



Interpretive Guide to the Powerline Cove Loop of the East Lakeshore Trail

A watershed includes all of the lands that drain into a body of water. This trail is in the watershed of the Tellico Reservoir. The Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir (WATeR) is an all-volunteer organization that supports projects to protect and improve the watershed. Those projects include building and maintaining the East Lakeshore Trail (~14 miles) and developing this interpretive trail guide for the Powerline Cove Loop (~2.2 miles).

To use this guide, start at the Glendale trailhead. Park in the gravel lot at the end of Glendale Community Road. Walk ~50 yards back down Glendale Community Road. The trail entrance is located to the right along the water's edge.

This area was predominantly used for agriculture before TVA acquired it. Several families lived and farmed the area. The Davis and Blalock families owned many acres here and raised cattle and several different agricultural crops.

Glendale Community Road was previously known as Davis Ferry Road. There was a privately owned ferry known as Davis ferry that operated here to allow community residents to cross the Little Tennessee River. The ferry remained in private hands many years before the government of Loudon County took it over and operated it until the 1950's.

There are several points of interest discussed as you walk along the trail. Also, over 30 species of native trees and plants are marked along the length of the East Lakeshore Trail. Several marked specimens can be found on the Powerline Cove Loop Trail.

An alternative starting location if you arrive by boat is the marked boat landing on the south side of Powerline Cove about 200 yards after crossing under the powerline for which the cove is named. Take the trail to the right and follow along with this guide starting at the bottom of page 3.

[Click for Pictures of Poison Ivy](#)

As you walk be aware of poison ivy. All parts of this plant contain oil that can cause skin irritations in susceptible individuals. Poison ivy can be recognized as having 3-parted leaves usually growing off of a vine. However, poison ivy can be found in shrubby clumps, a single vine independently growing or a large hairy vine growing to the tops of trees. Remember the adage, "Leaves of three, let it be."

As you begin the trail, you will notice a boathouse on your right and stairway up to a house on the left. These are private property and should not be accessed. These are not part of the East Lakeshore Trail or associated with WATeR.

[Click for Pictures of Bluegill](#)
[Click for Pictures of Dragonfly](#)
[Click for Pictures of Carp](#)

Carefully cross the two footbridges. This water comes from Glendale Branch, a small wet weather stream. You may see dragonflies, bluegill and carp feeding along the stream bank.

[Click for Pictures of Mayapple](#)
[Click for Pictures of Indian Pink](#)
[Click for Pictures of Christmas Fern](#)

Many native wildflowers and plants are found along this section of trail. Mayapple, Indian pink, and Christmas fern abound on this steep slope.

[Click for Pictures of Pileated Woodpecker](#)
[Click for Pictures of Pileated Woodpecker with Chicks](#)

Many downed trees are found as you continue walking along the trail. Tree snags create habitat and food for many forest creatures like woodpeckers and beetles. A pileated woodpecker has been spotted in this area.

Openings in the tree canopy also allow for new tree and plant growth. Sunlight that was once blocked by existing trees is now able to penetrate to the forest floor, reaching plants that were once inhibited by the lack of sunlight.

[Click for Pictures of Red-ear Slider Turtle](#)
[Click for Pictures of Mud Turtle](#)
[Click for Pictures of Painted Turtle](#)
[Click for Pictures of Painted Turtle](#)

As you walk observe the trees and branches partially submerged in the water's edge. Resting turtles can often be spotted, sunning themselves on the logs.

Continuing along the trail, you will soon encounter a boat landing. This landing overlooks Powerline Cove, so named for the power lines stretching across the cove. The power lines come from Watts Bar Dam and supply electricity to Maryville. Watts Bar dam is located midway between Knoxville and Chattanooga and is one of nine TVA dams on the Tennessee River. Watts Bar hydroelectric facility was completed in January 1942, three weeks after Pearl Harbor, and provided urgently needed electricity for the war effort. The generating capacity at Watts Bar is 175,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Fort Loudoun Dam is located north of Powerline Cove and was commissioned in 1940 and completed in 1943. Fort Loudoun Dam has a generating capacity of 155,600 kilowatts. The power generated by the dam supplies electricity to eastern and southern Blount County.

Walk further along the trail and cross the footbridge. Bear to the right along the water to continue on the Powerline Loop Trail.

[Click for Pictures of Red Cedar Tree](#)

This area is predominantly Eastern red cedar trees growing on limestone rock. Red cedar is a native evergreen, which provides cover to wildlife all year.

[Click for Pictures of Limestone](#)
[Click for Pictures of Pink Marble](#)
[Click for Pictures of Red Marble](#)

Limestone is a common rock found in East Tennessee. When limestone is heated and pressed inside the earth it becomes marble. East Tennessee is widely known for its marble production. Many buildings in Washington DC have marble from East Tennessee in them.

[Click for Pictures of Spleenwort](#)
[Click for Pictures of Grape Fern](#)

As you enter the forest, notice the tree size. All of the cedar and dogwood trees are relatively the same size because they are even aged, having started growing when farming ceased. There is very little undergrowth in this area. However there are a few plants of interest. Spleenwort and grape fern are prevalent in this area.

[Click for Pictures of Blackberry](#)
[Click for Pictures of Sumac](#)

When you emerge from the woods, you will be in an open field that is maintained as a right of way by TVA. Notice the large power tower carrying electricity from Watts Bar Dam. Plants you will find in this area are blackberries, thistle and sumac. These plants provide protective cover and food for many animals.

[Click for Pictures of Wild Turkey](#)
[Click for Pictures of More Wild Turkeys](#)

Continuing on into the next section of forest, the trees are much larger. This forest is more mature and less disturbed by humans than the previous ones. Deer and wild turkeys have been found in this area. Turkeys were re-introduced into East Tennessee by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency with help from the National Wild Turkey Federation in the 1970's and 80's. They are once again prevalent in our area after many years of management by TWRA.

Walking past the barbed wire fence the undergrowth becomes much thicker. Most of the undergrowth along this mossy walkway is exotic plants. Privet hedge and vine honeysuckle are aggressive plants that out-compete native plants and can easily take over an area in very little time.

[Click for Pictures of Privet](#)
[Click for Pictures of Honeysuckle](#)

You now are entering another forested area with very little diversity. Many of the trees are cedar and the same size with little under-story growth. This will change as you continue toward Power Point. You may be able to see the main channel of the Little Tennessee River off to your right as you walk.

In summer, you may see holes dug along the sides of the trail. Skunks dig most of the golf ball to baseball size holes. Skunks have an excellent sense of smell and will spend their nights digging out grubs and bee nests.

As the cedar trees give way to hardwood deciduous trees, you may hear several species of birds calling. Mourning doves, crows and blue jays are often heard.

The next area you enter is the Power Point lookout. A bench overlooking the water is a great place to take a rest now that you are over half way along the trail. The developed area across the river is Tellico Village. However, remnants of the past are also in view. The silos are a reminder of the farms that existed before the Little Tennessee River was dammed in 1979.

[Click for Pictures of E. TN Dam Silos](#)

There are several theories as to why the silos remain. According to an official at TVA, the silos were in good structural condition, so they were left standing to create fish breeding habitat.

[Click for Pictures of Snapping Turtles](#)
[Click for Pictures of Easter Box Turtle](#)

As you walk away from the water, you may encounter a box or snapping turtle. Turtles seek areas that are near the water to lay their eggs. Nesting season is April- June. Snapping turtles are aquatic while box turtles are terrestrial.

[Click for Pictures of Persimmon](#)

Near the top of the first hill, notice the marked persimmon tree on the left. Persimmon is a native tree that provides food for many animals, including humans! Deer especially like the fruit. You may find scat, animal feces, along the trail that contains persimmon seeds.

You will soon be in another cedar forest. You should be able to see Tellico Village off to your right.

[Click for Pictures of Sugar Maple Tree](#)

Climbing the steepest area so far, take a break and notice all of the sugar maple saplings. Also

crickets can usually be heard chirping away in this area.

[Click for Pictures of Honey Locust Tree](#)

There is a large marked honey locust tree to the right of the trail. Honey locust is usually covered with thorns that protect it from grazing and browsing animals. As a large tree some of the branches may not have thorns. This tree does not have any visible thorns. You may find honey locust seed pods on the ground in this area. These seedpods look like large black hard-shelled green beans. Notice the evidence of woodpecker activity in many places on the trunk.

A little further along the trail begin looking to your left. Notice the large sunken area about 100 yards long, 60 yards wide and 40 feet deep. This is a sinkhole. There are many limestone caves and sinkholes in East Tennessee. Limestone is eroded away by water and the land above the rock will eventually cave in, creating a sinkhole. The sinkholes are marked on the map as an oval with hash marks on the inside.

[Click for Pictures of Redbud Tree](#)

Walking out of the forest, you will enter the continuation of the open field that is maintained as a right of way by TVA that you crossed earlier. This area has many small redbud trees. Eastern redbud is one of the earliest blooming native trees in East Tennessee.

[Click for Pictures of Jack in the Pulpit](#)
[Click for Pictures of Indian Cucumber](#)

Re-entering the forest, notice the tree size. This is a mature deciduous forest with few evergreen trees. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall and re-grow new leaves each spring. A deciduous forest is mature when few, if any, evergreen trees are found within its boundaries. In this forest you can also find jack in the pulpit and Indian cucumber, two native wildflowers.

[Click for Pictures of Red Oak Tree](#)

There is a very large marked red oak tree on the right of the trail. This tree provides homes for many forest creatures. Woodpeckers can often be heard calling and pecking away at insects in this area.

[Click for Pictures of Sourwood Tree](#)

A sourwood tree is also marked further along the trail. Sourwood trees have beautiful fragrant flowers with nectar that bees make into delicious sourwood honey.

Continue down the slope and watch for the sign on the left. Take the shortcut trail back to the Glendale trailhead and parking area. Continuing to the right will take you to the Coytee Loop Trail.

You will now climb away from the water. The field you are walking through was farmed more recently than the areas you passed through earlier. Remnants of this can be found on your right. A cattle chute and old wooden fences are found along this section of the trail. You may hear vireos and warblers calling in this area.

At the trail intersection bear to the right and cross the footbridge to return to the Glendale Trailhead and parking area.

Sources/Credits:

- Peterson Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs
- Peterson Field Guide to Wildflowers
- Peterson Field Guide to Birds
- <http://www.TVA.gov>
- A History of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 50th Anniversary Edition, 1983
- Glenn Palmer, lifelong Blount County resident
- <http://www.wikipedia.org>
- Google images

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