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a Social Security number for identity theft.

If this “refund” scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a “phishing” attempt) or by text (“smishing”), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, CEMC will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Be wary of calls or text messages from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone you don’t know into your home unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. CEMC employees wear clothing clearly marked with our logo and carry ID badges. When we perform work on our members’ properties or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.
Like millions of older Americans, I struggle with mobility. For years, I watched my quality of life slip away, as I was forced to stay home while friends and family took part in activities I'd once enjoyed. I thought I'd made some progress when I got a mobility scooter, but then I realized how hard it was to transport. Taking it apart and putting it back together was like doing a jigsaw puzzle. Once I had it disassembled, I had to try to put all of the pieces in the trunk of a car, go to wherever I was going, and repeat the process in reverse. Travel scooters were easier to transport, but they were uncomfortable and scary to drive, I always felt like I was ready to tip over. Then I found the So Lite™ Scooter. Now there's nothing that can hold me back.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a scooter that's designed with seniors in mind. They created Electronic Stability Control (ESC) that makes it virtually impossible to tip over. If you try to turn too quickly, the scooter automatically slows down to prevent it from tipping over. The battery provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the So Lite™ Scooter is the most portable scooter ever—but it can hold up to 275 pounds—yet weighs only 40.8 pounds without the battery! What’s more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat, trunk or even on an airplane. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. Best of all, it’s designed with your safety in mind, from the newest technology and superior craftsmanship. Why spend another day letting your lack of mobility ruin your quality of life? Call now and find out how you can get a So Lite™ Scooter of your very own.

Why a So Lite™ Scooter is better:
- Latest “No-Tip” Technology
- Lightweight yet durable
- Folds and locks in seconds
- Easier to operate

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Mention promotion code 117218.
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Expect higher than normal summer power bills

The magazine in your hands traveled to you the same way it does most months. The process begins with our editors, then it goes to our printer, then the post office and finally to you. While this process is the same each month, it was more expensive for us to send this issue than it was last year. We’re experiencing higher costs for paper, ink, delivery and more.

The price to produce the magazine is just one example of how cost increases are impacting virtually everything — and, ultimately, your household budget.

Unfortunately, the generation of power has not been immune to higher costs, and co-op consumers in Tennessee should expect higher power bills this summer as the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Fuel Cost Adjustment continues to rise.

Your local electric cooperative purchases wholesale energy from TVA, and in 2006 TVA implemented a Fuel Cost Adjustment, or FCA, to manage changes in the costs of raw materials used for power generation. These fuels include the uranium, coal, oil and natural gas that TVA must purchase to run its power generation plants. Like all commodities, the prices of these fuels rise and fall, and the FCA is designed to protect ratepayers from permanent rate adjustments when fuel costs see temporary increases.

The FCA typically remains relatively steady, but in recent months, global supply chain issues and inflationary pressures have pushed the price of fuels, especially natural gas, to higher than normal levels.

What does this mean for you? Because TVA generates about 25 percent of its energy from natural gas, these cost increases will impact the FCA and your power bill. While the actual impact depends on the amount of energy you use, the higher TVA FCA will add about $12 to the average residential electric bill. The price of natural gas is forecast to remain up for several months, so you should anticipate higher monthly power bills into the fall.

It is important to note that your local cooperative has no control over the FCA. It is set by TVA, and all electric consumers in Tennessee pay it. Some co-ops show the FCA as a line item on your electric bill while others incorporate it into their regular rates. Even with the added cost of the FCA, Tennessee electric co-op residential electric rates remain well below the national average.

The rise in fuel costs is also coming at a time when summer temperatures are driving up our use of air conditioning. May 2022 was unseasonably warm, and by mid-June, we had already seen temperatures near or over 100 degrees.

There is some good news, though. The FCA is a small part of your overall electric bill. Your bill is the result of the cost of energy and the amount of energy you use. By controlling your use, you control your bill and your cost. You only pay for what you use.

The tips on the next page can help you limit your energy consumption this summer. Contact your local, consumer-owned electric co-op for more information on saving energy and money.
Use your thermostat wisely.
Set your thermostat to the highest comfortable temperature possible. Invest in a smart thermostat to automatically change the temperature based on your daily schedule.

Fans can increase comfort.
Fans are less expensive to run than your air conditioner, and they can do a lot to cool the room you are in. A ceiling fan will allow you to set your thermostat about 4 degrees higher with no reduction in comfort. Be sure to turn fans off when you leave the room.

Replace your air filters.
Replacing air filters is one of the easiest and most cost-effective steps you can take to help your air conditioner run efficiently. Dirty filters make your air conditioner work harder and use more energy. High temperatures require your unit to run longer, so replace your filters more frequently in summer.

Use drapes and window coverings.
Close the curtains or blinds during the hottest times of the day, especially on south- and west-facing walls. This simple action can block out heat from the sun, keeping the temperature lower in your living space.

Minimize use of the oven.
Your conventional oven can introduce unwanted heat into your home, reducing your comfort and forcing your air conditioner to work harder. Use a microwave or slow cooker, or consider grilling outside.

Consider the timing of chores.
Washing machines, clothes dryers, irons and dishwashers can add heat and moisture to your home. Limit these activities to early morning or evening hours.

Turn off the lights.
Make it a habit to turn off lights when you leave a room. If you have incandescent lightbulbs in your home, replace them with LED bulbs, which use a fraction of the energy that incandescent bulbs use and generate much less heat. This is an investment that will pay for itself in energy savings.
Oak Ridge was once a town masked in mystery. Museums and historians are telling it like it was.

Story by Pamela A. Keene • Photographs by Len Garrison

It was a top-secret location created from the farmlands and pastoral rolling hills of northeast Tennessee in the early 1940s. Even the people who worked and lived there from 1942 to 1949 didn’t know the whole story at the time. It was simply referred to as the Manhattan Project.

What began as Clinton Engineering Works has become the city of Oak Ridge, one of three sites for the Manhattan Project at the beginning of World War II. Its purpose? Atomic research that led to the creation of the atomic bomb.

“In its heyday in 1945, Oak Ridge was the fifth-largest city in the state with more than 75,000 residents,” says Ray Smith, the official city historian of all things Oak Ridge. “Yet until (atomic bombs) Little Boy and Fat Man were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the secret of Oak Ridge was protected. It’s amazing to realize that of all those people, no one there knew what work was being done. Everything was compartmentalized, and people were strictly forbidden from talking about what they were doing.”
About 3,000 families were displaced along Black Oak Ridge as the federal government took over the area in the early 1940s. Contractors constructed large industrial buildings, makeshift houses, dormitories, a nondenominational chapel, guest lodge and community swimming pool.

The 60,000-acre complex in East Tennessee functioned like a city with concrete construction facilities, a cafeteria, a commissary and schools. Underemployed and unemployed people were hired to work on small parts of the project, intentionally kept unawares to protect a national secret.

Signs throughout the area warned of the need for secrecy: “Hold Your Tongue. The Job’s Not Done.” “Who Me? Yes You … Keep MUM about this Job.” “Your Pen and Tongue can be Enemy Weapons. Watch What You Write and Say.”

“When workers traveled by bus to nearby Knoxville, they were sometimes met with questions like ‘What are you doing out there?’ to which the reply was ‘As little as possible.’ Even couples working in different areas weren’t allowed to discuss what they did,” Smith says. “Some of the women sat all day at consoles, turning dials; little did they know they were enhancing uranium that would be used for making the atomic bomb.”

Below: The American Museum of Science and Energy reveals many of Oak Ridge’s secrets and the technology developed there. Interactive exhibits, historic documentary films and robotics explain the evolution of science of energy from the 1940s until today. Opposite page: The original security gates still stand at the entrance to the K-25 plant. Visitors pass by them on their way to the K-25 History Center.
Smith moved to Oak Ridge several decades after Little Boy and Fat Man brought an end to World War II. For 47 years, he worked at the Y-12 facility, previously used to produce enriched uranium. Along the way, Smith’s interest in history and photography led him to become an authority on Y-12 and the heritage of Oak Ridge.

At one point, he was asked to make a list of all the buildings at the site, nearly 800 of them. Some 300 were demolished; others were repurposed such as the New Hope Community Center, formerly a gathering place for employees’ dances and bingo and now a museum.

He’s written several books about Oak Ridge, compiled years of newspaper columns for The Oak Ridger and consulted with authors, including Denise Kiernan who authored “The Girls of Atomic City.” He was a producer on a 90-minute documentary “Secret City: The War Years” about Oak Ridge, narrated by actor David Keith, as well as a documentary about Manhattan Project and Department of Energy photographer Ed Westcott.

“My purpose is to keep the heritage and history of Oak Ridge alive for future generations,” Smith says. “So much happened here and is still happening, and there are so many stories to tell.”

The Oak Ridge site is one of three units that make up the Manhattan Project National Historic Park, established on Nov. 10, 2015. The other two are located in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford, Washington.

“To have the full experience of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park, you have to visit all three locations,” says Mark Watson, Oak Ridge city manager. “You’ll only get one-third of a stamp on your national park passport if you only visit one site because each played a vital part in the Manhattan Project.”

As for Oak Ridge, the city is home to several museums that tell the story of the people and the history of the Manhattan Project: The American Museum of Science and Energy, Oak Ridge History Museum, K-25 History Center and...
Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge. Exhibitions engage visitors on the past, present and future of Oak Ridge. “What many people don’t understand is that what happened in Oak Ridge more than 85 years ago as the beginning of the atomic age opened the doors to much more,” says Matt Mullins, marketing director of the American Museum of Science and Energy. “From the technology used in rockets and submarines to identifying isotopes to treat cancer, it was just the beginning of transforming our very world.”

Tours of the museums, a chance to speak with volunteer docents — some of whom worked at the top-secret project — and drive-bys past the remnants of the original complex paint a picture of the past; however, Oak Ridge is a thriving community.

“We are still an active site for research and development with many federally secured facilities,” Mullins says. “However, when people visit Oak Ridge, they are not only seeing a part of history; they are getting a window into the future. It’s an exciting place to be.”

To learn about the Manhattan Project National Historic Park, visit nps.gov/mapr/. For information about what to do in Oak Ridge, visit exploreoakridge.com.

Visitors can learn about all aspects of life in the early days of Oak Ridge at the K-25 History Center, including glimpses into the personal lives of the men and women who worked there. Above right: Posters and signs warning about the need for secrecy were seen everywhere in the city in the 1940s.

Ray Smith, who worked at the Y-12 facility for more than 47 years and retired in November 2017, has become the foremost authority on all things Oak Ridge. He’s been a producer of several films and has written several books about the city’s role in the Manhattan Project.
The Gray Fossil Site and Museum has fossils of strange animals such as saber-toothed cats, bone-crushing dogs, massive mastodons and giant flying squirrels along with a rich fossil plant record, said Chris Widga, head curator at Gray Fossil Site and Museum.

“Going to a paleontological exhibit is like time traveling,” Widga said. “You walk into an exhibit and find yourself in the same place — but millions of years in the past. So it’s kind of like walking into a different world. The element of time travel is part of the visitor experience when you go to a paleontological museum, and you can take it with you when you leave. So you walk through our exhibits, you learn about what is underneath your feet, and then as you walk out the front door and look across the landscape, you’re like, ‘Oh, this is cool,’ because then you’re able to ‘time travel’ outside the museum as well. That’s one of the things that I think is really engaging about paleontological exhibits.”

Based in East Tennessee, the Gray Fossil Site is a two-museums-in-one experience. With its partnership with the hands-on glimpse into the prehistoric past

More than exhibits, these museums give a

Story by Nicole Christensen • Photographs as indicated
“Going to a paleontological exhibit is like time traveling,” said Chris Widga, head curator at Gray Fossil Site and Museum. “You walk into an exhibit and find yourself in the same place — but millions of years in the past. So it’s kind of like walking into a different world. That’s really what our museum is like; that’s what our exhibits try to convey. You’re walking into East Tennessee 5 million years ago, and it’s not the same place. It just isn’t. That’s one of the things that we try to hammer home.”

Hands On! Discovery Center, visitors pay one price to get the benefits of both — one that features natural history and fossils and one with interactive science displays — a novel and innovative approach to museums, Widga said.

“It is definitely a neat, unique museum experience and something that, even if you are a regular museum-goer, is different,” he said.

The museum was built on top of a world class 5 million-year-old paleontological site, Widga said. The Gray Fossil Site was discovered in 2000 by the Department of Transportation as workers were widening a road near an accident-prone intersection, and the museum opened in 2007.

“We’re a museum built on top of a world-class fossil site,” Widga said. “It kind of makes us almost like a historic house museum but for fossils, and you don’t see very many of those, especially in the eastern U.S.”

Though many natural history museums drive 10 or more hours away to dig for dinosaurs, Widga said that at Gray, “We dig everything up in our backyard” with a staff of 20 to 25 paleontologists every summer.

“One of the comments that I get when talking to visitors is, ‘Wow! You have so many real fossils on display,’ and that’s intentional,” Widga said. “We have a lot of material; we have over 38,000 specimens from the site that we’ve excavated over the last 20 years. Our goal is to get those fossils on display and into a place where the public can see them.”

The Gray Fossil Site and Museum has windows into its prep lab and collections area, one of the few museums where visitors can watch it all happen — seeing how paleontologists clean up, stabilize and glue together fossils. The museum is also affiliated with East Tennessee State University, which has one of the most active paleontological research programs in the state and in the eastern U.S.

“All museums are local or regional draws, and if they’re doing their job well, they are pulling out the unique and interesting things about the surrounding landscape or the communities around them,” Widga said. “I think ours does that really well. Our focus is on natural history and the fossil record, and East Tennessee has a great fossil record that we highlight very well.”

Widga said that more than 100 species of animals and 100 species of plants have been recovered from the Gray Fossil Site, and of those species, 16 are completely new to science. The fossils found at the site are 5 million years old — meaning 60 million years after dinosaurs went extinct.

“We didn’t know anything about them before,” Widga said about these new species, “and this was the first and only place they’ve been described. The paleontology of the Gray Fossil Site is important to understanding how climate, animal and vegetation communities changed in the past. This is one of the things that is unique about this museum and unique about what we do.”

Gray Fossil Site’s red panda record — the best on the continent, according to Widga — is its “claim to fame.” The site boasts at least five individual red pandas, two of which have mostly complete skeletons, not just teeth, he said.

“If you see the Tennessee U-Haul vans with the red pandas on the side, that’s our red panda,” Widga said.

“There is definitely some value to fossils in our modern world,” Widga said. “I mean, we often think of museums and natural history museums and paleontological specimens and things like that: ‘Well, they’re interesting, but do they have any relevance to modern life?’ And they really do.”

Widga said we are at a time when we are looking at quite a bit of climate change and landscape change.

“Understanding how landscapes in East Tennessee adapt to changes in climate at the scale of centuries to millennia, the only way you can do that is through looking at fossils. This is the bread and butter of paleontological research,” Widga said.

At the Gray Fossil Site, researchers are looking into how the landscape of East Tennessee looked under a climate that was much warmer. The climate at the fossil site 5 million years ago was similar to East Texas or Southern Gulf Coast Louisiana — much warmer, much more wet — which is kind of hard to believe, Widga said.

“That gives us some insight into how these ecosystems worked, and it means that we’re not only time traveling back into the past, but we’re also trying to forecast how these landscapes might change in the future,” he added. “If I’m thinking about the application of what we do to modern life, that’s one of the major things we’re trying to understand.”

Gettng There

The Gray Fossil Site and Museum is located in Gray and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 423-439-3662 or visit etmnh.org for more information.

Earth Experience is located in Murfreesboro and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 615-900-8358 or visit earthexperience.org for more information.

The UT Martin Coon Creek Science Center is located near Adamsville, and visits are available by appointment only; call 731-646-1636 to make reservations. Visit facebook.com/The-University-of-Tennessee-at-Martin-Coon-Creek-Science-Center-404500476318732 for more information.

Above: Visitors to Coon Creek Science Center in West Tennessee are allowed to take fossils home with them unless their finds are scientifically significant.
One place in Middle Tennessee where you can go to see fossils, including those of dinosaurs, is Earth Experience, also known as the Middle Tennessee Museum of Natural History. The museum is one of the only places in Tennessee where visitors can see actual bones from dinosaurs, said Alan Brown, executive director at Earth Experience.

“In my experience, there is no child between the ages of 5 and 10 who doesn’t go through some point absolutely loving dinosaurs, and learning about dinosaurs is kind of a way to start getting people interested in science a little bit,” Brown said. “Anything we can do to help encourage people to get interested in science is a very good thing.”

Earth Experience also has quite a few local fossils from here in Tennessee.

“Most of the fossils here in Middle Tennessee are a little bit too old to be dinosaurs — they’re from before the time of the dinosaurs — but there are still lots and lots of fossils found here in Middle Tennessee,” Brown said.

Middle Tennessee was underwater during the time of the dinosaurs, which is why dinosaurs aren’t found there, but there is an abundance of marine fossils, Brown said.

One dinosaur bone that was found in Tennessee is on display in Earth Experience’s collection. Brown said it is believed the bone was preserved because the dinosaur died near the shore and was washed out to sea, buried and fossilized. Though such fossils are extremely rare, a couple have been found in Tennessee.

West to dig for dinosaur bones every summer.

“Now it’s a little bit harder to find the dinosaur bones when we’re out in Montana, but it’s usually still a lot of walking and looking, and eventually as you cover enough ground, you’re going to come across something,” Brown said. “Individual dinosaur bones are actually fairly common out there. The complete skeletons are extremely rare.”

Brown said he still hasn’t found a complete skeleton even though he has been digging for quite awhile, but researchers find, on average, one dinosaur bone a day on the trip.

“The dinosaur digging is what kind of instigated the idea of starting the museum,” Brown said. “I have been digging dinosaurs now for about 14 years. I had been digging dinosaurs for six years before the museum started and was just wanting to share with the rest of the area some of the stuff we had been finding because there was no other natural history museum in Middle Tennessee and no real dinosaur museum in the whole state.”

Brown said he started the Earth Experience because he loves museums. The first thing he did when moving to Middle Tennessee was look for a natural history museum and, when he realized there wasn’t one, a few people got together to get one started.

“It’s been very well received,” Brown said. “I have people almost every day thanking me for what I do, so it’s very rewarding. There’s definitely a need for it; there’s a lot of interest in museums.”
In West Tennessee, the University of Tennessee at Martin Coon Creek Science Center is a world-famous site in the paleontological world, and people can visit if they plan ahead. “We have scientists from all over the world coming here to study it,” said Alan Youngerman, director of UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer, which is over the Coon Creek Science Center.

The fossils found at the site are 72 million years old — from the Cretaceous period, a geologic time period that included the dinosaurs, but at the time the area was part of a vast sea that covered all of the middle part of North America. So the fossils reflect the marine life during that time period. The Coon Creek site was identified as a “type section” for Cretaceous fossils for that period of time, Youngerman said.

“When it reaches that status of a type section, anybody in the world studying these Cretaceous fossils in this timeframe has to compare their work back to the Coon Creek deposit,” Youngerman said. “That’s why it’s so important.”

In order to visit the site, visitors must call ahead to make reservations. On the third Saturday of each month, community days include sessions at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and Coon Creek staff members try to schedule smaller visiting groups on those days.

“We try to limit the group size to 20 to 25 people so everyone gets a really good experience and a lot of one-on-one time with either the interns or the scientists who are there,” Youngerman said.

Visitors meet in the dining area at the site where fossil specimens are on display in an exhibit. They are then led on a creek walk where they can find and collect their own fossils to keep as mementos (unless they find something scientifically significant, of course).

“Unlike the Gray site and other sites, our visitors are allowed to keep most fossils that they find,” said Michael Gibson, paleontologist for UT Martin and director of the UT Martin Coon Creek Science Center. “We are able to allow visitors to keep material because of the size of the fossil deposit at Coon Creek, which is over 230 acres, and abundance of fossil shells.

More than 700 different species of fossils have been identified at the site, and that number grows every year, so Coon Creek is a very rich fossil site, Youngerman said.

“It’s designated a ‘lagerstätten,’ which is a loosely translated German term for ‘motherload,’” Youngerman said. “Certain fossil deposits around the world obtain that designation, and this is one of the few ‘lagerstätten’ deposits from which you can actually collect and take fossils home.”

Coon Creek can also handle larger groups such as church or school groups, but those have to be scheduled out well in advance and will not fall on community days.

“I had a homeschool group there on Monday, and they just really had a blast,” Youngerman said. “They had such a good time getting out and actually exploring and finding their own fossils and learning how to preserve them. It’s something that they’ll keep for a lifetime.”

Youngerman said one of the mothers in the group had visited decades ago as a child herself and still had her fossils from when she visited.

“To me, geologically speaking, the present is the key to the past, so when you’re looking at things in the past, you’re seeing the same things that are happening in today’s environment,” Youngerman said. “You’re seeing the same things in the seafloor sediment that are going on today, and so you can compare the 72 million-year-old seafloor that you’re walking on to today’s seafloor, and you’re looking at some of the same aquatic organisms.”

At the Coon Creek fossil site, you can find fossils of organisms like clams, oysters, shrimp, crabs and lobsters that can compare to today’s organisms, Youngerman said.

“The site is home to the Official State Fossil of Tennessee, which is an extinct bivalve called Pterotrigonia thoracica,” Gibson said. “Visitors may collect their own.”

Large marine reptile remains, including those of mosasaurs, a plesiosaur and marine turtles, are preserved on the site, Gibson said. Fish, including sharks, are also found at Coon Creek.

“The biodiversity at the time was tremendous compared to today,” Youngerman said. “There was just an explosion of life.”

Tennessee’s geologic record shows that it has been mostly ocean environments for most of its billion-year history, and the Coon Creek fossil site represents the very warm climate that has dominated Tennessee throughout time, which included sea levels much higher globally than they are today, Gibson said, adding, “Today is the exception to that trend.”

“I guess as humans, we have our egos, thinking, ‘Well, this is how it has always been because it’s been this way my whole life,’” Youngerman said. “Well, we’re just looking at that brief fraction of a second in geologic time, and it’s really neat to see what the world looked like, where the water was and what was going on 72 million years ago.”

Reservations are required at Coon Creek Science Center where visitors first gather for an introduction and then walk the creek in search of fossils. Photographs by Trent Scott
If you stand in front of stately home Cragfont in Castalian Springs today, it’s almost hard to imagine that the first structure brothers James and George Winchester built on this land in the 1780s was a frontier fort. Fort Tuckahoe became home to families as well as a mill, sawmill and distillery.

By the early 1800s, the grand limestone home that still stands today had been built and occupied, and guests were being entertained on a frequent basis. The home was furnished with fine carpets and furniture crafted in the Eastern style found in the wealthy homes of Boston, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Some of this cherry furniture remains to this day, more visual evidence of a bygone era.

But Cragfont is more than a house and furnishings, which is what many people think of when they think of historic homes.

The story of the people

Among the stories you may hear told at Cragfont are that George Winchester lost his life to the Native Americans he’d helped displace and against whom he warred as a member of the militia; James Winchester was a planner of and investor in cities such as Memphis and the now-gone Cairo; how James’ firstborn son, Marcus, became the first mayor of Memphis; and there’s a connection between Cragfont and nearby Wynnewood since Almira, the daughter of James and Susan Winchester, grew up at Cragfont and then was a wife and mother at Wynnewood.

More than a century and a half after Cragfont was built, the story turns to preservationist Ellen Stokes Wemyss. On Jan. 31, 1952, the Sumner County Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA) was established. Under the leadership
of Wemyss, the APTA started talking about taking on Cragfont as a project in June 1956 and the need for the Tennessee Historical Commission to purchase and save the property from further deterioration.

In 1957 the Tennessee State Legislature authorized the purchase of Cragfont, which was announced as complete in December 1958. Soon after, under the continued leadership and influence of Wemyss, the Sumner County APTA headed the restoration effort of the home, which opened as a museum in April 1961.

In the 1990s management of Cragfont State Historic Site transferred to Historic Cragfont Inc., which operated the site until the founding of Historic Castalian Springs in January 2020 — merging management of Cragfont, Wynnewood and Hawthorn Hill State Historic Sites.

“‘We have a lot of really dynamic stories to tell,’ says Tonya Staggs, executive director of Historic Castalian Springs, the organization that operates Cragfont and two other area historic homes, Wynnewood and Hawthorn Hill. ‘We have a wealth of resources — letters and diaries of the people who lived here. Being able to feel connected to the people who lived here more than 200 years ago makes the structure feel alive.’

Staggs and her staff don’t shy away from telling the full truth about the first family of Cragfont. Under Staggs’ leadership, efforts have been undertaken to tell the stories of Native peoples who were illegally displaced by White settlers such as the Winchesters as well as the enslaved people who were bought, sold and forced to labor by the family.

Staggs, who was with Travellers Rest in Nashville for 18 years and served as its education director, had experience there developing the exhibit on slavery.

“It was really important to me when I came here to explore that part of the site’s history and have more inclusive programming,” Staggs says.

The ongoing research into this aspect of Cragfont as well as the other sites managed by Historic Castalian Springs doesn’t just stop at documents. Stages said that staff recently accompanied an area African American resident to a reported gravesite deep in the woods. This is reportedly the final resting place of a person who was enslaved at Cragfont. The staff is also trying to connect with the descendants of the approximately 30 slaves who lived and toiled at Cragfont.

“It’s a lot of people’s stories that haven’t been told,” she says. “We are constantly updating the information.”

Unprecedented challenges

The three homes that are managed by Historic Castalian Springs used to operate independently. In January 2020, the three merged operations under one organization. And then the pandemic hit.

“We had to rethink everything,” Staggs says. “But being closed gave us an opportunity to revamp our tours and programs and train new staff.”

Cragfont normally is open April through October of each year with additional Christmas season tours, but during the early part of the pandemic, indoor tours weren’t possible.
Staggs and her staff, however, used the unique situation to focus on the exterior offerings of the property.

“We reopened with landscape tours in July 2020,” she says. “These had a mixed reaction. Many people wanted to tour the home since historic house museums usually focus on the interior, but the people who took our landscape tours loved them.”

Among the outside points of interest is the fantastic garden based on the original one used by the Winchester family. There is also a cemetery on the property, for which there is a free guidebook available, as well as a smokehouse.

Even now that the home is open for tours, staff members offer periodic history hikes on Cragfont’s 30 acres. These are announced on the social media accounts and website and are free to museum members and $5 for nonmembers.

Special events

Cragfont’s best-attended event each year is actually its Gala at Cragfont fundraiser, which is Saturday, Aug. 27, this year. Beyond that, the most popular public event is Haunts at the Font during the Halloween season, to be held Saturday, Oct. 15, this year. Costumed characters based on real people tell spooky stories from the past. These in-character tale-tellers include Big Foot Spencer, an early frontiersman. This event, limited to slightly fewer than 300 guests, sells out quickly.

Among the special tours offered at Cragfont are the periodic Hidden History behind-the-scenes events that take registered visitors to areas that aren’t on the typical house tours — the cellar and attic among them. The remaining such tours for 2022 are set for Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, both Saturdays.

Though Cragfont closes for the season at the end of October because the building is not heated, Christmas tours are offered beginning the weekend after Thanksgiving. It was with the Christmas season of 2020 that home tours resumed. Staggs says that because of the lack of heating, registered attendees are urged to bundle up. But perhaps the cold just gives those holiday season tours that extra bit of 19th-century authenticity.

Visit historiccastaliansprings.org to find out more about not only Cragfont but also Wynnewood and Hawthorn Hill. The links to the social media accounts for Cragfont and Wynnewood are located at the bottom of the homepage. Hours of operation and ticketing information, including combination tickets, are available on the “Plan Your Visit” page of the website.
LETTERS to the EDITOR

World War II maneuvers — More to the story

Dear Mr. Carey:

I read with much interest your article, “Tennessee in Training” in The Tennessee Magazine in May. However, your recounting of the Bell Buckle incident is not fully correct. The building that was destroyed was a bank on the corner of Hinkle Hill Road and Webb Road/Highway 82. This was not the Bell Buckle Town Hall.

I have two photocopies to send you, if you’d be interested, depicting the damaged bank building with the tank and with servicemen looking on. The other image is of our home, which was, then, next door to the bank. You can see the second story of our home next to the half-demolished bank in the first image. This image was taken by Mrs. Louise Rucker, a local widow who made and sold sandwiches to the soldiers.

At the time the accident occurred, our home was A. M. Hoover’s Funeral Home. This structure had originally been a hotel. The Bell Buckle depot was across Hinkle Hill Road from it. The depot is no longer standing. Mr. Hoover purchased the land on which the bank stood, and it is now our side yard.

I don’t know if Bell Buckle had a town hall until my husband, Gene Strobel, became mayor in the late 1970s. Previously, the mayor and board of aldermen met in a trailer on the town school property. Mayor Strobel convinced the board that Bell Buckle needed a town hall. He applied for a grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission and received one to renovate a building downtown that had fallen in when the train passed through town one day! So, the Bell Buckle Town Hall is now on the front street of Bell Buckle. There is a plaque there honoring my husband who died in 2016. I have a digital image of the “before” and “after” town hall renovations if you’d like to see that as well.

If interested, give me an address to which I can send the photocopies. Sorry, but I can’t scan them or I would do so.

We always look forward to your articles in The Tennessee Magazine; they’re great!

All the best,
— Katherine Strobel,
Duck River EMC

Writer’s response

Katherine: I’m going to suggest that we run your letter in its entirety ... but here’s what’s funny:

The information that the building destroyed was Bell Buckle’s city hall came from two different sources: One is a master’s thesis done on this subject, which you can see here: dc.etsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3673&context=etd

(You will find the mention of Bell Buckle’s City Hall twice, including on page 1.)

The second source is the only book on this subject, “In the Presence of Soldiers” by Woody McMillan.

In any case, it sounds to me like you are right, and I am wrong. It is very strange that the story could have gotten so messed up twice before! My guess is that Woody got it wrong, and the master’s thesis guy ran with it without checking it.

Thanks for correcting me. I’d rather we get it corrected now than let it ride because if we let it ride, then it really will be believed as fact for all eternity!
— Bill Carey,
Tennessee History for Kids

Memories

I just received my June 2022 edition and wanted to say how much I enjoyed reading about fair history in Tennessee. Being a farm kid, 4-H has always been a part of my childhood. Although I lived in Michigan at the time, I love going to fairs and seeing the animal exhibits now as a grandparent. Fairs are a great way to expose children of all ages and walks of life to the different things that can come from a farm.

Another article that I enjoyed reading was about Opryland. Every summer we would travel to Nashville from Michigan to stay at the KOA campground and go to Opryland and the Grand Ole Opry. My parents couldn’t afford much so we always spent one full day at the park, and then that night my brother and I would fall asleep in the balcony seats for the late show.

What great memories! Thank you for allowing me to reminisce.
— Melissa Cole,
Cumberland EMC

Magazine copies

Is it possible to get a hard copy of the magazine mailed to me? If so, what steps are necessary to take?

Best regards,
— Carol, Holston EC

Editor’s response:

The Tennessee Magazine is distributed through Tennessee’s electric cooperatives. The publication schedule varies by co-op as to whether members receive it monthly, bimonthly or quarterly.

If you are a member of an electric cooperative and are not receiving the magazine, please check with your local cooperative office to get back on the mailing list. If you are not a member of an electric cooperative in Tennessee, you can purchase a subscription. Please visit our shop at tnmagazine.org.

— Carol, Holston EC
Gallatin District lobby and drive-thru closing Sept. 30

Due to low walk-in traffic and to better serve the membership, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation’s Gallatin District lobby and drive-thru window will permanently close, effective Friday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m. This change will allow CEMC to better distribute personnel to other CEMC lobbies more utilized by our members. The Gallatin office will still be a hub for district operations, and this change will in no way affect outage restoration or service work. The 24-hour kiosk will also remain open for cash and credit card payments.

As always, we encourage all our members to take advantage of our many other payment methods outlined at cemc.org/help-center/billing-and-payment/, visit any of our other office locations (see list of locations at cemc.org/locations/), or give us a call at 800-987-2362.

Reminder: Director candidates must meet July 12 deadline

Members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who are interested in serving on the board of directors can obtain petitions from the general manager’s office. Each petition must be signed by at least 15 members.

The petition must be completed and turned back in by the deadline of Tuesday, July 12, which is 60 days prior to the 2022 annual meeting. This year’s meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at Stewart County High School in Dover.

An election will be held for the following director positions: Cheatham, South Robertson and South Montgomery.

Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of July 12 can vote in director elections. Those applying for membership after July 12 will not be eligible to vote in this year’s election but are welcome to attend the meeting and register for prizes.

(CEMC Bylaws Article 3 — Section 3.05)
CEMC and TVA extend Community Care Fund

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is continuing its partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority in addressing hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic by participating in the Community Care Fund program. CEMC is matching funds offered by TVA to selected charitable organizations throughout the cooperative’s five-county service area.

The following organizations recently received Community Care Fund grants from CEMC and TVA:

- **$2,000 — Special Olympics of Cheatham County.** Funds will help provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

- **$10,000 — Manna Cafe’s Stewart County Food Distribution Program.** Funds will provide food support and assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, utility bills and rent.

- **$10,000 — The Bethesda Center.** Funds will provide food support and will assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, utility bills and rent.

- **$20,000 — United Way.** Funds donated will be used to assist members who are struggling to pay for medication, childcare, food, rent, mortgage payments and utility bills.

Special Olympics of Cheatham County was the recipient of a $2,000 Community Care Fund Grant from CEMC and TVA.

Manna Cafe received a $10,000 Community Care Fund Grant for its Stewart County Food Distribution program.

The Bethesda Center was awarded a $10,000 Community Care Fund Grant.

United Way of Clarksville received a $20,000 Community Care Fund Grant from CEMC and TVA.
CEMC area schools receive $44,500 in TVA STEM Grants

Ten schools from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation’s service area were recently awarded grants from the Tennessee Valley Authority, in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. (BVI), a TVA retiree organization, to develop science, technology, engineering and math education projects to help spark student interest in future careers in STEM-related fields.

Teachers across TVA’s seven-state region applied for funding of up to $5,000 for projects, and 233 applications were selected.

Schools that are awarded grants must receive their power from a local power company served by TVA. Receiving STEM Grants from CEMC’s service area in 2022 were:

• Ashland City Elementary School — $5,000
• East Montgomery Elementary School — $5,000
• East Robertson Elementary School — $5,000
• Oakmont Elementary School — $5,000
• Portland Gateview Elementary School — $3,500
• Portland West Middle School — $5,000
• Sango Elementary School — $2,500
• Stewart County High School — $5,000
• Sycamore High School — $5,000
• Station Camp High School — $3,500

“TVA is committed to supporting STEM education to help develop today’s students into tomorrow’s engineers, scientists and IT professionals,” said Jeannette Mills, TVA executive vice president and chief external relations officer. “It’s inspiring to be able to contribute to the innovators of the next generation.”

Since 2018, TVA and BVI have awarded nearly $2 million in STEM grants to support local education. A full list of grant recipients and information on how to apply for a future STEM grant can be found at tvastem.com.
2023 CEMC Calendar to showcase student artists

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation’s 2023 Calendar Art Contest wrapped up this spring, and once again, we received hundreds of outstanding entries from talented students throughout our service area. Judging the contest is never an easy task, and this year was no exception! The winners have been selected, and although the calendars will not be available until November, we could not resist sharing a sneak peek of some of our winners.

Contest winners will receive cash prizes, and their artwork will be published in one of three different 2023 calendars offered. As always, calendars are free and will be available at each CEMC district business office beginning in November.

Thank you to all the talented students who submitted artwork and the teachers and parents who encouraged participation. We are already looking forward to receiving next year’s submissions!
Member Appreciation Day was held May 12 at each of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation’s seven district business offices. After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was nice to get back out and celebrate our members.

More than 820 members and guests joined us for a free lunch of hot dogs, chips, cupcakes and drinks across all districts. In addition to lunch, members who attended also received giveaways to show our appreciation for their business.

A drawing was also held at each location, and each of the following members won an electric grill:

- Ashland City — Fred Boyd
- Clarksville — Julia Daugherty
- Dover — Bobby Crain
- Gallatin — Alison Wright
- Portland — Carolyn Stewart
- Springfield — Jenny Kaukas
- White House — Janine Williams

Be sure to watch future issues of *The Tennessee Magazine* as well as CEMC’s social media pages and website for information regarding next year’s events. We hope to see you there!
Happy 4th of July from all of us at Cumberland Connect! To help get you in the spirit of the holiday, we created an Independence Day-themed crossword puzzle. Once you complete the puzzle below, be sure to visit the link at the bottom of the page and enter our giveaway for a chance to win an Amazon Firestick!

We wish you a happy, safe Independence Day filled with food, family, and fun. As always, we are so grateful for the opportunity to serve our members and communities!

**ACROSS**
3. The first president’s last name
5. What we celebrate on the 4th of July
6. The season that Independence Day falls in
8. No 4th of July celebration is complete without these!
10. Our country’s national bird
12. America’s favorite uncle
13. One of our flag’s colors

**DOWN**
1. Another word for our country’s official song
2. The name of our country
4. A beautiful 4th of July tradition
6. A part of our flag
7. Many people cook outdoors using a ____
11. The land of the ____ and the home of the brave.

After you complete the crossword, visit our website using the link below to enter our giveaway for a chance to win an Amazon Firestick!

To enter our giveaway and view official rules, visit www.CumberlandConnect.org/tn-magazine

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Planning a remodel? Timing is everything.

Q: I’m planning a remodeling project this year. What energy-efficiency upgrades should I consider?

A: I write this from deep in the throes of a remodel that, like many remodels, has lasted much longer than planned.

Remodeling is a great opportunity to take care of energy-efficiency improvements by adding them to your scope of work. If your home is already under construction, take the extra step to make it more efficient.

Planning for efficiency is the first step. Look at the scope of your remodeling project to see what energy-efficiency upgrades you can add. There may be cost savings and convenience in tackling both at once.

Here are a few examples of energy-efficiency upgrades for common remodeling projects:

**Kitchen remodel**

If your kitchen remodel includes new appliances, buy Energy Star-rated models. Energy Star refrigerators are about 9 percent more efficient than standard models, and Energy Star-rated dishwashers save both energy and water.

As for kitchen faucets, there are options available with multiple flow-rate settings. You can save water by using a lower flow rate on your faucet when washing dishes, vegetables or your hands, but you can change the setting to quickly fill a pot for cooking.

Above: When shopping for new appliances, check for the Energy Star logo on the Energy Guide. Energy Star-rated dishwashers save both energy and water. Left: During any project that takes you into the attic, check insulation levels. Work in the attic can negatively impact attic insulation if it is crushed or removed to access work areas.
Bathroom remodel
If you plan to remodel your bathroom, include a high-performance showerhead. When shopping for showerheads, faucets and toilets, look for the WaterSense logo, which ensures the product meets performance and water use standards.

Check the fine print on your existing equipment to see how much you can save. The gallons per minute (GPM) is usually printed on showerheads and faucet aerators, and the gallons per flush (GPF) is usually printed on toilets.

High-performance showerheads and faucet aerators conserve water and save energy used to heat water. Using less water can lower your water bill or increase your septic system’s lifespan.

Basement remodel
This is where I find myself right now. Our basement has gone from a wide-open space with concrete walls to a nearly completed living space with a den, two bedrooms, a bathroom and laundry room.

We air sealed and insulated the sill plate and rim joist — the framing between the concrete foundation and the main level floor. We built and insulated walls around the basement’s perimeter, ensuring a cozy living space and a more comfortable home.

We upgraded our electric storage water heater to a hybrid — or heat pump — water heater, which is 70 percent more efficient than a standard electric model.

Also, we ran power for an electric vehicle charger while the walls were open. It is much less expensive to run the power supply while you have access.

New siding or exterior paint
The best time to make sure your wall insulation is adequate — or to see if you have wall insulation at all — is when you replace your siding or paint the exterior of your home.

Wall insulation saves on energy costs, makes your home more comfortable and reduces outside noise.

Batt insulation, spray foam or foam board are good options if you are removing the siding. If you are painting, you can have a contractor blow insulation into the wall cavities through holes cut into the siding or from inside the house. The holes are then plugged and prepped for paint.

Lighting
Whether it’s under-cabinet kitchen lighting or new can lights in the basement, LED options use less energy than traditional incandescent or CFL bulbs.

Attic insulation
Often, remodeling requires work in the attic for new lighting or venting bath or kitchen fans. During any project that takes you into the attic, check insulation levels. Work in the attic can negatively impact attic insulation if it is crushed or removed to access work areas.

If more insulation is needed, air seal and check ventilation. Also, make sure all bath and kitchen fans vent to the exterior of the house.

Insulation may not be as pretty as new countertops, but it can help reduce your energy costs and make your home more comfortable.

A little planning during a remodel can go a long way toward improving your home’s energy efficiency. Remember: It’s more difficult and more expensive to go back and tackle energy-efficiency projects after your space is finished.

Miranda Boutelle is director of operations and customer engagement at Efficiency Services Group, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company in Oregon. She also writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation’s landscape.
When early settlers crossed the Appalachian Mountains, they left behind the Atlantic Ocean watershed for a land where every river flowed west and south to the Gulf of Mexico.

This geographic fact stunted the economy of early Tennessee, but it wouldn’t stunt it for long. You see, in 1807 Robert Fulton drove his new steamboat upstream on New York’s Hudson River. Within a few years of that event, steamboats were making their way along the Mississippi, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. But it took a lot longer for some parts of Tennessee to see the steamboat.

This isn’t one story — but three:

Memphis (1811)

The first steamboat to ever descend the Mississippi River almost certainly stopped at the site of present-day Memphis, but we can’t be sure. In late December 1811, the steamboat New Orleans probably stopped at the Chickasaw Bluffs of the Mississippi River, as Memphis was called then, on its maiden voyage from Pittsburgh to New Orleans.

The New Orleans was a 150-foot-long boat financed by Robert Fulton and Robert Livingston; its eight-member crew was led by Capt. Nicholas Roosevelt (a great-uncle of President Theodore Roosevelt). In the weeks preceding its stop at the Chickasaw Bluffs, the steamboat
New Orleans encountered and overcame the treacherous Falls of the Ohio River, hostile Native Americans and (worst of all) the New Madrid Earthquakes.

Assuming the New Orleans stopped at the Chickasaw Bluffs, the boat didn’t stay long because the crew was trying to get to Natchez, Mississippi, as quickly as it could. The Chickasaw Indians would relinquish their claims on West Tennessee in 1818, and it was about that time that three men (one of whom was Andrew Jackson) organized the town of Memphis, which would quickly become a stop for steamboats on the Mississippi River. As farmers in West Tennessee, northern Mississippi and Arkansas adopted cotton as their main crop, Memphis emerged as the cotton trading capital of the inland United States — and it did so thanks to steamboats.

Nashville (1818)

There used to be a long stretch of shallow water on the Cumberland River about 25 miles downstream from Nashville called the Harpeth Shoals. Because of this, it wasn’t easy to get a steamboat to Nashville. Every Tennessee history book and article I’ve ever seen claims that the General Jackson was the first steamboat to make it up the Cumberland River to Nashville. The most detailed is “Steamboatin’ on the Cumberland” by Byrd Douglas, which claims the General Jackson was the first steamboat to make it up the Cumberland River to Nashville. It’s very possible, though, that Douglas may have the name of the boat and the date wrong.

There was a prominent Nashville merchant named Christopher Stump, and he published a large advertisement that first appeared in the June 23, 1818, issue of the (Nashville) Clarion and Tennessee Gazette newspaper. In the ad, Stump claimed he had a lot of groceries, fabric and hardware to sell that he had “just received from the steam boat Constitution.”

I’ve further learned that there was, in fact, a steamboat called the Constitution built in Pittsburgh and launched in 1816. It was originally called the Oliver Evans (named for the inventor of the high-pressure steam engine) but was renamed after a deadly explosion in 1817.

I believe the reason the General Jackson was more talked about in Nashville is that it was locally owned (by former Gov. William Carroll, among others). That would account for why its arrival in March 1819 was more of a civic event than the Constitution’s arrival the year before.

Regardless of whether the Constitution or General Jackson was first, Nashville’s economy quickly adapted to the steamboat. The Harpeth Shoals remained a problem; from to the first steamboat that made it to that city.

The Atlas wasn’t the first steamboat to try, but it was the first to succeed. Around Jan. 20, 1828, the Atlas made it through the Muscle Shoals with less trouble than had been expected. “We understand that is intended to take out her engine and work the empty boat over the rapids,” the Knoxville Enquirer first said. A few days later, the same paper reported that the boat made it through the Muscle Shoals without having to take that step. A few weeks later, the Atlas made it through the Boiling Pot and the Suck to the present-day site of Chattanooga (a Cherokee trading post called Ross’s Landing at the time.)

A lot of people turned out in Knoxville to greet the steamboat when it arrived on March 4.

By that late date, some of Knoxville’s business leaders realized that the steamboats would have a limited effect on that city’s commerce. After all, 1828 was the year the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad started building its rail line that would eventually connect the Atlantic Ocean to the Ohio River.

Because river access was impeded by the Muscle Shoals and the Suck, Knoxville would never really become a big steamboat town. But it would eventually become a big railroad town, and that’s another column.
**West Tennessee**

Now-July 31 • “Isaac Hayes: Black Moses Gives Back,” Museum of Science and History, Memphis. 901-636-2362 or moshmemphis.com

Now-Oct. 24 • Southern Artist Showcase: Hattie Marshall-Duncan, Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or discoveryparkofamerica.com

July 9 and Aug. 13 • Music on Main, Savannah Market. facebook.com/savannahmainstreet

July 13-16 • Jackson Sings the Gospel, Carl Perkins Civic Center, Jackson. 941-756-6942 or billbaileyconcerts.com

**Middle Tennessee**

Now-July 17 • “May We All,” Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville. 615-782-4040 or tpac.org

Now-Sept. 30 (Fridays) • Farmers Market, downtown pavilion, Bell Buckle. bellbucklechamber.com

July 1 • Biloxi Blues, Fly Arts Center, Shelbyville. 931-684-8359 or flyartscenter.com

July 1-2 • 51st Annual Smithville Fiddlers’ Jamboree and Crafts Festival, Smithville Public Square. 615-597-8500 or smithvillejamboree.com

July 1-29 (Fridays) • Main Street LIVE!, Security Federal Savings Bank, McMinnville. 931-506-5335 or mainstreetmcminnville.com

July 2 • Fourth of July Celebration, Cornersville High School Soccer Field. 931-637-7374 or facebook.com/southmarshallfiredept

July 2 • Fireworks on the Cumberland River, Granville. 931-653-4151 or granvilletn.com

July 3 • Independence Day Celebration, Fairview City Hall. 615-387-6140 or facebook.com/fairviewtngov

July 3 • Turning of the Pig, Louise Martin Park Ballfields, Greenbrier. 615-739-8537

July 4 • Celebration Under the Stars, Fountains at Gateway, Murfreesboro. murfresboroparks.com

July 4 • Fourth of July Celebration, Bell Buckle Park. bellbucklechamber.com

July 4 • Red, White and Blue Car and Truck Show, Maury County Park, Columbia. 931-398-0437 or redwhitebluecarshow.com

July 7-9 • Shadow Valley Gospel Music Festival, downtown Fayetteville. 931-433-5956 or shadowvalleyproductions.com

July 7-10 • Summer Open House and Auction, Hylabrook Antique Mall, Murfreesboro. 615-907-6066 or facebook.com/hylabrook.antiquemall

July 8-10 • Knap In, 747 Chapell Hill Pike, Eagleville. duckriverflintknappers@gmail.com

July 8-17 • “Cinderella — The Musical,” South Jackson Civic Center, Tullahoma. 931-455-5321 or southjackson.org

July 9 • Screamin’ Cheetah Wheelies, the Caverns, Pelnham. 931-516-9724 or thecaverns.com

July 9 • Middle Tennessee Iris Society Annual Iris/Rhizome Sale, Crievewood United Methodist Church, Nashville. 615-452-1263

July 9 • South of the River Art Tour, Cunningham. centralcivitan2020@gmail.com

July 9 • Just Crafting Around Craft Fair, Lane Agri-Park, Murfreesboro. 931-952-0472

July 9 • Tennessee Peach Festival, Morning Glory Orchard, Nolensville. contactus@nashvillecraftbevco.com or nashvillecraftbevco.com

July 9-16 • Farm Fun Days, Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville. 615-837-5197 or tnagmuseum.org

July 13-16 • Jackson Sings the Gospel, Fiddlers’ Jamboree and Crafts Festival, McMinnville. 931-653-4151 or granvilletn.com

July 16 • Annual Summer Party, Oaklands Mansion, Murfreesboro. 615-893-0022 or oaklandsmansion.org

July 16 • Marketville 2022, A&L Fairgrounds, McMinnville. 931-668-3013 or warrencountyalfair.org

July 16 • Tennessee Tapestry Book Signing with Author Peggy Ensminger Orange, Hylabrook Antique Mall, Murfreesboro. 615-907-6066 or facebook.com/hylabrook.antiquemall

July 16 • Matt Maher, Cumberland Caverns Live, McMinnville. cumberlandcavernslive.com

July 16-17 • 21st Annual Elegant and Depression Glass Show and Sale, The Fairgrounds Nashville. 615-856-4259 or fostoria-tennessee.com

July 18-23 • Bedford County Fair, Bedford County Agricultural Center, Shelbyville. bedfordcountytnfair.org

July 20-22 • Family Firefly Hikes, Owl’s Hill Nature Sanctuary, Brentwood. 615-370-4672 or owlshill.org

July 23 • 24th Annual Homemade Crafters Show, Miller’s Pond, Manchester. 931-723-3448 or millerspondlawndandgarden.com

July 23 • Shabby Lane Ladies Day Out Shopping Event, Lane Agri-Park Community Center, Murfreesboro. 615-305-5954 or shabbylaneshoppingevents.com

July 23-24 • Lions Club Super Pull of the South, Chapel Hill. lionssuperpullofthesouth.com

July 27-30 • James D. Vaughan Quartet Festival, Crockett Theater, Lawrenceburg. 931-762-4231 or lawrenceburgtn.gov

July 28 • Midsummer Night’s Swing Ice Cream Social, South Jackson Civic Center, Tullahoma. 931-455-5321 or southjackson.org

July 28-30 • Lifest Music City, Johnny Cash Hideaway Farm, Bon Aqua. 920-738-5588 or lifepromotions.org
July 29-30 • 2022 Tennessee Book and Paper Show, The Factory, Franklin. tennbooks@gmail.com or tennaba.org

July 30 • Swiss Heritage Festival, Stoker-Stampfli Farm, Gruetli-Laager. 931-235-3029 or swisshistoricalsociety.org

July 30 • 10,000 Maniacs, Cumberland Caverns Live, McMinnville. cumberlandcavernslive.com

July 30 • 114th Annual Lone Oak Picnic, Central Civitan Club Building, Cunningham. centralcivitan2020@gmail.com

July 30 • Dino Days Crafts Show, Coffee County Fairgrounds, Manchester. 931-841-5584 or facebook.com/oliverswoodandfabric

July 30 • Vintage Fashion Show, Hylabrook Antique Mall, Murfreesboro. 615-907-6066 or facebook.com/hylabrook.antiquemall

July 30-31 • 63rd Annual Mountain Market for Arts and Crafts, Hannah Pickett Park, Monteagle. 931-924-5353 or southcumberlandchamber.com

Aug. 18-27 • Wilson County Fair—Tennessee State Fair, James E. Ward Agricultural Center, Lebanon. wilsoncountyfair.net

East Tennessee

July 4 • Independence Day Anvil Shoots, Museum of Appalachia, Clinton. museumofappalachia.org

July 9 • Sunflower Festival, Main Street, Mountain City. 423-291-9029 or sunflowerfestivalmtn@gmail.com

July 9 and 23 • The Dinner Detective, Hotel Indigo Downtown, Chattanooga. 866-496-0535 or cht.info@thedinnerdetective.com

July 9 and 23 • The Dinner Detective, Hilton, Knoxville. 866-496-0535 or knx.info@thedinnerdetective.com

July 23 • Watercolor Boot Camp Class with Alan Shuptrine, SpringHill Suites by Marriott Downtown/Cameron Harbor, Chattanooga. 423-834-9300 or alanshuptrine.com/july-23-watercolor-boot-camp

July 29-30 • Xtreme Roan Adventures Kids’ Nature Rally, Roan Mountain State Park. friendsofroan@gmail.com or friendsofroanmtn.org

Aug. 5-6 • 41st Annual Quilt Show — Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee, Knoxville Expo Center. 865-213-2335 or smokymtnquilters.com

Submit your events

Complete the form at tnmagazine.org or email events@tnelectric.org. Information must be received at least two months ahead of the event date, and we accept submissions up to a year in advance. Due to the great demand for space in each month’s Almanac, we cannot guarantee publication. Find a complete listing of submissions we’ve received at tnmagazine.org/events.
A SEASON for SEAFOOD

Fresh seafood calls for layers of summertime flavor

Open-Faced Cajun Shrimp Sandwiches
Recipes by Tammy Algood; Photograph by Robin Conover
There are probably lots of reasons that seafood sounds appealing as temperatures rise. We shed layers of clothing and become more active, so we naturally crave foods that won’t leave us feeling heavy and hot. Maybe we associate summer beach vacations with seafood and re-create happy memories from our own home grills. Whatever the reason, seafood is a great choice for summer eating, so cast a line and reel in at least one of these recipes!

**Spring Green Crab Salad**
Yield: 6-8 servings
1 red bell pepper, seeded and finely chopped
1 large shallot, peeled and finely chopped
1 large garlic clove, peeled and minced
1 lime, zested and juiced
¼ cup olive oil
3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
⅓ of a stick unsalted butter
1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
¼ teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning
1 teaspoon lemon juice
2 tablespoons dry white wine
1 teaspoon lemon juice
½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning
¼ teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
2 French rolls, split lengthwise and toasted

In a large bowl, stir together the bell peppers, shallots, garlic, lime zest, olive oil, cilantro, jalapenos, garlic or onion salt and pepper. Fold in the crabmeat, cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving. Serve with hefty chips or crackers.

**Spiced Just Right Shrimp Dip**
Yield: 2½ dozen
Vegetable oil
1 cup plain cornmeal
1 cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon red pepper
2 eggs
2 tablespoons sour cream
½ cup buttermilk
2 (12-ounce) containers oysters, drained and cut into fourths

In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, pepper liquid and mustard on low speed. Fold in the shrimp, celery, onions and peppers. Transfer to serving bowl. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving. Serve with hefty chips or crackers.

**Open-Faced Cajun Shrimp Sandwiches**
Yield: 4 servings
1 stick unsalted butter
½ cup chopped green onions
2 garlic cloves, peeled
2 pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined
2 tablespoons dry white wine
1 teaspoon lemon juice
½ teaspoon Cajun seasoning
¼ teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
2 French rolls, split lengthwise and toasted

In a large skillet over medium heat, melt the butter. Add the onions and garlic and sauté 2 minutes. Add the shrimp, wine, lemon juice, Cajun seasoning and pepper. Cook 4 to 5 minutes or until the shrimp turn pink, stirring occasionally.

Stir in the dill and parsley. Place the toasted roll halves on four individual serving plates. Spoon 1 cup of the shrimp mixture over each roll and serve immediately.

**Oyster Hushpuppies**
Yield: 4 servings
4 (8-ounce) fish fillets (amberjack, whitefish, trout, butterfish or tilapia)
1 teaspoon Cajun or Creole seasoning
1 shallot, peeled and chopped
1 cup sour cream
¼ cup dry white wine
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon lemon juice
¼ teaspoon hot sauce

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 13-by-9-inch baking dish and set aside.

Sprinkle the fillets with the seasoning, place in the prepared dish and top with shallots. Set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk together the sour cream, wine, flour, paprika, lemon juice and hot sauce. Evenly spread over the fish and filets. Bake 30 minutes or until the fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Serve immediately.

**Grilled Fish Tacos**
Yield: 4 servings
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons distilled white vinegar
4 tablespoons lime juice, divided
4 tablespoons lime zest, divided
1½ teaspoons honey
2 cloves garlic, minced
¼ teaspoon cumin, divided
¼ teaspoon chili powder, divided

Pour the oil to a depth of 3 inches in a large Dutch oven or skillet. Place over medium-high heat and bring to 375 degrees.

Meanwhile, in a mixing bowl, combine the cornmeal, flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. Make a well in the center and set aside.

In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, sour cream and buttermilk. Add to the cornmeal mixture and stir until moistened. Fold in the oysters, blending well.

Drop tablespoons of the batter into the hot oil. Fry until golden brown, turning as necessary, around 3 to 4 minutes. Drain on paper towels and serve warm.
1½ teaspoons Old Bay seafood seasoning, divided
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce, or to taste
1 pound snapper, grouper, cod or tilapia fillets, cut into chunks
8 ounces sour cream
½ teaspoon salt
1 (10-ounce) package tortillas
1 bunch cilantro, chopped
1 small head cabbage, cored and shredded
2 limes, cut into wedges

Whisk together the olive oil, vinegar, 2 tablespoons of the lime juice, 2 teaspoons of the lime zest, honey, garlic, ½ teaspoon of the cumin, ½ teaspoon of the chili powder, 1 teaspoon of the Old Bay seafood seasoning, black pepper and hot sauce in a bowl until blended. Place the fish in a shallow dish, and pour the marinade over the fish. Cover and refrigerate 6 to 8 hours.

Combine the sour cream and salt as well as the remaining lime juice, lime zest, cumin, chili powder and Old Bay seafood seasoning. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Preheat the grill for high heat and lightly oil grate. Set grate 4 inches from the heat. Remove fish from marinade, drain off any excess and discard the marinade. Grill fish pieces until easily flaked with a fork, turning once, about 9 minutes.

Evenly place the fish in the center of tortillas with cilantro and cabbage; drizzle with the dressing. Roll up tortillas around fillings and garnish with lime wedges.

Tammy Algood develops recipes for The Tennessee Magazine that feature farm-fresh Tennessee food. Those fresh, local ingredients will always add cleaner, more flavorful foods to your table. We recommend visiting local farms and farmers markets to find the freshest seasonal produce.

Email your cooking questions to Tammy Algood: talgood@tnelectric.org.

Kelly writes: “I have moved into a new home and am having a hard time getting used to my new cooktop. I have burned several things but am slowly learning. Can you give me some tips on how to salvage slightly burned food?”

Kelly, first of all, perhaps dial back the intensity of the heat and never leave the food unattended. Then keep in mind that speed is of the essence. Simply removing the pot or pan from the heat source doesn’t stop the overcooking process. In order to do that, you need a cold water bath. As quickly as possible, put the cooking vessel in a sink of cold water. Make sure just the bottom of the pan is sitting in the water to stop the cooking or burning from getting worse. Then remove the food that can be easily transferred to another pan. Do not scrape or force anything that is clinging to the pan since that will have an off taste. If possible, utilize a sauce of some kind to enhance the flavor.

Geoffrey asks: “Can you help me with something odd? This may seem strange, but I have a set of favorite drinking glasses, and two of them are stuck together. I have pulled and pulled with no luck. Do you have a tip for unsticking them?”

Geoffrey, try this that my grandmother taught me: Put cold water in the top glass. Then sink the bottom one in hot water. They should separate easily!
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COMMUNITY CORNER
What our neighbors are up to

Find the Tennessee flag

We have hidden somewhere in this magazine the icon from the Tennessee flag like the one pictured here. It could be larger or smaller than this, and it could be in black and white or any color. If you find it, send us a postcard or email us with the page number where it’s located. Include your name, address, phone number and electric cooperative. One entry per person. Three winners will be chosen from a random drawing, and each will receive $20.

Note that the icon we hide will not be on an actual flag or historical marker, will not appear on pages 20-26 and will not be placed in any ads. This month’s flag will not appear on this page (that would just be too easy). Good luck!

Send postcards only (no phone calls, please) to: The Tennessee Magazine, Find the Flag, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Or email flag@tnelectric.org. Entries must be postmarked or received via email by Monday, Aug 1. Winners will be published in the September issue of The Tennessee Magazine.

July Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found in the “before” photo on page 11.

Winners are drawn randomly from each month’s entries. July’s lucky flag spotters are:

Ada C. Sparkman, Pickwick Dam, Pickwick EC
Michael Escue, Summertown, Meriwether Lewis EC
Daniel Smallman, New Market, Appalachian EC

Artist’s Palette
Assignment for July

Three age categories: 1 to 9, 10 to 14 and 15 to 18 years old. Each group will have first-, second- and third-place winners.

Media: Drawing or painting on 8½-by-11-inch unlined paper, canvas or board. We encourage the use of color.

Entry: Send your original art to: The Tennessee Magazine, Artist’s Palette — July, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. (Please make sure you include the month on the outside of the envelope!) Only one entry per artist, please.

Deadline: Art must be postmarked by Monday, Aug. 1.

Include: Your name, age, address, phone number, email address and electric cooperative. Leaving anything out will result in disqualification.

Artwork will not be returned unless you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your submission. For best reproduction results, do not fold artwork.

Each entry needs its own SASE, please. Siblings must enter separately with their own envelopes. Attention, teachers: You may send multiple entries in one envelope along with one SASE with sufficient postage.

Winners will be published in the September issue of The Tennessee Magazine. First place wins $50, second place wins $30 and third place wins $20. Winners are eligible to enter again after three months. Winners will receive their checks, artwork and certificates of placement within 30 days of publication.

Call for Entries
Poet’s Playground

Are you a poet at heart? If so, we would like to see your efforts in The Tennessee Magazine’s monthly poetry contest. Please limit your poem to no more than 100 words. Your work must include a Tennessee theme. Winning poems will be printed in our September issue.

Subject: While the theme of your poem must include something Tennessee-related, including the word “Tennessee” is not required.

Age categories: The competition has six age divisions — 8 and younger, 9-13, 14-18, 19-22, 23-64 and 65 and older. Each group will have first-, second- and third-place winners. First place wins $50 and will be printed in the magazine, second place wins $30 and third place wins $20. Poems capturing first-, second- and third-place honors will be published online at tnmagazine.org.

What to enter: A poem of 100 words or fewer pertaining to the theme. One entry per person, and please give your entry a title.

Deadline: Entry must be emailed or postmarked by Monday, July 25.

Please note: By entering, you give The Tennessee Magazine permission to publish your work via print, online and social media.

Please enter online at tnmagazine.org or mail handwritten entries to: Poetry Contest, The Tennessee Magazine, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Make sure to print your poem legibly, and be sure to keep a copy of your poem as submissions received via mail will not be returned.

All entries must include the following information, or they will be disqualified: your name, age, mailing address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.
WINNERS, 15-18 AGE GROUP: First place: Maritsa Castillo Gonzalez, age 16, Middle Tennessee Electric; Second place: Naomi Martell, age 15, Middle Tennessee Electric; Third place: Lydia Barrett, age 18, Mountain EC

WINNERS, 10-14 AGE GROUP: First place: Peyton Hill, age 14, Duck River EMC; Second place: Skye Cowden, age 11, Upper Cumberland EMC; Third place: Jane Rogers, age 13, Middle Tennessee Electric

WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP: First place: Cassidy Mason, age 9, Cumberland EMC; Second place: Ava Jarrell, age 9, Sequachee Valley EC; Third place: Elizabeth Scarborough, age 8, Meriwether Lewis EC
**Age 8 and younger**

**All In An Afternoon**
I love to play outside
Jumping on the trampoline
All afternoon
One time, William dared
“Bet you can’t jump all the way to the moon”
Can you guess what I did?
Jumped to the moon.
Yep, I did.
He was a little freaked out.
“Alyvia,” he called, “come back”
“I’m going to the moon” I replied
“I want to come with you!”
So he tried.
We jumped as high as the trees
Higher than the mountains
Higher than the clouds
Takin’ a look around…
Then had to go inside for dinner.
— Alyvia Allen, Sequachee Valley EC

**Age 9-13**

**My Tennessee Sky**
Behold the beauty of the sky,
Look up and see
The tranquility
Starry dots of light
Twinkle in the night
Shooting stars dart toward the Earth
As humans sleep within their berth
Moon beams dance up and down
On rivers all around
As Orion chases Taurus
Andromeda sings a chorus
Dippers scoop the Milky Way
Planets fight to send a ray
The heavens put on a perfect show
From grassy field to high plateau
Other places may try and try
But none will beat my Tennessee sky.
— Noah Buskick, Tennessee Valley EC

**Age 14-18**

**Time In Tennessee**
Misty, like evening setting sun.
Oh past me,
Like waterfalls showering.
A blur,
Colors seep into one another.
Melted paint oozes down the canvas.
A wisp,
Frames sailing on the breeze.
Like fragrance fresh and cool.
Through my fingers,
Like fog that travels on.
Soft and sweet like gentle raindrops.
Still and calm,
Like drifting into sleep.
— Esther Pope, Middle Tennessee Electric

**Age 19-22**

**I Was An Island**
Within our pain, there is a light,
Although far off, it shines quite bright,
We place ourselves, an island amust,
Our hearts fully guarded, in no one we trust.
But as the waves roll, and time passes by
Loneliness becomes our only companion,
The bars on our being rust and break,
And through the cracks, one’s heart sparks a blaze
This luminous explosion sends sea ships into a craze,
Attracting all to our island,
Not one shall pass by,
And our souls of the lighthouse regulate within
That no longer- to darkness- our light will give in
— Mindymay Kendall, Appalachian EC

**Age 23-64**

**Where Our Stories Meet**
A sentence becomes a paragraph,
surface is broken and the deep waters are explored,
conversations where our stories meet.
I see you and you see me,
hear my voice and ask where I’m from, and I say.
We bring each page and chapter,
meet somewhere in the middle,
continue relating between Southern and not,
and we see the connections,
one where our stories meet.
— Matthew Berg, Southwest Tennessee EMC

**Age 65 and older**

**Stained Glass Windows**
Sunlight streaming through the meticulously placed pieces of luxurious colored glass, gently touched by lead strips
Visions of beauty grace each window.
In the old historical church building, the stunning windows are reminders of saints of the past.
Small metal plates etched with names and dates.
name the honoree or designate the memorialized person
Each extraordinary window tells an amazing story as it carefully depicts a Biblical message.
A feeling of peace, A spirit of calm, A quiet moment of meditation beneath the exquisite beauty of the stained-glass windows.
— Sandra Fortune, Mountain EC

More poetry can be read at tnmagazine.org. See page 36 for details on how to enter The Tennessee Magazine’s monthly poetry contest.
For more than 50 years, The Tennessee Magazine has been the official publication of our electric cooperatives, keeping consumer-members informed about their co-ops, showcasing the wonders of electric service and highlighting the special events around the state.

The cover of the July 1972 magazine featured the beauty of the Smoky Mountains. Inside, members learned about all-electric mobile homes, read about space-age electrical kitchen conveniences and found a patriotic essay commemorating our nation’s 196th birthday.

While our fashions, appliances and recipes have significantly changed since our first issue in 1958, our mission to entertain, educate and inform our readers has not. Here’s a glimpse of what members saw 50 years ago in The Tennessee Magazine. View the entire July 1972 edition online at tnmagazine.org.
Dear Connie Sue,

I was on the hunt for a pink stacked pagoda canister and finally found one. I see them all the time in red, yellow and green but rarely the pink. I smile whenever I walk by this piece in my kitchen. There are no markings, and I really don’t know much about it other than it being midcentury modern. Any insight on my treasure would be appreciated.

— Camryn

Dear Camryn,

Your canister set and other metal products for the kitchen were made by BeautyWare by Lincoln in New York. It seems BeautyWare made the products, and Lincoln provided the metal. Both companies registered trademarks from 1949 to 1969. Complete sets of the pagoda pattern sell for $50 to $125. I agree that fewer pink sets or parts are visible online. Condition is important. Single canisters can be found at estate sales for a few dollars. Shops selling mid-century items might ask near $200 for a pristine set with box.

— John

Dear John,

Your parents’ boldly decorated tea set is referred to as export porcelain. In varying degrees of form and decoration, all sets are imitating earlier Japanese Satsuma and Moriage porcelains. I agree that the porcelain seems as delicate as eggshells. I did not find the maker’s name. The lack of Japanese attribution in the mark indicates it was not purchased in the United States. Currently plentiful on the secondary market and out of favor with today’s buyers, tea-for-four sets can sell for as little as $40 at estate sales. At a public auction, buyers are paying up to $100. Sellers are asking up to $250.

— Barbara

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for the “tinfoil” mark picture; it tells me the centerpiece platter was made by Imperial Glass Company in Bellaire, Ohio, between 1951 and the 1970s. It did, indeed, hold candles. The edge indicates the pattern name: Open Leaf Holly.

There’s one for sale on eBay for $25.

— Barbara

Want to learn more about your antiques?

Send your inquiry with photos to the mailing address or email below. Only published appraisals are free. Private appraisals are available for a fee.

Mailing address: Connie Sue Davenport, P.O. Box 343, White House, TN 37188
Email: treasures@conniesue.com

Connie Sue Davenport makes her living by appraising houses full of antiques for private clients and at appraisal events hosted by businesses and organizations. Her website, ConnieSue.com, describes these services.
Our next Shutterbug Photography Contest theme is “Summertime in Tennessee.” Please share your images of what the summer in Tennessee looks like to you. Images can be from any year and anywhere in Tennessee.

Subjects could include but aren’t limited to self-portraits or portraits of your family or pets, the scenery outside your window or from the front porch, any sports event or the bounty of your garden.

Images can include people or not, and they can be selfies. As you accept this challenge, please stay safe and mind your surroundings. We don’t want any injuries in pursuit of a photograph.

Contest rules and online entry
No prints are needed; we will accept online entries only. For the complete list of Shutterbug Showcase contest rules and entry information, visit tnmagazine.org.

Shutterbug assignment
“Summertime in Tennessee”

Deadline
Photographs must be entered online by midnight (Central time) on Sunday, July 17. Winners will be published in the September issue.

Prize packages
Judges will select a first-, second- and third-place winner in each division and age group. These prizes will be awarded: First place wins $150, second place $100 and third place $50.
I have to agree with the included quote by Alfred Stieglitz. It’s a simple concept but is the essence of being a photographer. Light is the most important element in any photograph; without it, we can’t see anything, and we can’t photograph anything.

The golden hours at sunrise and sunset create the best opportunities for natural light. The lower angle of light cast by the sun first thing in the morning and again just before sunset provides opportunities for great images to be made.

When I walked up on this great blue heron just after sunrise, it was perched on a limb that was relatively close to the shoreline of Radnor Lake in Nashville. The first light of the day defined the heron’s shape with backlighting while the cool shadows simplified the background, making the subject stand out even more.

I stayed for a few minutes to see what would happen as the sun rose. The exposure was tricky with such different lighting on the heron and the background. I metered on the sunlit portion of the green tree to the left to get a proper exposure.

Though the light was beautiful, you could argue that the tree limbs behind the heron are somewhat distracting. I tried to simplify the composition by moving my camera higher and lower and taking a few steps left and right, but there was no way to eliminate the leaves or limbs behind the subject.

Two things I always do when I’m composing an image that will immediately improve your photographs: Find good light, and isolate the subject from the background. The easiest way to isolate the subject is to simplify the background. Distracting elements behind your subject will weaken the composition and confuse the viewer’s eye.

Please share your images of the great light you have captured with us in the ongoing Shutterbug contest, “Summertime in Tennessee.” See page 41 for details.

“Great Blue Heron” by Robin Conover
Canon 5D Mark IV
EF 100-400 mm at 350 mm, 3.5-5.6 L lens
ISO 400, f6.3 at 1/320 second, handheld

“Wherever there is light, one can photograph.”
— Alfred Stieglitz
For many patients with macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions, the loss of central visual detail also signals the end to one of the last bastions of independence: driving. A Lebanon optometrist, Dr. John Pino, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

“Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss,” said Dr. Pino, one of only a few doctors in the world who specialize in fitting biopic telescopes to help those who have lost vision due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other debilitating eye diseases.

Imagine a pair of glasses that can improve your vision enough to change your life. If you’re a low vision patient, you’ve probably not only imagined them, but have been searching for them. Biopic telescopes may be the breakthrough in optical technology that will give you the independence you’ve been looking for. Patients with vision in the 20/200 range can many times be improved to 20/50 or better.

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss in people over 50. Despite this, most adults are not familiar with the condition. As many as 25% of those over the age of 50 have some degree of macular degeneration. The macula is only one small part of the retina; however, it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp central vision. When it degenerates, macular degeneration leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it difficult or impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver’s vision test.

Nine out of 10 people who have macular degeneration have the dry form. New research suggests vitamins can help. The British medical journal BMC Ophthalmology recently reported that functioning, especially driving,” says Dr. Pino.

When Elaine, 57, of Kingsport, TN, came to see Dr. Pino she wanted to keep her Tennessee driver’s license and was prescribed biopic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away. Dr. Pino also prescribed microscope glasses for reading newspapers and menus in restaurants.

As Elaine puts it, “My regular glasses didn’t help too much – it was like looking through a fog. These new telescopic glasses not only allow me to read signs from a farther distance, but make driving much easier. I’ve also used them to watch television so I don’t have to sit so close. I don’t know why I waited to do this; I should have come sooner.”

“Biopic telescopes can cost over $2,000,” said Dr. Pino, “especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass.”

“The major benefit of the biopic telescope is that the lens automatically focuses on whatever you’re looking at,” said Dr. Pino. “It’s like a self-focusing camera, but much more precise.”

To learn more about biopic telescopes or to schedule a consultation with Dr. Pino, give us a call at 1-855-405-8800. You can also visit our website at:

www.lowvisiontn.com

For more information and a FREE telephone consultation, call us today:

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