

STATE & BEALE

Tennessee pride from the Smokies to the Mississippi

Issue 3

Spring 2025



The Opry at 100

Flying High

American Eagle Foundation soars for our national symbol

Moonshine

Gainesboro's Roaring River Distillery shines the old-fashioned way

Spring Festivals

Ramps, strawberries, hot slaw, music, art, and much more

Credit: Grand Ole Opry



Credit: Grand Ole Opry

Table of Contents

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Stuff We Want
Top Tennessee gear that we may not need. | 16 | Flying High
For years, Tennessee's American Eagle Foundation has led the way for the country's bald eagles. |
| 6 | Tenn-e-secrets
A possible murder mystery of a national hero that still raises eyebrows 215 years later. | 18 | Old School Moonshining
Chad Hunt makes moonshine on the Upper Cumberland and has a flavor for every taste. |
| 7 | County Profile: Benton
Water defines this West Tennessee haven for outdoor fun and freshwater pearls, the official state gem. | 20 | Swing the Club, Hit the Ball
Memphis golfer Lang Whitaker loves the game. He hates it, too. Mostly at the same time. |
| 8 | The Opry at 100
A look back on more than 4,000 Saturdays with Nashville's legendary country music icon. | 21 | The Tanks of Boone Lake
Angler James Shupe thrills on hooking striped bass near Johnson City. |
| 15 | Best Rooftop Patios for Spring
L.A. Jackson, the Peabody Hotel, the Pickle Barrel, and LUMAC offer elevated outdoor fun. | 16 | Tips For Your Spring Garden
Bees don't really care what is planted nearby. They just want what they want. |
| | | 20 | Spring festivals
Tennesseans celebrate spring with a host of outdoor festivals honoring food, art, music, and mules. |

Letter From the Editor

Hey folks,

I am always amazed by the people of Tennessee.

On a visit last year, my wife and I met Chad Hunt, the master distiller at Roaring River Distillery in Gainesboro. He looked every bit the part of a moonshine man. Long beard and (on that day, anyway) bib overalls.

But he doesn't just look the part. He lives it. His recipes and techniques are a blend of "old-timers" knowledge and his own. He and his family built the distillery's two stills – Big Bertha and Little Lincoln. Neither of them run on electricity or computers. Both of them, Hunt said, could be loaded up and run at the creek.

This respect of old ways,

a palette trained to know good moonshine, and a by-heart knowledge of distilling techniques earned Hunt a spot on Discovery Channel's "Moonshiners: Master Distiller" a few years ago. He got second place. But we still got Hunt and his moonshine. Read more about him on page 18.

I saw an Instagram post in the run-up to the Super Bowl this year, featuring a live bald eagle called Lincoln. The bird was trained, the post said, at the American Eagle Foundation in Tennessee.

I'd never heard of it. So, later I got connected with Jessica Hall, the foundation's executive director and found out that



their facility in Kodak is the biggest eagle sanctuary in the country. They care for nearly 50 eagles. 50! And right here in Tennessee. Amazing.

Seems like every story I discover leads me to more amazing Tennesseans doing

amazing things in fields as diverse as eagle care and making moonshine.

I can't wait to meet all of you.

Toby Sells
Founder & Editor
State & Beale

State & Beale
Magazine

Do you love Tennessee?

We do, too.

Advertise with State & Beale!

Scan the QR for rates
or write: toby@stateandbeale.com



Stuff We Want

Great finds for Tennessee springtime



Masters watch parties sprung up all over Tennessee last year, notably at Nashville's Stable Reserve and Slider Inn in Memphis.

So far, the only event publicly on the books is at [Caddie's Sports Club](#), a golf simulator bar and restaurant in Jackson.



This cap from Birdie's on South Main in Memphis is perfect for your Masters watch party. (Credit: Birdie's via Instagram)

The heart wants what the heart wants, a friend of mine is fond of saying. He usually says it when that thing you want seems indulgent: that enormous sandwich at the Young Avenue Deli, for instance.

But stuff just makes the ride more comfortable, more fun. If the hearts wants it, we're all for it.

Here are few things we may or may not have sitting in a digital shopping cart somewhere just waiting for us to let indulgence win.

— Toby Sells



[Birdie's](#)

Masters cap

Masters styling with Tennessee flair? Sign me up. This cap is available only at Birdie's, an indoor golf simulator and bar on South Main in Memphis.

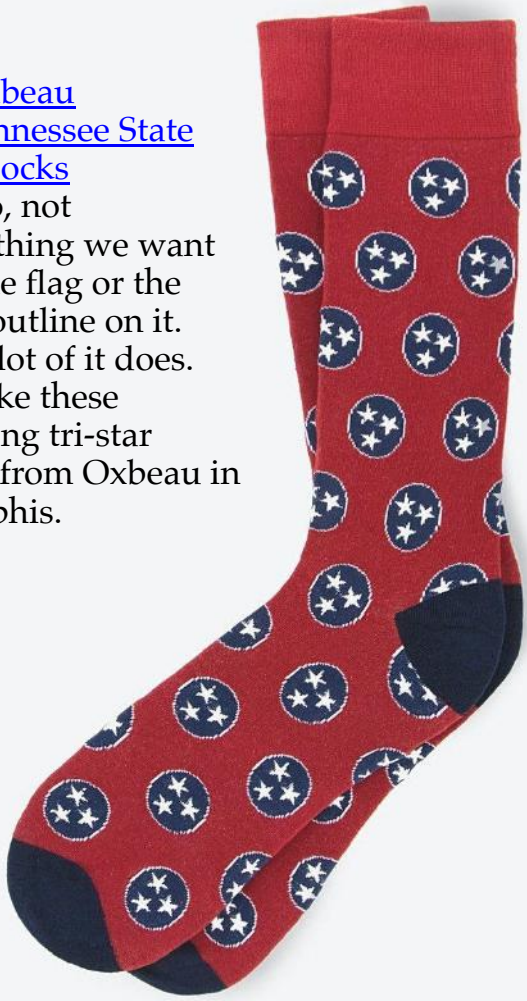
Tennessee State Parks

[Crest Logo Patch](#)

This iconic, arrowhead patch would look amazing on anything. Wouldn't it look sharp ironed on to a cap or backpack? We think so.

[Oxbeau
Tennessee State
Flag Socks](#)

No, not everything we want has the flag or the state outline on it. But a lot of it does. Just like these amazing tri-star socks from Oxbeau in Memphis.



[Roaring River Moonshine](#)

Roaring River Distillery

Gainesboro's Roaring River Distillery has been pumping out the good stuff for a few years now, long enough for them to offer up a enticing barrel-aged batch.

They have tons of flavors, too, like apple, cinnamon roll, and even pickle. But I like moonshine the old-fashioned way, just like Roaring River makes it. (Read more about the distillery on page 18.)



[Cuddy floating cooler](#)

We predict these kinda silly, kinda awesome floating coolers will soon be everywhere on Tennessee waters – lakes, rivers, pools...wherever.

The 40-quart cooler has plenty of space for snacks and drinks. But did we mention it floats? Yes, please. An upgrade with wheels means it can roll, too.

Sounds kinda silly and kinda awesome, right? Buy us one. We'll test it and let you know just how awesome it really is.

Strange. Southern.

"Toby Sells takes us on a journey of mystery and intrigue."

— author Willy Bearden

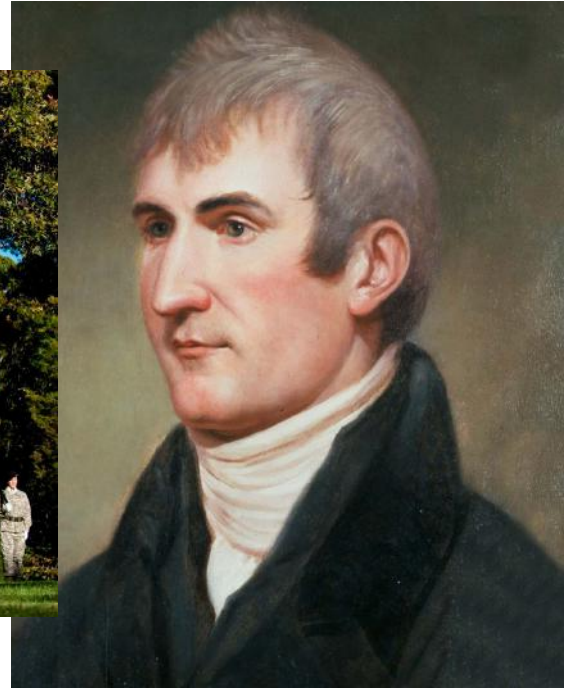
"This book is a treasure."

— author Frank Murtaugh

[SHOP NOW](#)

www.stateandbeale.com





The Meriwether Lewis Monument in Hohenwald symbolizes a life cut short. (Credit: National Parks Service)

Tenn-e-Secrets:

By Toby Sells

Murder on the Natchez Trace?

One Tennessee mystery may never be solved and its intrigue is enough to raise eyebrows still, 215 years later.

Meriwether Lewis, a namesake of the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery, died near Hohenwald in 1809. He was stressed out to the point of "a state of mental derangement" when he arrived there on his way to Washington D.C. And his life was cut short by two bullet wounds, one above his breast, another to his skull. Those are the facts.

But was it suicide or murder? His mental state at the time will always draw questions about suicide. But motives from those near him that night draw suspicions for murder, too.

President Thomas Jefferson rewarded Lewis' work with the Corps of Discovery by naming him Governor of the Northern Territory of Louisiana, which at the time included most of the Louisiana Purchase. But the bureaucracy of the job proved difficult for the military man and explorer. He found himself legally responsible for

the area's finances and struggled under its great debt.

Lewis left St. Louis for Washington to iron out the situation, choosing a Mississippi River route to New Orleans to begin the journey and the remainder by sea voyage. Exhausted by heat and fearing his personal papers could fall into the hands of the British, Lewis changed his mind at Memphis, deciding to complete the rest of the journey on land across Tennessee and Virginia.

Along the way, he stopped for a night at Grinder Stand, a house near present-day Hohenwald. The consensus of those at the house and those traveling with Lewis, was that worries of his debts had overtaken him and left him "deranged" as many explained the situation in letters.

Priscilla Grinder feared for her guest and stayed awake to listen as Lewis paced the floor "and talking aloud, as she said, 'like a lawyer.'"

"She then heard the report of a pistol, and something fall heavily on the floor, and the words 'O Lord!'" according to her account presented by the Lewis

County Museum. "Immediately afterwards she heard another pistol, and in a few minutes she heard him at her door calling out 'O madam! Give me some water, and heal my wounds.'"

She watched Lewis fall upon a stump in the yard but somehow drag himself back to his room. He survived for a time but was dead by morning.

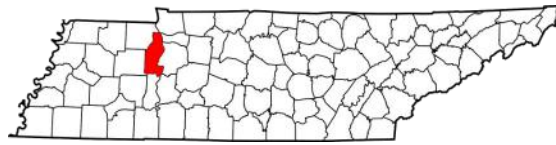
But, really, Priscilla's husband waited until the wee hours to kill Lewis for money. That's one theory. Or, it was John Pernier, Lewis' servant that killed him for the \$240 he was owed. Or, Natchez Trace bandits killed Lewis. Or, James Wilkinson, the previous governor of the Louisiana Territory, killed Lewis to cover up his involvement in Aaron Burr's conspiracy to break away the Natchez Trace territories from the U.S.

In 1848, a Tennessee state commission exhumed Lewis' body, ensuring it was, indeed, him before they built a memorial to him on the site. That report found that he was most likely killed by an assassin.

The memorial that stands there today was finished in 2009. Its towering but broken shaft represents a life cut short.

County Profile: Benton

By Toby Sells



Water everywhere makes Benton County an outdoor dream.



From left: Pilot Knob Overlook (Benton County Chamber of Commerce), Fiddler's Jamboree (credit: Old Time Bluegrass and Fiddler's Jamboree from Facebook), freshwater pearls (credit: Tennessee Freshwater Pearl Museum), fishing on Kentucky Lake (credit: Benton County Chamber of Commerce).

Benton County

Grand Division: West Tennessee

County Seat: Camden

Population (2024 estimate): 16,173

Water defines Benton County. Kentucky Lake and the Tennessee River create its entire eastern border. Nearly half of its western border is the Big Sandy River. The Duck River meanders through the county, too, before it feeds into the Tennessee. All of this makes Benton County a Tennessee destination for outdoor adventure.

[Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park](#)

The Pilot Knob overlook is in Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. Go to the overlook (on Pine Knob Road) and you'll find the fascinating Tennessee River Folklife Interpretive Center and Museum. The center features the life ways and customs of folks on the Tennessee River including musseling, crafts, commercial fishing, and more. The centerpiece is an enormous wooden boat once used by mussel fishermen on the river.

The park is right on Kentucky Lake. There, anglers will find bass in the spring and fall, and catfish in the summer and fall. The park has three boat ramps and there are plenty of marinas nearby for fuel, bait, snacks, souvenirs, and more.

There's also disc golf, kayak rentals, swimming at the Eva Beach site, camping, and birding. Hikers can hit more than 20 miles of trails and even stay overnight in five backcountry shelters. Cyclists can explore Benton County and the park on [a 31-mile out-and-back route by BikeTN](#).

Birdsong and the Freshwater Pearl Museum

Birdsong is a 58-acre resort in Benton County with a marina right on Kentucky Lake, a campground, an RV park, and a pool. All of it brings in around 300,000 visitors each year, ranking it among Tennessee's most visited attractions.

Birdsong is also home to the Tennessee River Freshwater [Pearl Farm and Museum](#). Washboard mussels in the river produce freshwater pearls, Tennessee's official state gem. The gift shop boasts pearl cuff links, necklaces, pocket knives, earrings, and more. Plenty there for Tennessee gift ideas.

[Patsy Cline Memorial](#)

In the woods west of Camden stands a somber memorial to "one of country music's darkest days." A short trail leads visitors to a memorial marker and an enormous stone. The site is where a plane crash took the lives of three Grand Ole Opry stars – Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas, and Hawkshaw Hawkins – in 1963.

A great day

I've had a trip to Benton County on my list for a minute. The Patsy Cline Memorial is a must-do for me. I'd then play the [nine-hole Magic Valley Golf Course](#) on its gently rolling hills. I'd end the day with oysters, a burger, and a beer on the patio of nearby [Beaver Dam Restaurant and Marina](#) overlooking the river.

Oh, and don't miss the Old Time Bluegrass & Fiddlers' Jamboree in Holladay on April 18th - 19th.

Feature

A century of a “good-natured riot.”



*Credit: The
Grand Ole
Opry*

The Opry at 100

Story courtesy of the Grand Ole Opry

Nashville's iconic Grand Ole Opry will have hit the stage every single Saturday for the last 100 years in October.

The show and theater are celebrating the event with a string of star-studded shows featuring Opry members who revere what it means to belong in that elite family.

"Opry 100: A Live Celebration" featured performances by Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire, Eric Church, Carrie Underwood, Alan Jackson, Post Malone, and many more. The show was hosted by Opry member Blake Shelton. It aired live on Peacock in March and you can still stream it there if you missed it.

But the Opry 100 show series rolls on all year at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. The shows feature a variety of acts from comedian Dusty Slay to The Oak Ridge Boys. Find the lineup of shows and get tickets [here](#).

The Opry was kind enough to share their story with State & Beale. So, let's take a walk through 100 years of Opry history.
– Toby Sells

THE SHOW THAT MADE COUNTRY MUSIC FAMOUS

The Grand Ole Opry is the stage that showcases country music's past, present, and future. We've been home to the art form's growth and evolution for over 98 years.

WSM IS BORN


In 1925, a radio-loving founder of National Life and Accident Insurance Company convinced the company to launch its own radio station: WSM – named after their slogan "We Shield Millions." National Life built a small studio with a window in its downtown Nashville office. And WSM went live for the first time on October 5, 1925.

THE FIRST GRAND OLE OPRY

A month after WSM's first show, National Life hired George D. Hay, a prominent announcer and program director known for his National Barn Dance program at WLS in Chicago. Hay launched the WSM Barn Dance with Uncle Jimmy Thompson, a 77-year-old fiddle player, on November 28, 1925 – widely known as the day the Grand Ole Opry was born.

A NAME THAT LASTS

In December of 1927, following an NBC broadcast of Walter Damrosch's Music Appreciation Hour, George D. Hay proclaimed on-air, "For the past hour we have been listening to the music taken largely from the Grand Opera, but from now on we will present the Grand Ole Opry." The new name for the WSM Barn Dance stuck.



**THE MOTHER CHURCH
OF COUNTRY MUSIC**
Some of the Grand Ole Opry's most
historic moments happened inside
Ryman Auditorium.

Hank Williams made his debut. Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Willie Nelson, Jeannie Seely, and Dolly Parton joined the Opry family. Elvis Presley made his only Opry appearance. Johnny Cash became a member, met his wife, and during one infamous show, broke all of the footlights at the front of the stage inside Ryman Auditorium.



LEAVING AN OLD FRIEND

The Opry broadcasted its last Friday show from the Ryman on March 15, 1974. George Morgan closed out the show with "Candy Kisses." After the Opry, Johnny and June Carter Cash sang "Will The Circle Be Unbroken" on the following Grand Ole Gospel Time to end the evening.



Opry House Arrival

Credit: Grand Ole Opry

ON TO BIGGER AND BETTER

The next night, Roy Acuff opened the first show in the new 4,440-seat Grand Ole Opry House with a performance of "The Wabash Cannonball." President Richard Nixon was in attendance and led the Opry audience in singing "Happy Birthday" to First Lady Pat Nixon. The night featured a packed lineup, so each artist was limited to performing just one song.

LIVE FROM THE OPRY HOUSE

The Opry House gave the show more space and the facilities necessary to grow and evolve. It was televised live for the first

time on March 4, 1978, as part of a PBS fundraising special but the show wouldn't start regular television broadcasts until 1985. The Opry family began welcoming more giants like The Gatlin Brothers, John Conlee, Ricky Skaggs, Lorrie Morgan, Reba McEntire, Randy Travis, and Patty Loveless.

A DECADE FOR THE AGES

The 1990s brought some of the Opry's most monumental

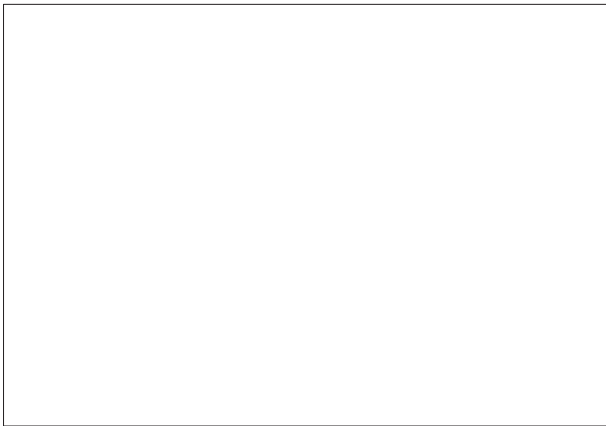
moments: Minnie Pearl and Jimmy Dickens celebrated their 50th anniversary with the show; Roy Acuff made his final Opry performance, one month before he passed; Charley Pride, Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson, Vince Gill, Emmylou Harris, Martina McBride, Diamond Rio, and Trisha Yearwood were all welcomed into the family.

4,000 SATURDAYS AND COUNTING

Throughout the 2000s, the show and its cast paid tribute to fallen members Hank Williams, Waylon Jennings, and Minnie Pearl. In 2002, the Opry celebrated its 4000th consecutive Saturday Night broadcast. And the family continued to grow, adding Brad Paisley, Dierks Bentley, Trace Adkins, Carrie Underwood, and Montgomery Gentry among others.



Photo credit: Grand Ole Opry from Facebook



THE FLOODGATES OPEN

In May of 2010, the venue was ravaged by a historic flood that forced the Opry House to close its doors for five months for restoration. The show pressed on at other venues across Nashville, including two former homes: War Memorial Auditorium and the Ryman. The Opry House was beautifully restored, and the show made its triumphant return on September 28, of that same year.

THE CIRCLE REMAINS

The Grand Ole Opry celebrated 40 years at the Opry House on March 16, 2014, with an all-cast opener led by Old Crow Medicine Show, and performances by some of country music's biggest names. In 2015, the show celebrated its 90th anniversary with a star-studded weekend-long birthday bash. The 2010s brought Blake Shelton, Keith Urban, Darius Rucker, Old Crow Medicine Show, Little Big Town, and more into the Opry family.



Credit: Old Crow Medicine Show from Facebook

“Becoming a member of the Grand Ole Opry is something I’ve wanted since I was a little girl.”
— Martina McBride

A GLOBAL DISRUPTION

In March of 2020, COVID-19 forced the Grand Ole Opry to make the hard decision to temporarily cancel live audience shows. In a historic moment for the Opry, the Saturday Night Grand Ole Opry broadcast live without an audience, via livestream. The show continued to broadcast live on WSM Radio and Circle TV, which incidentally launched in January of 2020 – keeping the music playing and the circle unbroken.

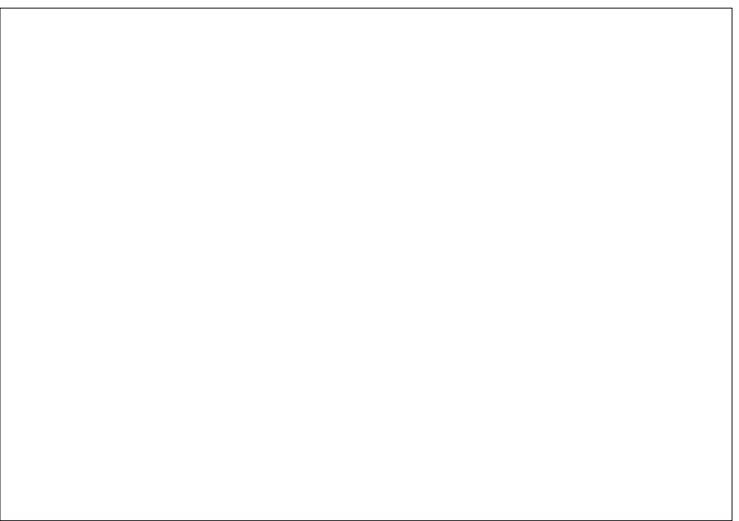
BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

After seven months of performing without a live audience, in October of 2020, the Opry kicked off its 95th anniversary by welcoming back 500 guests to the Opry House – and so began a month-long celebration of the Opry, country music, its artists, and its fans. The Opry family continues to grow, with Rhonda Vincent, Lady A, Carly Pearce, Lauren Alaina, and many more inducted in the last few years.

With an untouchable legacy of shaping and sharing the genre, the most illustrious family of artists in the industry, and an ardent global audience, after almost 100 years, the Opry continues to be the true home of country music.

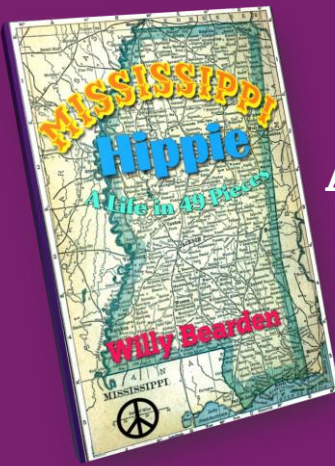
OPRY FUN FACTS

- Approximately 6,024 songs are performed during Opry shows each year
- Among the famous faces who've played the Opry but aren't primarily known as country music artists are President Richard Nixon, Kevin Costner, Jack Black, Kevin Bacon, Kenny Loggins, Steve Martin, and CBS' Bob Schieffer and Charles Osgood
- Loyal Opry fan Paul Eckhart bought a ticket for and attended an Opry



performance for 2,184 straight weeks from 1972 until 2014. Yes, 2,184. Uninterrupted.

- Five Opry members have been honored with their own U.S. postage stamps
- 15.8 million feet of audio, video, and lighting cable on the Opry House complex help take country music to the world





**MISSISSIPPI
Hippie**
A Life in 49 Pieces
by
Willy Bearden

Laugh out-loud funny and heartbreakingly poignant.
-Pam Parker Branham

The prose in this memoir is transcendent, giving respect to his fellow humans as only an erudite southern gentleman can. Hats off Mr. Bearden, I know this one is here for the ages.
-Keith Sykes

That hopeful, clear-eyed, and even bawdy approach to the world rings out from every page of this book, and it's still heard in Bearden's current work as a historian, filmmaker, and raconteur.
-Alex Greene, Memphis Flyer

Available where fine books are sold, or:
willybearden.com



THROUGH THE ROOF

Spring in Tennessee is a season for renewal, new blossoms, and, yes, rooftop bars. From Bristol to Memphis, rooftops just beckon outdoor hangouts in Nashville chic to Chattanooga charm.



L.A. Jackson **Nashville**

Perched atop the Thompson Nashville hotel in the trendy Gulch neighborhood, L.A. Jackson offers panoramic views of the city's skyline.

Guests can enjoy an array of craft cocktails, local craft beers, and a menu featuring Southern-inspired small plates. The indoor-outdoor space ensures a comfortable experience no matter the weather. But don't just take our word for it. L.A. Jackson has been voted Nashville Scene's Best Rooftop Bar multiple times.

Photo credit: Maryashley from Facebook

Peabody Hotel

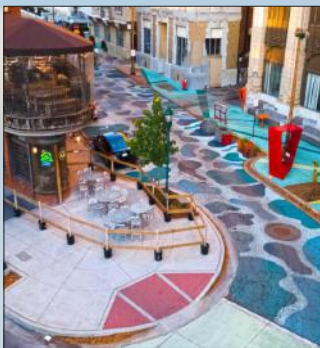
Memphis
April begins one of the biggest, ongoing rooftop parties in



Memphis. Memphians know there's a party every single Thursday night atop the historic Peabody Hotel Downtown.

Great views, craft beverages, and live entertainment have placed the Peabody Rooftop parties around the top of the Memphis Flyer's best rooftop bars list for ages now. (It's also ranked high in the newspaper's "best pick-up joint" category.) It's also an amazing place to watch the sun set over the Mississippi River.

Photo credit: the Peabody Hotel



Pickle Barrel **Chattanooga**

Whatever The Pickle Barrel may lack in high-rise chic, it overcomes in comfort, reliably amazing food and drink, and a kind of antique charisma.

The classic, flatiron building (under a different name) was a Jimmy Hoffa hangout during his 60s-era trial.

But the Pickle Barrel opened in the building in 1982 and has been an iconic neighborhood bar on Market Street ever since.

A great drink menu is matched by a deep food menu featuring a line of burgers, dogs, and chicken tenders. For a true Tennessee treat, save room for the Moonpie Sundae.

The Pickle Barrel's small but mighty second-story patio offers a one-of-a-kind respite to enjoy it all. (The Pickle Barrel is always 21 and over.)

Photo credit: Pickle Barrell from Facebook

LUMAC **Bristol**

The best and only rooftop bar in Bristol is on the Virginia side of State Street. But sharing great stuff with Old Dominion is nothing new to the Birthplace of Country Music.

LUMAC is the rooftop bar atop the 65-room, boutique Bristol Hotel, which calls itself a "Virginia remix of a Tennessee classic." LUMAC was the first rooftop bar in Bristol and keeps folks coming back with hand-poured libations, live music, and stunning 360-degree views of the Appalachian Mountains. A local beer with a bluegrass band in those beautiful mountains? Sign. Me. Up. (LUMAC is always 21 and over.)

Photo credit: the Bristol Hotel from Facebook



Flying High

State & Beale
Magazine

The American Eagle Foundation in Kodak keeps America's national symbol in the sky.

Eagle-eyed fans may have recognized a Tennessee celebrity during this past year's NFL season.

To clarify, Lincoln, an American bald eagle from Tennessee, is a celebrity in Philadelphia. That's because he flew around Lincoln Financial Field before Eagles' home games to fans yelling their nickname for him: "Linc."

The eagle was hatched in 1998 at the American Eagle Foundation's Eagle Mountain Sanctuary at Dollywood. There, he was raised by two non-releasable eagles, Liberty and Justice, until he was eight weeks old. When he was released into the wild, Lincoln immediately took off to Indiana and Michigan – flying 550 miles in his first two weeks. But he had trouble hunting on his own and struggled to survive.

Later that year, Lincoln was found, hungry and weak. Returned to the American Eagle Foundation, experts found he was unable hunt successfully. U.S. Fish and Wildlife deemed him non-releasable and he made Tennessee his permanent home.

Another eagle, Challenger, was the first eagle to ever free fly over sporting events, national ceremonies, and more. (Yes, even before Auburn's War Eagle.) He flew over the inaugurations of Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

Lincoln took Challenger's place when he retired due to cataracts. But Challenger still flies (after University of Tennessee pros fixed his eyes) at the foundation's new, 48-acre headquarters in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Jessica Hall is the foundation's executive director. She joined me on the State & Beale podcast for a wide-ranging conversation about Lincoln, Challenger, the foundation's headquarters and one-of-a-kind aviary in Kodak, and he group's mission to protect American bald eagles. Here's a bit of the conversation but catch the podcast for whole thing.

State & Beale: I saw Lincoln on Instagram and thought, "what a cool Tennessee story."

Jessica Hall: He is a Tennessee bird for sure. In fact, he practiced at (the University of Tennessee's) Neyland Stadium for his flights at Lincoln Financial Field.

S&B: I know you said your blood runs orange...

JH: It was pretty awesome for me, just because personally, my father's ashes are scattered on the south end zone of Neyland Stadium. To go there professionally and practice one of our

bald eagles and do what we do for education there. That was pretty amazing.

S&B: This is a true Tennessee story, too. Y'all are located in East Tennessee.

Dollywood is involved. Folks from Mt. Juliet are involved and so is a falconer from the Memphis Zoo.

JH: It all started with a gentleman named Bob Hatcher, who was an agent with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). He was very passionate about bald eagles, passionate about protecting them and getting them flying free back into the skies. He hosted seminars in Nashville and met folks from Cumberland Wildlife Refuge. There was another gentleman, too, who saw a newspaper article about bald eagles had been shot.

They all wanted to learn more about what TWRA wanted to do in terms of protecting bald eagles in the state of Tennessee. Out of that, an organization called Save The Eagle was born. That became the American Eagle Foundation.

S&B: Have you always been based in Kodak?

JH: Originally, it was based in Nashville and then relocated to East Tennessee to Dollywood theme park, who is one of our early and most prolific sponsors. They provided an area for us inside their theme park to have a sanctuary with all the eagles that are injured and deemed not releasable by U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

S&B: Is there anything Dolly can't do?

JH: Without Dollywood and without Dolly Parton, we certainly would not be where we are at today.

S&B: Are y'all the biggest group in the country helping bald eagles?

JH: We are. We operate the nation's largest bald eagle sanctuary. We have almost 50 bald eagles. The facility closest to us, maybe, has six.

Our job is to educate around the bald eagle. We believe that conservation and protection are byproducts of great education and providing opportunities for people to come up close and interact with the bald eagle.

S&B: Where do these birds come from? How do y'all get them?

JH: All over the United States. We have birds from Alaska. We have birds from Florida. We have birds from New York. We have Challenger, the eagle. He's from Louisiana. So, we joke that when he squawks, he's got a little Creole in him.

Whenever a bald eagle is injured and deemed non releasable by U. S. Fish and Wildlife, they then reach out to organizations to place those eagles in the care of sanctuaries. We're one of those sanctuaries. We try never to turn down a bald eagle simply because – just like we would take care of our nation's injured veterans and injured soldiers – we feel like it's important to take care of our nation's injured symbols.

S&B: How do y'all train birds to fly over stadiums and events?

JH: We use a combination of modern training techniques, such as a bird-first philosophy, meaning that we take all of our indicators from the bird. If the eagle doesn't want to fly, we don't force that fly out of that eagle. If the eagle doesn't want to step up onto our glove or go into onto the kennel, we don't force that behavior. We let the eagle decide.

[For football games], we take Lincoln up onto the second deck – and eagles can see over a mile away – so he sights that yellow platform [on the field]. Then, it's his choice to soar. A lot of time, he'll catch a nice wind thermal in the stadium, and he'll do a couple of loops, which just the fans absolutely love. Then, he'll come down to that platform when he's ready.

We always have a treat waiting on him, just like you would for a dog or cat. He loves rats.

SHININ' ON THE UPPER CUMBERLAND

Chad Hunt is a classic moonshiner.

He makes it the same way those on the Upper Cumberland Plateau have made it for decades. The only difference, maybe, is that Hunt can now ply his trade right out in the sunshine, too. The master distiller makes all the now-legal liquor right on the square in Gainesboro – unafraid of revenuers or law men – at his Roaring River Distillery.

Drop in for a visit and buy some great moonshine during the week Tuesday through Saturday. Or, you can order moonshine at the Roaring River Distillery website.

I talked with Hunt last year for the State and Beale podcast (available any where you get your podcasts). Here's a bit of our conversation.

State & Beale: How did you get into making moonshine?

Chad Hunt: My great-grandfather spent two years in an Alabama prison for making (moonshine). So, the tradition goes through generations over to me.

I always tell people I started off drinking it. Good at drinking it. Then, I started making it with my parents. We started bootlegging it back when we lived in Nashville. We make it, take it to Nashville, and sell it to the city slickers there.

We drank a lot of it. We know what it's supposed to taste like. If we make something's that good, we could sell it. So, we decided to take the middle man out, and started making it [and selling it] ourselves.

S&B: Where did you get your recipes?

CH: So, the recipe that we use is a traditional Upper Cumberland recipe. Depending on what part of the world you're in, the main ingredients [for moonshine] are going to be whatever was grown in that area. So, around the Upper Cumberland white corn was always prevalent.

We just took, took a basic recipe and kind of put our own

twist on it until we found something that we liked.

S&B: What was running moonshine like before it was legal?

CH: It wasn't much like what you see on TV. They glorify it and make it Hollywood-like. (Laughs.) You had to be careful what you did but it wasn't as bad as people made it out to be.

S&B: Not like the Duke Boys, running from the law?

CH: We weren't jumping any bridges or anything.

S&B: Tell me about your process.

CH: My technique and process came from questioning old-timers about their techniques. I'd combine a lot of their techniques and create my own.

We still do it the old-fashioned way like you were down at the creek. Both of our stills that we have – Big Bertha and Little Lincoln – both were taken out to a creek and ran the same exact way



Photo credit: Roaring River Distillery

that we run it in the distillery.

There's no computers hooked up to them or anything like that. I use natural gas to heat them but I had them on propane before. So, you can pack the whole still up take it to the woods with you and use it. Or, you could use wood fire if you felt inclined to do so.

We build our own equipment. There's not many places that have stills they made themselves or that they can

even take out of the building and operate. A lot of them are bolted down to the ground and they're computer-controlled or all-electronic. When their power goes out, they're done distilling for the night. If our power goes out, I keep her on.

S&B: What varieties and flavors do y'all have?

CH: We've got the clear and then I believe we've got 20 different flavored

moonshines now. We have anything from cinnamon roll, apple, root beer, blackberry... Pretty much a flavor for anybody's palate that comes in. But one of our biggest sellers out of the flavors is actually our dill pickle moonshine, which was quite surprising. But when you mix the moonshine in with the dill pickle juice, that kind of counteracts any burn in the alcohol.



TAPROOM NOW OPEN IN THE RAVINE
W 4-7 TH 4-10 F 4-10 SAT 4-10 SUN 1-7



By Lang Whitaker
Guest columnist

Golf seems simple: Swing the club, hit the ball.

Beyond that, brother, everything is up for grabs. Did I choose the correct club? Where do I stand in relation to the ball? Where are my feet pointing? Head down? Will I even connect with the ball? Will the ball go anywhere near where I'm aiming? Breathe. Am I ready? Do I swing? Now? How about now? OK, screw it, let's swing!

This is what playing golf is like, at least inside my brain. Sometimes I hate it, sometimes I love it. Mostly at the same time.

The first time I played golf, at a post-college bachelor party

weekend, I was hooked. Not only was I awful enough that I wanted to get better, but I was also somehow hit just enough good shots that I could envision a path toward improvement.

Yet it wasn't until I moved to Memphis almost a decade ago that the opportunity to genuinely advance my game presented itself. As a practical resident of Memphis, I understand this city has many varied financial needs. As a golfer who pays taxes in Memphis, I appreciate how Memphis invests heavily in its public courses, of which there are many.

But before I could enjoy golf, I needed to understand it. Though I harbored a fantasy that perhaps I'd be a natural through some sort of television osmosis, like Cole Trickle

in *Days of Thunder*, I quickly realized this was not an option. While I was fair at golf—I could consistently shoot around 100—I didn't really know what I was doing, or what I wasn't doing. Is this the proper way to hold a club? Why did each tee shot hook violently to the right? How the heck do I get out of this sand? Everything was a mystery.

I started hanging out at the driving range, where I'd pop in my AirPods, listen to *The Police* and blindly plow through bucket after bucket of balls, hoping to stumble upon answers. One morning, I met an elderly gentleman who grabbed my driver and casually ripped a shot 225 yards down the middle. I immediately hired Donnie as my

coach, and after a year of lessons in \$50

**Swing the club, hit the ball.
Beyond that, brother,
everything is up for grabs.**

increments (cash only), I've finally arrived at the point where I can stand over a ball and not have a million thoughts pinging through my head. These days, I dwell in the mid-80s, with the 70s just a few tantalizing strokes away.

Perhaps more importantly, through golf I found a community. I met a group of dads who are similarly obsessed, and we not only play every weekend, we text daily, about golf but also about all the parts of being a husband and a dad that only a dad and a husband can sympathize with. We understand that the older we get, the more impossible it becomes to carve out five hours of free time on a

weekend, yet we persist. I've learned that real maturity is waking up early on the weekend because you want to, not because you have to.

That camaraderie is part of what makes golf so addictive. Because golf isn't just about playing golf. It's being outdoors in the sunshine, joking around with your friends, maybe listening to some tunes, and above all else, battling yourself. Out on the course, there is nobody else to blame — either I hit the ball well or I don't, but I can't say there was a coach who made a bad choice or a player on my fantasy team who screwed it up. It's me against me, which may be an incredibly narcissistic way of considering it yet is also totally true.

For better or worse, I've handed my addiction down to my son, who is in sixth grade and golfs with me regularly. I figure golf is something he can play forever, a hobby that should serve him well both personally and professionally. Mostly, I'm waiting impatiently for my son to grow about two inches taller so I can pass down my irons to him and buy myself a new set. It's only fair.

Protect your mental, the kids say. I used to go to a shrink to untangle my brain, now I go to the course. Golf might generate more questions than answers, but somewhere in the midst of all the failure and discovery and the frustration and the occasional success, playing golf makes my life a little more fun.

Swing the club, hit the ball. If only golf were that simple.

THE TANKS OF BOONE LAKE

By James Shupe

Guest columnist courtesy of Tennessee Wildlife Magazine, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Management Agency

Thirty-pound braid was steadily being stripped from my reel and my 12-foot jon boat was being towed around by an unseen finny tank.

I had flashbacks to my off-shore days of being hooked up to a huge cobia, but this experience was even more surreal because I was on Boone Lake, which was close to my home in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Boone Lake is a 4,520 acre TVA reservoir located in northeast Tennessee. The dam is located on the South Fork of the Holston River and was created in 1952. The major tributaries are the Watauga and South Fork of the Holston rivers.

Although relatively small, Boone Lake is fertile enough to support large numbers of sport fish. Boone also has an abundant forage base of threadfin shad. These shad are high in protein and relatively easy for any gamefish to catch.

Since Boone can support high densities of fish, the (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) has stocked blue catfish, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, and black crappie. Largemouth and smallmouth bass, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, and catfish are the predominant gamefish in Boone.

Two years ago I was stricken with striped bass syndrome, and the only relief from this affliction I could find was to fish at least once a week long and hard for these magnificent monsters. The one exception to my striper obsession is the summer. Striped bass are notoriously inactive in the summer due to the bright sunlight and intense heat.

Over the past two years, I have gradually simplified and refined my fishing and rigging strategies for the tanks of Boone Lake. I have chosen to be a minimalist angler, and I have reduced to a bare minimum everything I carry in my small 12-foot jon boat. The only electronic equipment I use is my bow-mounted trolling motor. The remaining items are four medium-heavy spinning outfits,

four planer boards, a small tackle box, a two-gallon aerated bait bucket, and a large landing net specifically made for big stripers.

As a bare-bones fisherman, I can "listen" to nature and observe my surroundings. I enjoy the solitude and blending in with the environment. Because of my quiet approach I am able to see deer, turkeys, and eagles on a regular basis. Instead of an electronic screen, I focus on the contours of the shoreline and possible ambush points for solitary tanks.

Steep banks are my go-to favorite structure to fish. It is relatively easy for big stripers to remain in deeper water while having the ability to trap baitfish against a steep bank. It is not uncommon for me to go three or four days without a strike, but when a tank abruptly begins to tow my boat around, all of the "bad" days are soon forgotten.

My four spinning outfits exactly match, as it is important for me to have familiar tackle in my hands when a monster striper is ripping line and pushing all rigging to the breaking point. My rods are the seven-foot Shakespeare "Ugly Stick Catfish" model in the medium-heavy action. These rods have plenty of backbone and are noted for their ability to withstand plenty of abuse. My matching reels are the Shimano Sedona model in the 6000 series. These are actually light saltwater reels designed to hold plenty of 30-pound braid and they feature a heavy-duty drag system for oversized fish.

My line of choice is Suffix 832 30-pound braid due to the small diameter and the high reviews by anglers for its use with spinning tackle. Another important feature is that this line maintains surface tension and floats when I'm in a tug-of-war with a tank. I'll usually have at least two planer board rigs floating around while engaged with a big striper and keeping track of the floating braid from these rigs enables me to minimize tangles throughout the slugfest.

I am very particular about my knots and rigging as there is no margin for error when my boat is being towed around by one of these finny brutes. I prefer



to fish between 15 to 20 feet deep below my planer boards. For this reason, I tie 25 feet of 20-pound monofilament to my 30-pound braid with a double uni-knot. I wet all knots and pull down on each one as hard as I can to ensure no slippage. I then put on a quarter-ounce weight and a quality swivel. A five-foot length of fluorocarbon and a 4/0 Owner offset circle hook completes my rigging process. For all of my other knots I use the Trilene knot, which has an almost 100 percent breaking strength.

I am able to gauge the depth below my planer boards by the 25 feet of 20-pound monofilament tied to the braid. I can clip on my planer boards an approximate distance from the braid to attain my 15 or 20 feet preferred depth.

Waterbugz planer boards are well-suited for striper fishing, and they freely slide up and down the line once the clip has snapped from the strike. These planer boards are maintenance free and will withstand rigorous use.

Medium to large shiners are my live bait preference. I prefer to hook them through the nose because they are easily pulled off the hook when hooked through the lips.

Boone is also loaded with huge brown trout. They are so numerous, in fact, that I sometimes consider them a nuisance. I have also caught some big hybrid striped bass while trolling for stripers. These hybrids fight like a striper, and typically an angler cannot tell the difference until the fish is in the landing net.

Hopefully my experiences and techniques will jump start you into becoming addicted to the tanks of Boone Lake.

GARDEN TIPS

By Laura Russo

Guest columnist, Assistant Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Tennessee

This story was originally published at The Conversation.

In order to reproduce, most flowering plants rely on animals to move their pollen. In turn, pollinators rely on flowers for food, including both nectar and pollen. If you're a gardener, you might want to support this partnership by planting flowers. But if you live in an area without a lot of green space, you might wonder whether it's worth the effort.

I study bees and other pollinators. My new research shows that bees, in particular, don't really care about the landscape surrounding flower gardens. They seem to zero in on the particular types of flowers they like, no matter what else is around.

To design a garden that supports the greatest number and diversity of pollinators, don't worry about what your neighbors are doing or not doing. Just focus on planting different kinds of flowers – and lots of them.

Comparing different landscapes

To test whether bees are more plentiful in natural areas, my team and I planted identical gardens – roughly 10 feet by 6.5 feet – in five different landscapes around East Tennessee that ranged from cattle pastures and organic farms to a botanical garden and an arboretum. All five gardens were planted in March of 2019 and contained 18 species of native perennials from the mint, sunflower, and pea families.

Over the course of the flowering season, we surveyed pollinators by collecting the insects that landed on the flowers, so we could count and identify them. The sampling took place in a carefully standardized way. Each week we sampled every flowering plant in every garden, in every landscape, for five minutes

each. We used a modified, hand-held vacuum we called the "Bug Vac" and repeated this sampling every week that flowers were in bloom for three years.

We wanted to test whether the area immediately surrounding the gardens – the floral neighborhood – made a difference in pollinator abundance, diversity and identity. So we also surveyed the area around the gardens, in a radius of about 160 feet (roughly 50 meters).

To our surprise, we found the surrounding terrain had very little influence on the abundance, diversity and composition of the pollinators coming to our test gardens. Instead, they were mostly determined by the number and type of flowers. Otherwise, pollinators were remarkably similar at all sites. A sunflower in a cattle pasture had, by and large, the same number and

family (Asteraceae), including asters and coreopsis, offer large quantities of both pollen and nectar and also have very accessible flowers. Plants from this family are good for a range of pollinators, including many specialist bees, such as the blue-eyed, long-horned bee (*Melissodes denticulatus*), which feasts primarily on ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*), also a member of the sunflower family.

If you want to offer flowers that have the highest protein content to nourish the next generation of strong pollinators, consider plants from the pea family (Fabaceae), such as dwarf indigo, false indigo, and bush clover. Some of the plants in this family do not even offer nectar as a reward. Instead, they provide high protein pollen that's accessible only to the most effective pollinators. If you include plants

from the pea family in your garden, you may observe fewer visitors, but they will be receiving pollen with high protein levels.

Selecting a few native perennials from each of these three families, all widely available in garden centers, is a good place to start. Just as a diversity of food is important for human health, a mixture of flower types offers pollinators a varied and healthy diet. Interestingly, the diversity of human

diets is directly linked to pollinators, because most of the color and variety in human diets comes from plants pollinated by insects.

Plant it and they will come

Maybe you've heard that insects worldwide are declining in number and variety. This issue is of particular concern for humans, who rely on insects and other animals to pollinate food crops. Pollinators are indeed facing many threats, from habitat loss to pesticide exposure.

Thankfully, gardeners can provide an incredible service to these valuable animals just by planting more flowers. As our research shows, small patches of garden can help boost pollinators – even when the surrounding landscape has few resources for them. The one constant in all our research is that insects love flowers. The more flowers and the more types of flowers, the more pollinators Earth will have.



types of visitors as a sunflower in a botanical garden.

Menu planning for pollinators

We used native perennial plants in our study because there's evidence they provide the best nutrition for flower-visiting insects. We chose from three plant families because each offers different nourishment.

Plants in the mint family (Lamiaceae), for example, provide a lot of sugary nectar and have easily accessible flowers that attract a wide variety of insects. I'd recommend including plants from the mint family if you want to provide a large and diverse group of insects energy for flight. If you live in Tennessee, some examples are mountain mint, wood mint, and Cumberland rosemary. You can easily search for perennial plants native to your area.

While some pollinators enjoy nectar, others get all their fat and protein from eating just the pollen itself. Flowers from the sunflower

Tennessee To-Do List



Cheekwood in Bloom Nashville

Celebrate spring during Cheekwood in Bloom **March 8-April 13, 2025** at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens. Thousands of tulips, hyacinths and daffodils fill the gardens with vibrant color and special events featuring music and art encourage everyone to get out into the sunshine.

The Beer Garden is a lively space full of music, food and drinks, and places to relax. Snap a photo with Robert Indiana's iconic "The American LOVE (White Blue Red)" sculpture, develop your green thumb with like-minded horticulturists at Cheekwood Gardening School, enjoy Spring Afternoon Tea in Cafe 29, and celebrate the Hindu "Festival of Spring" Holi March 22.

An egg hunt during Easter Weekend, the pet-friendly Dogs & Dogwoods and Arbor Day celebration round out the full calendar of events.

Mule Day Columbia

Yes, Tennessee has a "Mule Capital" of the world and it's in Columbia. Mule Day is **April 3-6, 2025** and hosts dancing, music, food, competitions like log-loading and pony mule pulling, and parades of mules and their miniature counterparts. It's an adorable festival kids of all ages love to attend.

Trails & Trilliums Beersheba Springs

Celebrate Earth Day with Tennessee naturalists during Trails & Trilliums **April 4-6, 2025** for guided hikes, workshops and talks at Beersheba Springs Conference Center. Visit Stone Door, Savage Gulf, Greeter Falls and Collins Gulf to enjoy amazing overlooks, serene trails, wildflowers and waterfalls.

Family-friendly activities include fair house building, campfire cooking, hands-on wildlife seminars, nature hikes and pioneering. It's a great way to experience Tennessee's scenic beauty and learn more about natural preservation.

Hot Slaw and Art Y'all Cleveland

Hot Slaw was recently named as an official state food. Celebrate the delicious condiment you can put on hotdogs, hamburgers or eat as a side at the family-friendly food and art festival in Cleveland, Tennessee. The Hot Slaw and Art Y'all! festival takes place **April 5, 2025** with live music, artist exhibitors, pop-up street performances, food vendors, contests and, of course, hot slaw smothered on burgers, hot dogs and more.

Tennessee Tulip Festival Eagleville

The highly anticipated Tennessee Tulip Festival takes place **April 5-6, 2025** at Lucky Ladd Farms in Eagleville,

Tennessee, located about 40 miles south of Nashville.

Experience 1 million tulips showcasing over 100 different varieties at the largest pick-your-own tulip farm in the Southeastern United States.

Festival happenings include pick-your-own tulips, stunning photo opportunities, arts and crafts with a kid's market, live music, tulip photo contest, Dutch-themed food and treats, petting farm and zoo, nature trails and more. Advanced ticket purchase is highly recommended.

Flower & Food Festival at Dollywood Pigeon Forge

Dollywood is your springtime destination as the award-winning, family-friendly attraction introduces a new event, Flower & Food Festival **April 18 - June 8, 2025**. Marvel at the topiary structures, crafted by horticultural artists, reaching up to 14 feet. Take a selfie underneath Umbrella Sky, a tapestry of colorful umbrellas suspended over Showstreet.

Keep your calendar open for the in-the-kitchen demonstrations and special culinary events that highlight the fresh ingredients of spring.

World's Biggest Fish Fry Paris

Thousands of people flock to the small town of Paris **April 19-27, 2025** for the five tons of fried catfish that is served during the

all-you-can-eat feast each April. Stay an extra day to enjoy the World's Biggest Fish Fry's Grand Parade, pageants, catfish races, and arts and crafts.

Polk County Ramp Tramp Festival Reliance

Find out what a ramp is and how to use it in meals at this unique culinary festival dedicated to the ramp **April 25-26, 2025** at this 4-H Camp McCroy in Reliance, Tennessee. The Ramp Tramp Festival kicks off with bluegrass music and servings of white beans, cornbread and ramps. Saturday is a full day with a ramp meal featuring fried ramps in eggs, fried potatoes, streaked meat, white beans and cornbread. Music fills the air all day and local craftsmen have handmade items for sale. Buck dancing and clogging happen later on in the afternoon.



Dogwood Arts Festival Knoxville

The Dogwood Arts Festival is one of the most celebrated cultural events in Knoxville, offering over 100 fine art vendors, live music, children's activities, entertainment, community art activities and more. The celebration takes place **April 25-27, 2025** on the Performance Lawn in World's Fair Park.

Additional spring events leading up to the festival include the incredible, live art competition Chalk Walk **April 5, 2025**, hiking on the Chapman Highway Dogwood Trail and the Dogwood Trail Walk and Talk **April 10** at Knoxville Botanical Gardens.

Memphis in May International Festival Memphis

Memphis in May International Festival packs the month of May with unforgettable events. The World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest is **May 14-17, 2025** at Liberty Park, where barbecue teams from around the world compete for the title of World Champion and prize money. Thousands flock to watch and taste barbecue with a trip through BBQ Alley by Big Green Egg & Friends and more.

The Great American River Run **May 24, 2025** introduces an inaugural

10k run along with the half marathon and 5k routes. Take in Memphis as you run or watch runners compete along the banks of the Mississippi River and through downtown Memphis. Post-race fun includes music, food, and beverages.

West Tennessee Strawberry Festival Humboldt

Let your sweet tooth lead you to

downtown Humboldt for the annual West Tennessee Strawberry Festival, Tennessee's largest and longest-running festival since 1934 that takes place **May 4-10, 2025**.

An art extravaganza, fireworks, a contest for the best strawberry recipe, shortcake in the park, the Strawberry Market, live music and entertainment, parades and pageants make this festival a must-attend for any traveler.

Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival Portland

The annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival includes new offerings like magic show performances, live music and Robocars **May 9, 2025** in downtown Portland.

Be sure to catch the Strawberry Slam Wrestling Event, story hour, pancake breakfast, more than 150 food, craft and information vendors, live music, strawberry farmers and much more. Stay for the strawberry festival parade and fireworks that cap off the festival.

Iroquois Steeplechase Nashville

More than 25,000 spectators come to the beautiful Percy Warner Park in Nashville for the time-honored tradition of Iroquois Steeplechase **May 10, 2025**. Southern fashions,

incredible food and thrilling horse races make this a crowd-pleasing event. Tailgating, furnished tents and family areas are available for guests to make the day a truly enjoyable experience.

Southern Skies Music Festival Knoxville

The Southern Skies Music & Whiskey Festival returns to Knoxville's World's Fair Park **May 10, 2025**. The celebration of music and community features performances from Americana legends Old Crow Medicine Show as well as The Dirty Guv'nahs, Charley Crockett, Willow Avalon, Devon Gilfillian, Southern Avenue, and Cruz Contreras & The Black Lillies.

And, in collaboration with the Tennessee Distillers Guild, some of the top distilleries in Tennessee will offer a wide variety of whiskey and other unique, handcrafted spirits, bottles for sale and educational opportunities on the art of distilling, barrel aging and distilling history.

Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival Wartburg

Celebrate the gorgeous mountain laurel blooms in Wartburg during the Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival with hikes along several trails as well as fun activities and events including live music, beer tastings, car show, children's games, craft demonstrations and so much more.

The 2025 festival takes place on Courthouse Square on **May 17**.

Memphis Italian Festival Memphis

The garlic, breads, pastas, and cheeses will lead your cravings for good food to the Memphis Italian Festival **May 29-31, 2025**. Enjoy dinner in the air conditioned Luigi's Cafe while overlooking Marquette Park. Live music, cooking demonstrations, a slew of food vendors and arts and crafts will also be featured.

Kids and kids at heart will love Luigi Land, a collection of carnival games like Plinko, Roller Bowler, Balloon Pop and more along with mini carnival rides, mechanical bull and others. Smaller children can enjoy the inflatable bounce houses.



STATE & BEALE

State & Beale
Issue 3 • Spring 2025

Next Issue
June 20, 2025

Special thanks:

Tennessee Department of Tourism Development, Roaring River Distillery,
American Eagle Foundation, Lang Whitaker, Jim Shupe, Grand Ole Opry