

# RIVER TO RIVER TRAIL GUIDE

ACROSS SOUTHERN ILLINOIS



from  
**ELIZABETHTOWN**  
on the Ohio River to **GRAND TOWER**  
on the Mississippi River

A GUIDE FOR  
HIKERS, BACKPACKERS  
& EQUESTRIANS

Fourth Edition

Garden of the Gods



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to  
Grand Tower on the Mississippi River

The previous edition of this book was partially funded by the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and the Recreational Trails Program of IDNR and personal loans by the editor and author.

This edition Trail descriptions and history written by John O'Dell

Encouragement and help by the following Society Board Members :

Eric Johnson, Gillum Ferguson, C. Mart Watson,  
Anne Gaylord, Don Monty (Lots of work and marking) Judy Lewis,  
Earnestine Brasher, Joe Hicks and Doug Champion

And all others who have hiked with me on this Trail  
Trailmates all

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## Disclaimer

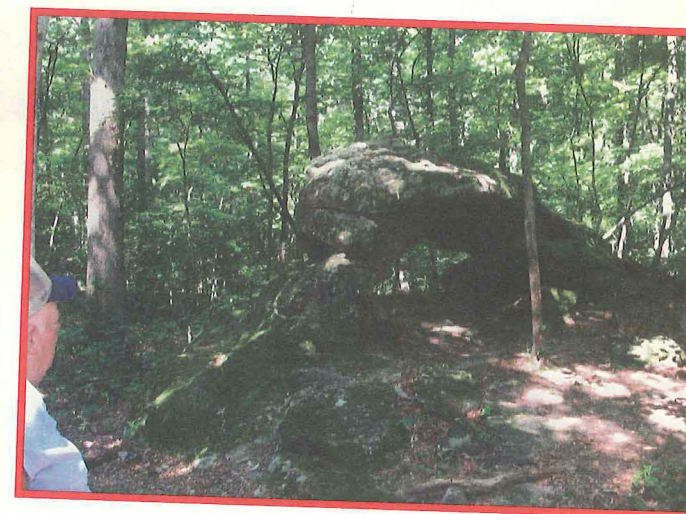
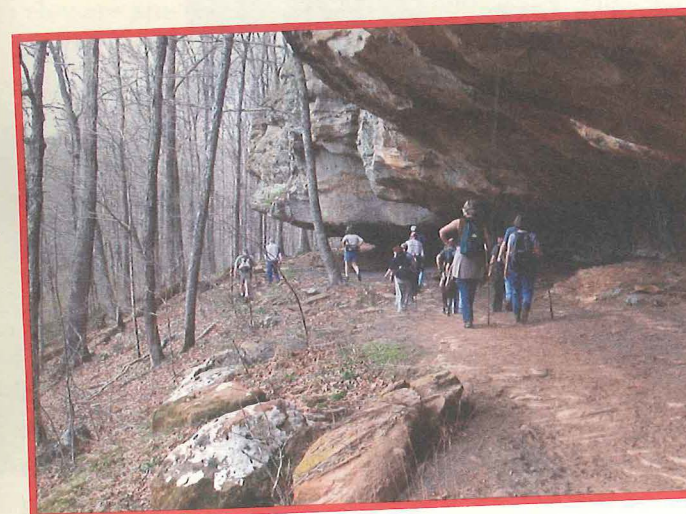
The River to River Trail Described herein is our recommendation on hiking from the Ohio River to the Mississippi River. The Forest Service has allowed us to use their GPS plotting of the trail and forms the basis of this book, which will be most of the trail.

It must be recognized by all who undertake to hike, ride, and explore in the outdoors that this is an imperfect and unpredictable universe. We cannot give warning of all the possible dangers, so one should prepare as much as possible in whatever you do. Those who enter, just as those who hunt, swim, rock climb, assume the risk of their behavior.

We have done our best to give the best representation possible for the clearest understanding of this

trail. The trail has been placed on the topographic maps as accurately as possible, however, over time the trail may change for a variety of reasons. Trail maintenance, improvement, or relocation, may make this guide inaccurate in places. It is recommended that you contact the River-to-River Trail Society for up-to-date trail conditions before your trip. Your comments related to this guidebook are very much appreciated for our use in improving future issues.

We wish you God speed and fulfillment.  
The River-to-River Trail Society



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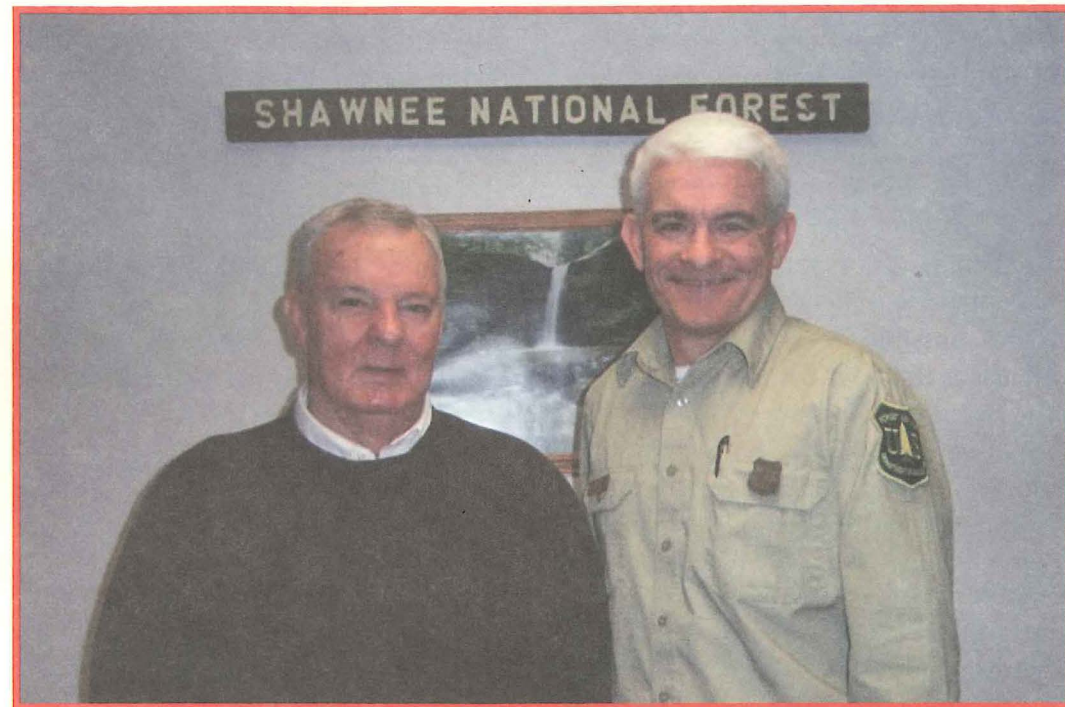
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The River-to-River Trail Society assumes no responsibility  
Or liability for accidents or injuries by people using this book  
to explore the trails described.

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## Help from the Forest Service



John O'Dell and Allen Nicholas (Shawnee Forestry Supervisor)

During the course of our association, the Society and others have had an enormous amount of conflict with the Forest Service. This continued through a succession of Supervisors and looked as though it would still go on, but I noticed that when we (and other groups) left a meeting with Allen Nicholas and when we had reasons to call, Allen was attainable and cooperative. I had a major incident with the Forest Service and not long afterward needed to ask if I could have a copy of the trail on a disk for this revision. This was critical, because it is really hard to find someone who knows enough about the mapping software to do it correctly. Allen had Chris Twadowski and Jeremy Vaughn who were doing

maps for the Trails Designation process. We also had a need to change the first trailhead from Battery Rock to Elizabethtown and go thru the trail designation process to make it legal. This was time consuming and expensive for them and in a wonderful gesture of good will approved both projects. The outcome is this trailguide using a new format. We thank the Forest Service, Chris, Jeremy, and Allen Nicholas specifically for these acts of friendship and help to the River to River Trail in our steps to becoming a National Trail.

John O'Dell

## Dedication

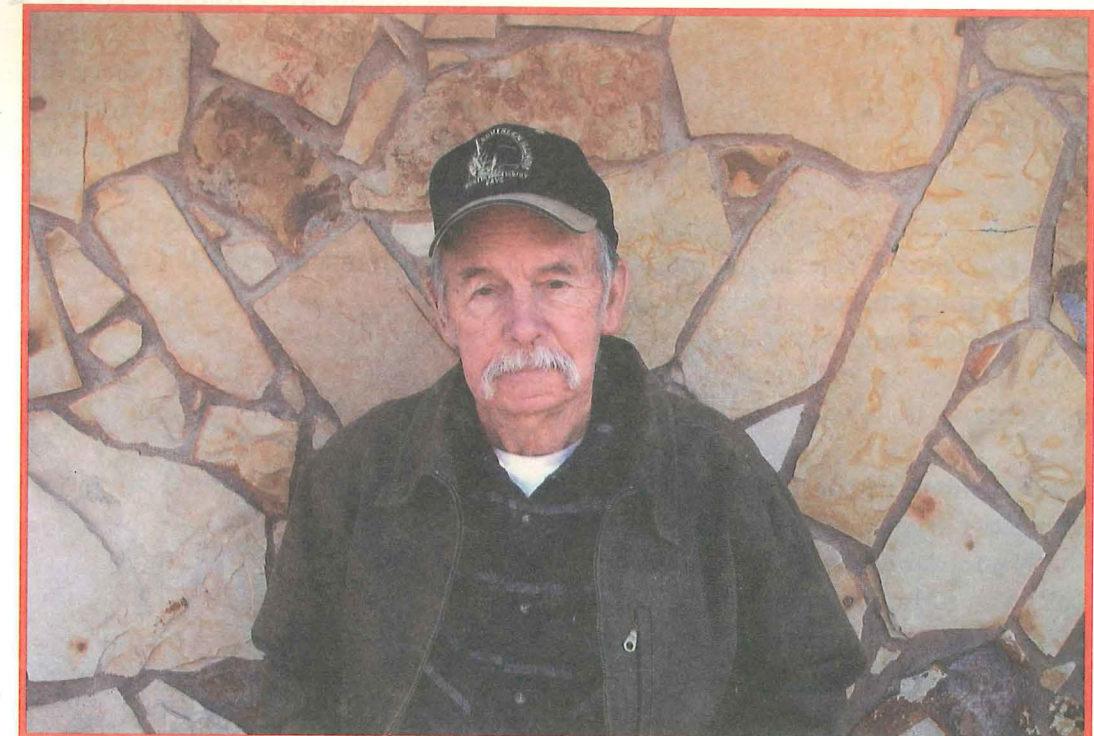
For those who will be seeing Southern Illinois for the first time, there are many surprises. Beautiful scenic overlooks, complex and vast wilderness, opportunities, space, landmark historical settings, a homeland to the rest of the state, all add up to a special quality and could be summarized by saying this is a unique and special place. This perspective is not the interpretation of this generation but has been regarded with the same feeling as previous generations, some of which have left their names upon the land, such as Williams Hill, L.O. Trigg, or Jackson Hollow.

It seems that once a person learns of how wonderful this place truly is, then a deep love develops. Many of those who have loved Southern Illinois have made a great effort to develop the potential that the region has to offer. O.L. Trigg, Delyte Morris, Waymon Presley are among the many. This guide book is, there-

fore, dedicated to all those who have made the effort, those families who form the history of the region, and the people who love and who will love Southern Illinois. Day hiker, backpacker or horseback rider, we have all been blessed with a wonderful gift.

Darrel Livesay has been such a wonderful help for the development of this trail and is remembered here for his care of the section from Goddard Crossing to Panthers Den and the Wildlife Refuge. Darrell was always humble, meek and hardworking. The trail we follow through Dutchman Lake, Goddard Crossing, is the one we use today. This edition of the trailguide is dedicated to Darrell Liveway with our thanks for a job well done. Thanks much Darrell.

John O'Dell



Darrell Livesay

## THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

### An Overview

The American Discovery Trail is more than 6,000 miles of trail that extends coast to coast from Point Reyes National Seashore in California to Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware. It connects six national scenic trails, ten national historic trails, 23 national recreational trails and hundreds of local and regional trails. It connects fourteen national parks and sixteen national forests. The ADT crosses California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Washington D.C., and Delaware.)

There are two American Discovery Trails in Illinois. The southern route extends from St. Louis to New Haven, Illinois, a total of approximately 300 miles. The northern route enters Illinois at Moline and continues to Dwyer.

The southern route passes through some of the most scenic areas in the country with a combination of plains, rocky wilderness with canopy, and wetland bayou. The Shawnee National Forest covers most of the east/west portion of this trail which also contains the Lusk Creek Canyon National Scenic Area and several wilderness areas such as Garden of the Gods Wilderness, Clear Springs Wilderness and Panther Den Wilderness. The trail also passes through Giant City and Ferne Clyffe state parks and Devil's Backbone Park. Although regarded as a rugged trail, this trail passes through country that has species of plants and animals native to north and south, and east and west, in the woodlands and wetlands, and then in the next mile be high enough for a wonderful vista.

When the trail enters Illinois via the Eads Bridge from St. Louis, it intersects the levee off the pier walkway down to ground level. Immediately, the trail passes the riverboat casino and continues on through to the levee. The first town is Sauget (pronounced saw-jay) followed by Cahokia, the oldest town in Illinois established in 1699. Levee walking is often paralleled by blacktop roads that run alongside bluffs of the Mississippi River, that were formerly buffalo trails.

Incidentally, these levees were designed and laid out by Robert E. Lee and some by Ulysses S. Grant as far back as 1850. Stops in Cahokia are worthwhile because of the French Provincial Church and Courthouse that has been reconstructed showing the perpendicular and elegant log construction favored by the French, rather than horizontal log building of the English. Further down the levee, there will be Fort de Chartres near the town of Prairie du Rocher. Historically, this was a very strategic location for a fort and so the French decided to invest in three towns in the New World; i.e. Montreal, New Orleans, and Chartres. They spent \$3,500,000 in 1750 to build a stone fort while other forts were all made of wood, including Montreal. The whims of politics diminished its importance and some of its walls were used for construction of the Eads Bridge.

The ADT continues along the levee to Devil's Backbone Park in Grand Tower where it picks up the River-to-River Trail. The trail is well marked with wooden diamonds and blue "i" eastward to Route 1 through the Shawnee National Forest.

At Route 1, which is about seven miles north of Cave-in-Rock, the ADT goes north along the road until it intersects with Route 141, north of Omaha, and turns east to New Haven where it exits into Indiana. Daniel Boone's older brother ran a mill in New Haven in about 1790.

## THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

### Step-by-Step

The American Discovery Trail enters Illinois using Indiana 62. After crossing the Wabash River the road becomes Illinois 141. Toll bridge is \$.50. Enter White County/Gallatin County.

Continue west on 141

Cross Little Wabash pass New Haven Turn off 5.0

Daniel Boone's Brother ran a Mill and a Blockhouse here

1.3 IL 141 and Shawneetown-New Haven Road Turn left 6.3

6.5 Shawneetown Road to Big Hill Road 12.8

11.0 Big Hill Road to Shawneetown and Old Shawneetown (Gallatin) 23.8

.2 Junction Gallatin and Locust turn right 24.0

.1 Cross Highway 13 24.1

1.0 To Market Street 25.1

1.0 Market becomes El Sasser Road follow to Ring Gold 26.1

1.5 Ring Gold becomes Peabody Road 27.6

6.5 Peabody Road to Route 1 (turn left) 34.1

1.0 Route 1 to Pounds Hollow Road 35.1

5.4 Pounds Hollow Road turns into Karbers Ridge to River-to-River T. 40.5

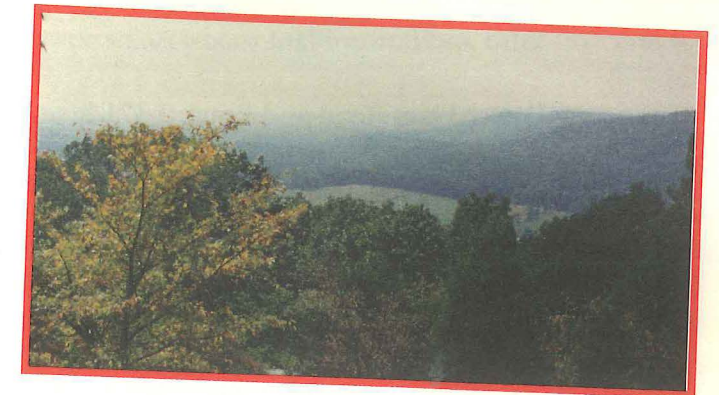
.2 Turn right going north Sparks Hill Road 40.7\*

\*Use River-to-River Trailguide from here to Devil's' Backbone Park at Grand Tower for 126.75 miles from this point.

Devil's Back Bone Park 167.45

.2 Brunkhorse St. go north 167.65

.25 Brunkhorse and 20th turn right 168.90



.3 20th and third Avenue turn left 169.2  
1.0 junction third and Power Plant road 170.2

1.3 Junction Power Plant Road and Route 3 171.5

4.5 IL 3 and Groham Road Turn left 176.0

1.5 Gorham (62940) 177.5

4.0 Gorham Main Street becomes Neunert Road turns left 181.5  
Neunert Road. After 2 miles turn left onto Levee road

11.1 Stay on Levee to Cora 192.6

1.2 Junction with IL 3 193.8

2.0 Rockwood (62280) 195.8

5.8 Rockwood to Chester at Water Street (Walk on west side of road) 201.6

3.5 Take Water Street Straight through and pass Menard Prison on right 205.1 Mississippi River on left. Popeye Statue at the Bridge exit(Branch St.)

5.8 Chester to Fort Kaskaskia (Camping Historic Area) 210.9

4.1 Fort Kaskaskia to Ellis Grove Turn left at Post Office (Grove Cafe 215.0

.25 is a real treat) Take IL route 3 for .25 miles and turn left on Roots Rd. 215.92

4.0 Roots Road to Lock and Dam Road turn left. 219.25

The shorter distance is to take Roots Road further but Traffic here is Dangerous. This section of the Mississippi Valley suffered the "Flood of the Century" in 1993 and feelings run strong against strangers who feel they own the place. Please be very diplomatic, but this area is one of the most interesting places in the United States.

3.0 Lock and dam road to Modoc Ferry Road turn right 222.25

7.5 Levee road past Modoc Ferry turnoff to Fish Lake Road 217.9

5.5 Levee Road to pass Modoc Ferry entrance 223.4

5.5 Fish Lake Road to Prarie Du Rocher 228.9

Go Into Town and turn left at Creole House leave town on State 155



3.0 Prarie Du Rocher to Fort Chartres 231.9 Fort Du Chartres was an old French Fort built in 1750 to protect their interest in the Midwest. Such as food grown there going to supply New Orleans

4.0 Fort Du Chartres north to Stringtown Road 235.9

5.5 Stringtown Road to Ivy, turn left. 241.4

1.0 Ivy to Levee Road 242.4

6.0 Levee to Long Lake Road turn right 248.4

5.0 Long Lake to Outlet, turn left 253.4

Past Maeystown Historic District.  
Very, very picturesque-Stone

Houses Arched Stone Bridge,  
Ford a stream to leave town.

.3 Outlet to "B" road, turn left 253.7

12.0 "B" road to Merimac Road turn right(Cross Fountain Creek at 10.0) 265.7

Up on the Bluff line is the tomb of A.J. Miles who helped the Wilderness Road come into existence. First Governor of Illinois was born just outside Fountain.

.3 Merimac intersects "B" again turn left 266.0

3.7 "B" to Levee Road turn left 269.7

4.5 Levee to I255 overpass turn left on BB and proceed right 274.2

6.5 Levee Road past East Carondolet to North Dupo and use the old 280.7

Railroad Bridge, turn left to stay on levee road

4.0 Take Railroad Passage to Eads Bridge. Pass two bridges overhead 283.8 and the third will be Eads, next to the Casino.

Take elevator up to landing and ride across the Mississippi on the Metro.

The levees were laid out by Robert E. Lee when he was an engineer with the Corps of Engineers. Eads bridge is oldest bridge to cross the Mississippi built in 1876





# AN OVERVIEW OF THE RIVER-TO-RIVER TRAIL

## Battery Rock or E'Town to Devil's Backbone Trail



The River-to-River Trail as a concept has been a part of the Shawnee National Forest since its beginning. Until recently, however, the trail started from Cave-In-Rock and ended at the crossing of route 45 for a distance of about 80 miles. Over the past decades there have been several attempts at establishing a permanent route extending completely from river-to-river. This has appeared to be a pet project of Delyte Morris, then president of Southern Illinois University, aided by the Geography Department and Egon Kamarasy, a faculty member and a horseman. Indeed, the trail owes a debt of gratitude for its existence because, for the past generation, it has been kept open and cleared by horsemen using these old trails.

More recently, the Hike a Nation Effort walked across the state followed by the American Discovery Trail exploring of Eric Seaborg and Ellen Dudley who passed through National Trail System that overlays the River-to-River Trail Southern Illinois team exploring the feasibility of a east to west trail from coast to coast. The ADT enters Illinois from Indiana at New Haven then turns south until it's intersection in Hardin County. On the west side, the ADT travels north from Grand Tower up the levees and roads to its point of departure on Eads Bridge at E. St. Louis which is explained in another section.

Another feature of interest is that this area is a transition zone for many species of plants and animals. The division between north and south and even east to west overlaps to a considerable degree, so it is possible to see a eastern and western bluebird, a northern and southern garter snake, blue herons, cypress swamps, and mosses and lichens that have adapted from the ice age. Because trail walking is quieter than walking on leaves, it is possible to walk up on wildlife before either knows of the others presence. Remember to bring your camera! There are poisonous snakes, both copperheads and rattlesnakes. I have never seen a poisonous snake on the trail nor have there been any reports of hikers seeing or being bothered. I have reviewed this sentence for ev-

ery edition and it is still true. There are bobcats and unsubstantiated reports of cougars but undoubtedly you will never be bothered by these.

Most trails are passable all year, except for the coldest days in January or February. The average winter temperature however will be in the 40s which is good hiking or riding weather. Summer brings the usual Midwestern insects, but August has cobwebs in the woods to accompany the heat which can make it uncomfortable for the less seasoned hiker. August has some cool days when a front moves in, but we do not recommend a lot of backpacking unless you are out to lose weight.

The Trail is marked with wooden diamonds painted white overlaid with a blue "i" which has been the symbol of the trail from the beginning. Some "i"s may be painted on trees. Generally, when a trail turns, the diamond will be pointed in the direction of the turn. Interesting side trails may be marked with only the white diamond.

Measurement of the trail on the map yields 160 miles. Most people who have not finished the trail do so because they have sore feet, sore backs, blisters, or didn't ship their food ahead. A pack over 40-45 pounds should be avoided as a cause of these problems. Almost all hikers find they can only cover about 1 mile per hour because much of the trail goes side to side although it is shown as a straight line. Through hikers find that it takes at least fourteen days to do the total trail. It is our hope that more people will make several weekend trips rather than trying to do the whole trail at once.

There are many people who enter Illinois from the east and look forward to a crossing of the Ohio at Cave In Rock using the free ferry You might want to call first but it is fun, and beautiful. The weight limit for single axels is 27 tons and the Operating hours are from 6:00 AM to 9:40 PM For more information look at Kentucky roads .com

To honor the spirit of those who first immigrated to Illinois, this guide follows an east to west description. It is interesting to consider the hopes and dreams of those people as they viewed the new land and began the search for their place in this wilderness. We can still see some of the beautiful vistas and gorgeous valleys of those early days, and in some small way compare our efforts with theirs. Perhaps as we notice that all of the most beautiful places have wagon roads to them, we will realize that they too shared a spiritual need for the power of such beauty.

Tread easy. The trail is a blessing to everyone so leave it better than you found it. Your footprints will help. Remember to bring your trail etiquette and carry out whatever you carry in. After becoming familiar with each section of the trail, it is interesting to return and hike the side trails. That's what I am doing and I learn something new every year. I have visited some places more than twenty times and still enjoy them

The terrain varies from moderate to difficult. Although this trail does not have the long sustained climbs that might be found in the mountainous areas, some of the grades are pretty rugged. You should never attempt to use the trail without a compass, or GPS, and adequate water. Frequently, a hiker will be looking down or away and miss a trail sign. If you become confused, it is better to walk back to the last marker you saw and start again from that point. There will be times when side trails go off and look as though you should turn. If there are no signs, a rule of thumb is to follow the main tread.

This trail guide cannot be precise in measurements but it is as close to reality as we can make it at this point. I have found that many people like to set records that have no particular significance to us. It is far better to take your time, and your enjoyment will be increased.

This is the fourth edition of our trail guide and it is better than the others, but it is still not all that we want it to be, so if you have a good suggestion, please feel free to call the Society. This is a shared trail between horses and hikers to our mutual benefit.

Long hikers often report of special circumstances that seem almost mystical. A Wondrous event that may come in the form of extraordinary luck is called "Trail Magic." If any of these events occur to you, please let us know. We enjoy a good story and it could make the newsletter. Hope to hear your story at National Trails Day.



Bud Clark,  
Great, Great Grandson of W.M. Clark



Frank Wolf, Sonny Arm In Trout

The route of the River-to-River Trail using Battery Rock as the starting point is no longer recommended. Its primary disadvantage is that the beginning of the trail is isolated, and complicated to get to and has frequently been un-marked because of vandalism. One of the largest disadvantages was the fact that so much of this leg is on roads. There are other good reasons as well, but the benefit of having an all weather road, with some conveniences and the chance to get into the woods much more quickly certainly favored the E'town option.

Battery Rock is located about five miles upstream from Cave-in-Rock. To get to Battery Rock you should turn off Highway 1 at Lambs Road about five miles north of Cave-in-Rock. The blacktop road has a fork to the north that is part of the trail but for the short cut to Battery Rock proceed straight ahead. The blacktop will turn into gravel shortly after the community of Lamb and at the next fork stay to the left. About one mile down the road there will be a turn around after you pass a field that has a nice view of the Ohio River. There will be a signed Forest Service gravel parking lot large enough for three horse trailers to pull through where the road ends. If you are a purist and are counting on the full experience, proceed down the trail to the bottom of the bluff. There is a nice beach with cliffs and a spring/waterfall close by. You may wish to make the ultimate gesture by filling a bottle of Ohio River water to pour into the Mississippi at the end of the River-to-River Trail.

Battery Rock was used as a fortification during the Civil War so the roads were probably leveled for use in the 1860s. The road leading up to Battery Rock, however, was used probably about 1800 because the Brown Cemetery further down the road has headstones of about that date with some Revolutionary War veterans in it. I have also seen an old river pilot's book that was dated 1813 and noted Battery Rock even then. Battery Rock was a location for the films "Davey Crockett" and "How the West Was Won." It is hard to imagine that James Stewart, Walter Brennan, Debby Reynolds, Gary Cooper, and other superstars once trod these paths.

The engraved names with dates of 1861 indicate that Union troops camped here idled away the hours on such tasks. The square holes in the rock were for the placement of the guns. The troops bedded down in the rock overhangs. This writer has not seen it, but the impact craters from Confederate warships are on the riverside of the rock.

If you have an opportunity, the view from the river looking toward Battery Rock is wonderful. In the summer it looks as if lush woodland vegetation on massive rocks roll right into the river. The trail beginning is the small ten foot white sand beach at the end of the road surrounded by a heavily wooded hollow.

To follow the old River-to-River Trail route, proceed back to Lamb following the markers and turn north (right) up Belt Hill. At the top of the hill the trail turns west (left) along an abandoned road bed for about two miles. It will emerge from a tree covered dirt road, and make a short "S" and then continues west. Near the approach to Route 1, you walk down Tucker Hill, turn right and continue to the stop sign. You will pass a road going northward which leads to Blind Hollow which is worth a trip sometime because of its lush vegetation, steep cliffs and narrow valley. At the end of this hollow is a campground in the woods right on the river with a cypress swamp close by. One of the many legends about Blind Hollow is that a headless dog haunts it.

Please note: between Battery Rock and Rock Creek is the longest section on roads. These roads are gravel and scenic but it remains that you may wish to walk directly from Battery Rock on the Blacktop through Lamb to Route 1, turn right for one-half mile and then left at Mt. Zion Church and proceed directly to Rock Creek. There are some trails that travel along cliff tops and through some wonderful wooded hollows that are part of the Jim Price Trail. It is hoped that this will become part of the River-to-River Trail in the future but until then just follow the markers. Watch for the eagles. From Battery Rock to Route 1 is about five miles. To Rock Creek is four more.

Upon reaching Route 1, turn right (north) and travel

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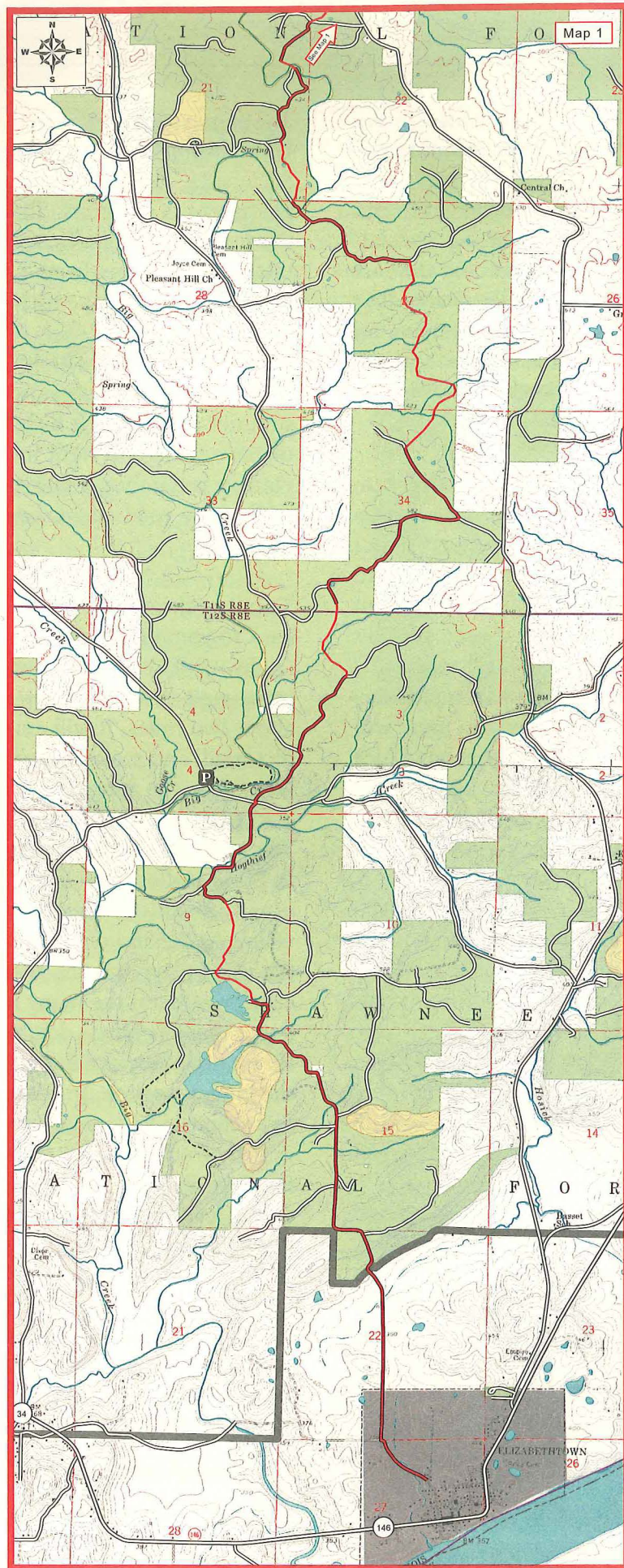
The engraved names with dates of 1861 indicate that Union troops camped here idled away the hours on such tasks. The square holes in the rock were for the placement of the guns. The troops bedded down in the rock overhangs. This writer has not seen it, but the impact craters from Confederate warships are on the riverside of the rock.

If you have an opportunity, the view from the river looking toward Battery Rock is wonderful. In the summer it looks as if lush woodland vegetation on massive rocks roll right into the river. The trail beginning is the small ten foot white sand beach at the end of the road surrounded by a heavily wooded hollow.

To follow the old River-to-River Trail route, proceed back to Lamb following the markers and turn north (right) up Belt Hill. At the top of the hill the trail turns west (left) along an abandoned road bed for about two miles. It will emerge from a tree covered dirt road, and make a short "S" and then continues west. Near the approach to Route 1, you walk down Tucker Hill, turn right and continue to the stop sign. You will pass a road going northward which leads to Blind Hollow which is worth a trip sometime because of its lush vegetation, steep cliffs and narrow valley. At the end of this hollow is a campground in the woods right on the river with a cypress swamp close by. One of the many legends about Blind Hollow is that a headless dog haunts it.

Please note: between Battery Rock and Rock Creek is the longest section on roads. These roads are gravel and scenic but it remains that you may wish to walk directly from Battery Rock on the Blacktop through Lamb to Route 1, turn right for one-half mile and then left at Mt. Zion Church and proceed directly to Rock Creek. There are some trails that travel along cliff tops and through some wonderful wooded hollows that are part of the Jim Price Trail. It is hoped that this will become part of the River-to-River Trail in the future but until then just follow the markers. Watch for the eagles. From Battery Rock to Route 1 is about five miles. To Rock Creek is four more.

Upon reaching Route 1, turn right (north) and travel



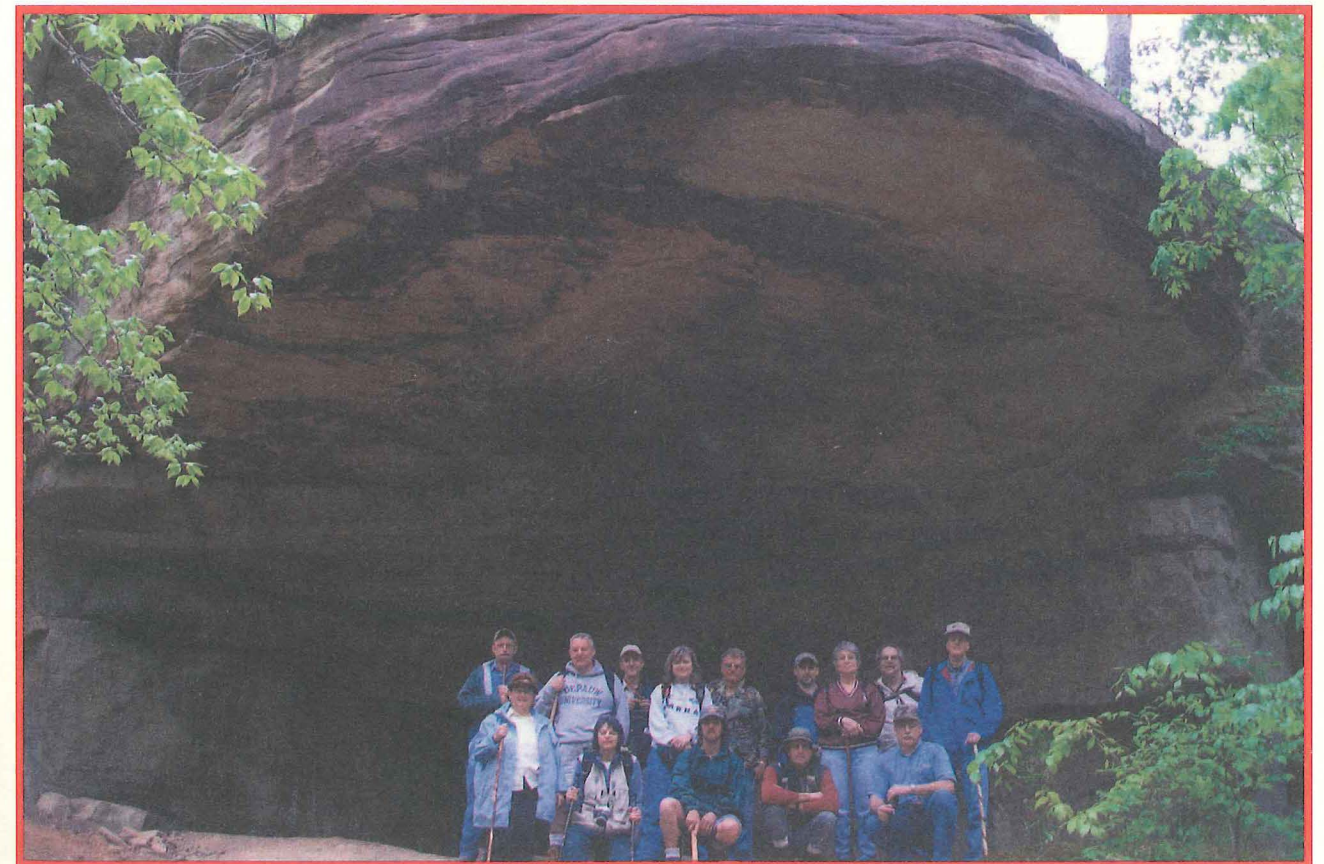
about one-half mile and turn left (west) at Mt. Zion Church. Proceed along this gravel road for approximately 3.5 miles to Rock Creek. There will be a vista on the right and then one on the left.

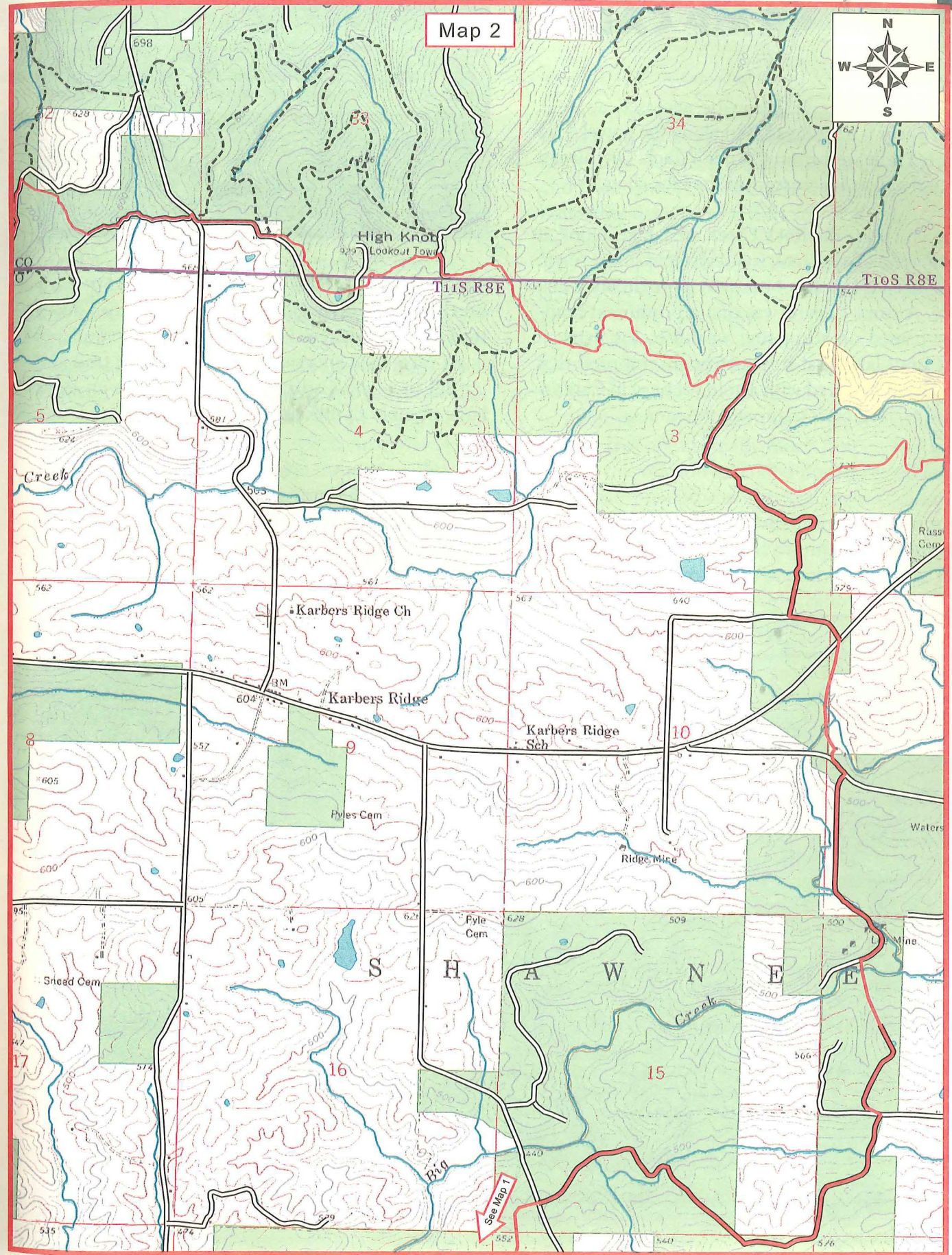
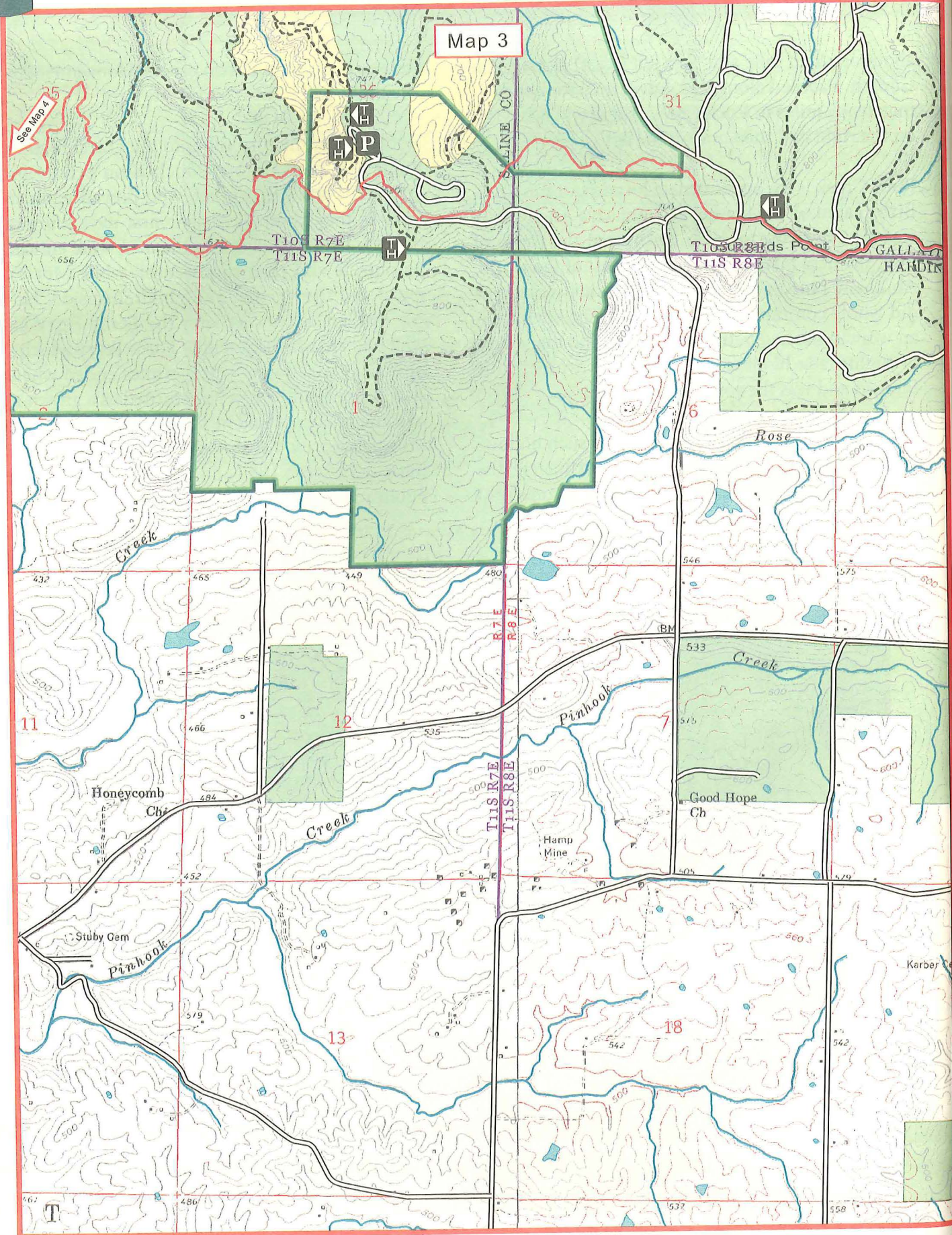
Rock Creek is the approximate location of the Anna Bixby cabin. A fascinating account says Anna Bixby was a pioneer doctor who discovered the cause of milk sickness fifty years before the rest of the world. Abraham Lincoln's mother died of this malady as did whole communities. By asking a Shawnee Indian woman she had befriended, she found that a type of nightshade bloomed in August on which cattle foraged and was the source of the toxin.

The Rock Creek Hollow is one of three such hollows that narrow and then meet in approximately the same location. You can actually stand in one spot

and see the mouth of two others. Hooven Hollow is one of the three but is on private land.

Not far from the turn off onto the gravel road from Route 1 is Pott's Tavern which is on private property. Bill Potts was a pirate who preyed upon travelers as they completed their first days journey in the new land. After dinner the men were enticed to go outside and then disposed of, while Mrs. Potts murdered the women and children inside. He often worked in concert with the Fords Ferry Gang who had an establishment at Fords Ferry which was north of Cave-in-Rock. His crimes ended when he slew his only son when he returned as a grown man of some substance and he killed him before he found his true identity. An almost unbelievable account of the area between 1800 and 1840 can be found in the publication "Satans Ferryman."





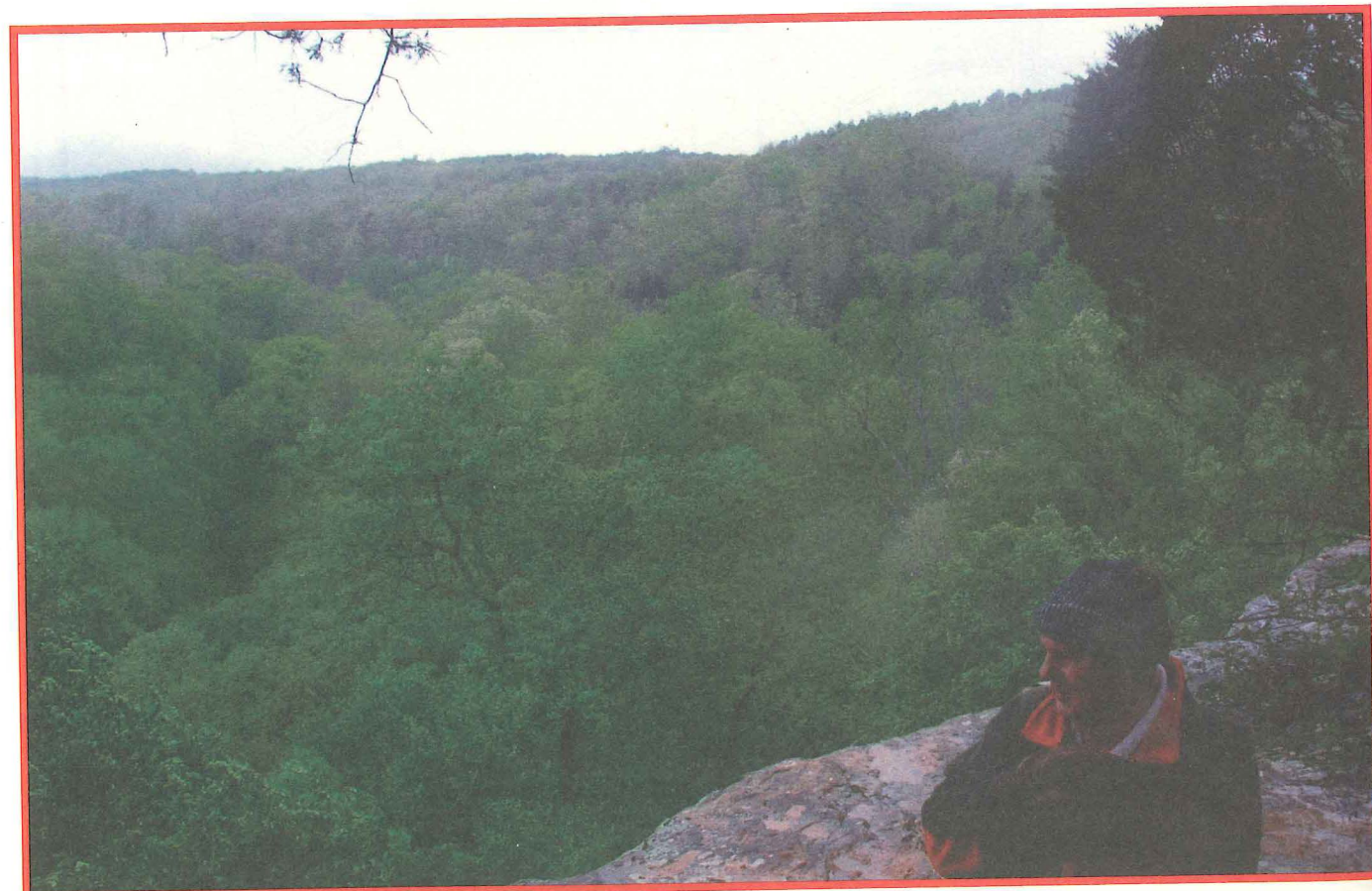
## ROCK CREEK TO CAMP CADIZ

The River-to-River Trail can be accessed at Rock Creek. There is a trailhead sign along the gravel road about 1/4 mile west from Corner T Tack. Or you can go into the woods across from the tack shop.

Before you leave the Rock Creek area, take a look at the "H" tree, Rock Creek is a registered ghost town. At one time this was a home to approximately 500 people. A story I heard was that a prominent landowner passed on surprising wealth to his heirs; it wasn't until later that it was strongly rumored that he had been involved with a gold robbery in California and walked back to protect the money.



The trail crosses the gravel road about 50 yards north of the church. Cross a field and proceed down the lane. Harris Creek is about two miles up trail and has a nice wide area for rest. Continue up trail and up hill to Camp Cadiz. There seems to be an extra large number of turkeys in this area."



Lusk Creek Canyon

## HIGH KNOB TO GARDEN OF THE GODS

Camp Cadiz was a Civilian Conservation Corps camp of the Depression Era. The buildings are now gone and what remains is a multiuse campsite. The River-to-River Trail enters the camp from the south and exits through the camp at the north end. A gravel road intersects the camp. Shortly after leaving the camp the trail takes a sharp left turn to the west. This section of the trail is very straight forward and proceeds about three miles until reaching the blacktop and turn right until reaching the Karbers Ridge blacktop about 100 yards after turning. Continue directly across the blacktop and proceed about 100 yards and the trail turns to the west (left). High Knob is a prominence with a spectacular view. High Knob Campground is located at the road entrance so this would be a good place to start or stop. There are also some caves and cliffs worth seeing and the trail from the blacktop is old growth forest. Even though it is very beautiful at this spot there are not many visitors. I believe that most people feel that Garden of the Gods is the only thing in the area and don't

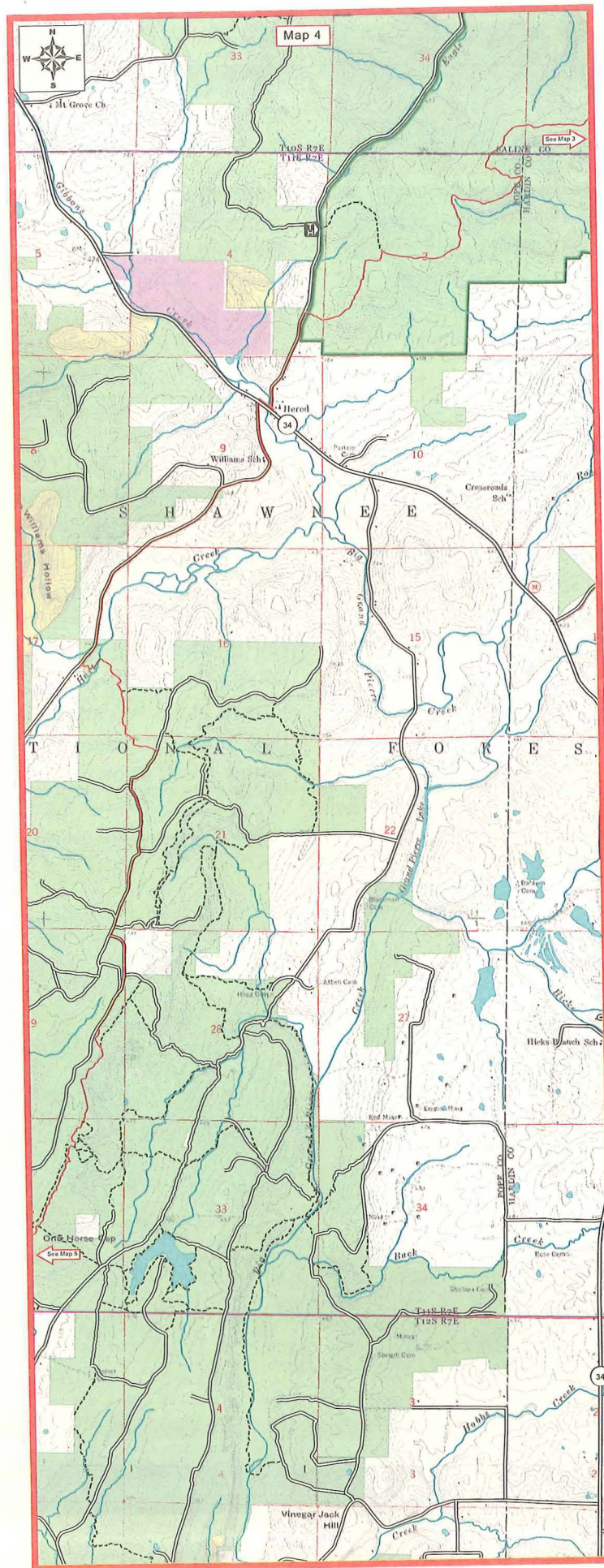
bother to go any further, but High Knob is only five miles away by road. There are bound to be special things that happen at a place like this, but my family and I were there one time when migrating monarch butterflies decided to rest there.

This area has lots of trails so be certain to follow the signs and the trail with the most prominent tread.

To the west of Camp Cadiz and south of High Knob is the settlement of Hicks. In this vicinity a volcano bulged the surface and raised the area hundreds of millions of years ago that brought fossils to the surface that are normally much deeper. Fortunately or not, the volcano exploded underground and did not break the surface. This feature was discovered when pilots flying overhead noticed that the surface looked like a volcano and prompted enough attention to seek an answer to the anomaly. Hicks Dome is now a well known geologic feature of the area.



Garden of the Gods



## THE E'TOWN TRAIL

### The Official Trailhead of the River to River Trail

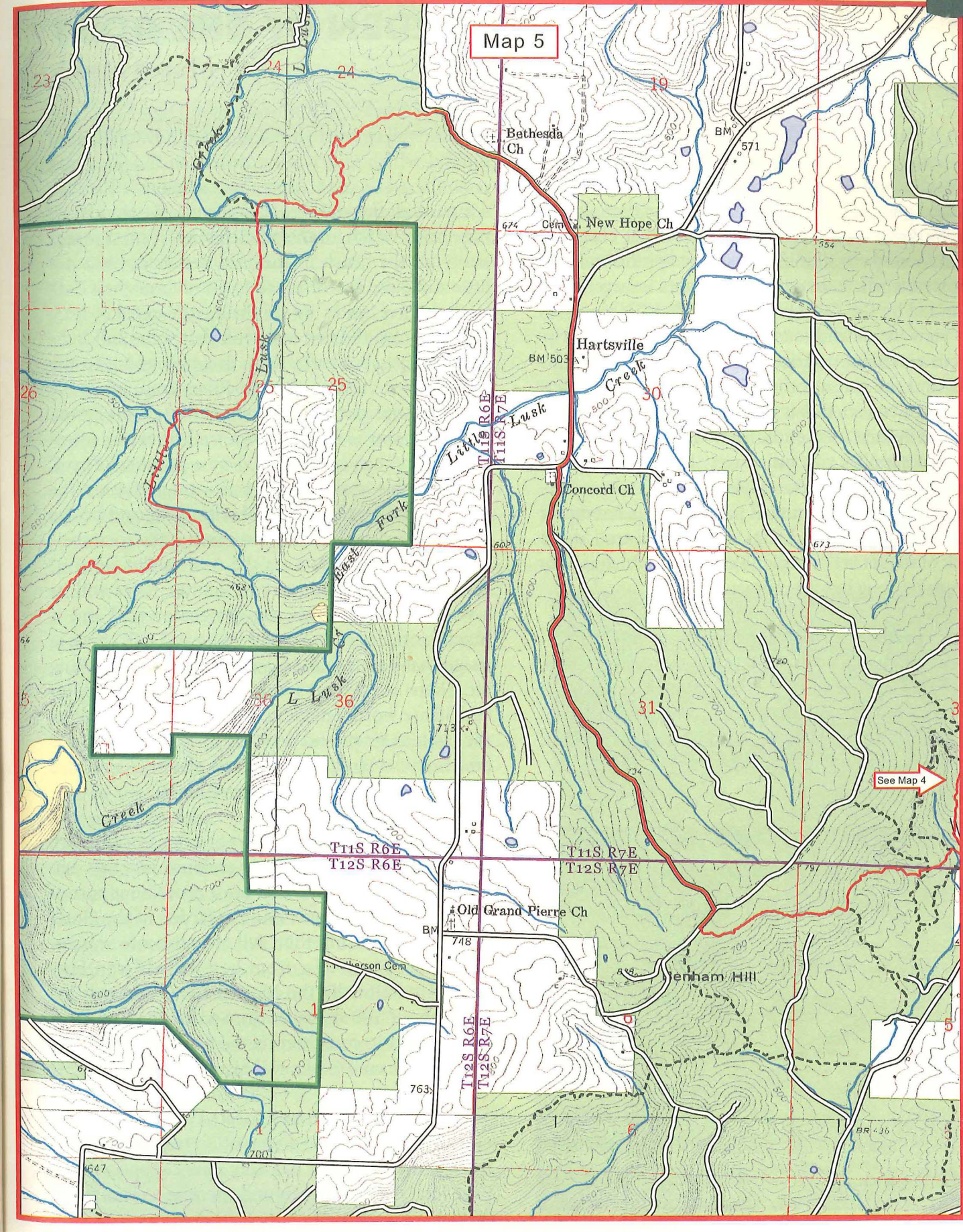
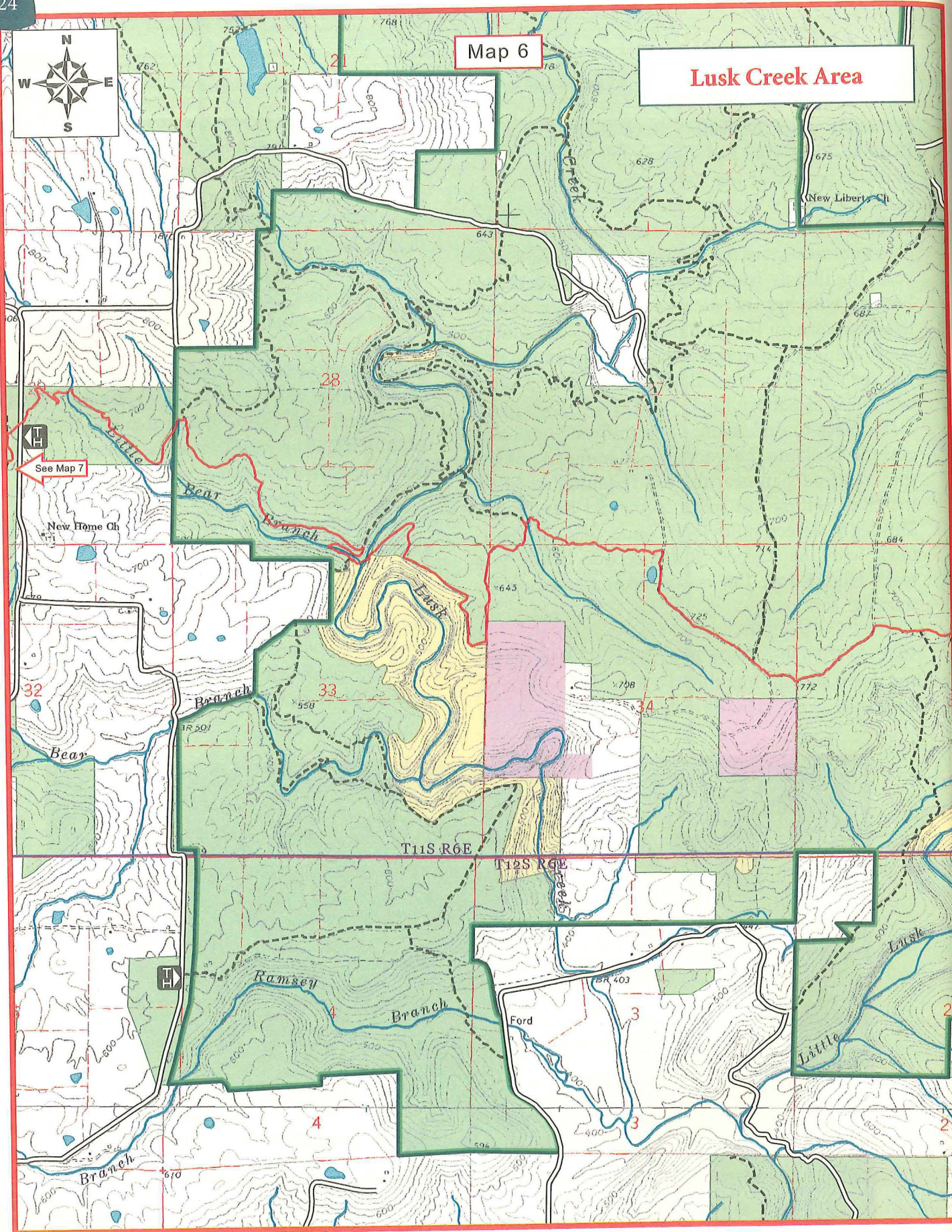
For many years the Battery Rock beginning of the River-to-River Trail had some problems with it particularly because it was hard to find, there were no facilities, and the first sixteen miles were mostly on roads. Another option came to us when David Flanders reminded us of the trailride his father had each year. The Illinois Trailriders and their president Sue Perina, (with her side-kick Joe Perina) then volunteered to care for the Trail. Both groups did a lot of work cleaning and working on the configuration that you see following. We will never forget our original beginning at Battery Rock, but E'Town gives us an easier place to find, some community support, and gets the Trail into the woods much sooner. Look for the Trailhead sign near the fish restaurant right on the river, setting just south of the old Rose Hotel. This leg is sixteen miles long connecting Elizabethtown with the Karbers Ridge section before you reach High Knob. This is our recommendation for starting.

Start on the Ohio River Bank past the Rose Hotel and down stream from the Fish Restaurant. Proceed up Locust Street, cross directly ahead past the news-

paper office and follow the road past the Church and the Park. About a half mile past the park at the first road going north turn to the north. This sets the trail. Another mile up the road, you are nearing Lake Tecumseh. Originally, the old trail passed between the two lakes and a natural area. Now, however, continue north on the east side of the lakes and after passing the last lake look for an opening that leads northwest past the spillway. You will soon cross the Iron Furnace Road and continue north. At about three miles up, you will pass County Road 12. The configuration of the trail is self explanatory but the connection with Camp Cadiz Road is N37°34.593 W88°19.024. The junction of the E'town Trail and the River-to-River is listed on our map.

When you reach High Knob, you will cross the gravel road going to the top. This is only a few feet away and the view at the top is wonderful...The best one on the trail. If you camp in this area, there are some trails leading away from the top that go to some small caves. Before you get to the top, there is a trail off to the right that has lots of goodies, including a petroglyph of an ice age javelina. See for your self.





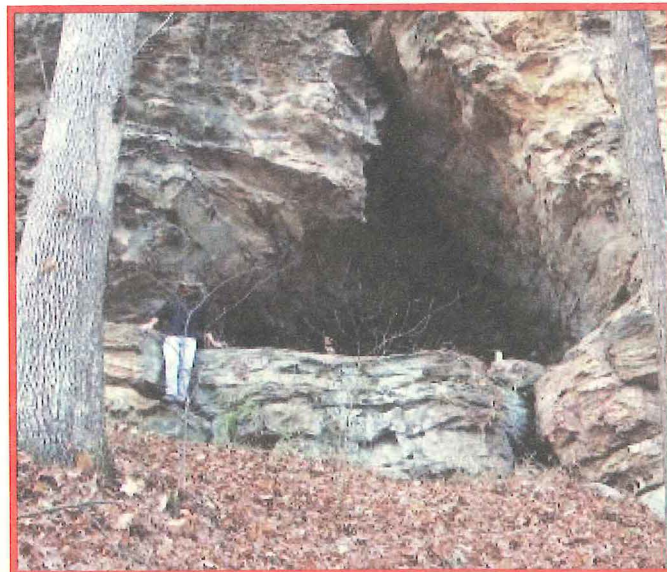


## HIGH KNOB TO GARDEN OF THE GODS

### Map 4 and 5

One of the best known attractions of Southern Illinois is Garden of the Gods. It is one of the top twenty photogenic Scenic places in the United States. The geologic formations have exotic representations of various objects such as Camel Rock, but there is also a monkey, a duck and who knows what else. You must leave the trail to find the observation trail but it is well worth it. In addition the area is largely surrounded by the Garden of the Gods Wilderness so the view inside and outside makes for a special trip. There are many tourists present during the summer and fall but at other times there are very few visitors. Even so, this is one place you will probably want to return frequently. There are campsites, water, and supplies two miles away in Karber's Ridge. The Backpackers' parking lot on the left when driving to the observation trail parking lot is handy for day hikes or week end trips. A beautiful trail at the back of the lot is the Indian Point Trail which is only two miles long but it is gorgeous.

When people ask about a good week end trip, I recommend High Knob to Circle B Ranch (Lusk Creek Trailhead across from Circle B Ranch) because it can go from the vista on High Knob to Garden of the Gods, to One Horse Gap to Little Lusk to Lusk Creek Canyon which is Spectacular.



To reach Garden of the Gods from High Knob, follow the trail from High Knob or High Knob Campground which is privately owned, to the west and cross the gravel road. After about a half mile the trail will turn off the gravel road and enter the woods going north. Watch for the painted blue "i" on the trees although the brush in the summer may make it a little difficult. The distance to Garden of the Gods is about five miles by following the regular trail. Up trail from the first overlook that some call Buzzard's Roost (but isn't) there is a trail going to the west (This is the real River-to-River Trail) while the regular route goes almost due north at this point. Buzzard point is further down trail from this intersection and can be identified by a number of rock shelters. This is also an edge of a ridge that on the west side has a cliff side trail with a Natural bridge and plenty of big boulders. In some of the rock shelters there will be slots on the roof (a slot canyon) and if you make your way to the top, there will be a wonderful view. This is a designated trail and is much more direct and easier going and will arrive at a sign that points to the Garden of the Gods parking lot. There are several scenic overlooks at this point and all are worth enjoying. Make certain you follow the contour maps and don't try to second guess this area because Mother Nature can play tricks on you with such rapidly changing topography.

Inside the sandstone are concentrations of iron ore from marine creatures living millions of years ago which form the whorls that are a prominent part of all this areas sandstone, and in Garden of the Gods particularly. During the Civil War this ore was refined at a spot not far from here called "Iron Furnace." Undoubtedly the Mound City Shipyards located about 100 miles to the South, used some of this product in constructing the iron clad boats that changed the course of naval history and warfare.

The Pharaoh campground located at Garden of the Gods is just east of the observation trail parking lot. It has a nice view but has only nine car spots. They have lots of exploring around them as well as being in such a nice setting.

## GARDEN OF THE GODS TO HEROD

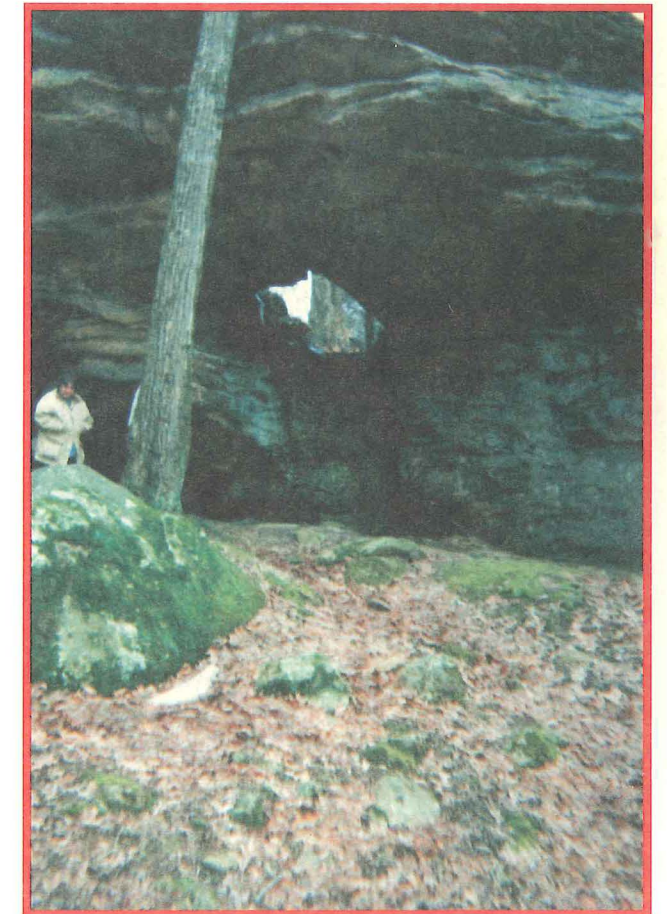
The trail from Garden of the Gods can be started from the GOG parking lot, or the campground or the backpackers parking lot. Coming from High Knob, the trail goes directly west, crosses Forest Road and connects with a trail that goes around the campground and the base of the cliffs. Walk with the cliffs on your right shoulder and you will soon pass a natural bridge, where you turn left to get to the backpackers parking lot. If not going to the backpacker lot, you continue on the trail until, you come to the next black top road and proceed directly across going west. If you haven't seen Garden of the Gods turn right (north) at the road and go 100 yards to the observation trail parking lot, then return to the trail. It is about five miles to Herod. About a mile and a half from the road will be a nice overlook with a fire ring. It is a great place to camp, but this is a popular place so you may have company. The trail exits on a haul road about a half mile above Herod and turns left or south to continue to Herod. There is a trailhead at the Hitching Post but it is farther to get to Herod from there. The Trail splits about a mile from the Haul road and has a sign, but take the left leg going to Herod.

There is a trail going North from the Hitching Post that is part of the Crest Trail. It goes to Stone Face and to the Tecumseh Statue at the Saline County Conservation Area.

The Blacktop road into Herod can be dangerous because there are no shoulders and coal trucks may be hauling that day. Imagine a scout troop walking six or eight abreast down this hill and several coal trucks coming up behind them. Usually the Truck Drivers call the other drivers on their CB's to alert them so it is IMPARATIVE to walk single file and be alert. It is a short distance to Herod upon leaving the woods so this fact alone has probably saved lives. The Nature Conservancy did not allow us to use their trails on the west side of the road, and a landowner wouldn't permit us to cross his land on the East side, so we are bound to this configuration. We respect their decisions for whatever their reasons.

At Herod, the trail turns right to cross the bridge, and then immediately turns left or south on Raum Road. The third house from the highway has a fountain of spring water and a sign. This is good water and flows from a spring with no chemicals. Herod is located on Route 34 before you get to the Karber's Ridge Blacktop and can be identified upon passing the remnants of a building built into the side of the cliff, next to a nice rock shelter.

Garden of the Gods road can be reached from the Karber's Ridge Blacktop which is the next major road past Herod. (Turn left off Route 34, then left again off Karber's Ridge Blacktop). This will be Forest Road and leads north past Garden of the Gods and goes toward Equality and also passes Glen O. Jones Lake. About five miles to the north is Old Stone Face. This is one of the most unique features of Southern Illinois but is not well marked.



Knights of the Golden Circle

## HEROD TO ONE HORSE GAP AND CONCORD CEMETERY

Route 34 passes through Herod going from Harrisburg toward Elizabethtown. Hiking from Garden of the Gods to this highway and after crossing the bridge, then look for the sign directing a left turn across Route 34 to Raum Road which is gravel. The next trail into the woods is about 1 1/2 miles on the left hand or east side. You will pass the William's Hill Road on the right after 1/2 mile, and after another mile cross a new bridge and start up a small hill for 100 yards and the markers will be found at the forest edge on the east side. There should be more than one.

William's Hill, the highest point in Southern Illinois at 1064 feet, is about two miles away. If you use the Williams Hill Trail, there is an entrance/exit across the road from the bridge. The mountain trail is about three plus miles out of the way with lots of UP but there are some very unique things to see. Wamble Mountain lies across Route 34 from William's Hill...yes Williams Hill is higher than Wamble or even Eagle Mountain.

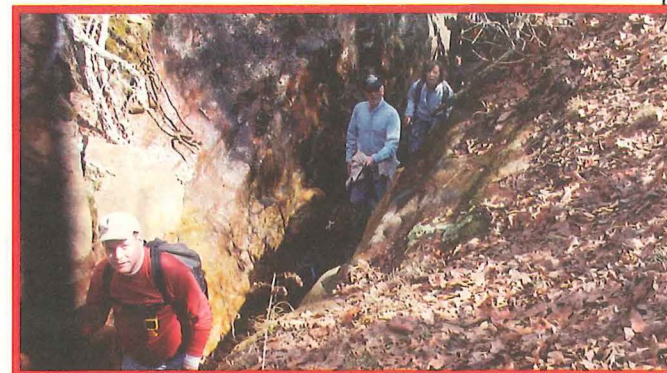
Upon following the trail off Raum Road, there will be some trees close by that have been felled by beaver. The trail crossed a beaver dam previously but it has been washed away. The trail crosses the creek and proceeds on a slow climb up the hill to Benham Ridge. The trail will soon turn right and proceed to the top of the ridge. During the summer it is difficult to see but this is a ridge trail with views to both sides. The trail joins a dirt road and then a gravel. After about two miles, the trail leaves the road going east and follows the base of the ridge along the rock facing. The rock shelters that are found here have been used by Indians so be on the alert for artifacts in the trail tread. After the largest shelter the next landmark about a mile further is a short cave followed by a walkable separation in the rock that is about the only convenient way to gain the ridge top for some distance. This is One Horse Gap. The trail continues down the ridge (without going through One Horse Gap), and turns west and then north to come back to intersect a gravel forest road which turns out to be Benhams Ridge Road. When passing the Gap, you will go all the way to the flat part of the

hill, turn right and then go up the other side of the hill. This may seem a little confusing but essentially, you will be climbing up the side you just came down. When you get to the top Turn right and go about 200 yards and there will be a road going north leading to Concord Cemetery. This gravel road parallels the trail but is about a half mile away and it's location could not possibly be described except by visualizing it on a map. If you know it however, you can drive down this road until you find a plain diamond, park, and then take a short cut to the gap. I put the original marker up because I was taking so many people back to the Gap. But you must look hard to see it on your right hand side as you drive north. There is a loop off the trail that leads to a small trail that goes along the cliffs edge, and is beautiful...one of my favorite trails. Look for the plain white diamond. Also as you pass One Horse Gap, down trail there will be a big rock leaning on another and has a passage to a little valley behind it...this is No Horse Gap. There is also a big Rock Shelter and if wet, a small waterfall. Eureka!! A great camping spot.

Herod to Concord Cemetery is about six miles. One Horse Gap Lake and 34 Ranch is within a mile east of the Gap.

This is a beautiful section with a good mix of rock shelters and vistas. I took a friend through One Horse Gap telling him what it was. We then turned right at the bottom and went between two rocks that were leaning on each other. We ducked under as we went through and he exclaimed, "What is this... No Horse Gap?" There is a waterfall behind at the corner and a good sized rock shelter.

One Horse Gap



## CONCORD CEMETERY THROUGH LUSK CREEK TO EDDYVILLE

This will be confusing unless you read this whole chapter first. The Forest Service changed the trail so that from Concord Cemetery it goes up the gravel road to New Hope Church and then back down again to re-connect with the River-to-River Trail... in other words if you are going to be following the configuration shown in this trailguide, follow the markers North for more than a mile and then follow them back down until they return to the trail. This is the route that the Forest Service has marked and we advise that you follow it...but load up on water before you do. Follow the trail west and you will see signs saying "Owl Bluff" (great Vista) and Indian Kitchen (a treasure) to a sign that talks about a "bowed tree crossing." This is primarily a crossing for horses over Lusk Creek, however is waist deep to a hiker so go up stream and find a shoal and wade across. On the west side there will be a trail along the creek that goes to Saltpetere cave (Gorgeous) or South to some intricate curves but wall to wall creek and perpendicular canyon walls. This is a heavily faulted area and tends to be a little weird. From the creek crossing follow the markers to the Lusk Creek Trailhead across from the Circle B Ranch also called the Guest crossing. The Trailhead has good parking on a gravel road and is an excellent place to end the weekend trip from Garden of the Gods or is great to start a Day Hike into Lusk Creek Canyon.

Continue down the road and after a mile you will enter the outskirts of Eddyville at the north edge. Cross the road and there will be a tavern/restaurant. The trail zigzags through town and reenters the forest on the west edge of Eddyville on the only road going west. It has a dog leg to the right and another quarter mile before you find the trail straight ahead of you. The post office is in downtown Eddyville and you go directly past it. The Shawneemart convenience store is on route 145 a mile south of the River to River crossing. This is easy to find and a good place to meet someone.

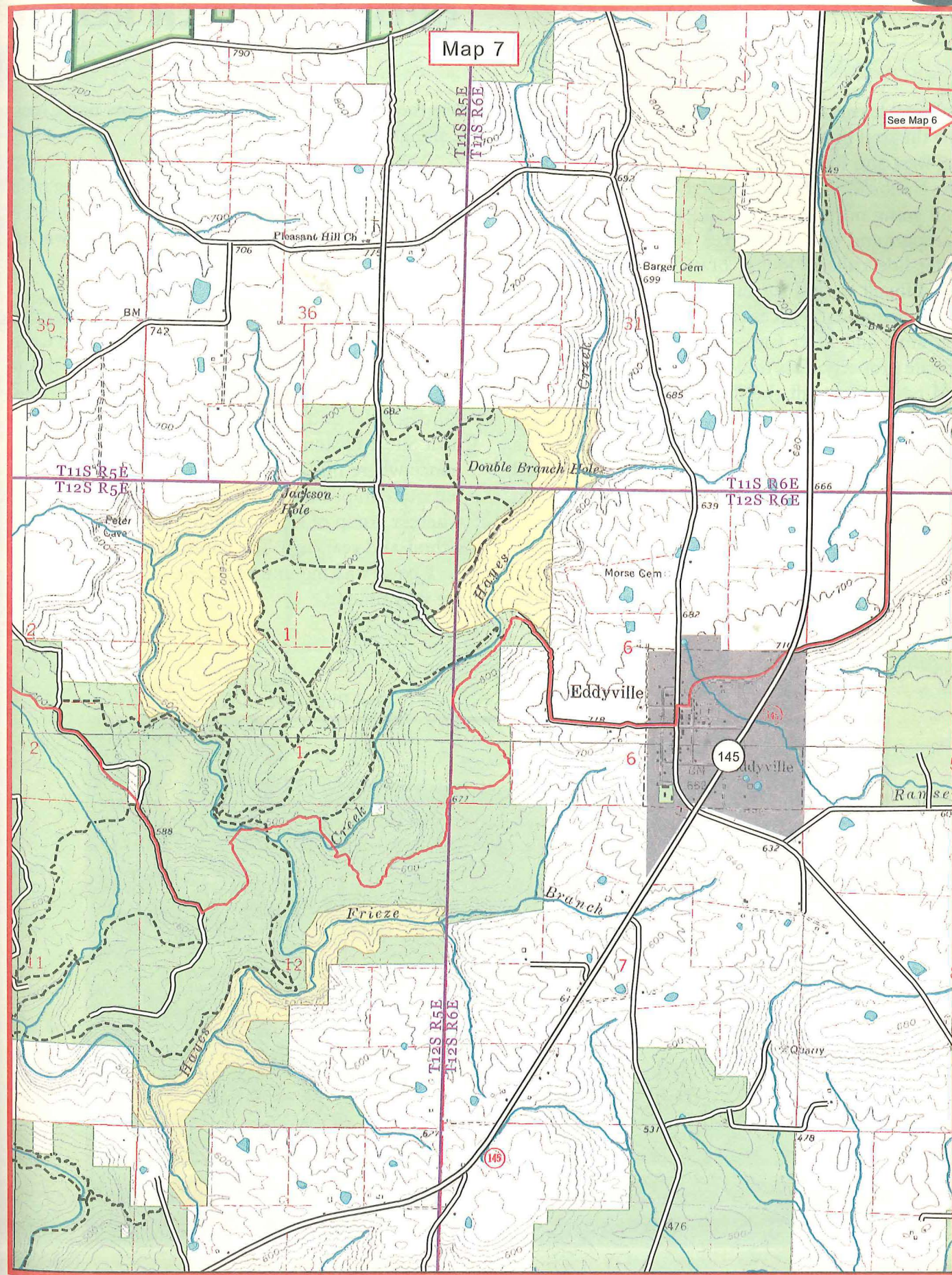
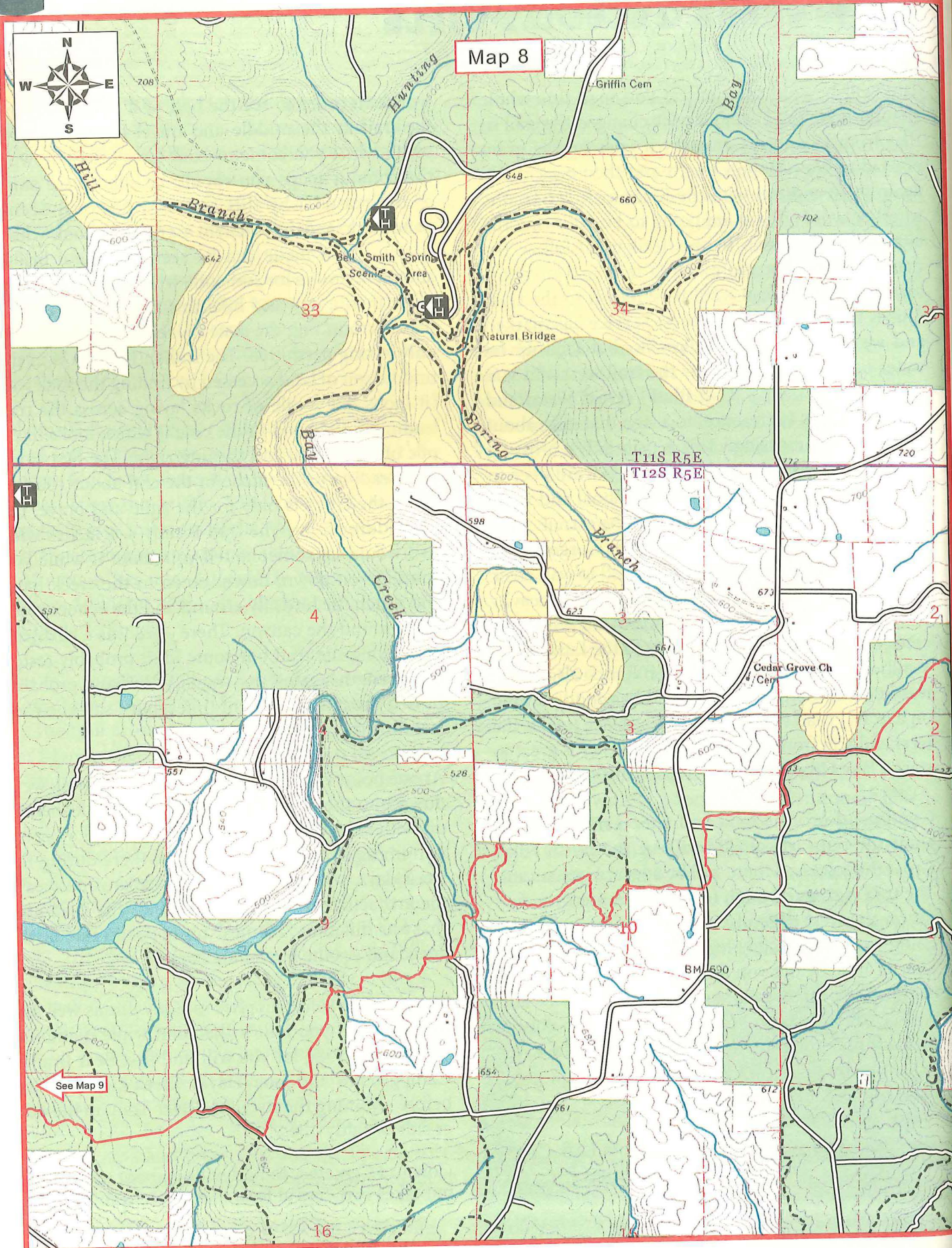
The Lusk Creek Canyon area within the Lusk Creek Wilderness is some of the most beautiful in the

world. In order to see the best of it you must leave the trail in the middle and travel to the north or south when you come to Lusk Creek. By following the contour maps you should be able to see some of the reason why this area is a National Scenic Landmark. Indian Kitchen, a great overlook where nothing man made can be seen, a natural bridge and plenty more for someone who may wish to take more than a day and hike this area. In the central part surrounding the state owned property there is only hiking permitted. The Indian Kitchen is in the middle spit of land accessed by finding the rock wall (it looks like a pile of rocks laying across the trail leading to the bend in the creek) which looks like a pile of rocks now and turning right. The first small path leading to the niche in the cliff about 100 feet about the creek is only for the agile and brave. I'm not kidding a bit. The trail is only 4-6 inches wide so I would let someone tell you about it while you continue on down, down, down to the creek bank and watch the birds fly around and the echoes resonate around the canyon. There once was a balanced rock along the trail but some idiot probably tested his strength against its fragility. Indians probably passed there thousands of times, but I saw the rock standing there forty years ago.

At one point I found an arrowhead in the trail, went down into the creek where there were rock shelters on both side, very tall trees and I watched a beaver swimming in the creek. If you are there during the week days, you are not likely to see anyone. Leave the artifacts there for others to see. This is an area that has different "biomes" on opposite side of the creek and yes the beaver are back.

There will be some supplies in Eddyville as well as a post office. If you follow the plain white diamonds from the parking lot you will find first Bear Branch Campground and later Hayes Creek Campground before rejoining the River-to-River Trail on the other side of Eddyville.

Concord Cemetery to Eddyville is about seven miles, but takes two days at least to see this beautiful area.



## EDDYVILLE TO CEDAR GROVE CHURCH ROAD

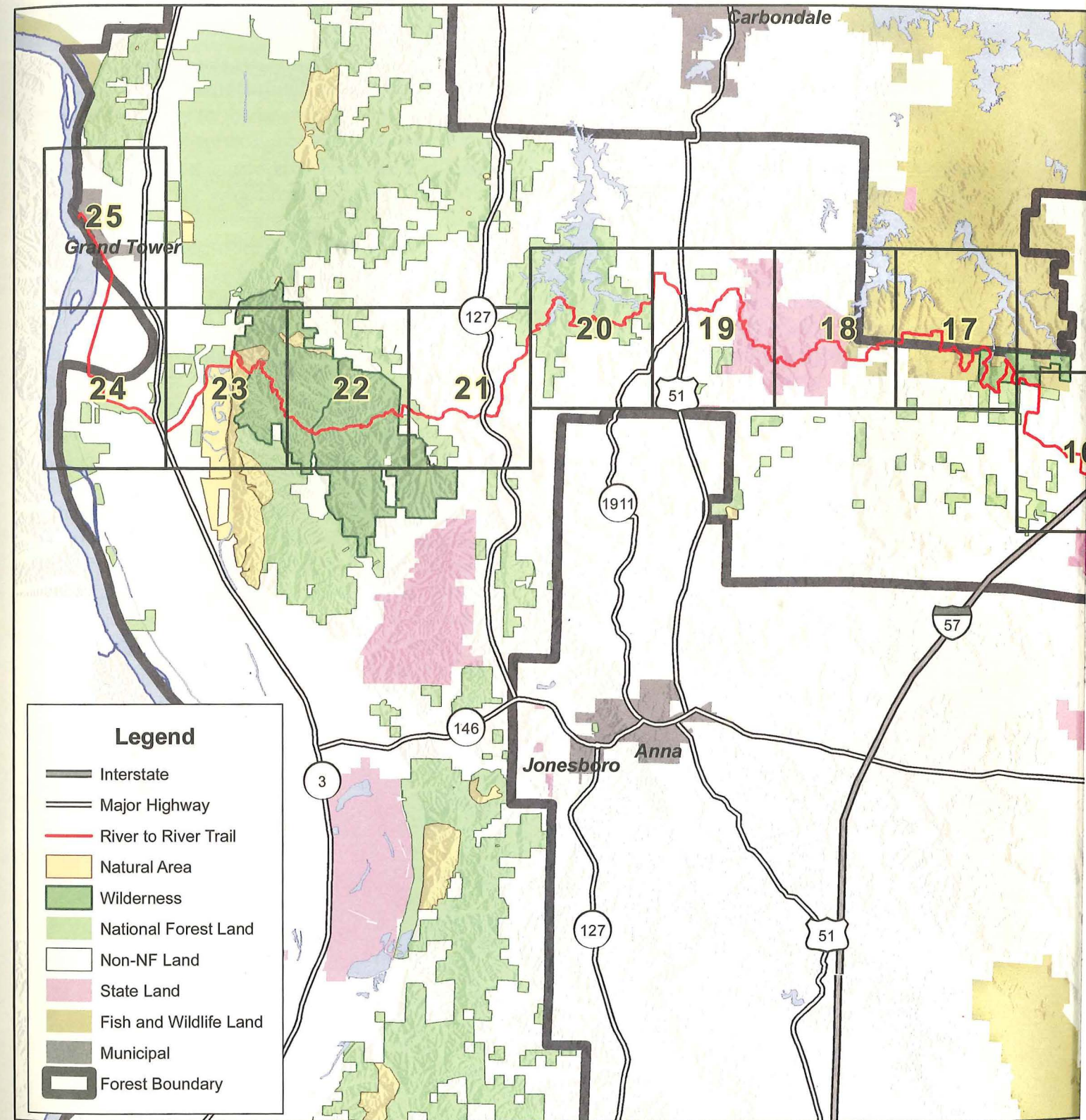
The trail leaves Eddyville on the western edge. Follow the trail through Eddyville to the only road going west and follow the trail as it then turns north. The trailhead is about a quarter of a mile. The first trail going north off this trail goes to Hayes Creek Campground or Hayes Creek which has a natural waterslide called Double Branch Hole. It is now too difficult to find so stay on the trail. Follow the plain diamonds to access Hayes Creek Camp, Jackson Hole and Peter Cave although the latter is on private property. This trail is pretty straight forward and passes through the Crow Knob Natural Area on the western end. Don't miss it. Not too far away is Miller's Cemetery which is all that remains of a community of freed slaves. Their church was burned out so the story goes so they began meeting on top of the Knob. Cedar Grove Church Road is another mile. Cedar Grove Road is off Route 147 between Millstone Bluff and the junction of route 145. Proceed north about 2 1/2 miles until you find where the trail comes out of the pines on one side and en-

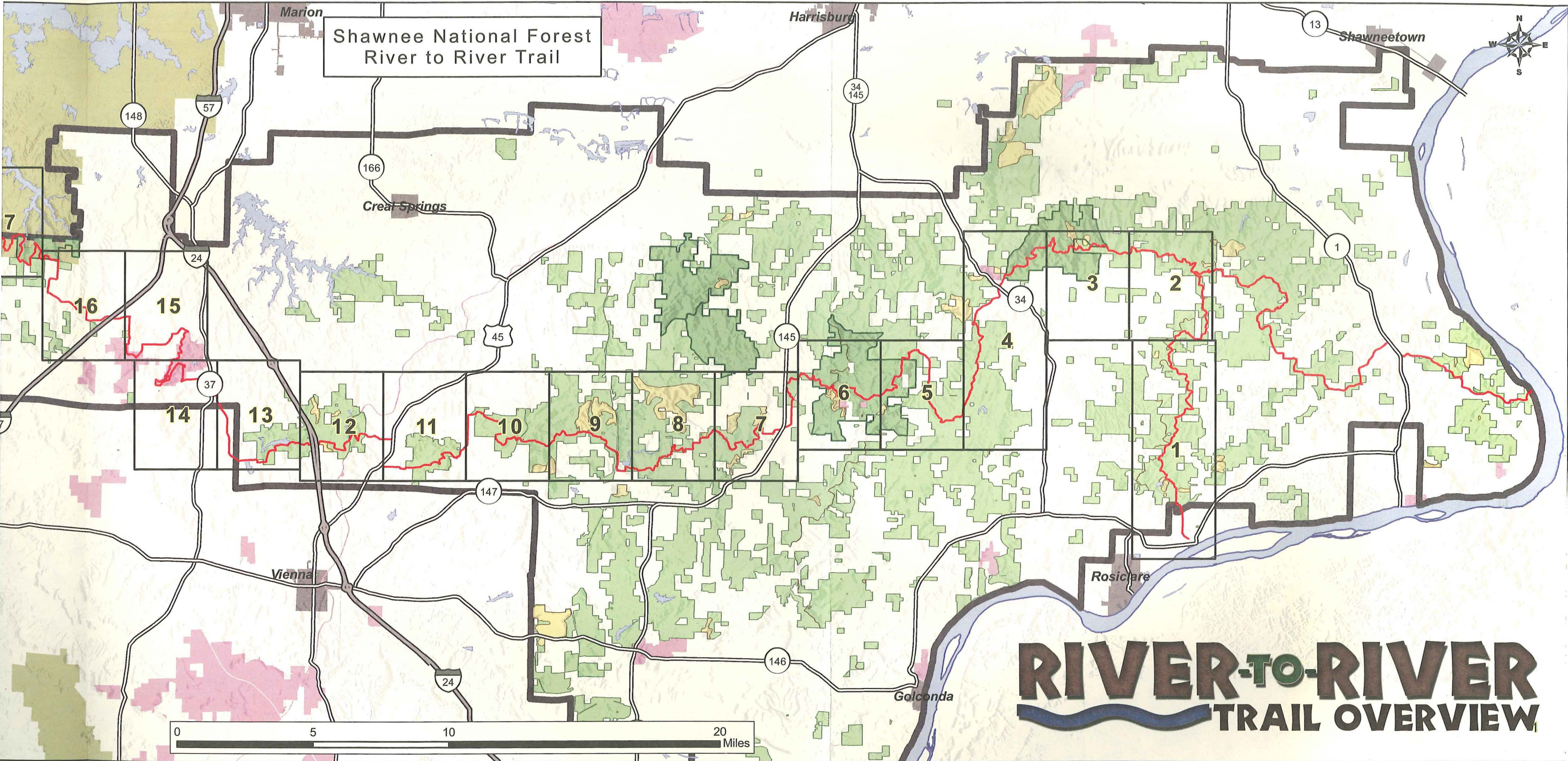
ters the pines on the other. You will pass Bay Creek Campground on this road.

Eddyville to Cedar Grove Road is a short three mile section and can be made in one day. It would be doubtful that a group could make Trigg Tower in one day however.

Also in this area that is worth seeing is Bell Smith Springs which has a large natural bridge, Sand Cave which is a very large room, Jackson Hollow Railroad Tunnel which is different from Jackson Hole, Burden Falls, and the Millstone Bluff National Historic Site. Millstone Bluff is a very distinctive prominence where millstones were quarried by pioneers, but more importantly, it has been found to be a site where a group of Mississippian Indians lived about a thousand years ago. The Forest Service has made a very good walking tour of the area. The petroglyphs are very unique.

Owl Bluff Overlook on Lusk Creek





Shawnee National Forest  
River to River Trail

# RIVER-TO-RIVER TRAIL OVERVIEW

## CEDAR GROVE CHURCH ROAD TO BAY LAKE

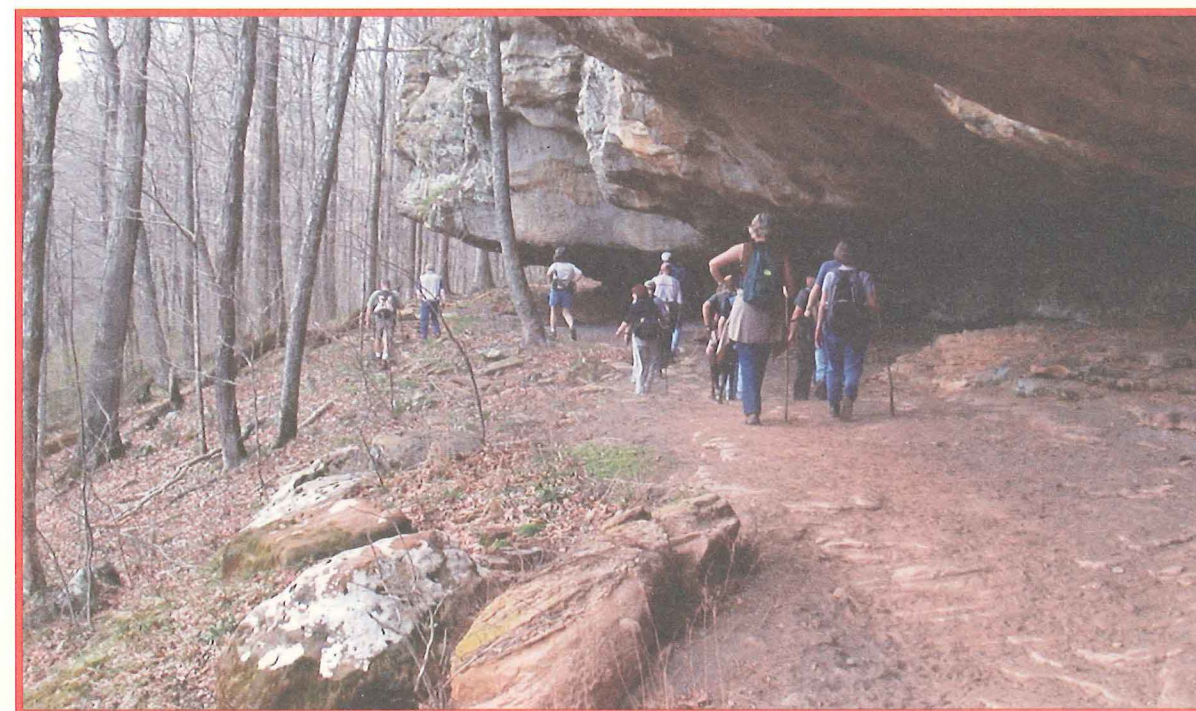
Starting from the intersection of Cedar Grove Road and the trail, continue through some second growth timber and pines to the intersection of an old road bed and the trail turns right or to the west. A trail continues straight ahead that leads to Bay Creek Campground. The trail turns back to a ridge that gradually grades downward through old growth forest. You will be able to see Bay Lake through the trees on the right hand as you go. The trail turns away from the lake and then intersects county road 463 and turns to the right on the road. The trail will continue down this road straight ahead, and then runs parallel with the railroad berm, but the road to the right goes to the spillway and dam and other trails leading north from the dam. There is one enormous oval culvert that passes beneath the railroad tracks. We had received word that the Railroad was not going to give permission for the Trail to cross the railroad, but Ray Morris (see acknowledgements) contacted a friend and the Railroad, now Canadian National, came in and put the whistle in during a week end. Go through the whistle and continue up hill to Trigg Tower. Some have thought that if the wind was right, there would be a noise made by this feature...but no reports as yet. The railroad passes

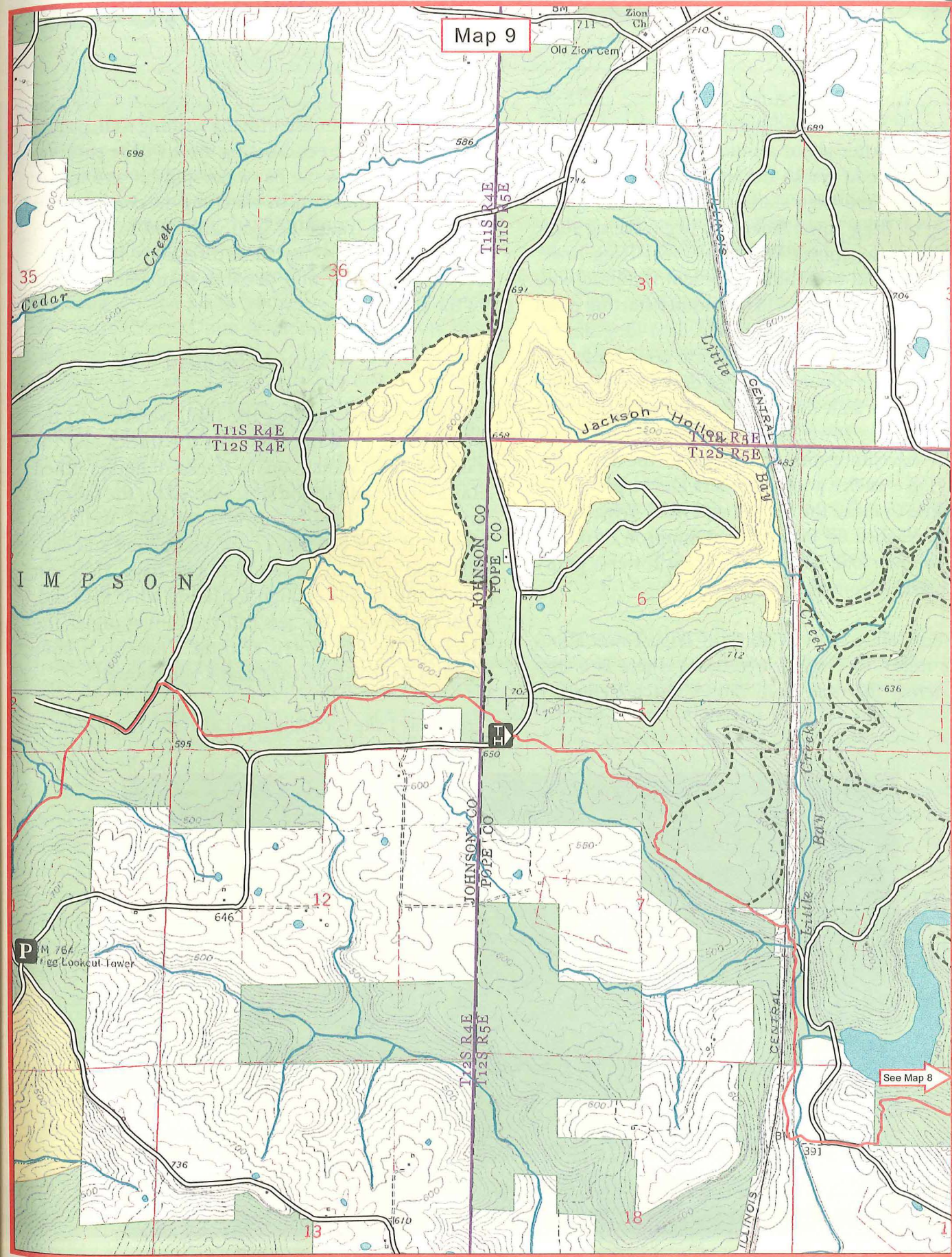
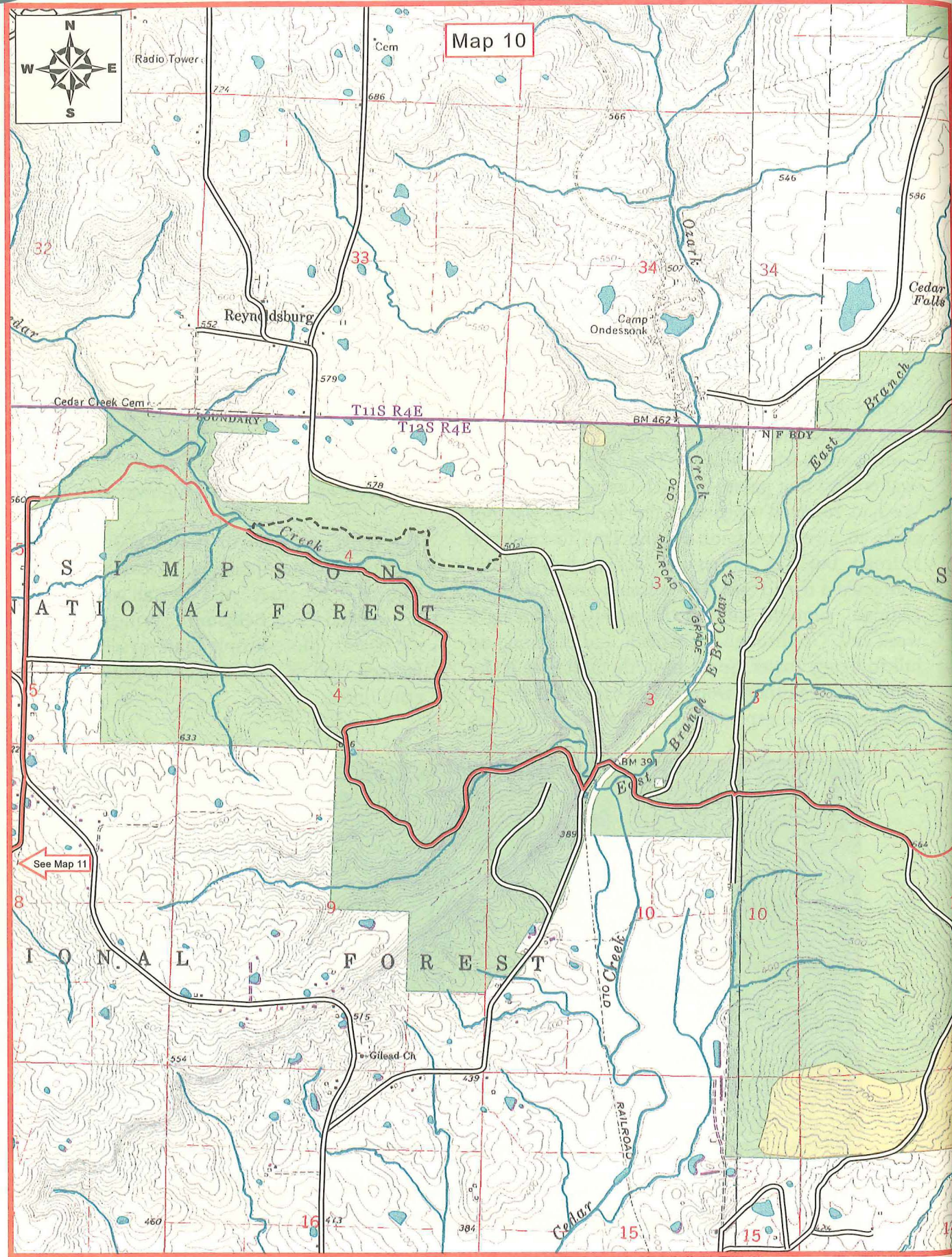
through the longest tunnel in Illinois on the North side of Jackson Hollow. Don't take a chance on making it through.

Bay Lake is one of those hidden gems. Although it may not be facilitated for swimming, the fishing is reported to be excellent. During a flood of 2008, the spillway was washed out and uncovered some bedrock that had been shaped similar to Garden of the Gods. Worth a trip to go see them.

To reach county road 463 and the trail intersection, the road lies to the east of Millstone Bluff and west of Cedar Grove Road from Route 147. It is a little difficult to spot at first but it does have a good look at the back of the bluff and the pleasant valley beyond. It is marked by a Pope County highway sign 2.0.

The trails going north from the spillway leads to Jackson Hollow. Shortly after leaving Cedar Grove Church Road, there will be a trail going North leading to Sand Cave, Bell Smith Springs and lots of scenic beauty. More people than myself have said that Jackson Hollow is the most beautiful place in Southern Illinois.





## BAY LAKE TO TRIGG TOWER ROAD AND TRIGG TOWER

Starting from County Road 463 the trail and road turns right or north and parallels the railroad track for awhile. After about a mile the trail crosses under the railroad tracks through an oval culvert (a tin whistle) and then starts up hill. Shortly before getting to Trigg Tower Road you begin seeing some hardwoods then pines. When you cross Trigg Tower Road there will be another excellent trailhead with trailer parking. This would be another starting point to go either direction but would be a long day on horseback and for only iron men to go to Eddyville. Trigg Tower is about two miles down the trail and then a quarter mile off the trail to the left at the point marked. Trigg Tower has a spectacular view but is a little adventuresome if you go to the top (very shaky). It is such a good landmark and so pretty that we chose to make the section end here. Trigg Tower can be reached off Route 147 at Simpson or on the next country road just beyond. Trigg Tower is pretty well marked from all directions.

Jackson Hollow lies just north of Trigg Tower about 1 1/2 miles on Trigg Tower Road. There is a stop sign across the road from Zion Church Cemetery,



proceed about 300 yards and turn right on "Glen St. Falls road" at the house with the wishing well, go two miles and at the creek crossing there will be parking. You can also cross the Bay Lake spillway and follow trails in that direction, by watching the contour map shown in the trailguide. You will want to return to Jackson Hollow so keep these directions. It gives access to something more precious than gold, anytime of the year.

### Acknowledgement

When we were marking the trail, we came to the point where we wanted to cross the tracks, and the railroad didn't want us on the tracks, or horses either. Ray Morris had a friend who worked for the railroad and he asked them to put in a whistle... Well, that week end, they brought a crew, equipment and supplies and put it in, in less than two days. How can you thank people enough for doing what they did. Real trail magic. But lets call the tunnel under the tracks: "The Ray Morris Whistle." That was Illinois Central Railroad, we can't thank you enough.

From Bay Lake (or Millstone Lake) to Trigg Tower is about three miles.

## TRIGG TOWER TO MAX CREEK TO ROUTE 45

If a hiker were to leave from Trigg Tower, the trail across the road from the tower will take you to the River-to-River Trail after a short quarter of a mile. The trail soon turns west at this point and runs its way along a roadbed. After approximately two thirds mile at a connecting dirt road running north, look for the pioneer cemetery in a clearing on the north-east corner. A few minutes after the cemetery in a clearing, cross a plank bridge over the west branch of Cedar Creek. Upon reaching the blacktop, turn left over the concrete bridge. This section of the trail crosses the Gum Springs blacktop and goes south (left) on the road and over the bridge (a branch of Cedar Creek) for a few yards before turning to the west and going up-up hill. The trail does a semi-circle at the top of the hill but then continues west and soon comes to some nice rock formations along the valley. For a spectacular hike, park in the space across from the concrete bridge and follow the creek north. The Trail goes upstream and eventually rejoins the trail that comes in from the top. There is a lot to explore here and we wouldn't be able to tell you everything but this valley has petroglyphs, (Buffalo on the Rock, a miniature arch along the trail, and the faces shown in this book.) The trail turns onto an old road which leads out to the Tunnel Hill-Simpson blacktop right at the top of a curve in about a mile. At this point the trail goes north and south and when you reach the blacktop, Triple T-Cedar Lake Campground will be on the right. When the blacktop turns east, the traveler continues straight down a smaller road (country road 158) and arcs to the west until it reenters the forest. The first fork to the right goes back to Cedar Lake Campground, but the trail goes on down to cross Max Creek. This part alone is worth the trip.

There are remarkable stories about events occurring in and around Max Creek leading people to say there is a vortex here and is haunted. Mineral lights have been seen which has been associated with geological activity and faulting. After crossing Max Creek take the west trail, it winds up a ledge trail that is unique but at the top goes through some feed plots before

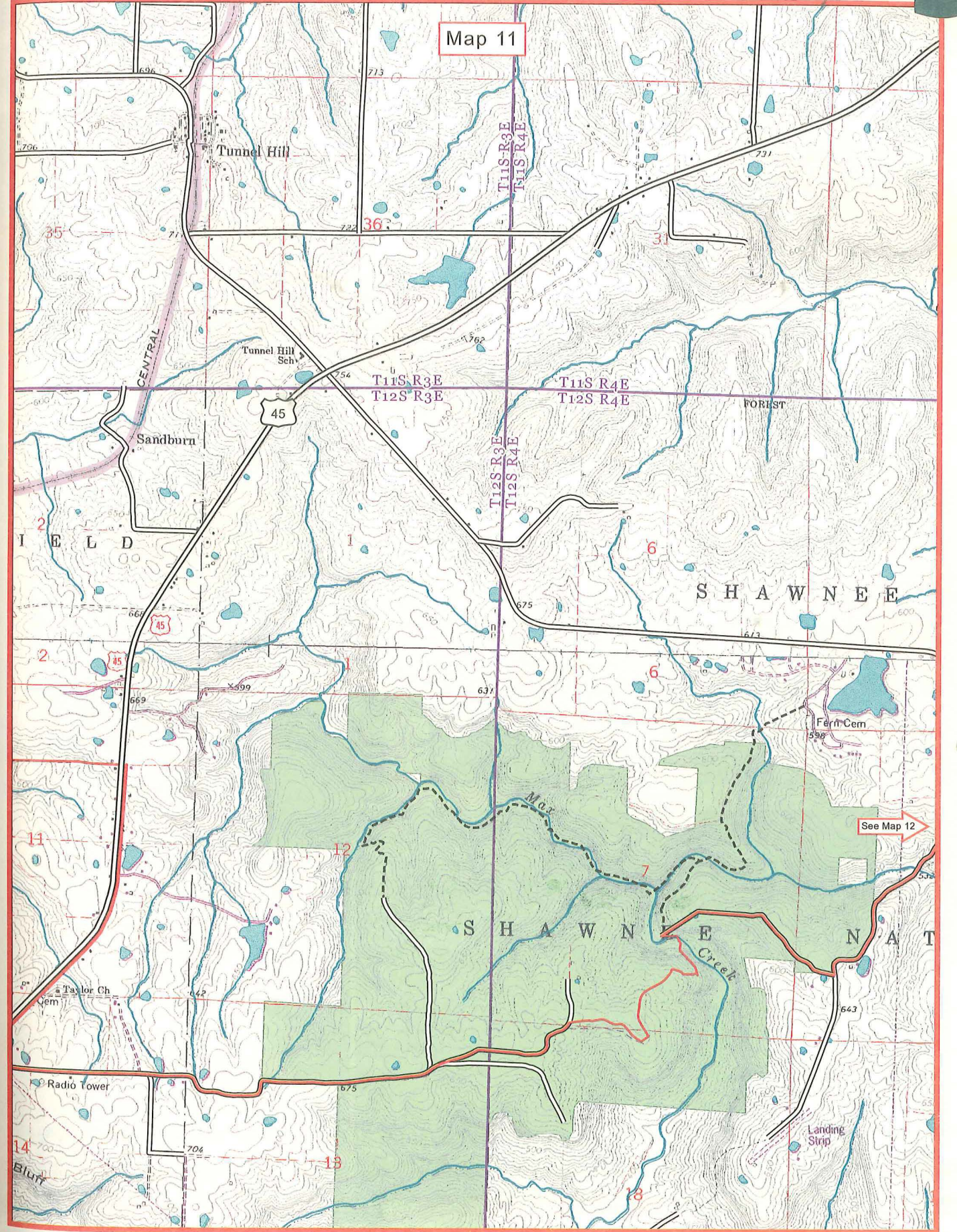
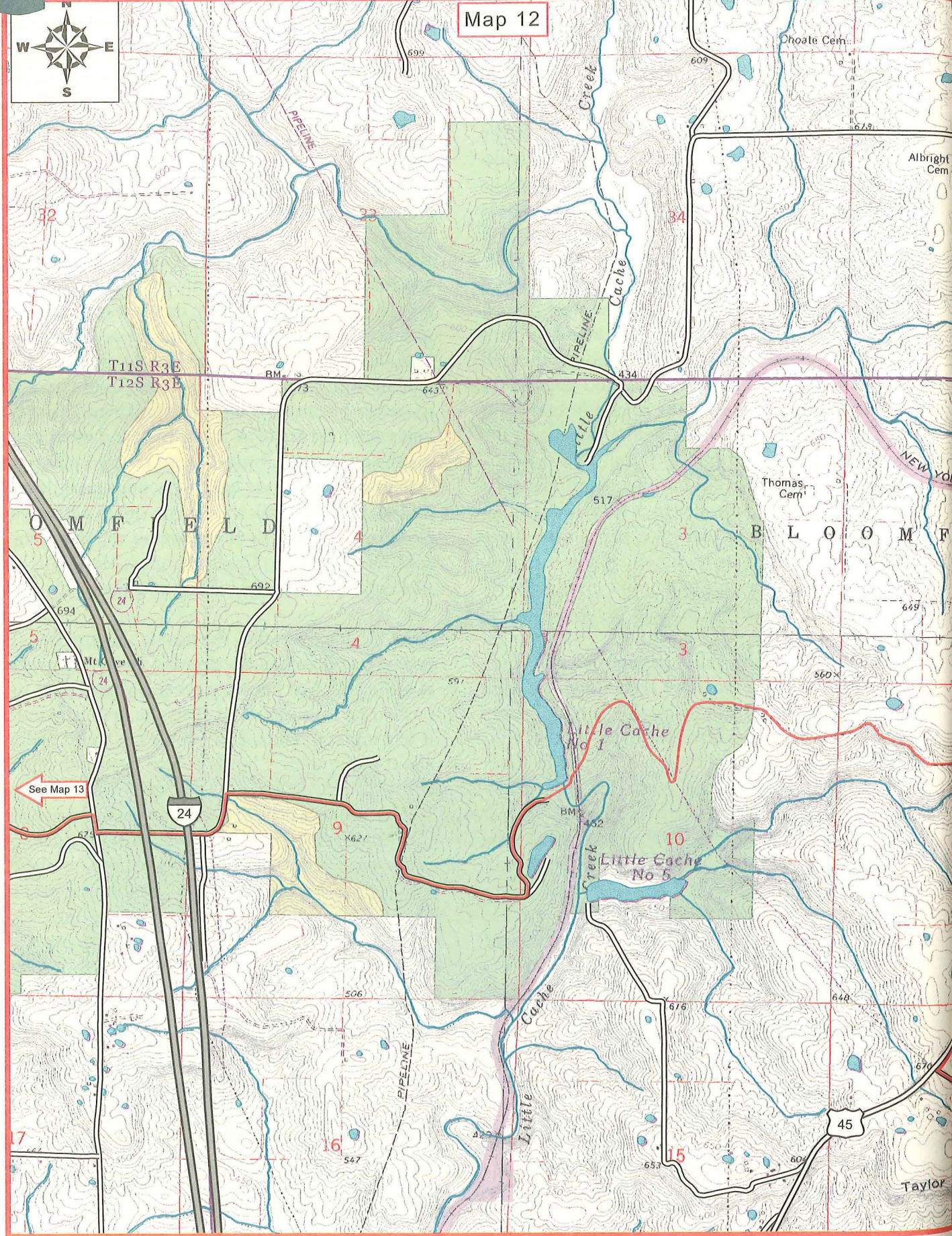
meeting a small road that leads out to Highway 45. This is the theoretical midpoint of the trail.

Gum springs is up-stream from the bridge about fifty yards. Pioneer women would meet to wash clothes. You can see that this is a natural entrance to a unique valley with a lot of Rock Formations too numerous to tell all of them here. George Rogers Clark marched past here on his way to Fort Kaskaskia in about 1777. By walking up stream less than half a mile, you will find the buffalo on a sandstone wall in somewhat faded red ocher. Across the creek there are blocks of sandstone similar to Giant City and what I see are faces in the rock and other petroglyphs of unusual things. There are two other little valleys on the left one has a very unusual little arch, and a nice waterfall with some other petroglyphs close by. If you miss them, watch for our website schedule for "Cedar Creek Wonders hike." This area makes for a wonderful hike so take the scenic route.

After leaving this valley the next is also amazing. We received a phone call one evening saying "Max Creek is a Vortex." Not knowing what a vortex was, time has led us to understand that: the area is haunted, it has mineral lights, and people get weird feelings about being there...but it is also beautiful. Apparently "mineral lights" are associated with faulting in seismic areas which may also be called a vortex. The trail leaves the valley on a gravel road going due west until you find route 45. Then turn right for about a mile until you will find a trail sign pointing west between two houses. This is Goddard Crossing.









## GODDARD CROSSING TO DUTCHMAN'S LAKE

### Then Ferne Clyffe

The trail crosses Highway 45 about four miles north of Vienna and two miles south of Tunnel Hill. There are some radio towers close to the road and power lines going to the Northwest. The trail turns right (north) for one mile or until you see the markers and signs as posted going across the highway to the west. You will be crossing between the Goddard house and a house next to them. This is an old roadbed but you will be on their property although we do have permission. Wave and thank them for their friendship.

Proceed down this land for about a mile and a half until you come to the bike trail. This is the Tunnel Hill bike trail. Take a short detour south and you will come upon the highest railroad trestle in the state crossing the Little Cache (river). The River-to-River Trail does a small zag to the left and then continues across the spillway of Little Cache Lake. The trail directly across the bike trail goes to the right to the lakeside and what appears to be a good stopping spot. These lakes are the source of the Cache River. Shortly after crossing the bike trail, the River-to-River Trail will cross Cache Lake number 1 along the dam. After passing through a half mile of woods, the trail finds its way along a roadbed, turns left at the blacktop, and proceeds west under Interstate 24. At the "T" there is a dogleg to the left and enters some old growth forest. At the end of the Woods the trail crosses Dutchman Lake Dam and goes up through some woods to another road that will emerge on a blacktop going north that goes to route 37 and continues north.

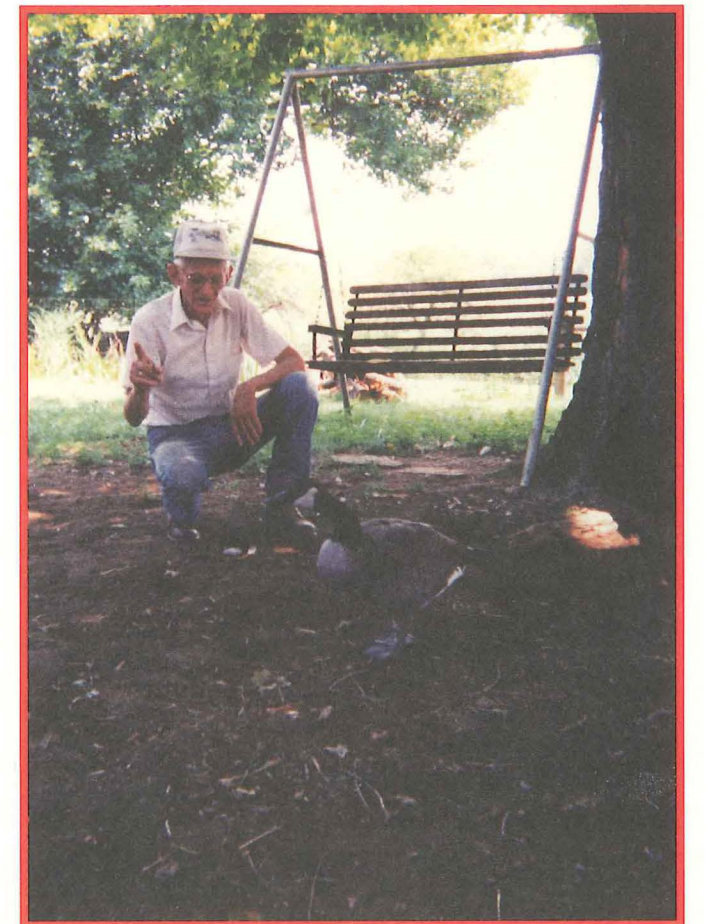
The trail will turn west off route 37 shortly before getting to Ferne Clyffe State Park (at Rebman Road). Proceed west for about a mile until arriving at a parking lot and follow the sign through the park.

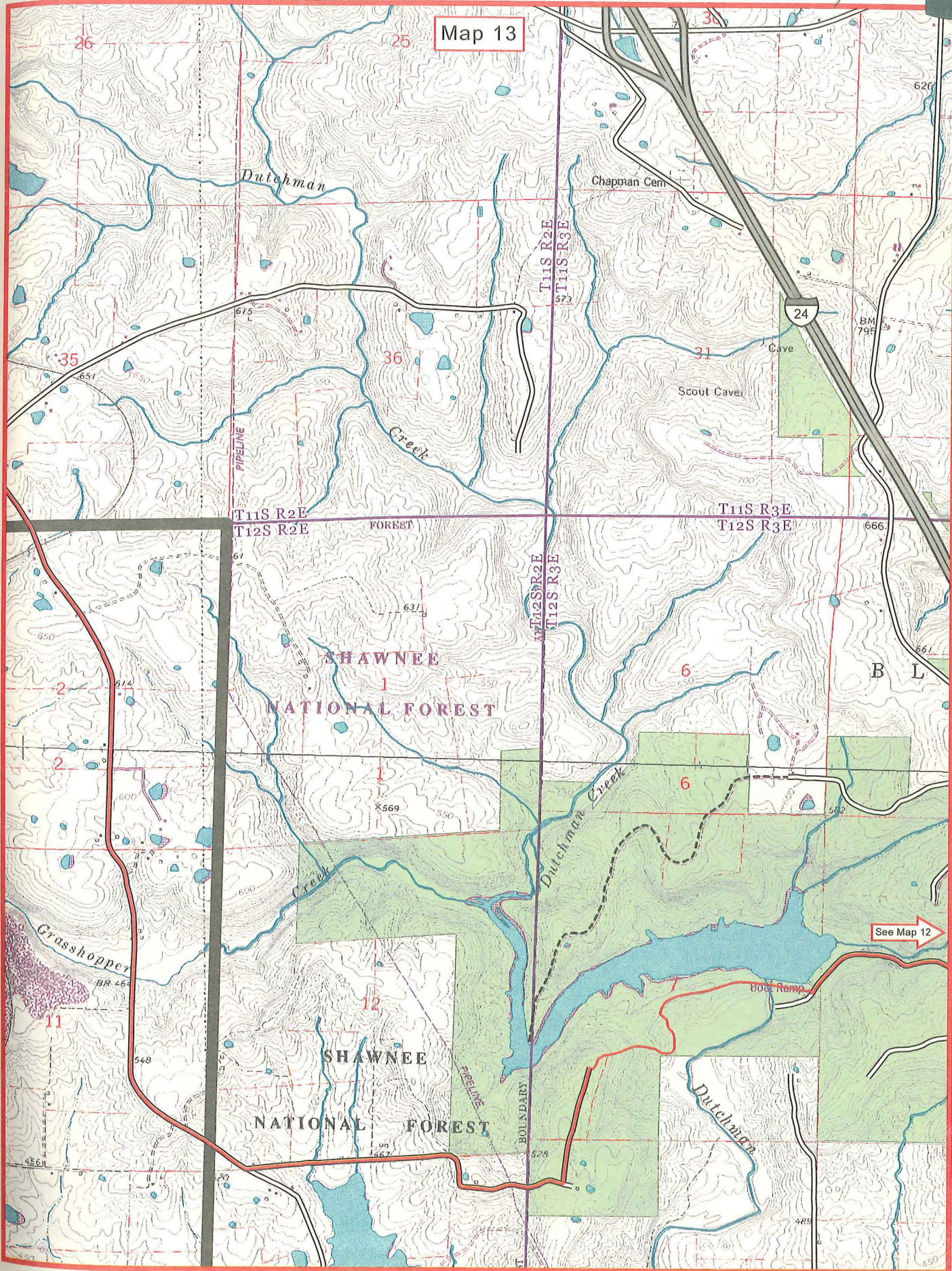
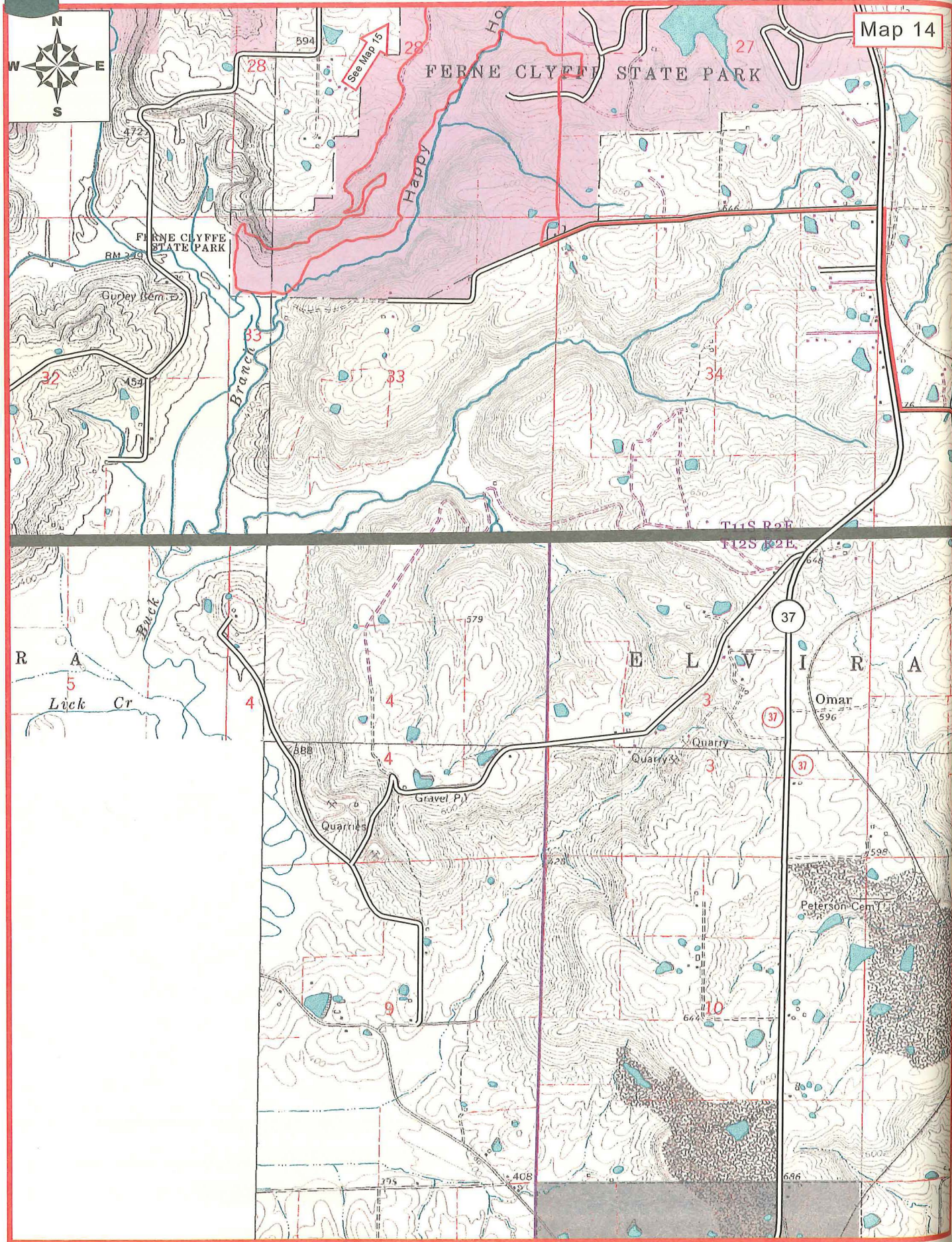
The Cache Lakes are another hidden treasure. The canyons here are very steep and very pretty and probably the result of more seismic activity. The fluor spar region is one of the most active seismic areas in the Nation.

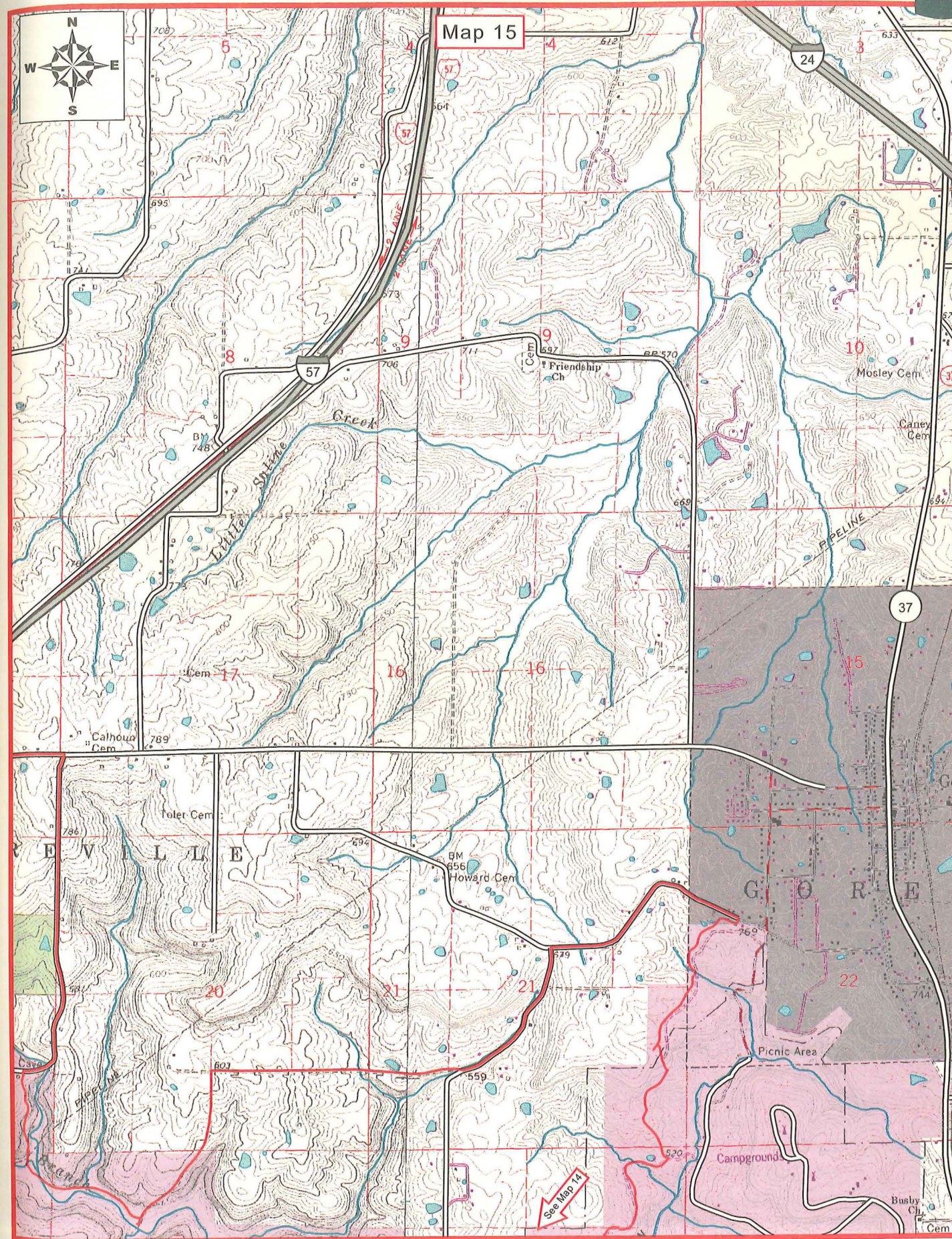
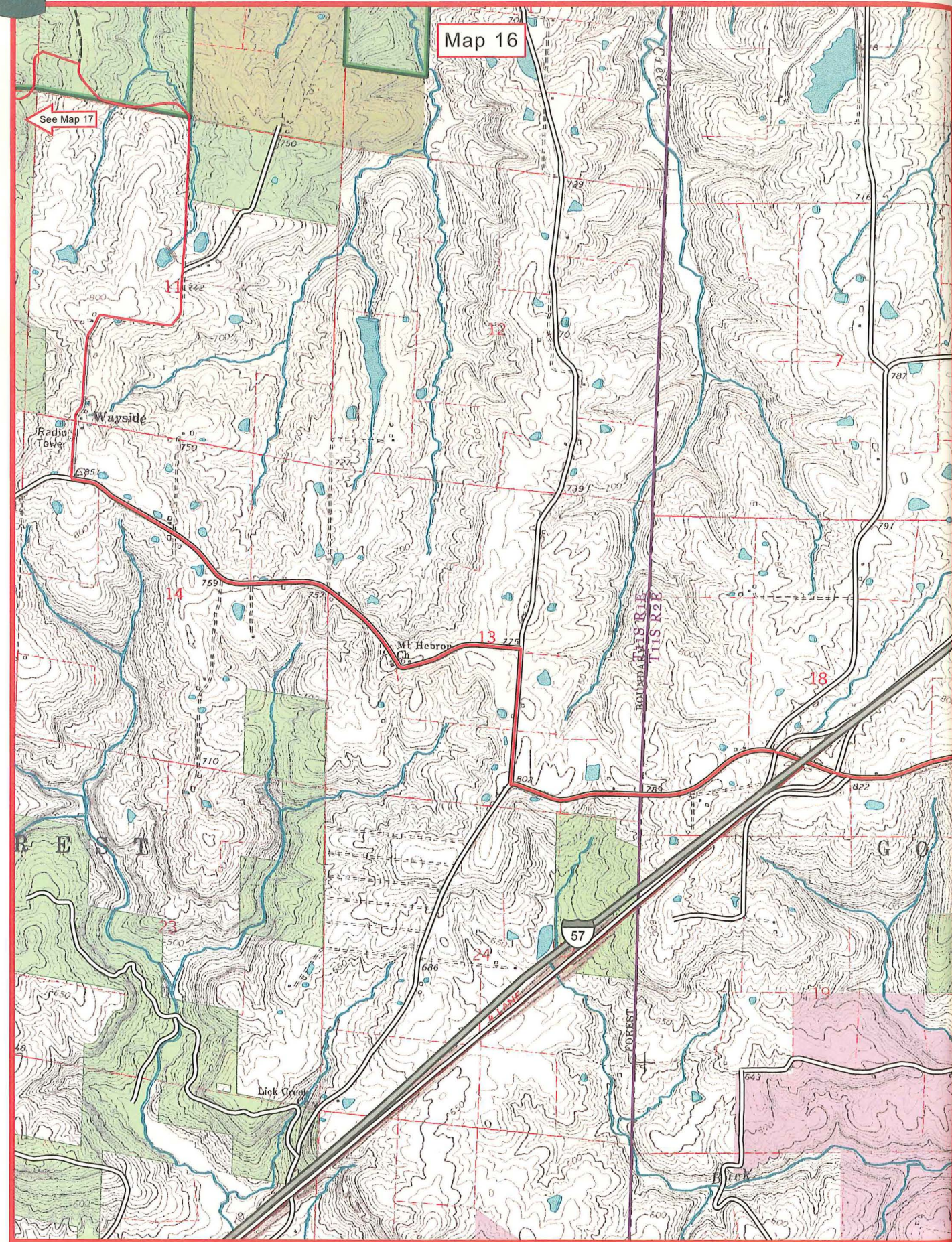
A little southeast of the Dutchman Lake spillway there is a grove of trees that has a spring coming out of the bluff. This has been named the Livesay Spring for Darrel Livesay, the person who opened the trail in this description. He is also responsible for the trail going through Crab Orchard Wilderness and is the only person who has been placed in our Hall of Fame...twice.

Ferne Clyffe State Park is a National Treasure and has beautiful camping spots and lots to see including the largest Rock Shelter in Illinois (Hawkes Cave). If you get crunched for time you might want to enter the park at the entrance off route 37 and exit out the top onto the blacktop going to the Waterfall.

Ferne Clyffe State Park and Giant City are closed to horses between October and April but remains open to hikers. Mountain bikes are also excluded.







## FERNE CLYFFE THROUGH PANTHER DEN TO GIANT CITY

Written by Don Monty

The River-to-River Trail enters Ferne Clyffe State Park at a parking lot on the north side of Rebman Road, a little over a mile west of Illinois Route 37. Rebman Road is the first road south of the main entrance to Ferne Clyffe State Park. The Trail proceeds north past the horse campground in the park and then turns back to the west as it descends into Happy Hollow. The Trail then follows Happy Hollow to the south and west before turning back to the north on a bluff above Happy Hollow. As the trail passes along the bluff there is a natural bridge. Towards the north end of the Park, the Trail passes within a quarter mile west of a huge rock shelter called Hawkes Cave which is a definite must see. The River-to-River Trail through Ferne Clyffe State Park is about six miles long and exits the Park at the southwest corner of the village of Goreville. The Trail turns to the west along W. Crawford Street, a blacktop road which changes its name to Sullivan Road. After about 3/4 mile the Trail turns south on Happy Hollow Road which proceeds generally to the south and west. After 1 1/2 miles at a sharp turn where Happy Hollow Road turns back to the south, the Trail turns north into the Cedar Bluff/Drapers Bluff Hunting Area through a small gravel parking lot. The Trail passes generally to the north and west for about two miles through the hunting area before exiting through a small gravel parking lot onto a gravel road (Regent Lane). (For a worthwhile side trip take Regent Road west and then south to Cedar Church near where there are trails that will take you to the top of Chimney Rock and Drapers Bluff.) To continue on the Trail turn right (east) on Reagent Road and cross through a stream bed as the road turns north. This stream bed passes over a cliff as a waterfall with a large rock shelter below the road. The waterfall is only a few feet from the edge of the road, so be careful! The road continues to the north where it "T's" with the Goreville Blacktop. Once the River to River Trail reaches the Goreville Blacktop, it turns west or left and continues west 3/4 mile to cross over Interstate 57 and then continues west another 1 mile to the next "T" intersection where it turns to the right (north) onto N. Lick Creek Road. Just prior to this turn there is a great view to the southeast. After going north for about a half mile on North Lick Creek

Road, turn left (west) onto Mt. Hebron Road. After about a half mile you pass Mt. Hebron Church and the road turns into gravel. After about another one and one-quarter miles you see some radio antennas and a road to the right (north), Wayside Lane. This is "Wayside."

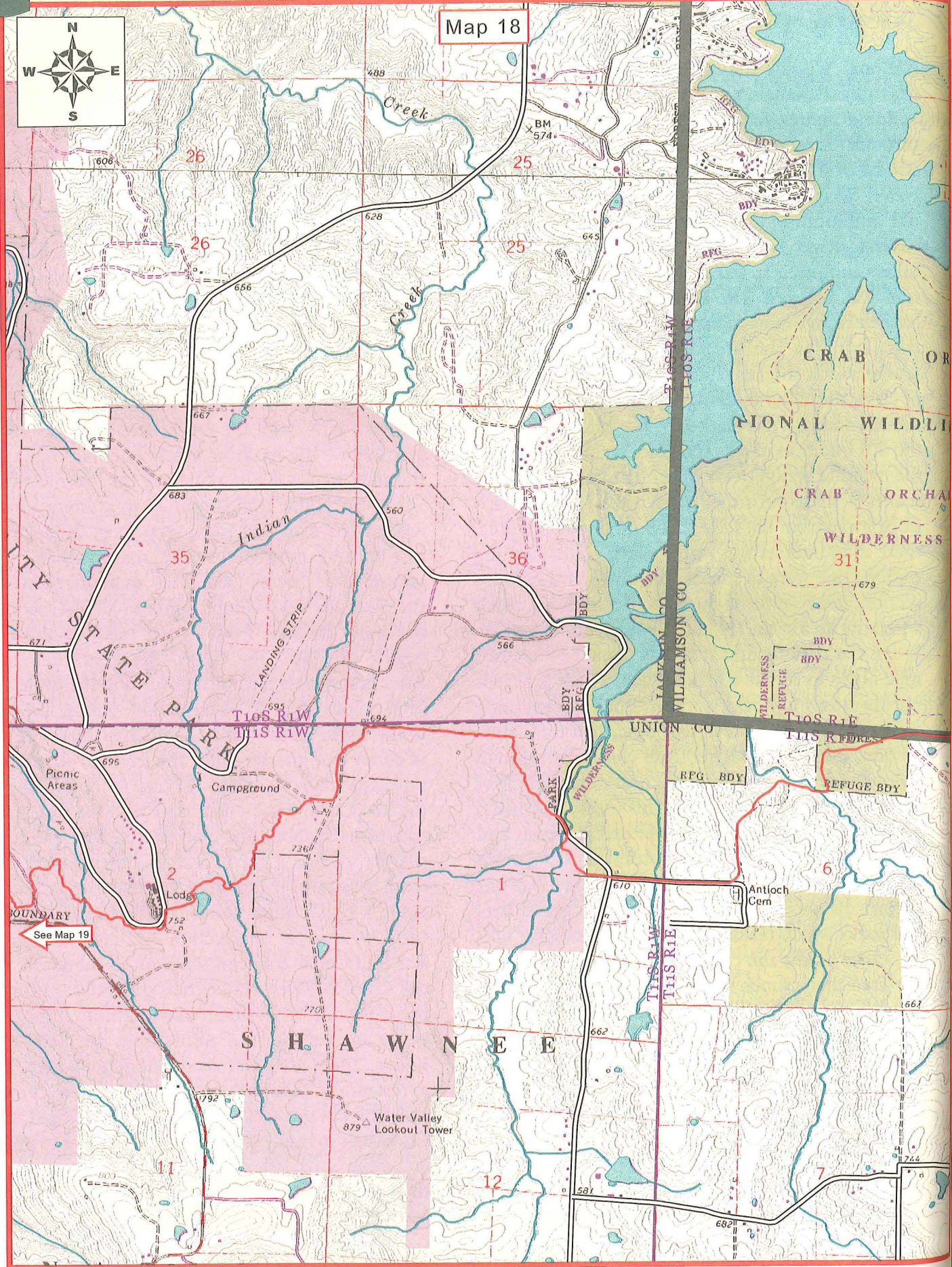
The River-to-River Trail turns right and follows Wayside Lane to the north past the antennas and a couple farm houses for about a mile to a place where the gravel road turns to the northeast (right). At this point the Trail as marked, continues straight north on an over grown roadbed. After about a half mile the Trail enters the Panther Den Wilderness area and turns to the left (west) and wanders west and northwest for about half a mile through a primarily wooded area. At an intersection in a pine-wooded area, the Trail makes a turn to the left (west). The Trail descends into a stream valley and at an intersection turns to the right (north). Soon you are at a spot that is incredible! Panther Den actually is a niche under one of the huge blocks of rocks. At Panther Den and to the north along the creek there are some camping spots. Near the south tip of an arm of Devil's Kitchen Lake the Trail climbs a hill and turns back to the south. After about three-quarters of a mile there is an intersection with a spur trail that heads off to the east and then quickly turns south. If you keep going south in another one-quarter of a mile you come to a gravel road. There is a small gravel parking area maintained by the Forest Service to the east of where the spur meets the gravel road. This segment is marked as a spur trail. Half a mile south of the parking area is Panther Den Road.

If you do not proceed to the south on the spur to the parking lot mentioned above, the River-to-River Trail proceeds west. After about one-half mile the Trail crosses a creek bed (usually dry) and climbs a hill into the edge of an old wildlife clearing. The Trail turns north and in about one-half mile descends sharply to a stream at the head of one of the arms of Devil's Kitchen Lake. The Trail then begins to climb following the bluff along the west side of the Lake. (Former editions of the Trail Guide showed the Trail gradually turning to the west onto Crab Orchard

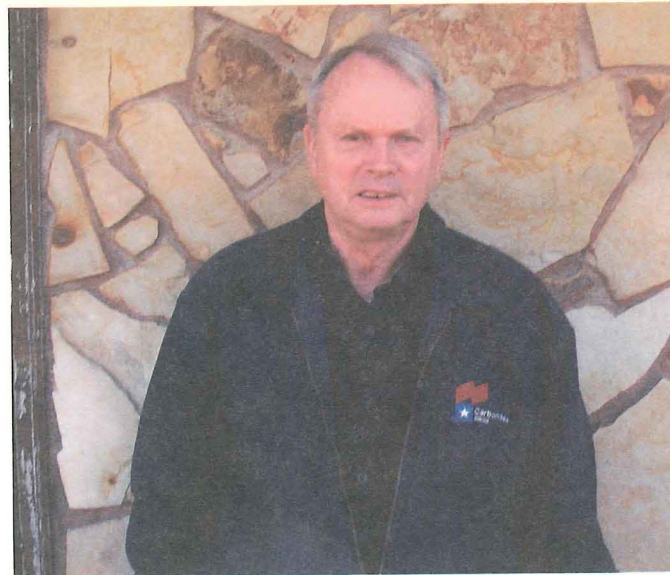
National Wildlife Refuge Land which is a wilderness area. However, in 2007 Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge relocated the River-to-River Trail through the refuge. In the process, it relocated a short stretch of the Trail on Forest Service Property. The Forest Service continues to officially designate the old trail location on Forest Service property as the River-to-River Trail. However, as a practical matter, hikers and riders in the area will see that the former trail was blocked. The Forest Service and Refuge have been in discussions, and further relocations of this part of the Trail are possible. Watch out for trail markers indicating any future changes. (In the Spring of 2010, the Wildlife Refuge worked on this specific section and is as it is marked by the trail markers and the 2011 edition of this trailguide, map provided by the wildlife refuge Jerry Jiles) The relocated Trail makes a sharp turn to the left (west) moving upslope away from the Lake. In about one-half a mile, there is an intersection with a north-south running trail. (If one were to turn to the north at this intersection, in about three-quarters of a mile you reach a parking area at the "Number 9" area of the Refuge. From that parking area it is only about one-quarter mile north to Devil's Kitchen Road, which proceeds northwesterly to Rocky Comfort Road.) Continuing westward from the previously described trail intersection, the River-to-River Trail continues through a wooded area before dropping into valley. The Trail crosses a creek in the valley. This creek, like many others in this area, has little water except during and soon after a rain storm. The "official" crossing point through the stream can be deep for hikers, but just a short distance to the north, there are gravel bars and rocks which make for a better crossing for hikers. Once across the creek at the "official" crossing, the Trail then climbs west to reach Rocky Comfort Road. There is a small parking area just across Rocky Comfort Road. The distance from the Wayside to Rocky Comfort Road is about 7 miles. (Again, follow the markers closely in this area. This segment will be in transition for perhaps a few years.)

As soon as the Trail crosses Rocky Comfort Road, the River-to-River Trail follows an abandoned paved road to the west. The old road has been taken over by vegetation and would not be recognizable as a

road if it were not for the portions of blacktop surface that remain. About one-quarter mile west of Rocky Comfort Road, the Trail makes a right turn to the north and then quickly makes a turn to the left (west) and then proceeds generally west and about a mile before reaching an old grove of sugar maples. This seems to be an old homestead site. From here the Trail proceeds west about one-quarter mile before turning to the south to cross a creek which is a tributary to Little Grassy Lake. After a heavy rain, this would be a dangerous creek crossing. The Trail then climbs a couple switchbacks on the southwest side of the creek to a ridge where it turns south and reaches a gravel road at Antioch Cemetery about one-half mile from the creek. The Trail turns west and follows the road for nearly one-half mile until the road makes a ninety degree turn to the south. At this turn, the Trail continues west along a badly eroded old road bed for a very short distance before turning northwestward across another tributary of Little Grassy Lake. Very soon after crossing the creek the Trail climbs uphill to an old road bed in Giant City State Park. At this roadbed, the Trail begins to follow the Giant City equestrian trail. After going west for a little over one-half mile, the Trail comes to a "T" intersection. Taking the trail to the north leads to the Giant City Camp Ground in about one-quarter mile. The River-to-River Trail proceeds south from the "T" intersection following the Red Cedar Trail which runs with the equestrian trail here. In about one-quarter mile the Trail turns sharply west on a gravel road and then within one-tenth mile turns south off of the road into a meadow along a pond. After about one-half mile the Trail turns west at an intersection and crosses a creek. The Red Cedar trail continues on to the south, but the River-to-River Trail climbs generally west from the creek and in less than one-half mile comes out at the edge of the road across from the Giant City Lodge. There are great accommodations here, and a restaurant that features all-you-can-eat, home-style chicken dinners. (The restaurant is closed from Christmas to mid-February) There is a large parking lot on the north side of the lodge, and you can climb the water tower for a good view. The Trail distance from Rocky Comfort Road to the Giant City Lodge is about 6 miles.



Access Panther Den by car from the east by exiting I-57 at Exit 40, and then going west on Gorville Road to the first "T". Turn right onto North Lick Creek Road, then in half a mile turn left onto Mt. Hebron Road going past Mt. Hebron Church and past the intersection with Wayside Lane. Continuing west, in about three-quarters of a mile turn north from Mt. Hebron Road onto Robinson Hill Road and go another half mile to where the road bends sharply west to become Panther Den Road. Immediately west of the bend is Panther Den Lane which goes north for a half mile to a Forest Service



Don Monty,  
A Real Partner and Friend



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

parking area. Panthers Den is about two miles to the north. Access to Panther Den from Carbondale is via Giant City Road south to Grassy Lake Road, east to Rocky Comfort Road, south on Rocky Comfort Road, and then east on Panther Den Road to Panther Den Lane and then to the Panther Den parking area. Access to Giant City State Park is by Giant City Road south from Route 13 in Carbondale or by Carbondale is a major regional center, and Makanda is a rustic town with some interesting shops. Camping supplies and groceries are available in Carbondale. passing through Makanda from Route 51 south of Carbondale.



## GIANT CITY TO CEDAR LAKE TO BALD KNOB CROSS BLACKTOP

### Written by Don Monty

The trail leaves Giant City on the west side exiting onto a blacktop road about a half mile from Makanda. At Makanda it crosses the railroad tracks and goes straight ahead through an alley next to the Post Office and up the hill. This leg will take you the back way and the safer way to Highway 51. After crossing the blacktop road you will continue down the lane until the trail turns west into a field. This is about a quarter mile to Route 51. Walk on the side of the field to get to the Highway and turn north toward Presley Tours. After crossing at the Presley Tours building, continue on the blacktop for about a mile and turn left at the first road, go a quarter mile and turn south on the road leading to Lierley Cemetery. After passing the cemetery on the left, the trail entrance to Forest Service land will be on the right (west). The trail travels on the south side of Cedar Lake to its point of departure almost three miles after turning onto Forest Service land. This road will go directly south to Alto Pass. You will cross a stone spillway to connect with the trail on the other side of the lake.

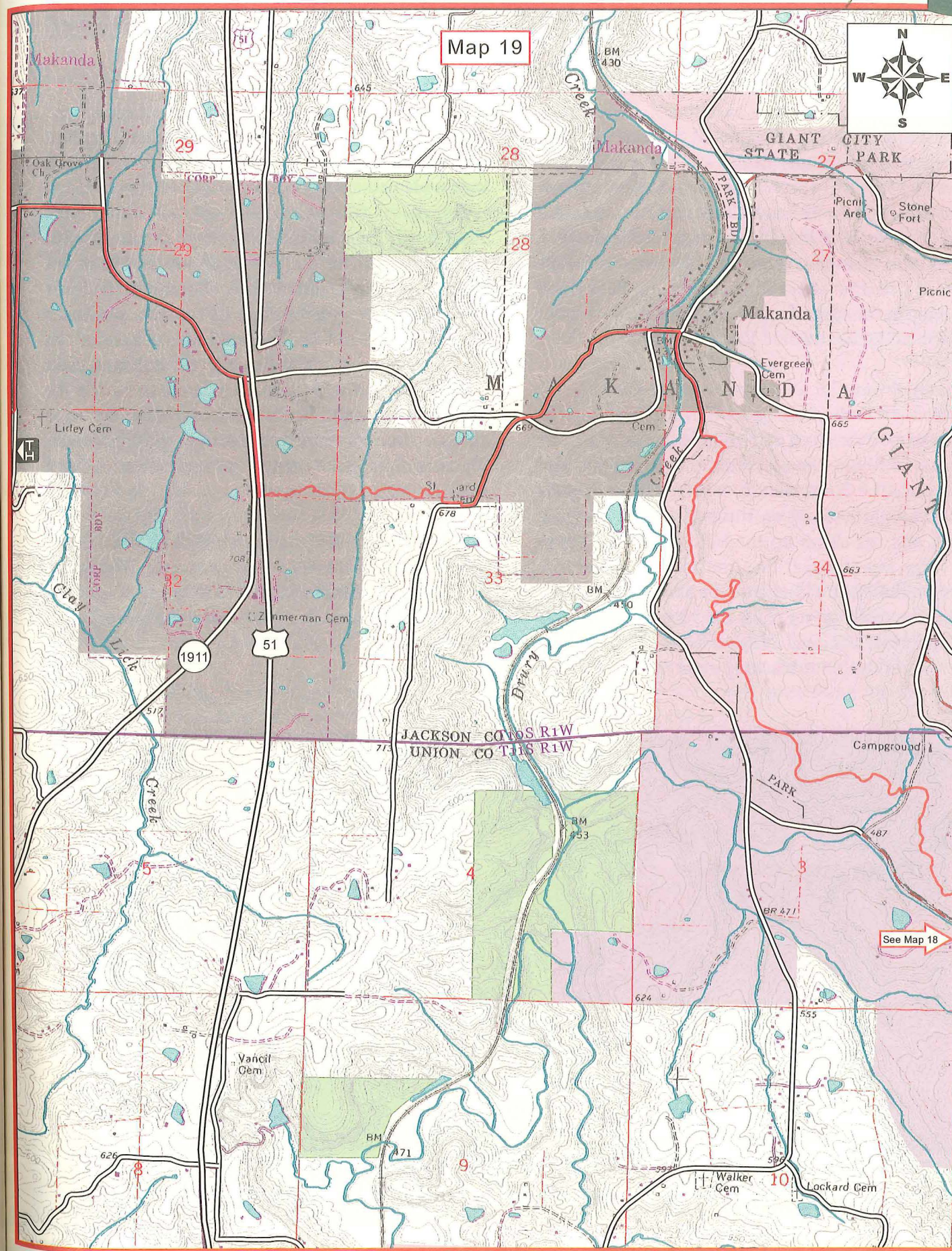
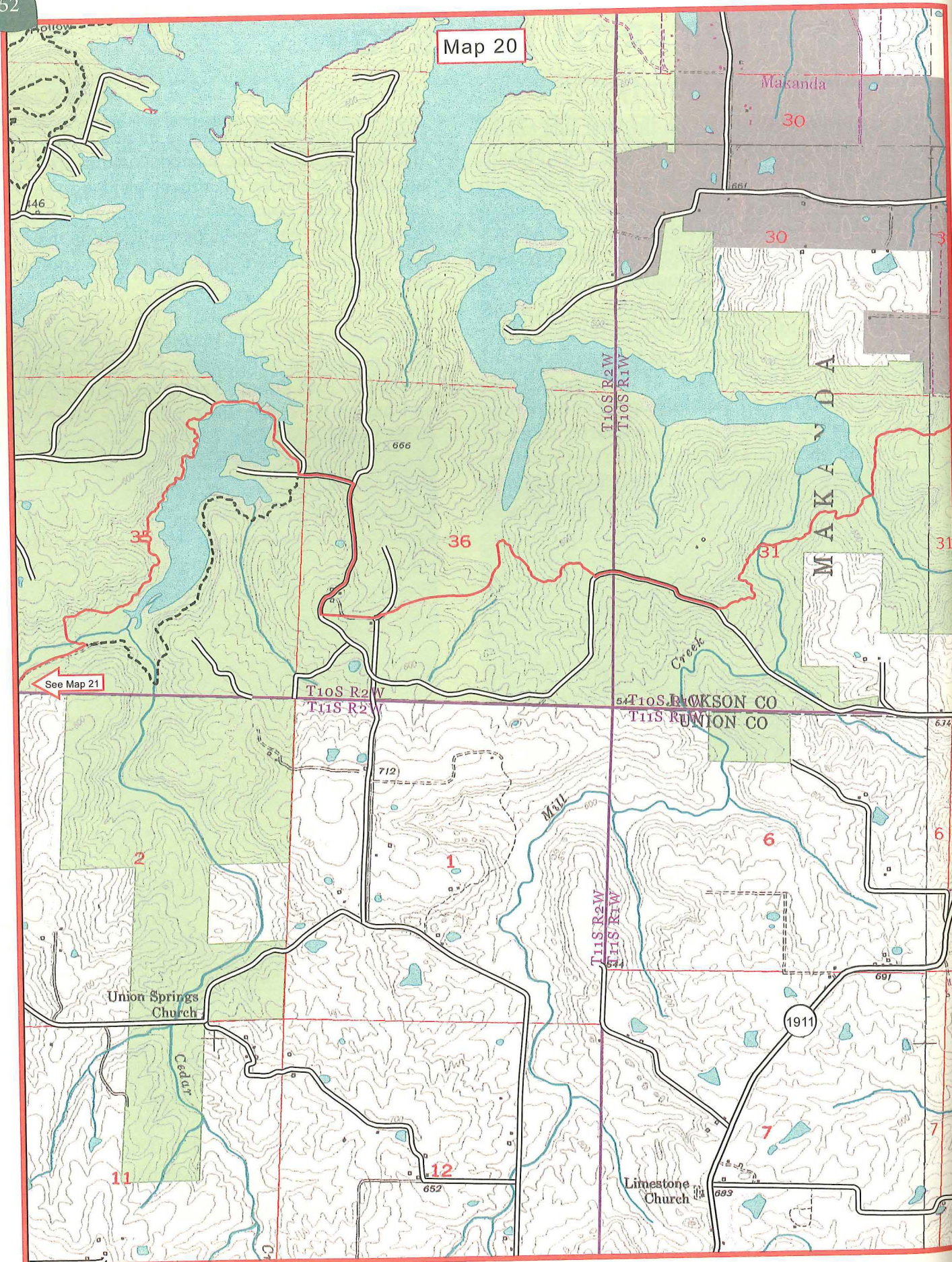
This is a cool passage...no pun intended.

The Road will become named Possum Trot Road and passes the water treatment plant on the right hand and then proceeds into downtown Alto Pass. After crossing Main Street the trail goes up the street and becomes Bald Knob Blacktop Road and passes over route 127.

Makanda is a nice little town waiting for its day in the sun, desiring to be known for more than home to Senator Paul Simon. This is an old hippie town and has an ice cream store and some other shops along their boardwalk.

Some may be tempted to walk the blacktop from Makanda to Route 51, but don't. The shoulder is too narrow and is worth the extra time it takes to locate the passage through the field to get to the Presley building. We have had a lot of trouble keeping our markers up in this vicinity but have patience.







## ALTO PASS / BALD KNOB BLACKTOP TO PINE HILLS

Alto Pass is a beautiful little mountain town with antique shops, a rootbeer saloon and great views. It can be accessed by Illinois Route 127 from Murphysboro. The River-to-River Trail runs to the southernmost end of Cedar Lake and leaves on a southbound road (Possum Trot Road) that turns into Cedar as it enters Alto Pass then crosses Main Street and connects to Chestnut street which turns into Bald Knob Blacktop at the edge of town. Take this road west out of town and take the Bald Knob Cross Road.

About half way to the Cross, you will see the sign for the Godwin Trail which goes off to the right or west. Take the Godwin Trail for two miles, cross Hutchins Creek and follow the markers up the next hill and up-up-up. The Forest Service has done a lot of good work and particularly on the crossing of Hudgens Creek and the climb up the hill. When you get to the ridge top, this will turn out to be a single trail with sinkholes on either side for about 2 1/2 miles. You are actually going from Bald Knob Wilderness to Pine Hills National Natural Landmark and the trail comes out on a blacktop road at the entrance

to Clear Springs Wilderness. There are three special natural areas on this section alone. Inspiration point is a cliff side view on top of a rock set apart by a six inch wide path...Don't do it.

Turn north on the blacktop and go downhill until the intersection of the next blacktop and turn left (south) until you reach Winters Pond and the levee road. The rock outcroppings above you are much photographed and yes the road at the base of the bluffs that goes straight ahead ( you will turn right 90 degrees on the levee) that is closed in season for the migrating reptiles. Yes this is the infamous road closed to human traffic because of migrating snakes. The infamous snake road lies straight ahead...Don't do it.

There are many nice vistas overlooking the Mississippi Valley on the ridge top road overlooking the bayou beyond on the hilltop road going south and is beautiful even at the base along the levee...truly wonderful.



## PINE HILLS TO DEVIL'S BACKBONE

### Map 21

"At the bottom of the bluffs there is a picnic area and parking area at Winters Pond (around the corner and is one of many bayous) and a nice waiting space if not daring enough for inspiration point at Pine Hills. Take the levee going west which makes a wide loop to Route 3. Turn right at the bridge and after crossing the Big Muddy River Bridge turn left on the opposite side (on the levee) continue on the north side of the levee which leads into Grand Tower. What you will see is the Mississippi valley, the source of grain for New Orleans and a trade source for the new United States. (but extends past St. Louis.) This last stretch of levee borders Grand Tower Island which has been cut off by the Mississippi. Yes, you are in Missouri at this point. Devil's Backbone Park has an odd formation of rocks in it and a nice beach on the Mississippi and is adjacent to Grand Tower. The park is a real kid park. This last part is a long flat stretch of about ten miles, but different enough and worth the miles if purchased by your hike through the full length of the trail. There will be no water on the levee so fill up at Winters' Pond."

"From Devil's Backbone Park one can also see Tower Rock which is a Federal Holding that was set aside by U.S. Grant during his administration. There were two places that Grant was going to make into National Parks...Tower Rock and Yellowstone. Yellowstone won out. It has been a landmark since the early French explorers. Lewis and Clark had to climb it,

Samuel Clemens partied at Grand Tower and probably Tower Rock as well. There is a story that renegade Indians killed a group of settlers on the beach as they landed at the south end of Devil's Backbone. The only survivor was a small boy who had hidden himself in the rocks of the formation and who grew up to avenge the killing of his parents and kin."

"The American Discovery Trail leaves the River-to-River Trail at the park and travels up-river to St. Louis on the levees."

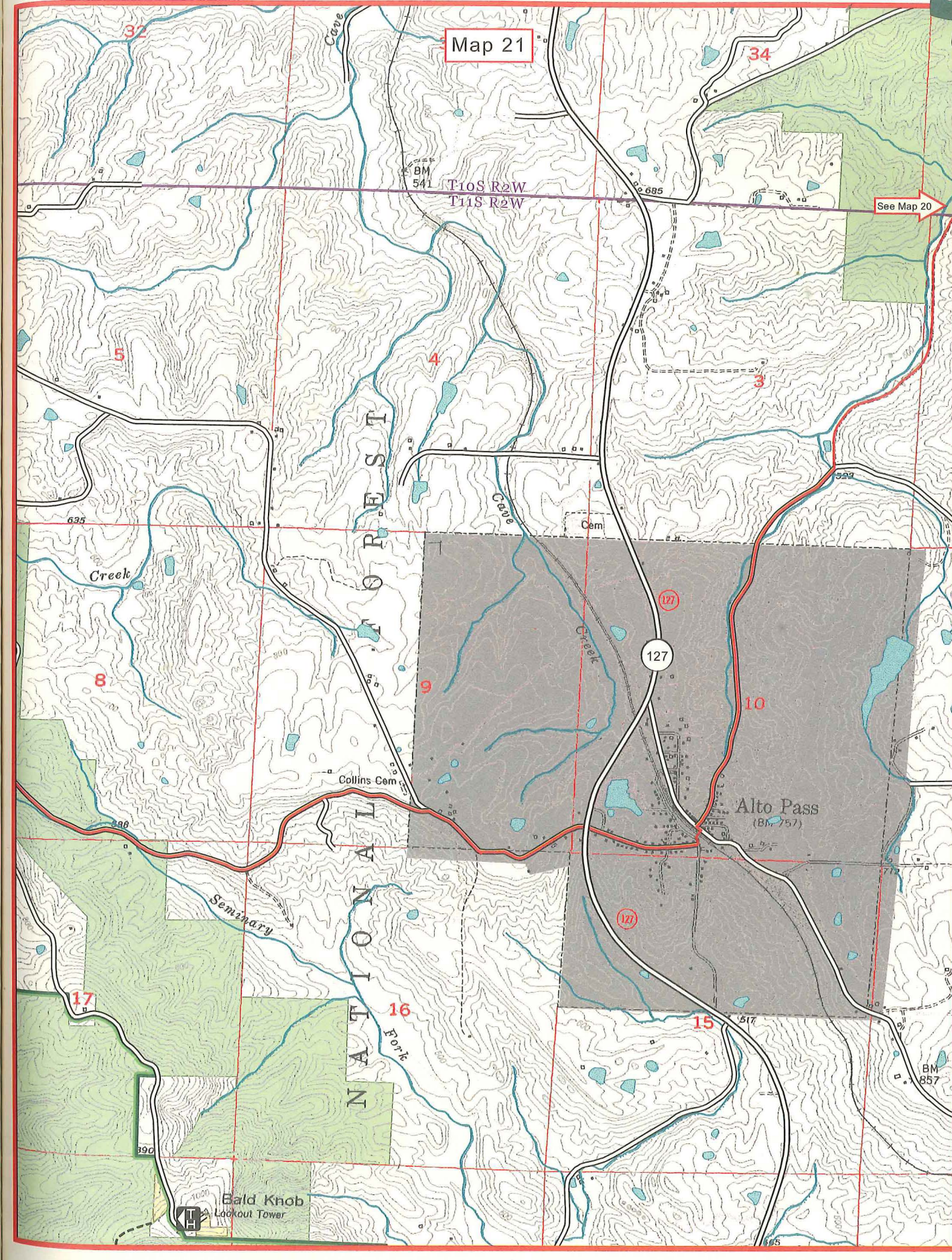
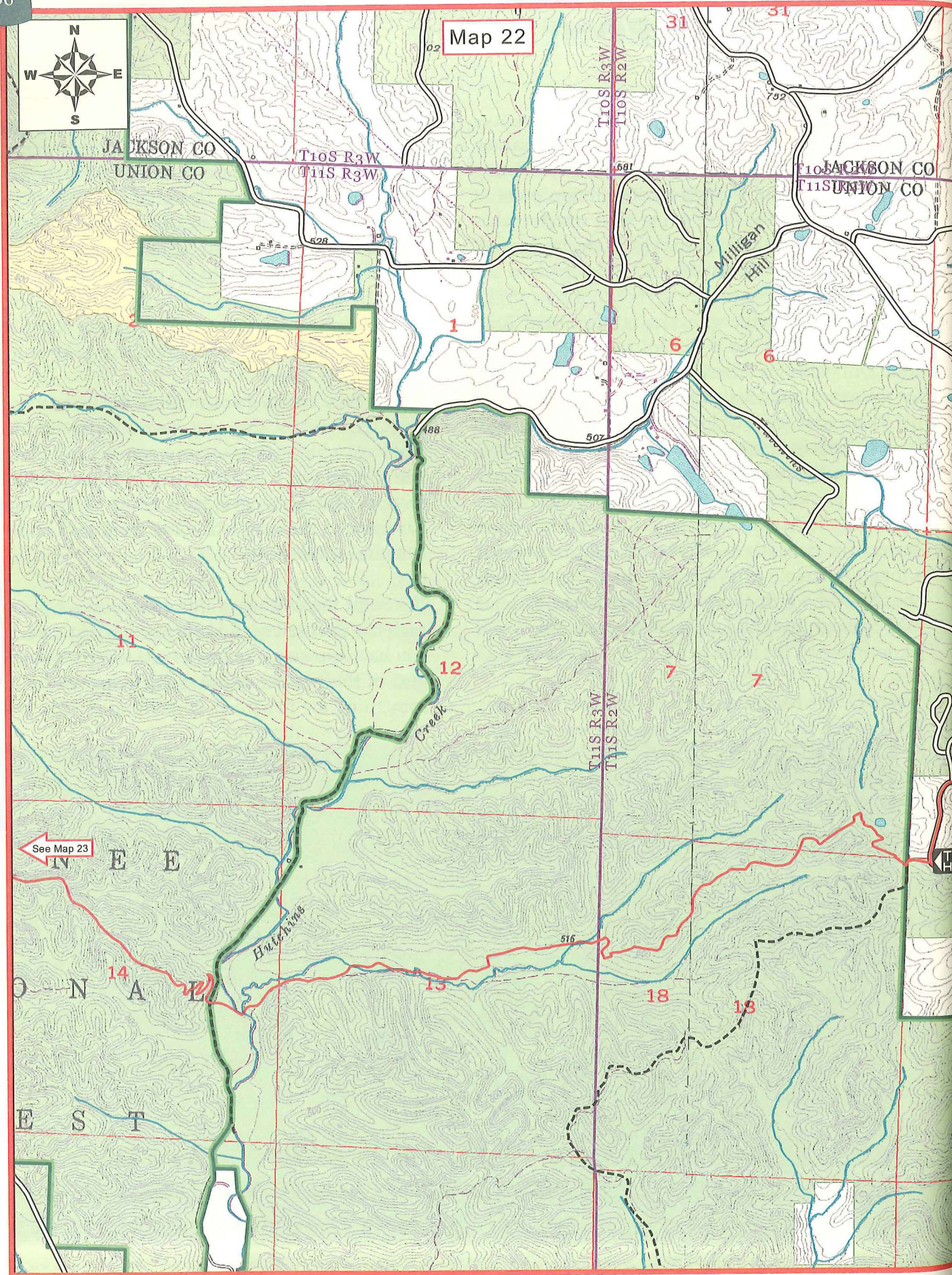
"If you have traveled any or all of the River to River Trail, I'm certain that you have seen some things that have added to your life's memories and perhaps will compel you to return again. Whatever your direction, whether we ever meet or not I hope that we have shared the magic of some good days and this beautiful wilderness."

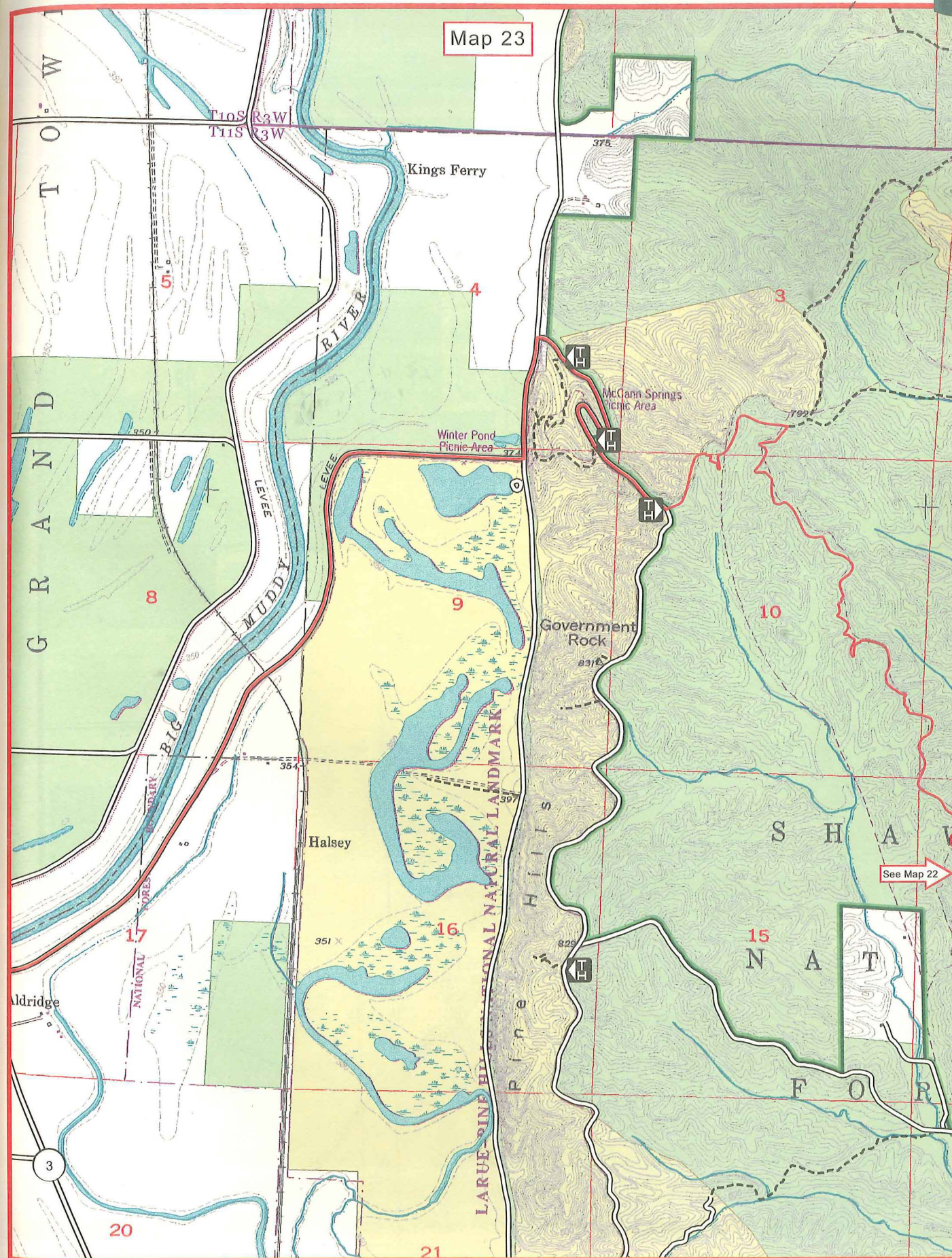
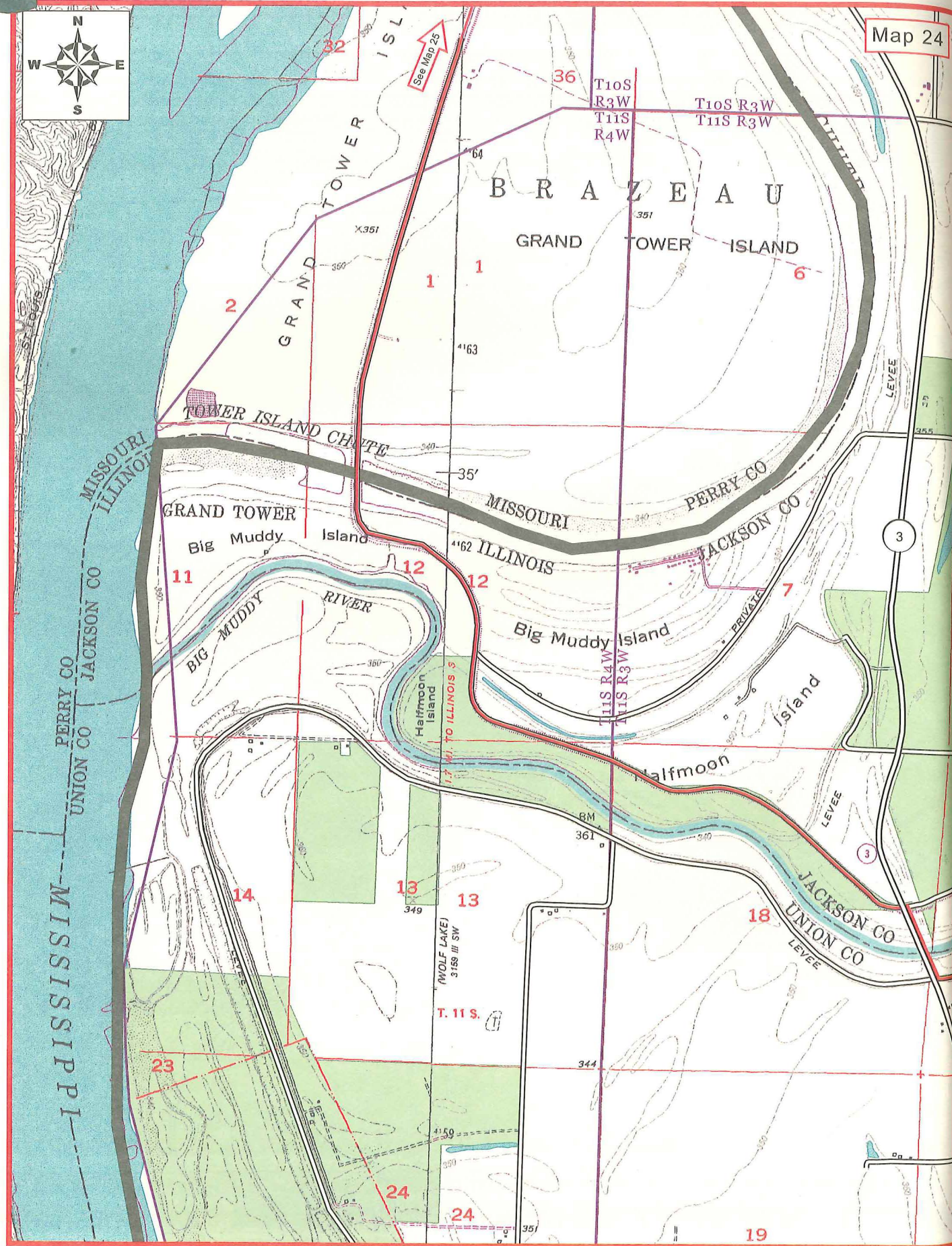
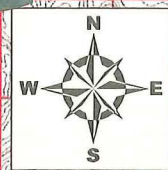
"As I end the writing of this description, I pray for each travelers safety and enjoyment of the trail. May you have grown and experienced some new awareness of the wonder of life. Something for the eyes, something for the smell, something for the touch, something for the heart."

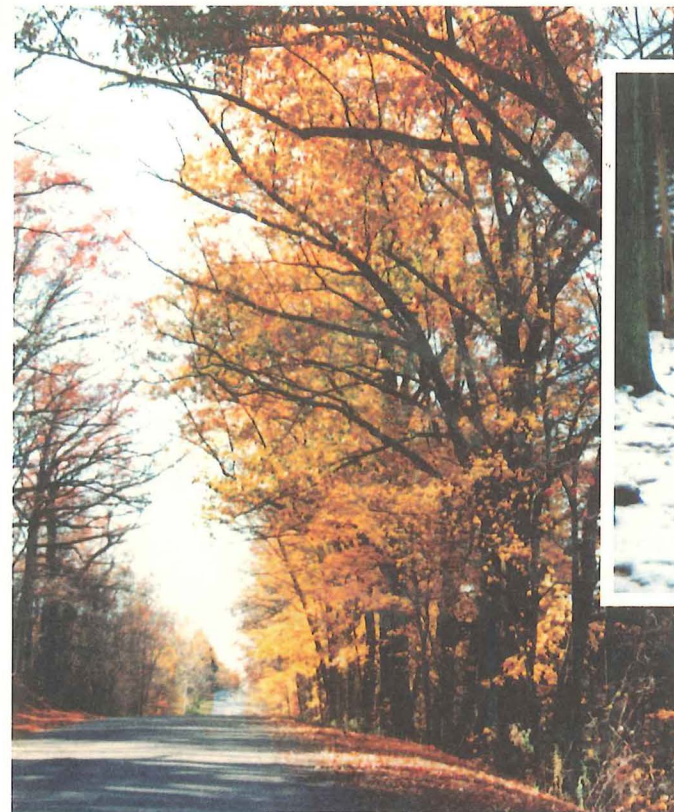
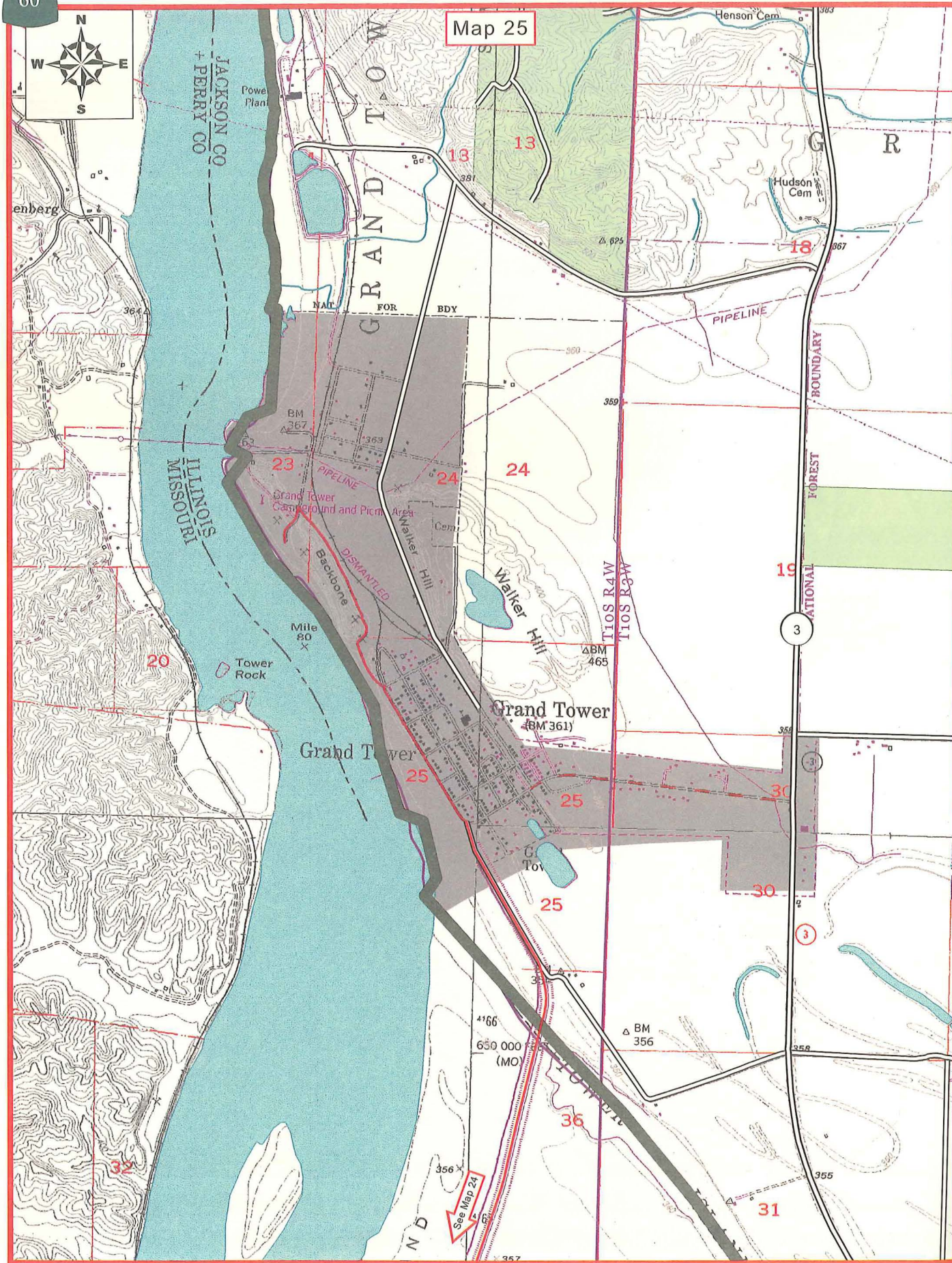
"Every day in the Shawnee is like visiting a museum."

John O'Dell  
2010









"People often ask and think about canoeing in the Shawnee Forest, but there are no rentals in the Forest at the time of this writing. If you want to bring your own, a couple good options are Saline River (anywhere in the Forest) and along the Muddy River. Lusk Creek is the obvious center of greatest possibilities if the water is high enough. It is regarded as a "very flashy stream." You might wish to look on the internet for the water monitor station on Lusk Creek at Eddyville on the USGS homepage <http://il.water.usgs.gov/usgs/> to see if it is about 2 feet above mean. If it is, you will have to figure your own way into the creek preferably north of Salt Petre Cave to Ragens Ford in the south, and be prepared for a great ride. You can take the trip all the way to the Ohio as well."

Bill Morrow of USGS was kind enough to respond to our inquiry and wrote the following:

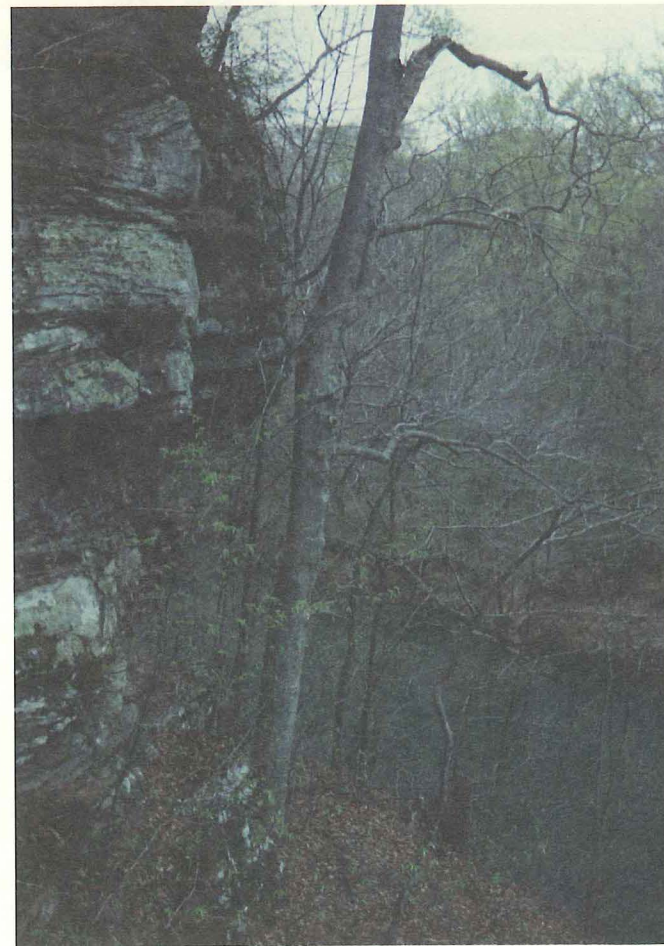
Go to data realtime streamflow station name', then pick "Lusk Creek at Eddyville' and 'real time data'.



## Canoeing

By choosing 30 days worth of record (or 7), you can see what the stage is right now and what it has been. You can also get data older than that by going from the main menu to 'data', the 'historical data'. Then follow the menu driven options. If you know a day when canoeing was just the right stage, I would note the stage of the river for future reference. You can also see what the year was in table form by going from 'data' to '2000 annual report'. In summary, I would find out from various people when they went canoeing, and how were conditions. I'd find out the river level (stage) at that day at Eddyville, and make a chart for comparison.

Idea contribution by David Winkleman, River-to-River Trail Board of Directors, Cedar Grove Church Road to Trigg Tower.



## OTHER TRAILS

### Three Arches Trail

"The Three Arches Trail is a great day-hike within the Garden of the Gods area and will show the parts of this National Scenic Attraction that are not often seen by the public. This is a three mile trail of moderate difficulty. (However, it is not easy) Park at the Backpackers parking lot and get a ride to the start of the hike. Leave the backpackers lot and go east to the intersection with the Forest Road and turn left (north). There will be a sharp turn to the right followed by a sharp turn to the left, pass the crossing of the River-to-River Trail and continue north to the first road entrance on the right. This will be Forest Road 1621. Go to the first pull off space on the right and park."

"The first arch is directly across the road and take the trail around the rocks to the backside. The Arch is low but distinctive and wide enough that one could camp there. It leads to a portion that resembles a natural amphitheatre. This is the place where Confederate sympathizers met during the Civil War. There are also small arches and other oddities close by. When finished, return to the road where the car is parked and walk down the road to the Northeast until you come to a gate on your right, turn there and continue down this road. At the bottom of the hill a branch crosses the road and turn South (right) follow the stream bed until a path can be seen going up to a rock wall. Continue along the rock wall (southerly and up the hill) until you come to the next arch."

"From the second arch continue south (up hill) until you come to Buzzards Roost. This is a very interesting place and you may want to explore, but it is a great spot to take a break. The River-to-River Trail is on the south side of Buzzards Roost about 100 feet and you walk east. This is always a surprise to me how close the Roost is to the Forest Road. Continue West about a mile on the River-to-River Trail to the next Arch which turns out to be a short distance up trail to the backpacker parking lot. After leaving the arch, drop on down to the black top road so you won't miss the backpacker lot."

"This is a cute trip. Most people can do it in less than three hours and the only strain is close to the last, but with patience, the last climb can be done with ease. Be sure to stop and catch your breathe before you run out of gas. What this trail tells me, is that there is a lot in Garden of the Gods that people don't know about."

Reference Karbers Ridge Quadrangle"

### "The Crest Trail"

"The Crest Trail starts at the Statue of Tecumseh at the Saline County Conservation Area and travels along the ridge of Eagle Mountain and ends at Stone Face. The distance is about five miles and although difficult, it is fine for someone who is at least moderately conditioned. This is a wonderful trail complete with vistas, unusual rock formation, and much beautiful wilderness. This trail teaches many lessons."

"1. This is part of an old French Trail dating from about 1700 and was probably used by Native Americans long before then. During historical times it served as a route to Half Moon Salt Lick and the production of salt. After salt production diminished, it was the location of many stills for making moonshine. It is known in the local communities that a person could not go a mile between Equality and Eagle Mountain without passing a place where someone had met a violent end. The trail was a road at one time and had a post office. 2. The Shawneetown-Reedstown Fault lies immediately at the foot of Eagle Mountain on the Saline River Side. The fault system is a connection with the New Madrid, but it has also been enlarged by the forces that resulted in the Hicks Dome upheaval which was a crypto-volcanic explosion resulting in many mysterious events and landmarks in the area and the Fluorspar that was mined here. The mountain is an anticline and when viewed from route 13 looks very substantial, but the syncline immediately falls away on the other side into Eagle

Valley behind the mountain. On the top of this ridge is a road that in some places is only wide enough for a trail. In front of the Ridge on which is the Tecumseh Statue is the "Horseshoe Upheaval" named after the ghost town of Horseshoe but is a city block sized boulder brought to the surface from 3,500 feet underground and left on the surface. Not far away is Half Moon Lick which was a phenomenal salt spring that was a center for Ice Age Animals and for salt production that affected westward expansion policy when this area was the western frontier. 3. Tecumseh was a very wise leader of the Shawnee who tried to unite all tribes in the Midwest to establish an Indian territory retaining its natural character without the encroachment of white culture. Recognized as a remarkable strategist, orator, visionary and prophet, his abilities were recognized by even his enemies. By reading the sign at the statue, you will learn more about this remarkable individual. The plan was to take the white settlements north of the Ohio River which would become the Southern Boundary of the Indian Territory. At one point, Native Americans had taken all but one of the cities, but the flood of immigrants soon overwhelmed the much smaller Indian Population. 4. Stone Face is really a stone face. Unbelievably it was undiscovered by anyone until Bill Farley, a high school teacher in Harrisburg found it in the 1920's It looks a lot like Wallace Beery and is a remarkable natural landmark."

"By starting at the Tecumseh Statue, the route is very clear. In about an hour, you will pass a tree with three red rings painted on it, with a descending trail. This is the path to the Cave in Cave Hill. Shortly thereafter, there will be a good overlook followed by another perhaps a half mile up the trail. The second is perhaps a little better, but both are worth the trip. Before reaching Eagle Mountain Road, there will be another overlook to the south. Shortly thereafter you will come to the Road and you turn left and look for the tread off this road going west. The trail from here on is straight forward until you come to the power line and descend to the cliffs edge and then walk east at the very edge. The face can be discerned at about

the second to last viewpoints looking down the cliff face at about a 30 degree angle. It is about six feet in height and is unmistakable. Most people get a real chuckle when they see it for the first time. There is a Forest Service parking lot at Stone Face so it would be a good idea to have arrangements made to have a car there waiting for you. The Crest Trail proceeds on to Herod past Horton Hill and Wambaugh Mountain which is on private property."

To get to the Tecumseh Statue, take route 13 from Harrisburg to Equality and follow the signs. The lake is called Glen O. Jones Lake, and the Conservation area contains the lake. The statue is the only bronze of Tecumseh ever done and stands at the trail entrance on top of the ridge in the park.

Reference Rudement Quadrangle

## Jackson Hollow

The most spectacular, jaw dropping, place in Southern Illinois is Jackson Hollow when the water falls are running. It is good anytime, but amazing when well watered...such as in the spring. To get there, from Ozark go east until you get to Zion Church/Cemetery. From Burden Falls go west until you get to Zion Church. On the north edge of the cemetery you will find the forest road "Glenn St. Falls." turn southeast on this road and go three miles. After two miles you will ford a creek and in this area there will be lots of cars parked because it is a mecca for rock climbers...however, you proceed another mile down the road to a 90 degree turn to the left and park it. This is a 3.2 mile hike of moderate difficulty.

The hike begins at the turn and goes west. You will soon see a rock wall on your right and just keep walking. The key is keeping the wall on your right. The trail will keep turning until you "fetch a compass" and walk into the main part of Jackson Hollow. There are other ways to climb in, but the safest and

the most beautiful is this way. The key is keeping the cliffs on your right. Under any circumstance, do not try to take a short cut across the valley, because you will end up walking for hours and end up in a place you cannot find on a map with nobody around to ask directions.

There are so many unusual things here, so we won't try to tell you everything but when you come to the "Keyhole" the first big waterfall is just after. By going through the keyhole, you can climb up to the rim and then shortly to the road. The second waterfall is the largest and most consistent and worth a stop to meditate or lunch. Proceed on keeping the cliffs on the right. At the railroad tracks (yes, trains) (which you won't see until you are right on them) you do a dog leg to the left and watch for the way west after about 200 yards. The trail will eventually end up on Trigg Tower Road. Look for the trail marker if you leave a car on the west end, but another option is to walk to the Railroad Tracks and then back.

When you cross the railroad tracks there is another story. One mile north is the longest tunnel in Illinois. It also turns into a double tunnel at the other end. The perpendicular cliffs attract climbers, who invite gawkers. However, if you make yourself too obnoxious, they might drop a hammer on your head.

This is a magnificent hike. When the falls are running, you can walk out of hearing distance of one wa-

terfall and start hearing the next. This is all hidden in deep forest with towering trees. See what you think.

One time in December, well after visitor season, I walked down the stream of the main waterfall and came to cliff's edge slowly and then the whole scene erupted in wild turkeys. Must have been well over a hundred.

Another time I was at the foot of the waterfall going toward the rail road tracks and noticed the valley floor where I was walking was full of ringed neck snakes. These are harmless little worm eating creatures that I may put in my pocket just for fun. They are often found in decaying trees, but they were undoubtedly migrating this time.

## Reference Stonefort Quadrangle

These maps were compiled through hiking trips by John O'Dell, Eric Johnson and others. Eric Johnson provided the GPS maps and way points, and was a good hiking partner when we finished out the details of each hike. These trails, have been walked many times, and from different angles so this is our recommendation for accessibility, beauty, and passage. If you have a question, call 618-252-6789.



Jackson Hollow

Although the River-to-River Trail is the Premier Trail in Southern Illinois, there are other trails, albeit shorter, that are worth while. There are also some very interesting places to drive to in the event you want to explore the easy way. Although backpacking is wonderful, day hikes are easier to plan and to take a family on. You might consider these:

**Most Popular Portions of the River-to-River Trail:** A good week end is from Herod to Lusk Creek Canyon. This way you can get right into the woods and see One Horse Gap followed by Lusk Creek. A little longer is from Garden of the Gods or High Knob to Lusk Creek, then add Camp Cadiz (on one side) then to Trigg Tower (west), Max Creek etc. Cedar Lake, Panthers Den, Giant City, and all the rest are interesting and different.

**The Crest Trail or Tecumseh Trail.** In October 2002 a statue of Tecumseh, the great Shawnee Leader, was placed on a ridge in the Saline County Conservation Area. Next to this statue is a trail going west, that might very well have been used by him and others and certainly by French Traders carrying salt for their Tannery on the Ohio. Take this trail west and it will go along the crest of Eagle Mountain. There are several spots where you can stop to look over the Saline Valley. After less than three miles you will come to a gravel road and turn left going up hill slightly to a bend in the road. Go due west to come to the main westward trail which will lead you to some power lines and turn right. If you go down to the cliff and turn right you will pass Stone Face and then end up in the Parking Lot. If you would like to continue, before you go downhill, the trail once again goes into the woods. Follow this trail and you will come out in Herod and you could actually go to the next part below.

**The Williams Hill Trail.** The tallest point in Southern Illinois at 1064 feet. From Herod, walk along the south side of Route 34 until you pass the house with chickens and at the sign post turn into the woods. The trail goes uphill at a angle from the road, cross

the creek where two meet and follow the smaller branch in it's valley almost due west until you come to a ridge and turn south (left). Follow this old road bed until you come to a substantial dirt road and turn left which should take you to the top. The last mile is a real climb, but about half way through it you will realize how high you are. This road turns into another lightly graveled road and ends near the top. To get to the sign, turn right and go under the antennas. Then continue straight down the road to the south and bushwhack down Gyp Williams Hollow until you come up a regular trail and turn east. This will take you to Raum Road at the concrete ford and right on the River-to-River Trail. Up the ford about 200 feet the River-to-River Trail goes into the woods again. Where Gyp Williams Hollow ends, is also the end of Bear Track Hollow and is a special place. Downstream from the concrete ford perhaps 100 feet is a really great camping area.

**Jackson Hollow-Burden Falls- Bell Smith Spring Trigg Tower.** If ever there is an enchanted land, Jackson Hollow qualifies. On one occasion during the spring when there had been plenty of rain, I walked at the base of the cliff and after passing one waterfall, I could start picking up the sound of another. There is a railroad track that intersects the hollow so there are two parts. Incidentally, about a mile up the track is a tunnel which is the longest in Illinois. Both halves of this hollow are spectacular but it will take more than a day to see it. You also cannot wander into the middle without being disoriented and you will get lost. The only way you can see this marvel is by hiking or horseback and by either climbing in or walking in at points that only the familiar will know.

Take route 145 south to Delwood and turn west on the Burden Falls-Bell Smith Springs Road. After four miles you will pass over the top of Burden Falls and proceed to the "T." If you turn left and follow the signs you will go to Bell Smith Springs which is gorgeous. They have a large natural bridge, some great swimming holes and access to Teal Pond and Rosebud which are excellent campgrounds. Or at the T

go right and continue for about five miles and you will come to Glen Saint Falls Road. Take this road for two miles and you will come to a ford and a parking lot. There are lots of climbers here and they usually climb down a tree by the waterfall. For us mortals, walk to the south along the rim, past the next waterfall and you will find a place where you can climb up and down. When you get to the bottom you can go either way but you should follow the cliffs edge north and it will wind past the first waterfall and then on to cross over the railroad tracks after about a mile. (Dog leg left and then turn right on to the other side.) The Trail eventually ends up on Trigg Tower road, but to find it from the other side you look for a cut in the bank and most people will not be able to locate it. I usually make at least two trips a year to this place. Any skeptics about the beauty of Southern Illinois are put to rest here.

### Prologue

About four miles due south of the turn off is Trigg Tower which has a beautiful vista at any time of year. By turning left at Trigg Tower the gravel road has beautiful overlooks and eventually comes out on route 147, turn left and go to Millstone Bluff. There is plenty of good hiking around Burden Falls. With lots of rain, not one but three and sometimes four falls happen.

**Max Creek Vortex:** I don't know what a vortex is for certain, but in the places in the world that reports this phenomena it can be a spiritual, healing, haunted, illusionary place. Yes people have different feelings when going to where the River-to-River Trail crosses Max Creek and to the south up the trail, but no healings have been reported. One house close to the creek was reported to be super haunted. But this writer must not be very sensitive because such feelings have not affected me and I have been there a number of times. Take Route 45 south of Tunnel

Hill Road to Taylor Ridge Road and turn east to the end of the road. Park and pick the trail to the east to reach the point where the River to River Trail crosses the creek. If you have a feeling, it will be on the rocky ledge going down to the crossing.

**Scenic Attractions Trail.** Basically, this trail goes from Sand Cave to Bell Smith Springs, to Jackson Hollow. It can be accessed on the east by taking the River-to-River Trail west from Cedar Grove Church Road for about a mile. When the trail turns south, look for a trail that goes north which goes to Sand Cave. From Sand Cave, go north along the cliff and when convenient cross over to the north, pass the utility line and turn west until you find the path to go over the hill which then goes into a trail along more cliffs. You will have to cross the creek. This will take you into Bell Smith Spring about where the swimming hole is with cliffs. Proceed with the cliffs on your left and look for some old rock steps going up. There are only about ten, but follow the valley west (Hill Branch) until you come upon a good sized trail that goes south for awhile and then bears west again for about 1 1/2 miles. You will run into Jackson Hollow. To make a loop of it, go all the way through Jackson Hollow and pick up the Mt. Zion Church/Trigg Tower gravel and go south until you find the River-to-River Trail and turn east until you get back to Cedar Grove Church Road. Stop in and see the Natural Bridge in Bell Smith and explore Jackson Hollow. You should be able to follow this in the maps in the Trailguide. This is a spectacular trip so bring a camera for certain. If you rush, you should be able to do it in two days. My advice, take three or four or more. (See Jackson Hollow above)

**The Tunnel Hill Trail.** The Tunnel Hill Rails Trails State Park extends over 43 miles from Karnack to Harrisburg, Although most conducive to biking, it can also be walked. The highlights are the trestle going over Cache River ( being the highest trestle in the state) and the tunnel at Tunnel Hill. This has turned

into an outstanding trail, but the experience of walking through the tunnel is sensational.

For the tunnel, take route 45 to the Tunnel Hill turn-off on the right and park at the trail head. The tunnel will be the big hole in the hill going to the southeast. Any State Park in Southern Illinois will have some great hiking. Giant City, Ferne Clyffe, and Cave In Rock.

The Horse Shoe Upheaval-Shawneetown Fault-Horseshoe-Glen O. Jones Lake The Horseshoe Upheaval is a large rock that has been brought to the surface from 3,500 feet underground. It occurred when there was movement resulting in an uplift (anticline) in front of what we know as Eagle Mountain. The rock sheared off and the land reversed itself, leaving the rock on the surface. This means that Eagle Mountain was at least 3,500 feet higher, and the usual understanding is that it had several thousand feet of (loose) soil on top of that. Eagle Cliff and the resulting range is older than the Rockies, and the Grand Canyon and resulted when Africa "docked" with North America. The Shawneetown Fault system lies in front of Eagle Mountain which caused the movement. It is most probably connected with the New Madrid system and has "rifts" in which the Ohio River has used as a part of its valley.

The fault system is also responsible for the salt springs, which has likely attracted animals for thousands of years. Mastodon and other bones have been found in the region so the area is being studied for the other ice age animals who were probably here such as the Giant Sloth, Saber Tooth, Stag Moose, Pleistocene Horse, American Lion, Jaguars, Giant Bison and all the rest of the "Mega Fauna." With all this food around, it is not surprising to also find the evidence of Early Man in the region in the form of Clovis projectile points. It is possible to imagine a family of mastodons going through Horseshoe Pass to get to Eagle Valley and a Saber Tooth lying in wait.

Horseshoe Upheaval can be found by taking the Forest Road from Equality to the intersection with Stone

Face Road. Turn right on Stone Face Road and go past the Trout Pond and the next road is a parking lot for the hunting area. Walk the little road that is on the other end of the parking lot and follow it to the back side of the hill. The hill turns out to be the rock. There is a sign and the rocks have been bent like an "S." Glen O. Jones Lake is in the Saline County Conservation District. It is a beautiful Forest Lake with Camping and Fishing. No big motors.

Stone Face is one of the most photographed places in Southern Illinois. It is a real oddity that it wasn't discovered until the twentieth century that we know of. I think it looks like Wallace Beery, and I wonder what Native Americans thought. It is amazing how many people go looking for it however, and never find it. The Trick is to follow the trail up to the cliff, climb up the sloping cliff to a trail that goes along the cliffs' edge in the opposite direction and follow it past all the overlooks until you see it by looking down the side of the cliff. There is no doubt that it is of a man, that it is human, and has been there for a long time. The view and the Face make it worth the exertion.

Take route 145 south from Harrisburg, turn left at Mitchellville following route 34. At the DeNeal road turn off after Rudement, follow the blacktop road (not the gravel) through Somerset to Stoneface Road and go about two miles. The turnoff will be on the right, south side and go up to the turnaround and park. The trail up goes to the east. The other trail goes the opposite direction at the base of the cliff. You must be decently fit to see this one.

Cave In Rock-A picturesque and historic river town with a free ferry to Kentucky. Site of a large cave in the rock bluff opening onto the banks of the Ohio River. An excellent State Park with a campground, cabins, trails and fantastic vista. Rocks, antiques, souvenir shops. An Amish settlement is just across the river. The cave has been a landmark for almost 300 years, and has been a church, tavern, pirates lair, home and now tourist attractions See also Tower Rock a little further down the river. It is a majestic

limestone prominence at the very edge of the Ohio River. Cave in Rock is at the end of Route 1.

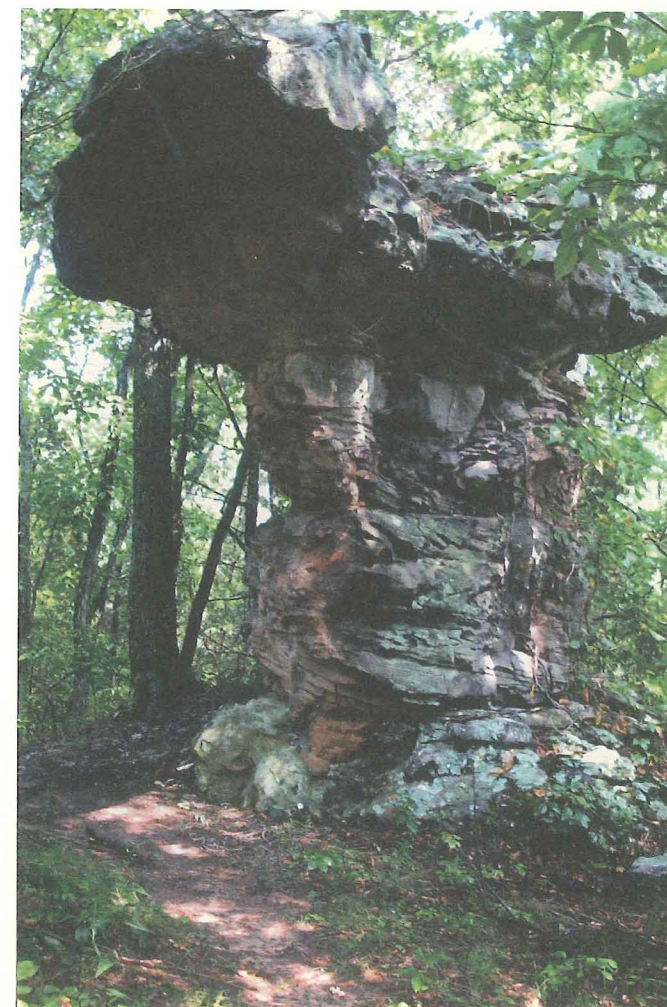
Elizabethtown/Rose Hotel-This is a very quaint and beautiful river town with restaurants and the beautiful Rose Hotel. The oldest hotel in Illinois originally opened in 1812 is now a Bed and Breakfast. Emancipation Day was celebrated here by African-Americans until fairly recently. Take route 1 to just above Cave in Rock and turn south onto route 146 for ten miles.

Cedar Falls. A beautiful falls near camp Ondessonk. The single drop is somewhat less than Burden Fall but the setting is majestic and gorgeous. From Route 45 going south from Stonefort turn left at Ozark and proceed on the blacktop road to Pakentuk road and drive to the end. The road is closed here but proceed to the bottom of the hill and turn left. During the summer, Camp Ondessonk has youth camp and is busy until mid August. The best way is to call the camp and get permission. 618-695-2489.

Hicks Dome-Rocks found near the community of Hicks were found to be older than surrounding areas. Pilots flying over this hill were amazed to see the shape of a volcano from the air. Geologic investigation has revealed that a volcano exploded before reaching the surface but bulged the surface approximately 150,000,000 years ago. This event is referred to as a "crypto-volcanic explosion" since they do not precisely know what happened. In a region of sedimentary rocks there are some igneous outcroppings, many faults and unusual surface formations caused by this event. Superheated water laden with minerals pushed through faults along the surface which became fluorspar-the state mineral. It is only found in a few places in the world and has many industrial uses as well as the source of fluorite for your teeth. Among geologists, this is a famous textbook spot. Hicks Dome is barely discernible on the horizon. Although there are roads surrounding the dome, most of it is privately owned and except for the experience of having been there would not be worth the trip. There are geologists that would.

Pomona Natural Bridge There are several-many natural bridges in Southern Illinois including the big one at Bell Smith Springs, and couple in the Garden of the Gods area and one in Lusk Creek Canyon. The Pomona Natural Bridge, however, is the prettiest by far. It is smaller, but discernible from any angle, and is embellished with ferns and moss...and you can drive right up to it. Almost that is.

Take route 127 from Murphysboro to Pomona. Go past the General Store and take the north road to the bridge, and you can follow the signs.





When Don Monty's Scout troop hiked the trail, they used a wheel and got about 176 miles. There is a lot of as the crow flies in these figures but here are some helpful hints. The midpoint of the trail turns out to be on route 45 after the turn. Up hill, and then down distances have not been reckoned with so plan that it will take longer than you thought. It will take normally ten days to two weeks, total. When shuttling, park one car where you will end the day and drive to the beginning and walk to it. Always make certain your keys are secure, and dry.

*The following connections can be made starting from the east and continuing west:*

#### **Battery Rock:**

Follow Lamb Road which is on Route 1 about 5.5 miles north of Cave-in-Rock. When the road turns to gravel, and then dirt, follow the blazes. As this guide is being written, a pull through parking lot is being planned at the point where the trail goes the last 100 yards to the river. Going west, the trail goes along back roads back to Route 1 and then turns north to Pope County mile marker 6.53 and turns east. This goes to Rock Creek.

#### **Rock Creek:**

From Route 1, turn west at Mt. Zion Church (mile marker 6.43), and go about 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles and then turn right (first road to the right). Proceed to the Corner T Tack shop which is Rock Creek. The trail crosses this gravel road about 100 yards past the Rock Creek Church. The Corner T Tack Shop may be closed. The trail is just north of Rock Creek and goes to Camp Cadiz.

#### **Camp Cadiz:**

From Route 1 take the Camp Cadiz Blacktop. From the Karbers Ridge Blacktop the camp is on the west side of the road. From Camp Cadiz, cross the road going east, then follow the signs to Rock Creek. The trail goes through Camp Cadiz and the trail at the back of the camp goes to High Knob.

#### **High Knob:**

A very conspicuous and scenic hill off the Karber's Ridge Blacktop about 20 miles southeast of Harrisburg. Follow the highway signs and you can drive to the top of High Knob. The trail goes near the top and you can go both directions. There is a horse camp before you reach the parking lot at High Knob. Go west to Garden of the Gods.

#### **Garden of the Gods:**

From the Garden of the God's parking lot the trail goes west to Herod about eight miles.

#### **Herod:**

Herod is on Route 34 approximately 20 miles southeast of Harrisburg. The trail passes through on the way south and makes a slight dog leg over the bridge. From here go either north to Garden of the Gods or south to One Horse Gap. Markers are right on the main highway.

#### **Lusk Creek:**

From Harrisburg, take Route 145 south following the Eddyville signs. Go about 17 miles to the River-to-River crossing signs just before Eddyville. Turn left and go north on the gravel road for about two miles. This is a "pull through" parking lot across from Circle B Ranch.

#### **Eddyville:**

Eddyville is about 20 miles due south of Harrisburg on Route 145. The trail runs past the post office so ask there. Going east will take you to Lusk Creek Canyon, going west will go to Crows Knob and Hayes Creek. These beautiful areas are not right on the trail but you can spend a day off trail in these areas.

#### **Trigg Tower:**

Between Route 45 and Route 145 is Route 147. Approximately halfway between the two routes is Simpson. At this point there will be a sign indicating Trigg Tower. At Trigg Tower you can connect with the trail about a quarter of a mile west by taking the trail on the west side of the road. Also, up the gravel road about

two miles is a trail head and parking lot. East goes to Bay Lake and west goes to Trigg Tower.

#### **Camp Ondessonk:**

On Route 45 at Ozark, Camp Ondessonk, (Catholic Summer Camp) is about six miles off the road, just follow the signs. This is an excellent place to stay and the trail is two miles south.

#### **Tunnel Hill:**

About ten miles north of Vienna on Route 45 or 20 miles southwest of Harrisburg on Route 45. The Rails-to-Trails project goes north and south at this point and the River-to-River Trail crosses about 2 miles south of Tunnel Hill. You can hike through the tunnel going south until you come to the intersection and then go east to Max Creek (across the highway) or west to Dutchman Lake and on to Ferne Clyffe.

#### **Dutchman Lake:**

Between Route 45 and Route 37 there is a blacktop. Approximately half way is a sign saying Dutchman Lake. The trail crosses the spillway. This is a little gem similar to Cache Lakes, and Bay Lake. See Livesay Spring here.

#### **Ferne Clyffe State Park:**

The trail enters the park on the south side outside and not through the main entrance. The trail follows through the park on the equestrian trail. Incidentally, trails are closed to horses in Ferne Clyffe and Giant City from November through April.

#### **Panthers Den:**

Off Interstate I-57 take the blacktop road west to the "T" and turn right. Follow the trail signs past the Wayside antenna, turn right at the next stop. On this road right at the corner, you will see the Panther Den Wilderness sign and parking. The trail is up the road about a mile.

#### **Giant City:**

The River-to-River Trail overlays the park's lower equestrian trail going east to west. The lodge is a ter-

rific place to stay (it looks like old Yellowstone) and the trail goes right in front.

#### **Makanda:**

The trail goes through Makanda. Go east and you will return to Giant City. Go west and the trail crosses Highway 51 and then goes to Cedar Lake.

#### **Cedar Lake:**

From Route 127 ten miles south of Murphysboro there is a parking lot for Cedar Lake. Take the south trail until you find the leg going toward Alto Pass.

**Alto Pass:** The trail crosses main street in the downtown section.

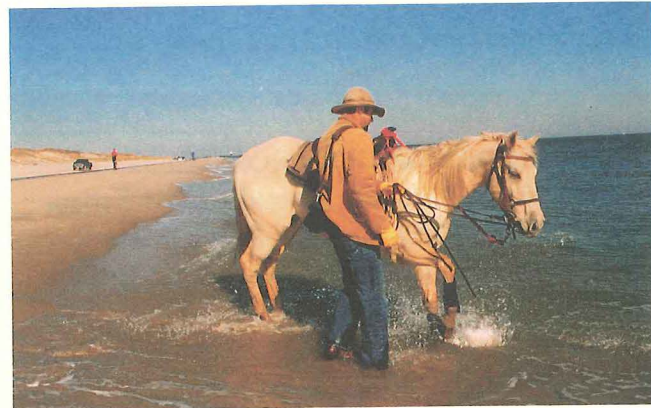
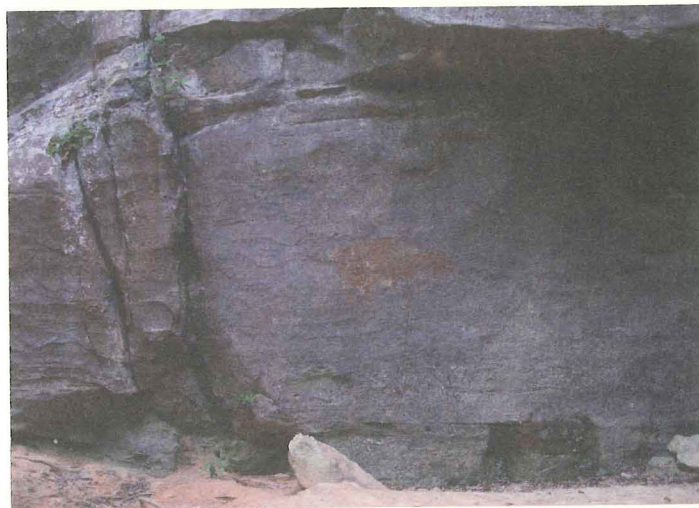
**Bald Knob:** One of the best vistas around. The trail goes along the Bald Knob Blacktop and enters the woods at the "Godwin Trail." At the top of Bald Knob is the largest Christian Monument in North America, a stainless steel cross, 111 feet high.

#### **Devil's Backbone Park:**

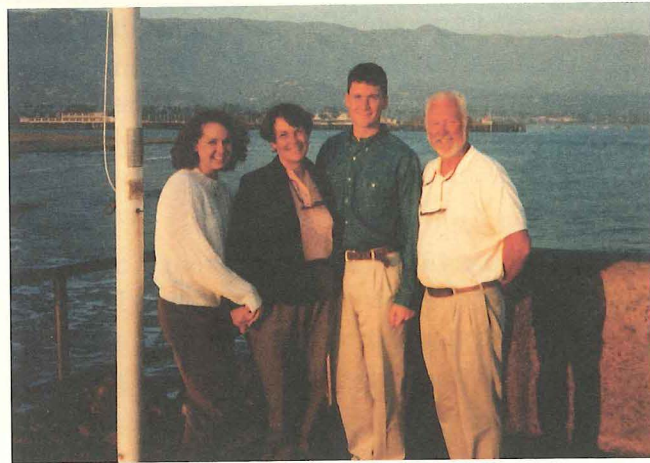
Located at the north end of Grand Tower, the River-to-River Trail ends/begins here. Go east along the levee to Pine Hills and the Clear Springs trail.

The trailhead locations are not intended as a description of the trail. Make careful plans for your trip by obtaining contour maps or a trail guide and ask at the trailhead for more information on that section, or call the Trail Society at 618-658-8409. Always take a compass and a companion with you.

The River-to River Trail at Cedar Lake



Dan Parker and his Appaloosa horse.  
make it to the Atlantic.



Kari, Beth, Kyle & Allen Green;  
California 11/1995  
Allen made the River-to-River Trail the  
number one priority of the Forest Service.



John O'Dell, Society Founder  
Eric Johnson, Trailboss

## CAVE-IN ROCK FERRY SCHEDULE

Cave-In Rock Ferry's normal schedule is from:  
**6 a.m., to 10 p.m.** (except during inclement weather.)

Hikers can contact [Kentucky Roads.com](http://KentuckyRoads.com) to check for weather conditions but the schedule  
between 6:AM and 10:PM is firm.

Cave-In Rock Ferry is a free service, provided by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.



FERRY  
OPERATION  
OPEN  
6:00 A.M. TO 9:50 P.M.  
7 DAYS A WEEK

PLEASE!  
LOVE  
AMERICA  
DON'T  
THROW TRASH

WARNING LOW CHASSIS  
VEHICLES MAY DRAG  
LOADING AND UNLOADING  
CAVE IN ROCK FERRY  
NOT RESPONSIBLE  
FOR DAMAGES

FERRY WEIGHT  
LIMIT TONS

SINGLE VEHICLE 7 TONS  
COMB. VEHICLE 40 TONS

I am a convert. There was a time when I was too busy to do anything but pay full attention to my career, and to my family. I was one of those guys who never took a vacation, in some part because it was too expensive and the other because summer was always one of the busiest times for my job. I hardly knew what was happening to me and around me, but I did know there were some things missing in my life and in the life of my children that were beyond my ability to precisely define it.

This missing something made me do unusual things. I would find a window in a building and look out to see what kind of day it was. I would drive out of the way in order to see trees, or even a small hillside vista. A need would build up that would gradually reach the point in which I would make a trip to my parents and as soon as possible find an empty field and go out and lay in it. The next step was to visit state parks which manifested itself in the inability of the car to pass by a park without making a turn. Nature was becoming the castle on the hill, the source of wonder and joy, and the window into the mysteries and wisdom of the universe and a source of divine solace for me.

My parents were hardworking people, as were the other people that we knew. My colleagues led similar lifestyles so the conclusion of these experiences was that for Middle America there was a culture of honesty and diligence that missed enriching experiences that affects the quality of ones life. My home organization which is the River-to-River Trail Society offers free hikes in the Shawnee Forest. We have people who drive long distances to hike with us for a few hours. Our former Governor, would schedule a hike, just so that he could be alone for a short while. A friend who had a brain injury hiked with us, after a few hikes said that he was going to walk a segment of the Appalachian Trail. He ended up walking all of it. Another friend, said he wanted to see something beautiful. We walked into the woods and he was wearing long pants and street shoes. Every 100 feet he would say: "Now this is going to be pretty isn't

## Epilogue

it," which got a little old until we got to the first vista and he said: "Oh Boy! Oh Boy!" He now hikes in the Rockies by himself. I often get a call from people who ask how many people we will see on the trail. When I tell them that if they go through the week, they probably won't see anyone, to which they exclaim: "Great."

I could spend a lot of time telling you about the healthful benefits of out of door activities, particularly hiking, but mental health is important too, perhaps as much as physical health. If you feel you need solitude, then you do indeed need hiking. If you feel you need the healthful outdoor activity, then you should be hiking. Please forgive the personal insertion but when I retired, I was out of shape and knew nothing about hiking long distances. My first day of retirement was spent in the woods and it was a killer but within a month of being in the woods twice or perhaps three time a week, I became a different person. The fatigue that I put aside each day that I went to work left me and I felt much invigorated. To say my life has changed would be understating it, because I sincerely believe that being outdoors more and a good day of hiking at least one day per week has saved my life. Additionally, I know more about my heritage, the community, the state, specifics on hiking, geology, botany, archaeology, history and much more, all of which I knew little of before I retired from education. I wished I would have known some of these things earlier.

There are two things that can open the door for this type of activity. Being able to make contact with a place to hike allows a person to enter the door to the treasure inside. That is the reason for a hiking club. The other item is to have a group to share these experiences with...to wit, a hiking club.

If you were to belong to a hiking group, it is much more likely that you will not find an excuse to do something else. It is easy enough to form a hiking club. Call a meeting and start letting people know what you would like to do. At the meeting, talk about

where you would like to go and set a time. Most hiking clubs I know of have no officers, and pay no dues. The most important thing is the schedule you come up with, arrange the car pool and the hike leader. Helping with the gas is appropriate but be punctual, and don't be surprised if you find yourself being left even when you are only five minutes late. A full discussion should be given to walking either fast or slow. There are some who like to take a little more time to enjoy the scenery and the uniqueness of the hike, and there are others who are after the exercise who will want to hike longer and faster. These are very real conflicts and will generate hard feelings if you don't come to an understanding on this topic. The hiking club allows a person to travel a great deal more than you would by yourself. Clubs can travel to other states, other regions and in different seasons and is great support to keep a person hiking. Hiking also develops strong friendships. Hikers are usually very good people, who don't smoke, will watch their language, gives deference to youngsters and older people and respects the out of doors. I can remember most hikes and who was there and they are all special and mean a great deal.

There are also instances when a person needs to be by themselves which is why we have mentioned the importance of solitude...and I like to explore. When I lead a hike, I try to leave each person with the ability to return to the starting point on their own and conduct their own hike and especially if they have a family. There have been instances when brothers, families, high school friends, work friends, and fathers initiating their children in the out of doors, newly weds, and most of all, single voyagers encountering a new experience.

It goes without saying too much about it, but day hiking and backpacking are two different animals. Day hikes allows a person to return home and take a shower and get something to eat and a good nights sleep. Day hikers will carry only five or less pounds, but Backpackers will carry up to sixty. Backpacking puts a person on their own, and they alone must ac-

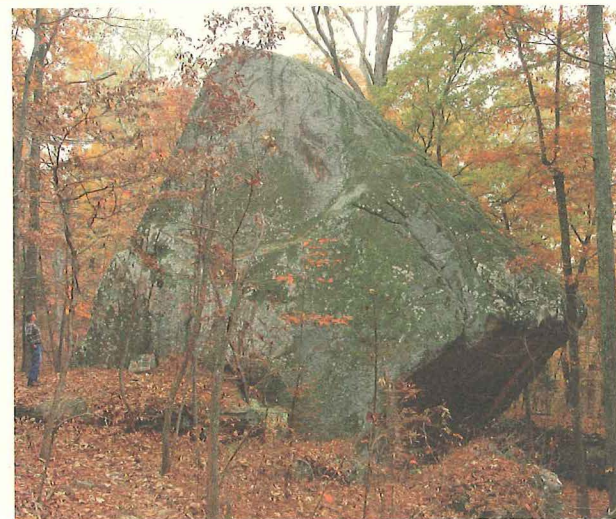
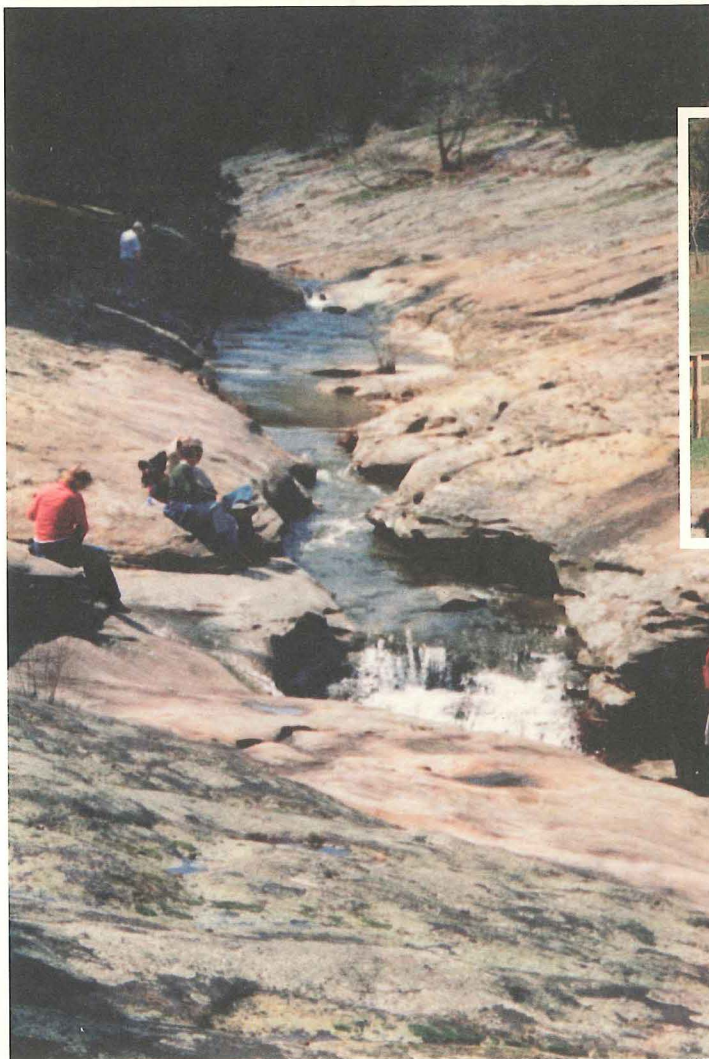
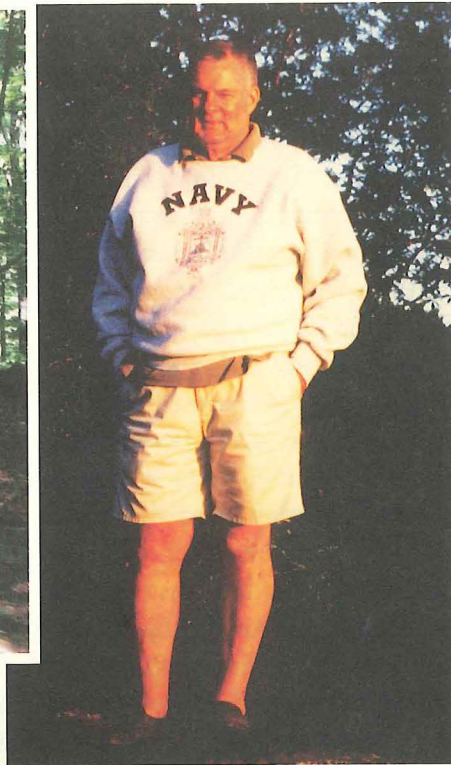
count for their food and gear continually, but is also allows the hiker to be completely independent, or should we say self sufficient.

Most hikers start off by carrying too much. As the road gets longer, the un-essential things like stoves soon bite the dust. Back problems, blisters, other injuries can soon take their toll. I have seen some remarkable long distance hikers on the coast to coast American Discovery Trail. Brian Stark ran the whole trail and covered about fifty miles each day. He carried only a small fanny pack and slept under a tarp. He did well. Bill and Laura Foot were well equipped and still made remarkable progress walking much faster with a pack on than I could alone. Peter and Joyce Cottrell, Paul Winsper and others all taught me a lot and told such jaw dropping stories.

Hiking is more than exercise, it is refreshment for the soul and a stimulus for your spirit. In most instances, you will see things that can boggle the mind, being more than what the human mind can comprehend or hand could create. All senses' come into play such as sight, smell, touch, hearing, and even taste. Then there are the emotions but we will leave it there.

Something for the eyes, something to smell, something to touch, and something for the heart, and things to remember.





## CAMPGROUNDS

\*\*Indicates campgrounds close to the River-to-River Trail

### CAVE IN ROCK:

Cave In Rock State Park 618-289-4325

### DIXON SPRINGS:

Lake Glendale Rec. Area 800-MY-WOODS

Lake Glendale Stables 618-949-3737

Dixon Springs State Park 618-949-3394

### EDDYVILLE:\*\*

Bear Branch Campground 618-672-4249

Circle B. Ranch 618-288-5273

Hayes Canyon Campground 618-672-4751

### EQUALITY:\*\*

High Knob Ranch 618-264-7197

### GOLCONDA:

Bay Creek Campground 618-683-5555

Deer Run Campground 618-683-8410

### GRAND TOWER:\*\*

Devil's Backbone 618-689-8380

### HEROD:\*\*

Route 34 Ranch and Camp 618-264-2141

### JONESBORO:

Black Diamond Ranch 618-833-7629

Trail of Tears Spts. Rst. 618-833-8697

### JUNCTION:

Double M Ranch 618-275-4440

### KARBERS RIDGE:\*\*

Garden of the Gods 800-MY-WOODS

### MAKANDA:\*\*

Giant City St. Park 618-457-4836

### MCCORMICK:

Bell Smith Springs 800-MY-WOODS

Teal Pond 800-MY-WOODS

### METROPOLIS:

Fort Massac State Park 618-524-4712

### MURPHYSBORO:

Johnson Creek 800-MY-WOODS

Turkey Bayou 800-MY-WOODS

### OZARK:\*\*

Camp Ondessonk/St. Noel Ctr. 618-695-2489

### ROCK CREEK:\*\*

Corner T Tack and Camp 618-289-4896

### SIMPSON:\*\*

Bay Creek Camp 618-295-2670

### VIENNA:\*\*

Triple T. Lake Ranch 618-695-2600

### WOLF LAKE:\*\*

Pine Hills 800-MY-WOODS

## SWIMMING HOLES

Dixon Springs

Lake Glendale

Pounds Hollow

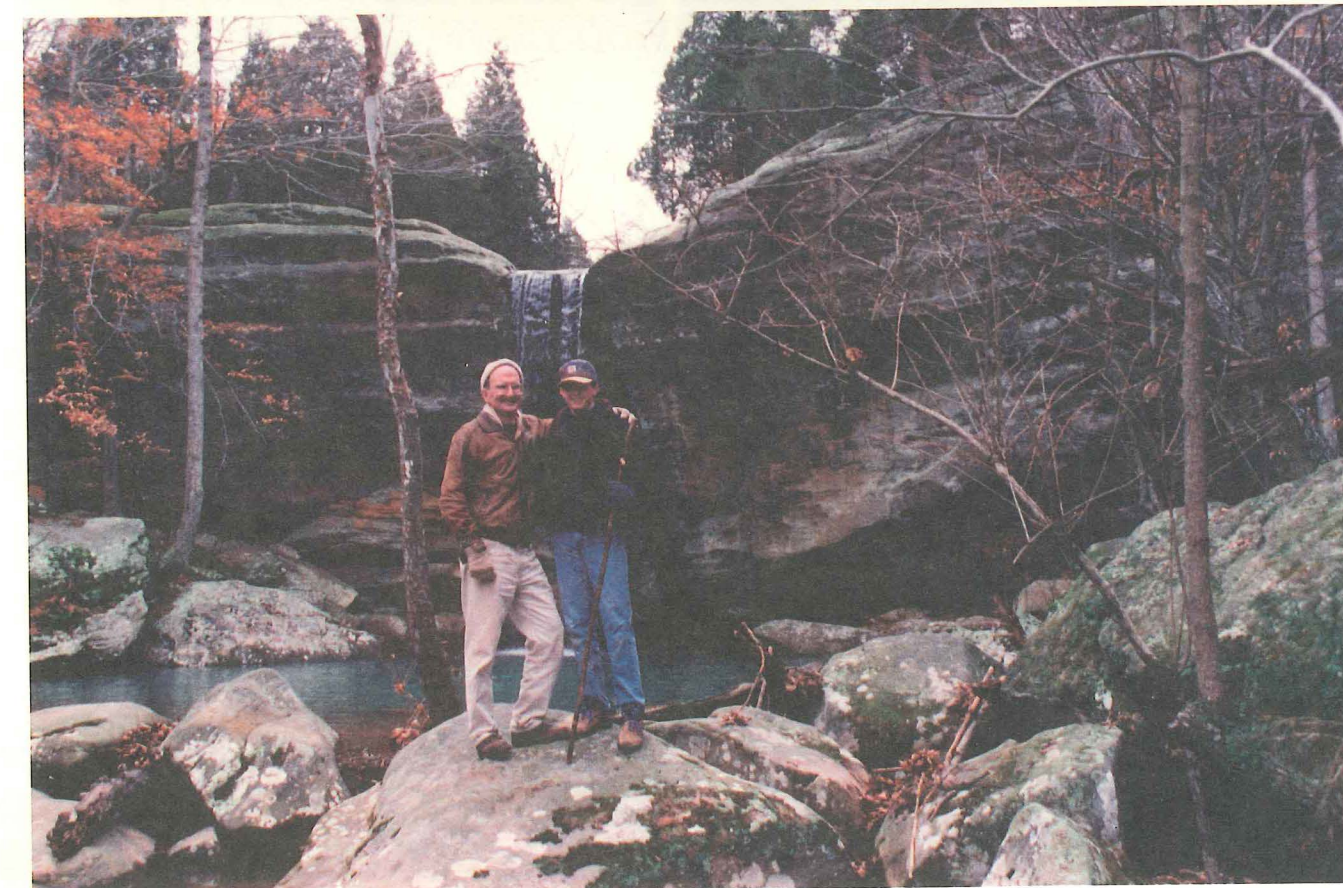
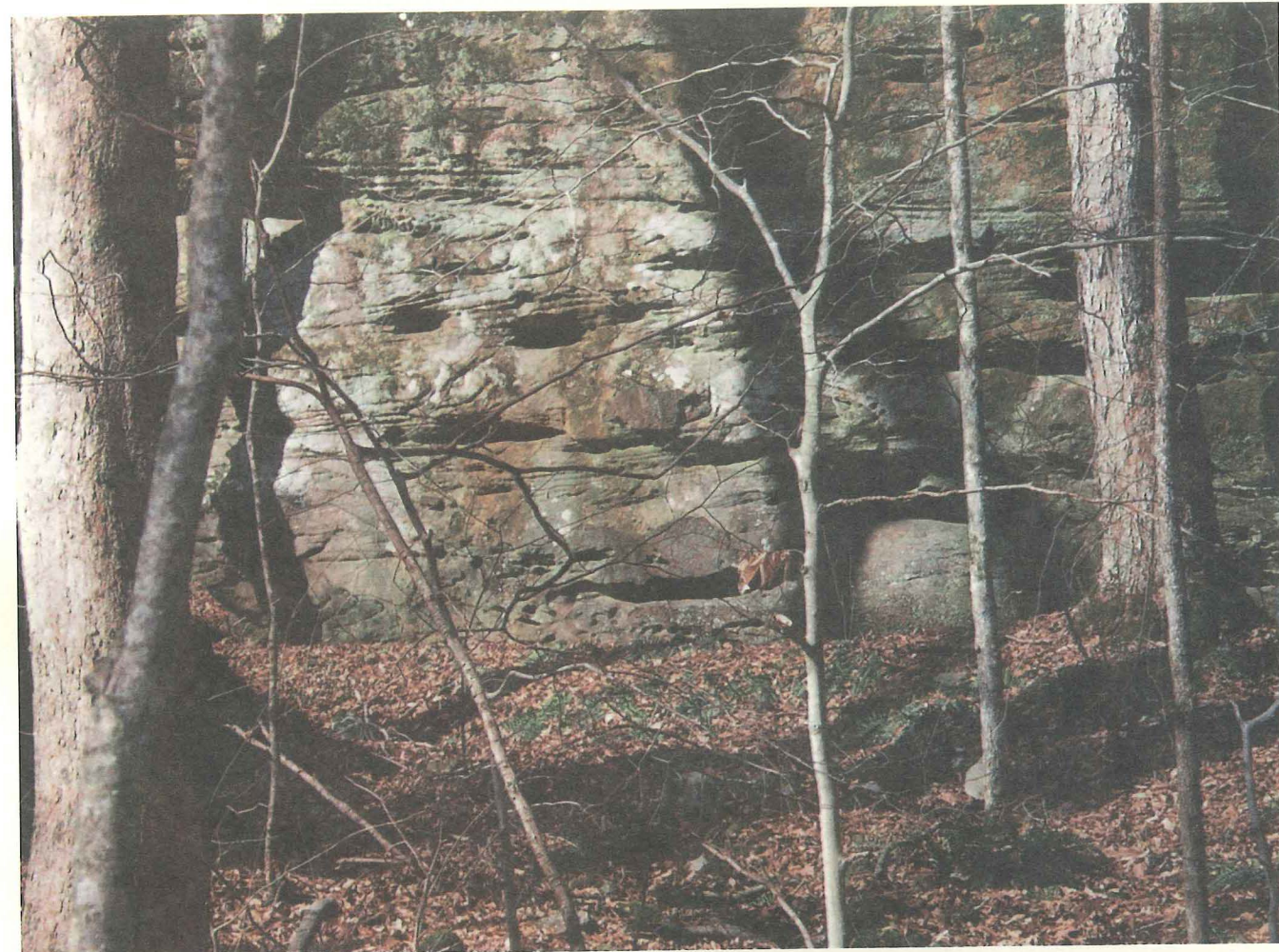
## HORSE STABLES

Giant City Stables

618-457-4836

Lake Glendale Stables

618-949-3737



## RIVER-TO-RIVER TRAIL TRAILHEADS & MILEAGE (2010)

Departure	Ending point	mileage	Latitude	Longitude	Total
Etown	Etown junction	14.8	88 18'23.27W	37 35'24.974"N	14.8
Etown junction	High Knob	1.9	88 19'25.07"W	37 36'3.189"N	16.7
High Knob	Garden of the Gods	4.0	88 22'51.022W	37 36'3.751"N	20.7
Garden of the Gods	Herod	6.3	88'26'9.721"W	37 34'48.716"N	27.0
Herod	One Horse Gap	6.3	88 26'9.721"W	37 31'1.232"N	33.3
One Horse Gap	Concord Cemetery	3.0	88"29'2.195"W	37"31'46.33N	36.3
Concord Cemetery	Circle B	9.6	88"34'13.257"W	37"31'51.155"N	45.9
Circle B	Eddyville	3.2	88"35'14.085W	37"30'3.485"N	49.1
Eddyville	Bay Lake Under Pass	9.1	88"41'30,778"W	37"29'22.897N	58.2
Bay Lake Under Pass	Cedar Creek	5.8	88"45'26,i36"W	37"29'45.455"N	64.0
Cedar Creek	Simpson Blacktop	2.8	88"46'44.182"W	37"30'24.588N	66.8
Simpson Blacktop	Goddard Crossing	7.3	88"50'31.185"W	37"29'39.197N	74.1
Goddard Crossing	Dutchman Lake	5.8	88"54'45.368"W	37"29'23.661"N	79.9
Dutchman Lake	Ferne Clyffe	6.4	88"58"59.375"W	37"31'23.347"N	86.3
Ferne Clyffe	Interstate 57	11.1	89"01'57.748"W	37"33"21.282"N	97.4
Interstate 57	Panther Den	7.3	89"05"18.906"W	37"34"29.083"N	104.7
Panther Den	Giant City Campground	9.6	89"10'57.855"W	37"35"26.884 N	114.3
Giant City Campground	Makanda	4.1	89"12'33.591W	37"37'3.678"N	118.4
Makanda	Alto Pass	11.7	89"19'4.497"W	37"34'13.668"N	130.1
Alto Pass	Godwin Trail	3.1	89"21'46.276"W	37""34'7.2331"N	133.2
Godwin Trail	Winters Pond	8.2	89"26'32.311W	37'35'6.471"N	141.4
Winters Pond	Devils Backbone	9.7	89"30'38.944"W	37"38'21.424"N	151.1

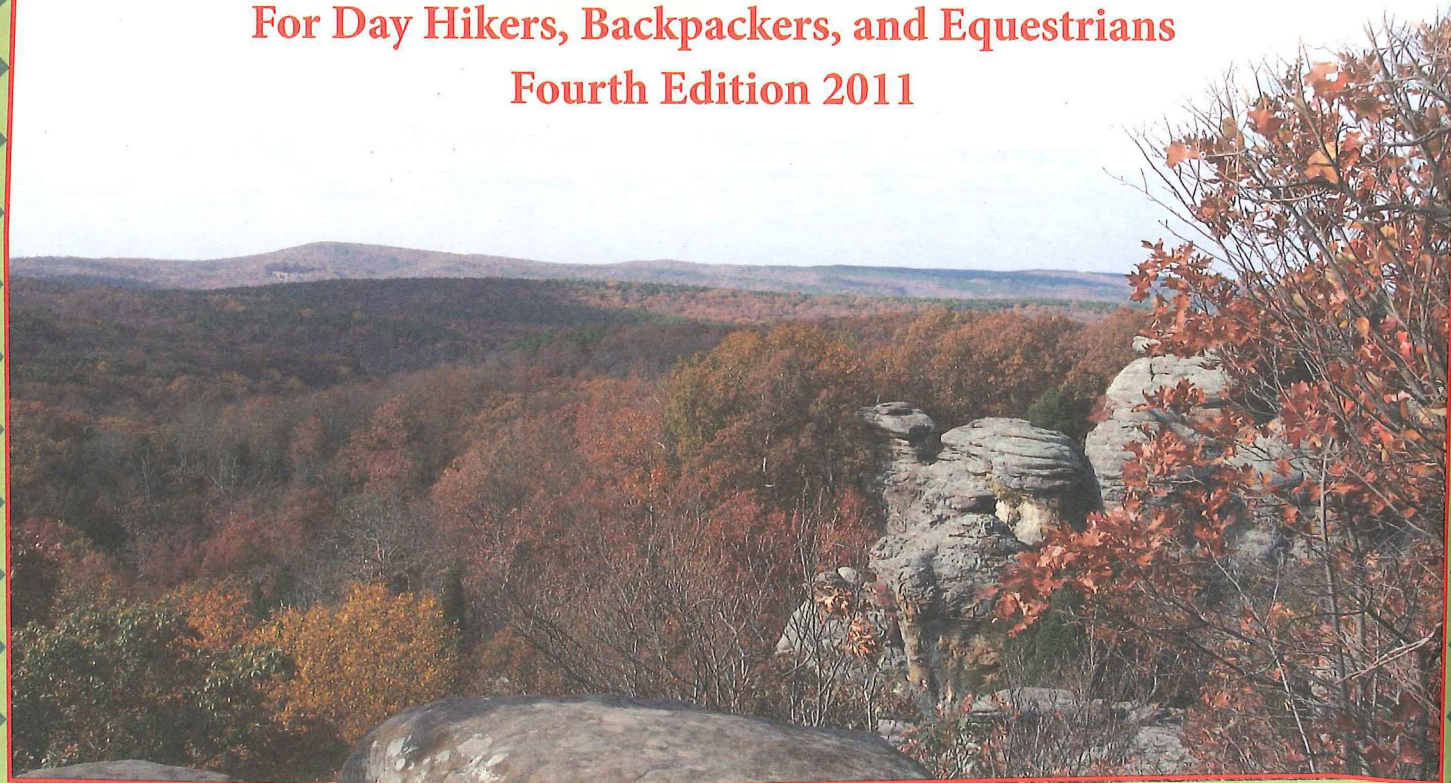
When Don Montys Scout troop hiked the trail, they used a wheel and got about 176 miles. There is a lot of as the crow flies in these figures but here are some helpful hints. The midpoint of the trail turns out to be on route 45 after the turn. Up hill, and then down distances have not been reckoned with so plan that it till take longer than you thought. It will take normally ten days to two weeks, totally. When shuttling, park one car where you will end the day and drive to the beginning and walk to it. Always make certain your keys are secure, and dry.

# RIVER-TO-RIVER TRAIL GUIDE

Across Southern Illinois with  
The American Discovery Trail in Southern Illinois



**Elizabethtown on the Ohio River to  
Grand Tower on the Mississippi River  
For Day Hikers, Backpackers, and Equestrians  
Fourth Edition 2011**



## TEACHING OF TECUMSEH

Live your life so that the fear of death can never enter your heart.

Trouble no one about his religion

Respect others in their views and demand that they respect yours.

Love your life: perfect your life, beautify all things in your life.

Seek to make your life long and of service to your People.

Prepare a noble death song for the day you go over the Great Divide.

Always give a word or sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend,  
or even a stranger, if in a lonely place.

Show respect to all people, but grovel to none.

When you rise in the morning give thanks for the light,  
for your life, and for your strength.

Give thanks for the food and for the joy of living.

If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault is in yourself.

Touch not the poisonous firewater that makes the wise ones turn  
to fools and robs the spirit of it's vision.

When your time comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with  
fear of death, so when their time comes, they weep and pray for a little more  
time to live their lives over again in a different way.

Sing your death song like a hero going home.

**RIVER-TO-RIVER  
TRAIL GUIDE**

# RIVER-TO-RIVER TRAIL GUIDE



Devil's Backbone

“To honor the spirit of those who first immigrated to Illinois, this guide follows an east to west description. It is interesting to consider the hopes and dreams of those people as they viewed the new land and began the search of their place in the wilderness. We can still see some of the beautiful vistas and gorgeous valleys of those early days and in some small way compare our efforts with theirs. Perhaps, as we notice that all of the most beautiful places have old wagon road remnants, we will realize that they too shared a spiritual need for the power of such beauty.”

John O'Dell, Chairman  
River-to-River Trail Society

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