

# Scott's Gulf



*The Bridgestone / Firestone Centennial Wilderness*

BY SENATOR HOWARD BAKER AND JOHN NETHERTON



FOREWORD

*P*RESERVING OUR INHERITANCE

It has been said that mankind does not exist apart from nature; rather, we are part of it. For thousands of years, the natural resources of the territory we now know as Tennessee have rewarded a variety of inhabitants with a rich and wondrous life. As the sun rises on the twenty-first century, the breathtaking beauty of this land needs to be preserved for future generations. Within the pages of this splendid book, my friends Howard Baker and John Netherton bring to light the magnificent natural gifts, seldom seen by most of us, of one of Tennessee's rare wilderness treasures.

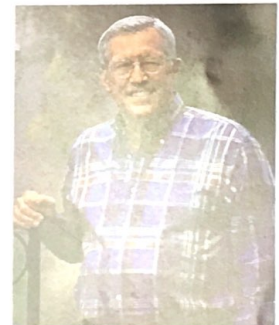
Heirs to this land's natural bounty and beauty, Tennesseans today possess an obligation to protect and preserve our inheritance. If we are indeed part of this natural balance, then our investments in support of economic opportunity and the advantages of modern life must be accompanied by equal efforts to sustain and replenish the natural environment.

Mindful of this delicate accord between progress and preservation, and in a gesture of strong civic leadership, Bridgestone/Firestone Chairman Masatoshi Ono—on behalf of more than 4,000 employees in Tennessee—has generously endowed the state with one of nature's most highly prized heirlooms. The pristine land within the acreage of the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness—a protected oasis along Scott's Gulf, near Chestnut Mountain in Middle Tennessee—remains today much as it was when ancient tribes and early settlers came over the mountains and down the rivers of a rugged frontier territory. In transferring the deed of this rare and unspoiled gem to our state, Chairman Ono has assured its protection and preservation long after we have passed from the scene.

This generous and lasting endowment to our state and to our citizens is an example of the many benefits the people of Tennessee derive from Bridgestone/Firestone's responsible corporate citizenship. We are proud indeed that Bridgestone/Firestone chooses to call Tennessee home. We value the company's confidence in us, and we value its contributions to the health of our economy. We value the philanthropic giving and support to the arts for which the company is widely respected and acknowledged. In so many ways, Bridgestone/Firestone leads by example, showing the rewards of partnerships between individuals and institutions who care deeply about our shared future.

I am grateful for this generous donation and the knowledge that this treasure will endure. Thanks to Bridgestone/Firestone and the Conservation Fund, survival is now guaranteed for a rare natural wilderness and the diverse species it supports. And, in the long term, vital connections to the land will be preserved for those who seek refreshment for body and spirit in the tranquility of nature's unrivaled display.

DON SUNDQUIST  
Governor of Tennessee



PREFACE

*A JEWEL OF A PROPERTY*

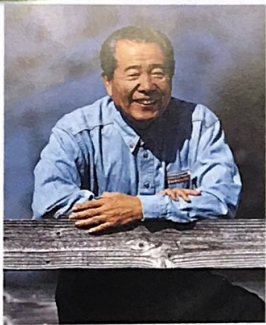
When Bridgestone acquired the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company in 1988, it joined with a remarkable company that had a heritage stretching back to 1900. It also acquired an even more remarkable asset—a jewel of a property consisting of thousands of acres of unspoiled wilderness on the Cumberland Plateau that Firestone had been assembling for many years.

The natural beauty of this property rivals any you will see in Tennessee, or, for that matter, anywhere in the United States. As Governor Sundquist and John Turner state in their comments to this book, the property is a spectacular combination of meadows, mountains, hardwood forests, pasture land, stretches of white-water river, scenic bluffs, caves and gorges. A wide variety of wildlife, including a number of rare and endangered species, are at home in Scott's Gulf. We are honored to have been the stewards of this property for almost thirty years, and we are proud to present approximately 10,000 acres of this magnificent land to the state of Tennessee. This treasure will now be preserved for generations through a unique collaboration between the state, the Conservation Fund and Bridgestone/Firestone. **It is our goal that future generations who visit the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness will find this land as beautiful and unspoiled as is reflected on these pages.**

In this year of the Firestone Centennial, as we pause to reflect on our history and look to our future, we are grateful to Senator Howard Baker and John Netherton for capturing the vitality and wonder of Scott's Gulf in the photographs of this book. It is a message to future generations that we who preceded them understood and respected the importance of preserving natural areas such as this, and it is a call for them to do the same.

We at Bridgestone/Firestone wish to thank Governor Don Sundquist, whose vision recognizes the importance of a balance between economic development and the need to preserve the scenic beauty of this state. His assistance in creating the partnership between our company, the Conservation Fund and the state will leave a testament to his leadership that will endure for years and years to come. We also wish to thank John Turner and the many people at the Conservation Fund who have worked tirelessly with us on the many details that attend a project of this size and scope.

We at Bridgestone/Firestone are proud to call Tennessee home, and are pleased that we are able to contribute to its future.



MASATOSHI ONO  
Chairman and CEO  
Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.



CONSERVATION NOTE

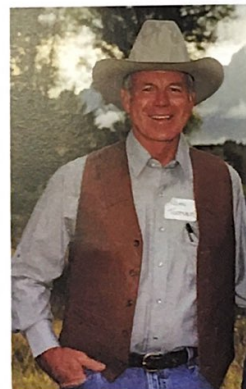
*A LEGACY FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM*

Hidden deep in a remote area of Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau is one of America's most spectacular forested-river canyons—the Caney Fork River Gorge. Known locally as Scott's Gulf, this breathtaking landscape, which is certainly of national park quality, has recently been made public through a generous gift by Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. to the citizens of Tennessee and the nation. To be managed as a state wildlife and wilderness area, the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness is an outstanding corporate donation that will be enjoyed for generations.

Join Senator Howard Baker and John Netherton on a trek through this special wilderness. Through the lenses of these skilled photographers—two native Tennesseans who know and love their state's out-of-doors—you'll enjoy this rugged twelve-mile stretch of the Caney Fork, its hidden cascades and its dramatic waterfalls. One of the most diverse hardwood forests remaining in the world, Scott's Gulf supports rare plant species and harbors habitat niches that are home to endangered species and myriad wild animals.

You'll experience Scott's Gulf through the seasons, from the vivid palette of fall colors to a snow-hushed forest, from delicate spring flowers to a summer sunrise on Firestone Lake. You'll wander through meadows, visit secluded fishing holes and venture out onto sandstone cliffs overlooking the river corridor. You'll see Native American petroglyphs etched into rock, and reflect upon the early settlers who pioneered a way of life in this rugged land. Or you can simply relax and enjoy the serenity of nature.

Through the pages of this book, you too can experience Scott's Gulf, for this portfolio of images celebrates its scenic beauty and human history, providing a legacy for the next millennium.



*JOHN TURNER  
President and CEO  
The Conservation Fund*