

AUGUST 2021  
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LIFE AT  
**Center Hill Lake**  
& The Upper Cumberland Region

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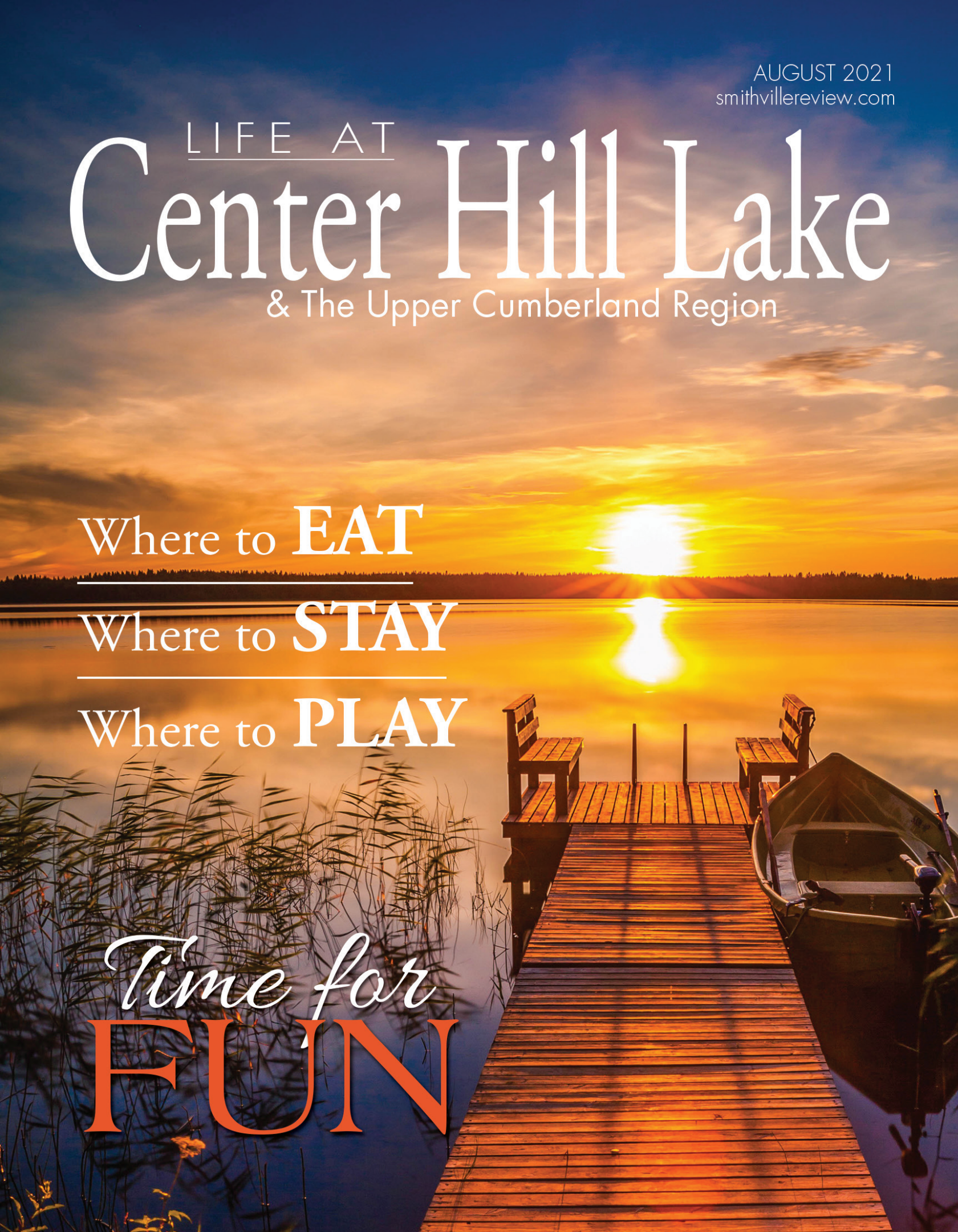
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LIFE AT  
**Center Hill Lake**  
& The Upper Cumberland Region

# The Vintage Owl

## Offering More than Just Gifts

BY CHRIS TRAMEL

**A**re you looking for that perfect gift for a special occasion? Maybe you have an event coming up and have no idea how to go about setting it up. Well, there's a small shop just off the Square in Smithville that can help. The Vintage Owl Antiques and Gift Boutique has something for everyone.

The owner of the boutique, Chase Collins, said he had always wanted to open up a shop, and after some searching he found Smithville. Originally from Elmwood, Tennessee, told the Smithville Review that he had been looking for a storefront somewhere around the McMinnville area.

"I have a friend who lives in McMinnville, and then I found Smithville," Collins said. "I've always wanted an antique shop, I've done craft shows my whole life, and antique shows. It was time to set up my store front, and I found it right here on the Square in DeKalb County."

Collins said that his small boutique offers a variety of items that can suit various events. "We offer antiques and gift items," Collins said. "We also deliver to the funeral homes, we do weddings, and even wedding planning. Our selections offer gifts for nearly every occasion, weddings, birthdays, and even offer furniture for everyday use in the home as well."

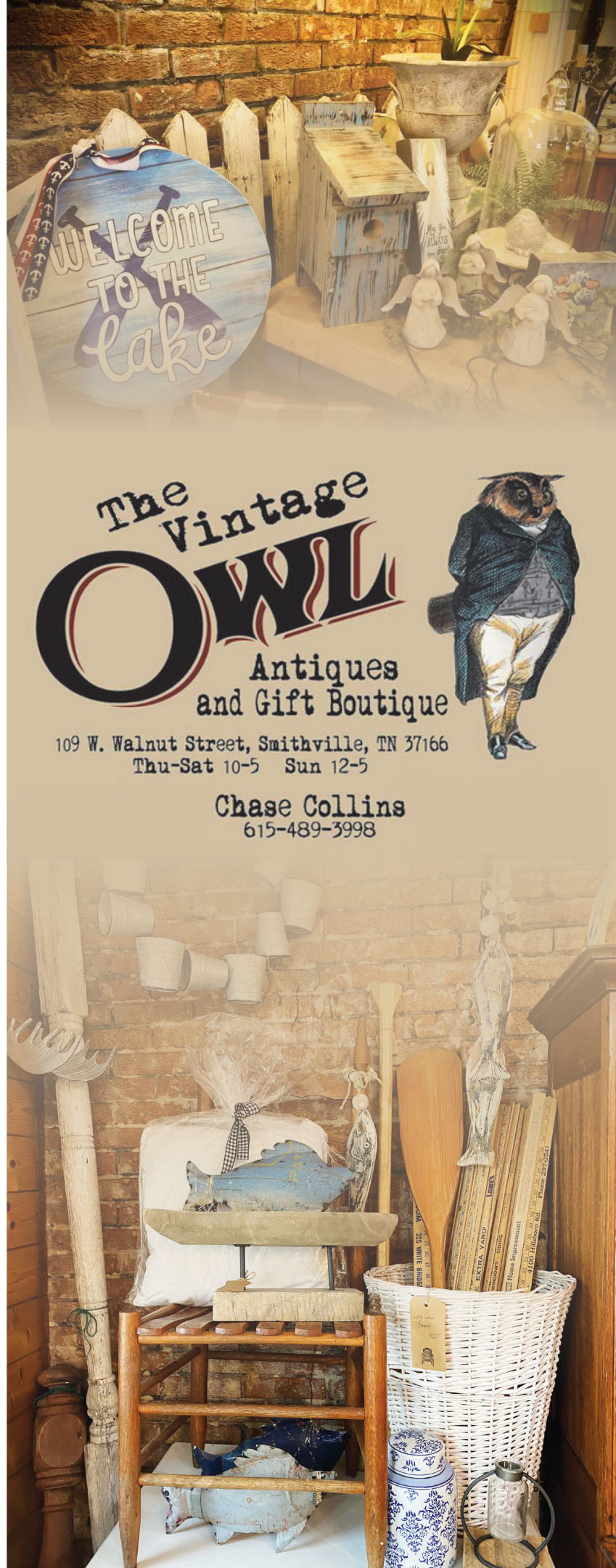
But the boutique offers more than just gifts. Collins said that the boutique also offers event planning as well. "As for weddings, we can plan the event, create the flower arrangements, we do it all," he explained. "We can plan out the event, set up catering, and everything."

The Vintage Owl can even help you at home with their decorating services. "We do staging for homes," Collins added. "If someone wants their house redecorated, we do that as well. Give us some ideas of what you want your living room to look like and we can make it happen."

Along with flowers and antiques, the shop also features a variety of unique gift items, including jewelry, soaps, lotions, jams and jellies, and other crafts. You can visit them, Thursday thru Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., or on Sunday from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. They are located at 109 West Walnut Street, Smithville, TN, 37166 and you can contact them at 615-489-3998.



*Chase Collins*  
Owner of the Vintage Owl



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# a LABOR of LOVE

## FALCON REST MANSION

BY CHRIS TRAMEL

**T**he bond between a man and his wife is special. Marriage takes trust, understanding, and even sometimes leaps of faith. There is more than just love involved. There is conviction and devotion to one another that compares to no other relationship.

But it is those leaps of faith that is the true story of one grand southern home in Tennessee. Not once, but twice in the history of the mansion has a wife's faith in her husband resulted in one of the finest homes in the state.

The story of Falcon Rest Mansion and Gardens really has two beginnings. First, the story of the home's development and construction, and later its rebirth to its former glory. For over 120 years the home has been part of Warren County history in more ways than one.

For George and Charlien McGlothlin, the house has been a labor of love. The couple have worked together, not only restoring the home, but also furnishing the mansion with period furnishings.

"It was built in 1896 by Clay Faulkner, who was the richest man in this region," George explained. "He promised his wife, Mary, that if she would move two and a half miles from downtown McMinnville, near Faulkner Springs which is named after him, he would build her the grandest mansion in Tennessee. She, like any other woman, said 'If you build it, I'll move.'

And so the history of Falcon Rest was born. Mr. McGlothlin said that Faulkner wanted to move so he could be closer to his Mountain City Woolen Mill, which was catty-cornered across from the mansion property. "They made Gorilla Pants, which were supposedly so strong a gorilla couldn't pull them apart. They were work pants that were made out of wool. One year later, in 1897, they moved into this 10,000 square foot mansion called Falcon Rest."

Faulkner was a busy man, with several business ventures in the area. "He had a couple of mills," George said. "He had the one across the road, that made the Gorilla Pants, and he had one at Rock Island, which is about 15 minutes from us, the Great Falls Cotton Mill. Whichever way the economy went, he won. He made all the linens during the Spanish American War in the mill at Rock Island."

When Faulkner supervised the construction of the mansion, he went all out. The Victorian mansion featured tasteful elegance and top-notch materials. "The mansion features 20 plus rooms, including six bedrooms, library, parlor, and dining room," Charlien explained. "It's pretty much what you would see at any mansion like Belle Meade."

Curved windows, gingerbread veranda, brickwork detailing, and attic vents gave the house character, while brass door hardware, marble surrounds on the fireplaces, and intricately carved woodwork, showcased the interior.

The home was also ahead of its time in many ways. Elaborate waterworks piped in from a spring provided refrigeration for perishables, fresh water for cooking and bathing, and cooled the home. The house was also lit with electric lights, something surrounding homes didn't see until 30 years later. The house was also warmed by a central steam heating system during winter months.

The house was a prime example of Southern elegance for many years, until Clay Faulkner died in 1916. Just three years later, his wife would sell the home and move to Nashville, taking up residence next door to the governor.

It would be a few years later before Falcon Rest would begin its second important phase in history. "In the 1940s, the mansion was converted into a nursing home, and by the 1950s it was one of the first full-scale hospitals in the county, Charlien said. "They had added on to it, and made a mess of the building, but it was a great hospital that didn't close until 1968."

After that, the future of the building was uncertain. "It sat here for 15 years with nothing being done to it," George said "Some wanted to tear it down, but they couldn't because the walls are solid brick. The hospital had took out the staircase, the mantles, and a lot of the woodwork, but once they realized they couldn't tear it down, they just left stuff."

It was then that the second leap of faith story came into being. "I bought this house in 1989 without my wife ever having seen it," George said with a grin. "I tell men, 'Don't ever do what I did.' We lived in Fayetteville, Tennessee, about 80 miles away. I brought my wife here on Easter Sunday, took her to the worst part and said, 'Well honey, what do you think?' She pointed to the house and said, 'You put a mortgage on my house for this?' Immediately I knew I was in trouble. We went to church, and she repented, and the rest is history."

"That's not true," Charlien said laughingly. "I decided to forgive him." "We've been doing this 33 years, and we're still restoring," George said. "When we got here, we did 95 percent of the restoration ourselves. In 1997, we won the Great American Home Award, given by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We were also featured in Bob Vila's American Home Magazine under Best Restorations in America. The Vila





George and Charlien pose on the restored grand staircase featured in the home.

people that came said they had never seen a place this large, this bad of shape, ever brought back to look this nice.”

The McGlothins had reinstalled the staircase, and most of the woodwork was restored, but the furnishings from the Faulkner’s days had long been gone. So, George and Charlien also worked diligently to find period accurate furniture to feature throughout the home. “We had an art professor at Vanderbilt that called it a work of art,” George said. “He said it was like Faulkner never left and everything is sitting right where he had left it.”

Today, Falcon Rest is a tour mansion, where they have escorted guest tours of the mansion and the grounds. There are guest rooms on the grounds, but the bed and breakfast and the mansion are separate. “We do individual tours, and we also do group tours,” George said. “We have church groups, school groups, and all kinds of groups coming here, and we do entertainment shows for them.”

“We also have a tea room, where we can serve individuals lunch,” Mrs. McGlothins added. “If someone wants to come eat here, we have several menu items to choose from. If they want a formal tea, we need 24-hour reservations for that.”

The facility also has a 1,200 square foot gift shop where you’ll find various unique gift items, and the mansion is available for special events, business retreats, weddings, and parties, along with offering food services.

“We take care of everything,” Mrs. McGlothins said. “You know, it’s about people. History is about people. That’s what we talk about when people come to the mansion, the interesting stories about the people connected with the mansion. We have fun with the history.”

For more information about Falcon Rest Mansion and Gardens visit their website at [falconrest.com](http://falconrest.com) or give them a call at 931-668-4444. Their address is 2645 Faulkner Springs Rd., McMinnville, TN, 37110, with their GPS Address at 85 Bluff Springs Road, McMinnville, TN, 37110.



*Clay Faulkner*



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## **Sonrise Diner**

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615-215-3463

## **White Possum Grille**

1060 W Broad St  
Smithville, TN 37166  
615-597-9009

## **Patty's Restaurant**

715 W Broad St  
Smithville, TN 37166  
615-318-1158

## **Cloverleaf Restaurant**

10905 Nashville Hwy  
Liberty, TN 37095  
615-536-5534

## **Twisted Oaks**

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Dowelltown, TN 37059  
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## **McDonald's**

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## **Bumpers Drive-In**

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## **Los Lobos Mexican Restaurant**

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## **Disco Tienda Latina**

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### **Timber Ridge Inn**

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### **Eastside Inn**

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# PLAY

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# MARINAS

## CENTER HILL MARINA

Center Hill Marina features over 600 rental slips, a fully stocked Ship Store, cabin rental, pontoon rental and a floating eatery The Copper Top Restaurant.

The Ship Store offers a full range from groceries to snack, cold drinks, beer, ice, boating supplies, marine parts, bait, tackle, resort apparel, sunglasses, souvenirs and many other essentials for your boating experience. It also offer non-ethanol fuel in 87 and 93 octane, as well as oil and propane exchanges.

After spending a full day out on the water, end the evening with a delicious meal at Copper Top Restaurant. It is open mid-May thru Labor Day and offers a wide variety of delicious foods.

Center Hill Marina is located at 450 Cove Hollow Circle, Lancaster. Visit their website at [www.ctrhill@dtccom.net](http://www.ctrhill@dtccom.net)



## COOKEVILLE BOAT DOCK

Cookeville Boat Dock is located at 13800 Cookeville Boat Dock Rd., Baxter, TN and is a family friendly marina. They offer yearly dockage, boat and gear rental, a pro shop, mechanical services along with a floating restaurant. This marina has been family owned and operated for over 50 years.

They offer pontoon and fishing boats, kayaks and stand up paddleboats. The store is stocked with everything from cold drink to wake boards.

Drive down or boat up and enjoy a meal with a beautiful view from the floating Lighthouse Restaurant,

The menu includes something for every taste- catfish, burgers, homemade pie, ice cold sweet tea, and fresh salads, just to name a few.



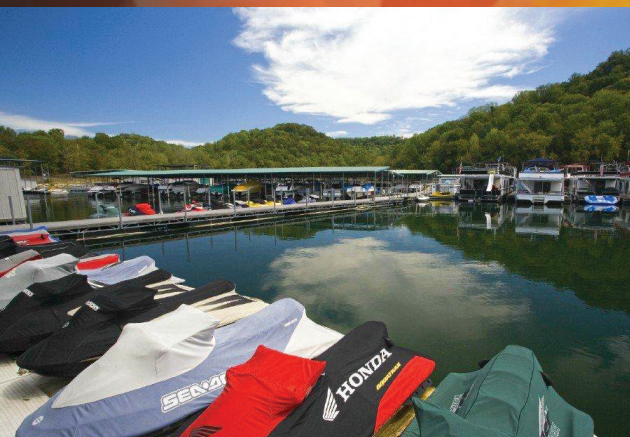
## EDGAR EVINS MARINA

Edgar Evins Marina is located inside Edgar Evins State Park, on one of Tennessee's cleanest and most beautiful lakes. You will discover the marina is family oriented, eco-friendly – a full service marina offering over 350 private slip rentals, security staff and coded entry gate, free wi-fi, plumbed in pump-out system throughout for boats withholding tanks, a full rental fleet including luxury houseboats, ski boats, pontoon, bass and fishing boats and jet skis.

The marina has its own gas island and a Ship's Store featuring grocery items, fishing license and tackle, boat supplies, live bait, film, apparel, refreshments, snacks and more.

The Galley, one of the finest restaurants on the water, features gourmet cuisine with indoor/outdoor dining.

Edgar Evins State Park is located at 1630 Edgar Evins Park Road, Silver Point, TN 38582





# HIDDEN HARBOR

Hidden Harbor Marina knows that boating is central to enjoying your vacation, provides an assortment of pontoon boat rentals, fishing boat rentals and houseboat rentals, so you can have several options! All boats are well-maintained and designed for your fun and enjoyment. Whether you are looking for a houseboat, pontoon, deck or fishing boat, you can find it right here.

After spending a fun day on the lake, pitch your tents at one of the camp sites or stay in one of the cozy cabins. Cabins are comfortable and welcoming home-away-from-home where your family and friends can grill out, relax and enjoy the surrounding beauty near the lake. We offer two different sizes of cabins for our guests to choose from. Each of these cabin rentals in Tennessee include a bathroom with shower, kitchenette with refrigerator, electric stove and oven, microwave oven, and cooking utensils for your convenience. Each cabin also has a front porch with charcoal BBQ, picnic table and rocking chairs so that you can enjoy the beautiful weather at Hidden Harbor Marina. With so many amenities, there isn't much for you to do except relax and enjoy your stay.

The Ship's Store at Hidden Harbor Marina carries all the supplies you might need including grocery items, cold drinks, souvenirs, fuel, fishing supplies and more. A short order grill is also located at the store.

Hidden Harbor Marina is located at 2685 Casey Cove Road, Smithville. Visit their web site at [www.hiddenharbortn.com](http://www.hiddenharbortn.com)

# HURRICANE MARINA

Hurricane Marina is located off Highway 56 North at 864 Floating Mill Road, Silver Point and offers 600 boat slips, boats and houseboat rentals.

Center Hill Lake's oldest marina has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility in one of the lake's only natural harbors. From their 24-hour fuel stations that accept all major credit cards to the new Blue Water Grille restaurant, every inch of our marina was designed with the boat owner's convenience in mind.

The Ship Store has everything you need to host a party or outfit your boat on Center Hill Lake, and the golf cart valet service will take you directly from the parking lot to the pier. To ensure that you have the safest boating experience, Hurricane Marina has also installed an extra-wide main pier that won't buckle or warp over time and increased the lighting in parking areas and along all docks. A security gate and cameras throughout the marina and parking lot for your safety.

If you are hungry after a day on the lake check out the The Blue Water Grill. The restaurant was voted Best Restaurant on the Water" by Nashville Lifestyles Magazine. Menu items include appetizers, sandwiches, pizza, salads, steak, chicken, grouper and lobster. Visit them at [hurricane@suntexmarinas.com](mailto:hurricane@suntexmarinas.com)



# PATES FORD MARINA

Pates Ford Marina, located at the southern end of Center Hill Lake at 6323 Jefferson Road in Smithville, not only features pontoon boat rentals, boat slips, cabin rentals and FishLipz Grill, it plays host to numerous events including one of the largest on the lake, WakeFest.

The Annual In-Water Boat Show, scheduled to be held May 30-31, will feature houseboats, wake boats, pontoons, fishing boats, personal watercraft and more – all on the water and ready to drive. A new Sea-Doo Spark will be given away on Sunday after the show.

TNT Watersport's WakeFest is a community outreach event designed to promote the sport of wakeboarding. Started in 2005 on Old Hickory Lake, WakeFest has ever growing popularity not only locally but in the southeast. With divisions starting as young children and up to professional, all ages and skill levels are celebrated in this grassroots tournament.

In 2012, Wakefest re-located to Pates Ford Marina at Center Hill Lake in order to expand and attract an even larger group of riders and spectators. The re-location was a success with over 75 riders and 2,000 spectators making it one of the largest grassroots tournaments in the Southeast.

This year's Wakefest again will award thousands of dollars in prizes. For more information and registration details visit the marinas site at [www.patesfordmarina.com](http://www.patesfordmarina.com)



# SLIGO MARINA

Sligo Marina offers pontoon boat rentals, boat slip rentals, Ship's Store, cabin rentals, gas island, and the Wheel House Restaurant.

Pontoon boats are available for half-day and full-day rental. Double deck pontoon boats include a slide and have a 14 person limit. If you are looking for a place to store your boat at Center Hill Lake Sligo Marina has multiple options available. Slips available include covered and uncovered and can accommodate boat sizes ranging from Jet Ski's to large pontoon boats. The marina has a launch ramp and nightly tie-ups are available. Electricity and water are available.

A rental cabin is a great way to spend the weekend at Center Hill Lake. The rustic rental cabins sleep six and include three full beds, two baths, kitchenette, and screened porch. The cabins overlook the lake and include a boat slip.

The Sligo Ship's Store carries most common items needed for a day on the lake. There is also a gas island for boat refueling. If you are hungry after a day on the water stop by the Wheelhouse Restaurant for a great meal.



# FISH

## WHO DOESN'T LOVE TO FISH?

It's just one of the many favorite pastimes at Center Hill Lake. Whether fishing from the shore or a boat, enjoying casting for the big one year round. Fish species found in the lake include Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, White Bass, Spotted Bass, Rock Bass, Striped Bass, Walleye, Sunfish, Catfish, Crappie, Paddle Fish and Bluegill.

<u>FISH SPECIES</u>	<u>SIZE LIMIT</u>	<u>DAILY LIMIT</u>
Striped Bass	15 inches	No Limit
Large Mouth Bass	15 inches	5*
Small Mouth Bass	18 inches	5*
Spotted Bass	No Limit	5*
Rock Bass	No Limit	20
White Bass	15 inches	No Limit
Walleye	16 inches	5
Sunfish	No Limit	20
Crappie	10 inches	15
Paddlefish	Off Limits	Center Hill Lake is closed to taking or possessing paddlefish.
Catfish	No Limit	No Limit NOTE: Fishermen may only keep one catfish longer than 34 inches per day.

Tennessee State Fishing License to fish on Center Hill Lake is required anyone 13 years and older.

[WWW.TNWILDLIFE.ORG](http://WWW.TNWILDLIFE.ORG)  
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# ROLLING HISTORY



There's something magical about trains. Almost from the time children learn to walk and talk, they become fascinated with chugging locomotives, freight and passenger cars, and that little red caboose. For many, they never outgrow their love of the tracks, and the steam and diesel behemoths that power their way across the country. For some in Middle Tennessee, that love of the toys of our youths has led rolling history on some very real tracks.

The Tennessee Central Railway Museum has been running excursion trains for over 30 years, along historic tracks from Nashville to the Upper Cumberland. While the museum runs some very real engines along the tracks, the idea for the museum started with a love for model trains.

"We started out as a model railroad group," Randal Brooks with the TCRM said. "We would set up model railroads at different locations around the city ... shopping malls, the State Fair, the Adventure Science Center, and places like that. That was before we got the building. We probably had 75 to 100 people involved that were primarily interested in HO model railroads."

"Around 1989, that's when we were able to get this building and we started doing excursions," Brooks continued. "This building was called the Master Mechanic's Building for the Tennessee Central Railway, and is the only original building left from that railroad."

The Tennessee Central Railway was founded in 1884 as the Nashville and Knoxville Railroad by Alexander S. Crawford. Over the next few years, tracks were laid and lines connected, which were eventually reorganized and renamed to the Tennessee Central Railroad in 1902. By 1922, the name had changed to the Tennessee Central Railway. Through its history, it would eventually extend its lines from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, all the way east to Harriman, Tennessee.

The railroad would run freight and passenger service along its lines for many years, with communities like Brush Creek, Sykes, and Watertown having stops along the lines. A person would be able to board the day train in Brush Creek and travel to Nashville, then take the night train to

return home.

The railroad went bankrupt in 1968, and much of the Nashville beltline of tracks were sold to the state to build I-440. Lines west of Nashville were sold to Illinois Central Railroad, while the eastern end of the line, from Harriman to just west of Crossville went to the Southern Railway. The remaining portion of the line, used today by the museum from Crossville to Nashville, was sold to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad.

"Our sign that we have outside, used to be located at the end of Broadway (Nashville) on 1st Avenue where Riverfront Park is now located," Brooks explained. "Back then, there were tracks that went down 1st Avenue, and all that down there was railroad tracks. In the early years, the area was where riverboats would land and cargo would be loaded and unloaded onto trains for transport to other areas."

Today, the museum has grown and host a variety of events. "We run excursions on selected Saturdays," Brooks said. "We usually go from Nashville to Watertown, and Watertown usually has some sort of event going on. It could be their Bluegrass Music Festival, it could be a wine tasting, their Easter egg hunt, and even their yard sale that they have twice a year. We usually leave around 9:00 or 10:00 in the morning, it takes us about two and a half hours to get to Watertown, people get off the train and eat or shop, they stay for two and a half hours, then they board and we head back to Nashville. We also have murder mystery trips, train robbery trips, and North Pole trips in November and December."

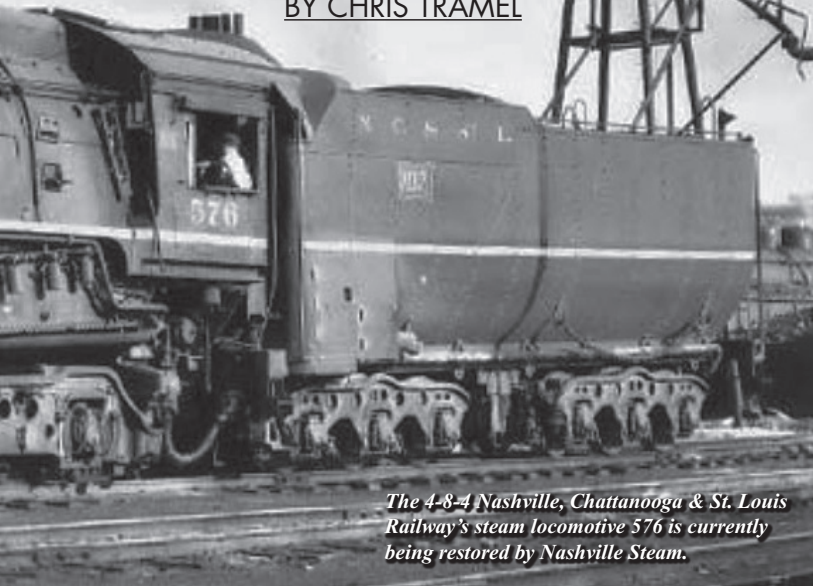
Over the years Watertown has embraced the excursion trains and even has some future developments involving the railway, with plans to install a turntable at the depot.

"Our cars were all built during the 1950s," Brooks said. "They came off of different railroads. Some from the Santa Fe Railroad, some from the Pennsylvania Railroad, others from the Northern Pacific Railroad. Our engines were built in the 1950s also."

The museum is also helping with the restoration of a familiar part of Nashville's history. The Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway's

# The Tennessee Railway Museum

BY CHRIS TRAMEL



*The 4-8-4 Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway's steam locomotive 576 is currently being restored by Nashville Steam.*

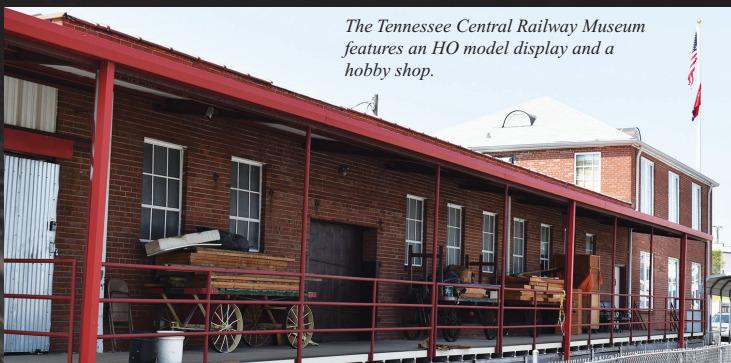
4-8-4 locomotive, 576.

"576 was donated to the City of Nashville during the 1950s and put on display in Centennial Park, where it sat for many years," Brooks said. "About three years ago, a group of people called the Nashville Steam Preservation Society made a deal with the city to take the engine and have it restored."

The engine was placed on a special lowboy trailer and moved from the park, eventually ending up at the Tennessee Central's facility, where Nashville Steam is currently working on the restoration. The old engine is being totally disassembled, with special parts being sent off to different locations across the country during its restoration. Once it is back operational, Brooks says the museum hopes it will be a part of their excursions. Donations towards the restoration can be made at [www.nashvillesteam.org](http://www.nashvillesteam.org).

Brooks said that the museum facility in Nashville offers a display of their model railroads, as well as a hobby shop, though part of the building is still under repair from damage during last year's tornadoes that struck Nashville. With the damage, Brooks said that the non-profit museum welcomes donations to help with repairs and operations.

You can go online at [www.tcr.org](http://www.tcr.org) to buy tickets and check the schedule of events. Ticket prices vary depending on the event and where the train is going. The Tennessee Central Railway Museum is located at 220 Willow Street, Nashville, TN 37210-2159, phone 615-244-9001. The ticket office is available at 615-241-0436.



*The Tennessee Central Railway Museum features an HO model display and a hobby shop.*

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