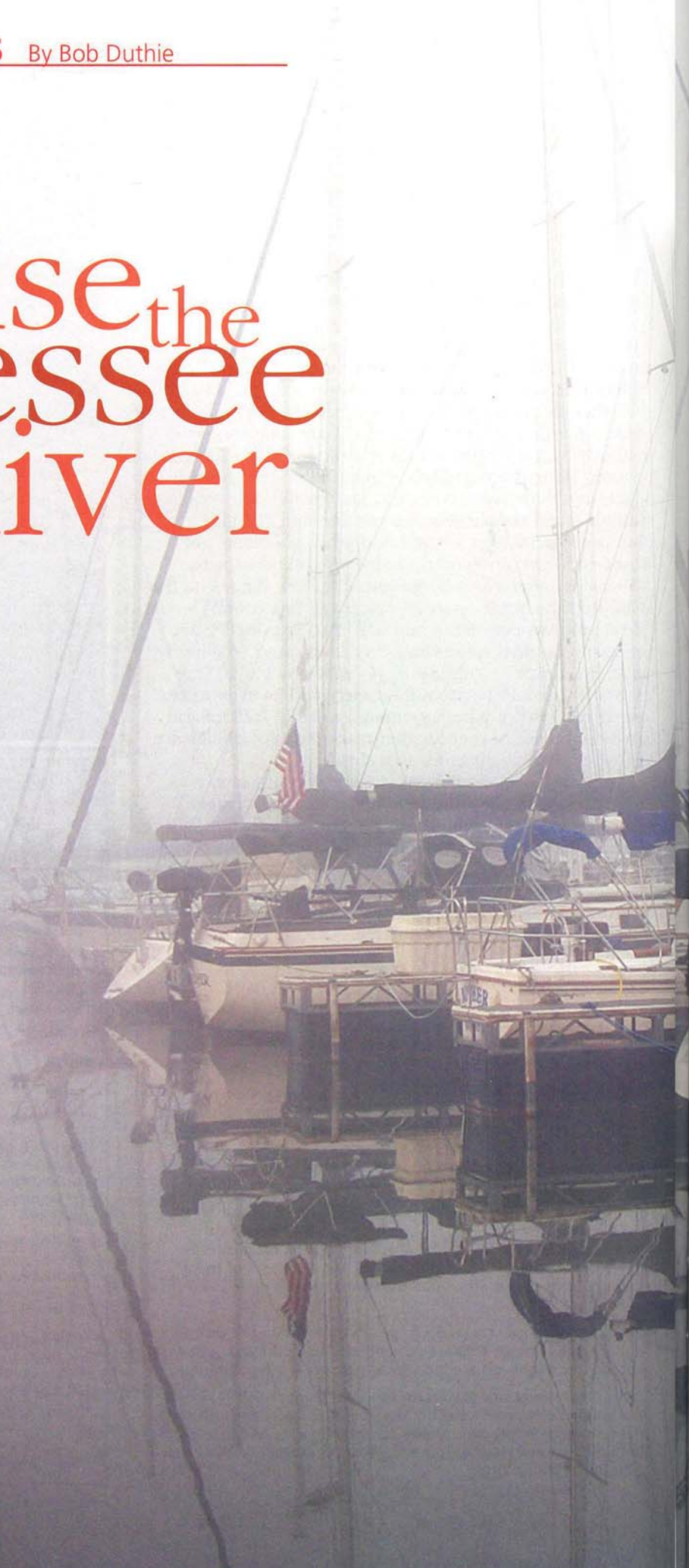


Plan to.
Cruise^{the}
Tennessee
River





The Tennessee River is one of the longest and most scenic rivers in North America. It is a 1,300-mile round trip of gorgeous fresh water cruising from Paducah, Ky., to Knoxville, Tenn. We started at Mile 42 on Sept. 18, 2006, for 36 days of adventures. Mile 42 is near Aurora, Ky.; we traveled on the *Katy Leigh*, our 1981 Grand Banks Classic trawler.

We timed the trip so we could avoid the hot weather and so we could attend the mid-October America's Great Loop Cruisers' Association (AGLCA) rendezvous at Joe Wheeler State Park during the return leg. Joe Wheeler is the best place in North America for boating rendezvous, as there are lots of slips, a hotel, conference center, and campground all close together. A total of 74 boats and more than 200 people attended.

Our first stop, a short car ride across the Eggers Ferry Bridge, was a visit to the Homeplace at Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The fall festival was under way!

First Mate Mavis doesn't like to anchor overnight, so for the next 35 nights we stayed at good marinas. They included Pebble Isle Marina, Clifton Marina, Grand Harbor Marina, Aqua Yacht Harbor, River Walk Marina, Ditto Landing, Alfred Marina, Hales Bar Marina, Chattanooga City Marina, Chickamauga Marina, Shady Grove Harbor, Goose Pond Marina, Euchee Marina, Blue Springs Marina, Fort Loudon Marina, and Volunteer Landing.

Just below Chattanooga is the spectacular 26-mile Grand Canyon of the Tennessee. Do it in the morning



River view

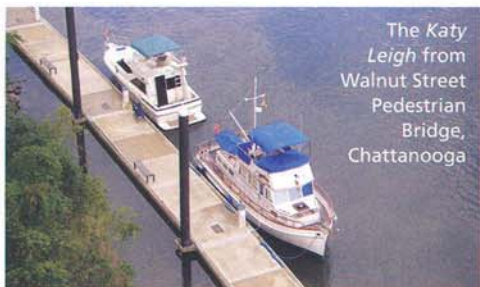
when the water is calm and reflects the mountains. Then spend the afternoon and next day in our favorite boater-friendly river town, Chattanooga, with its aquarium, IMAX, Walnut Street Pedestrian Bridge, fine restaurants, free electric trolleys, and art district.

Many boaters turn around at Chattanooga and head back downstream. We think it's a big mistake, because then you miss the mostly wild and gorgeous Watts Bar Lake. At Fort Loudon Marina, you can head up the Little Tennessee—also called Tellico Lake—with the best views of the Smoky Mountains.

Or, go on to Knoxville. Check the University of Tennessee football schedule to either schedule your visit when they are playing, or to avoid that time if you don't like to party. I am told that on football weekends boats will be rafted 10-plus deep along the river beside the stadium.

After cruising the Tennessee, you will have been spoiled and have a tough time trying to find another comparable inland river to cruise. You might just have to do it again. 🇺🇸

Bob and Mavis Duthie kept a day-by-day blog during this cruise. View at www.tnrivercruising.com on the Internet.



The Katy
Leigh from
Walnut Street
Pedestrian
Bridge,
Chattanooga

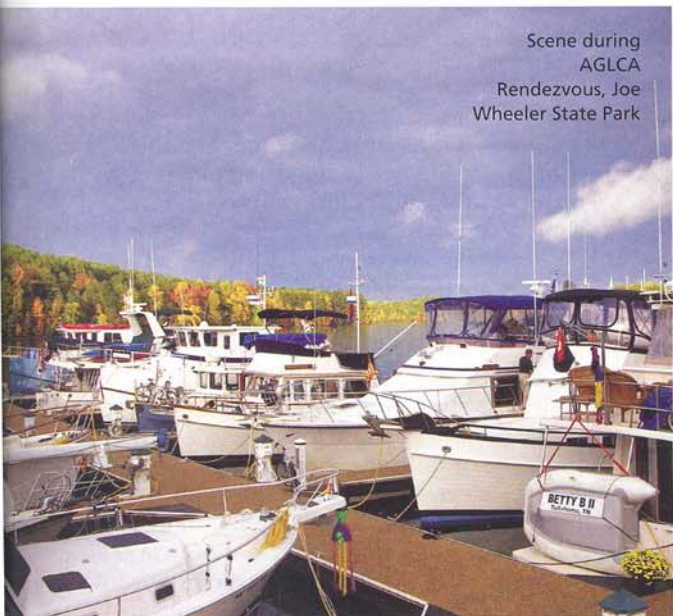


Homemade
cruiser heads
south

Euchee Marina, on
Watts Bar Lake –
Katy Leigh at right



Scene during
AGLCA
Rendezvous, Joe
Wheeler State Park



Raccoon Mountain,
"Grand Canyon
of the Tennessee
River," Mile 438

