



CONRAD TOURS

August / September



Meet Your Host: Cindy Smith

Are you originally from Tennessee? Is so where? I was born and raised and spent all my life until 2022 in Memphis, Tennessee except for five years when I attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas and then one year after that in Dallas. One year in the Dallas traffic was enough to convince me to come back home to my small town of Memphis. Now that I have lived in Crossville for 2 years, I now view Memphis as I did Dallas! Too big, too crowded

Do you live in Crossville or the Glade? In the Glade - a little piece of heaven in my opinion.

What did you do in your previous life? I have worked in various administration roles for a non-profit ministry, Weight Watchers, construction company, etc. Even spent 11 years teaching piano, which I loved. I am presently still working part time for Fine Mortuary College in Norwood Massachusetts working with school curriculum. No, I am not a Mortician and am learning way more about embalming and cremation than I ever thought was possible.

How did you become a tour host? We had just moved to Crossville and had attended several tours and thoroughly enjoyed them. Then one day an email popped into my inbox requesting volunteers for hosts and I responded. Met John, and, well, how can you say no to him??

How long have you been a tour host? Two years, give or take a week.



Why did you become a tour host? I learned so much about the area through the tours - more than it seemed I knew about the businesses in Memphis where I had spent most of my life. The business became not just businesses, but stories about people and their dreams and how they turned or were in the process of turning that dream or idea into reality. I can't just drive past Christie's Pub Grub and not remember their story. Or go see a play at Cumberland County Playhouse and not be thrilled again about how that came together for Crossville. Or go to Swing On or Lilypad and remember how someone's hobby became a livelihood. All that was fascinating. I love to be fascinated, so it seemed like a good fit for me. As a new resident, it was such a good way to cultivate that sense of belonging that sometimes takes years. I wanted to be a part of giving that to others.

What has been your favorite destination? Very hard to narrow down! I love the breweries and wineries because of the stories and just the fact that they are, well, breweries and wineries. But the Playhouse Three Hour Tour - well, that was amazing. But the Jackson Kayak was pretty darn good, too. See? It's like a lays potato chip - you can't just have one!

TOUR SPOTLIGHT: BRISTOW ROAD WINERY



Recently Conrad Tours was at the Bristow Road Winery in Crossville. Located on a former cattle farm, this is a beautiful spot for a winery. Ben from the winery explained how they are growing 7 different types of grapes to make wine and that they will be ready in 4 1/2 years. They currently serve California wines from Napa Valley. They also serve beer from Swing On Brewery. They are open Wednesday thru Sunday. On weekends they have food trucks and live music. They also hold paint and sip events and are looking to do yoga classes in the fall. This was a full group with a waiting list and Conrad Tours will be back!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Hi,

It is over six months since we introduced a membership fee for belonging to Conrad Facility Tours. The transition from a free service to a paid membership organization has gone quite smoothly with just a few hiccups along the way. The money from the membership fees is used to pay our expenses. Setting up the 501 organization cost over \$1,000 and we pay an annual license fee of \$1,200 for the Tour Management System software. With other expenses like business cards, rack cards, the purchase of two sound systems and refreshments for a volunteer appreciation event, the costs add up.

Our membership dropped significantly with the introduction of the membership fee, which is a good thing (from over 1,200 to about 550). This has resulted in quite a few tours that are not filling up which means everyone has a chance to attend. We are aiming to have all tours 80% to 90% filled allowing room for a few late reservations.

Another positive change is that the number of no-shows has dropped significantly. We do not like no-shows because they prevent other more diligent tourists from attending, so keeping them low is a good thing. Please cancel your reservation as soon as you find you are unable to attend.

A few statistics for you: Last year we arranged 204 tours to 78 different destinations. So far this year we have arranged 112 tours to 60 different destinations – 10 of which were new destinations that we had not visited before.

We have a team of twenty volunteers working hard to make all this happen, and we can always use more help. If you enjoy the tours, please spread the word about Conrad Tours. We have business cards and rack cards available if you would like to distribute them, particularly to new residents. Just let us know by an email to conradtours@gmail.com

Thanks, and enjoy the tours.

John Conrad



UPCOMING TOURS

#138 Grinder House Coffee Shop

Thursday, Aug 22nd
at 10:00 am

#139 Crossville Airport

Monday, Aug 26th
at 10:00 am

#140 Galena Garlic

Tuesday, Aug 27th
at 11:00 am

#142 FG Fire Department

Wednesday, Sept 4th
at 10:00am

**#143 Lazy G Bison Ranch
(\$15)**

Thursday, Sept 5th
at 10:00 am

#144 Art & Artisans Tour

Friday, Sept 6th
at 1:00 pm

**#145 Cumberland Mtn
State Park**

Monday, Sept 9th
at 11:00 am

#146 Roane State College

Monday, Sept 9th
at 1:00 pm

Love the Conrad Tours? Please share this
newsletter with your friends!

The more the merrier!