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Schuffert's Strides

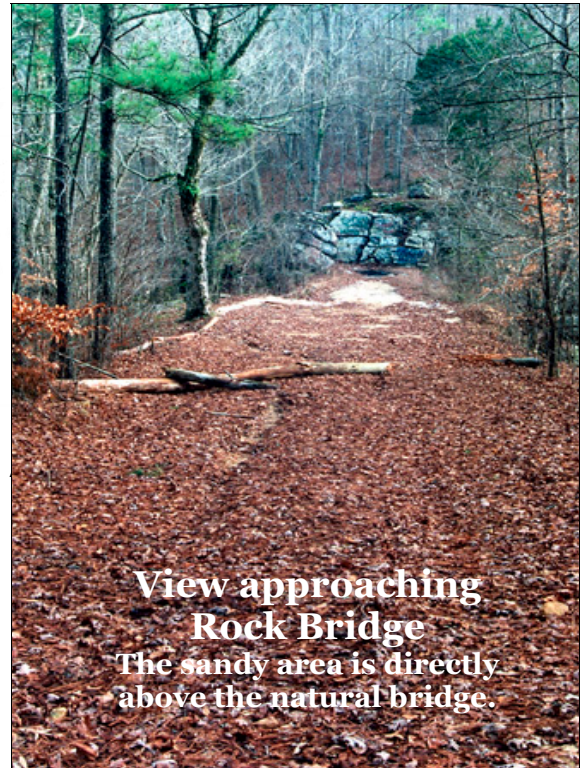
Newsletter May 10, 2007

**Rock Bridge or Chandler Natural Bridge,
Gallant, Alabama**

Follow along with Robert Schuffert on his
recent photographic expeditions

Rock Bridge

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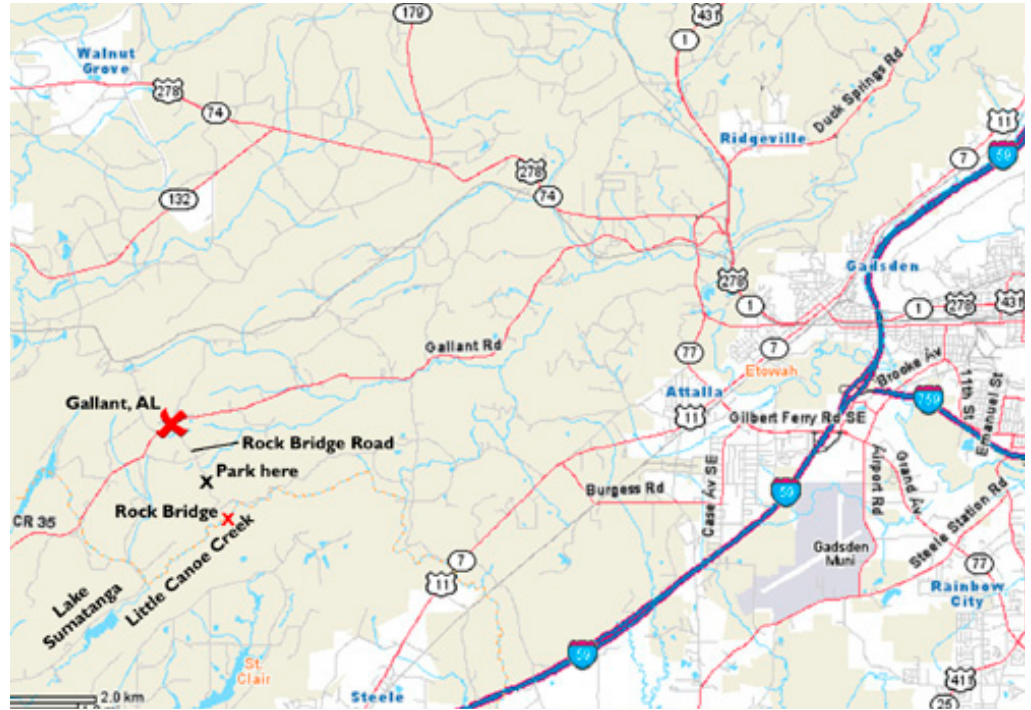
**View approaching
Rock Bridge**

The sandy area is directly
above the natural bridge.

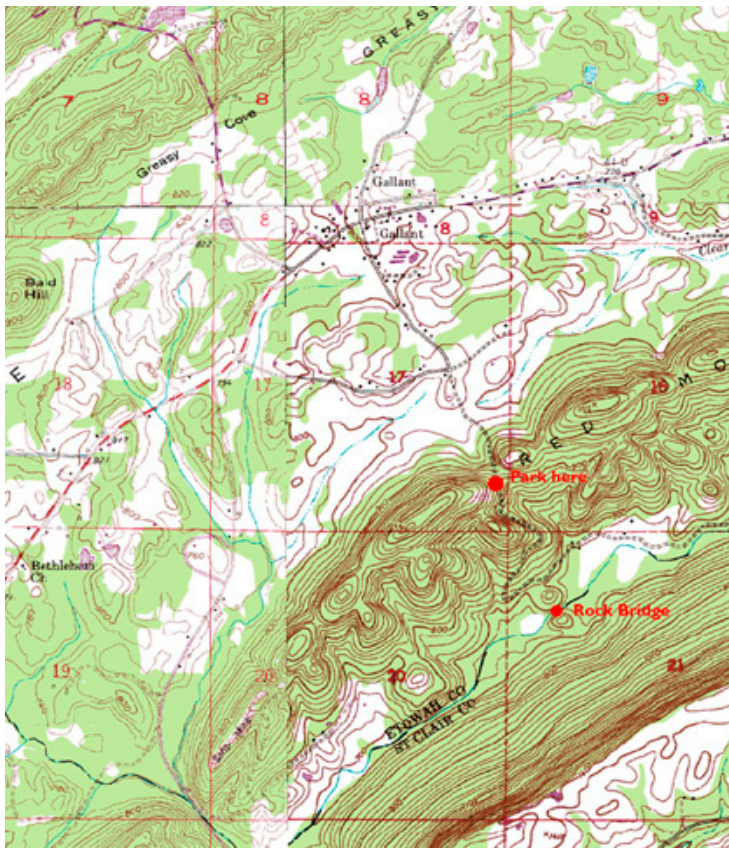


Rock Bridge Natural Bridge

Secluded in a small valley west of Gadsden and Attalla AL on the border between Etowah and St. Clair counties, and known only to the locals of the area, you'll find Rock Bridge. This natural bridge spans 48 feet across Little Canoe Creek and is sometimes called Chandler Natural Bridge, named after a previous property owner. Alabama Power Company now owns these forest lands and they have recently installed a steel bar gate to prevent entry of 4-wheelers. But a short one-mile downhill hike along a dirt/gravel road will get you to the bridge. The area is still visited frequently by locals.



While searching the web working on my Tennessee book, I stumbled across this hidden wonder of nature located in north Alabama. Once found, I positioned the bridge on topographical maps for future reference. When I finally visited the site, it was hard to believe a natural bridge was here. I had been nearby this spot several times and had no idea of it's existence, just like several other places hidden across north Alabama.



Topographical map of Gallant, AL and the terrain around Rock Bridge.

To reach Rock Bridge, take Etowah Co. Hwy 35 to Gallant, AL and turn south onto Rock Bridge Road by the Gallant Road Church. After crossing Hutchens Road, Rock Bridge Road changes to dirt. Follow this dirt road up the small mountain to the peak, where you will see a red, steel bar gate blocking the road. Park here without blocking any of the adjacent property entrances or the red gate. Walk around the gate and continue downhill following the dirt roadway (some places can get muddy after heavy rains). When nearing the bottom of the hill, the road takes a sharp left turn, while another small trail continues straight ahead. Follow the road sharp left, walk about 300 yards to another dirt road branching off to the right. Take this road toward Little Canoe Creek. This short, 200 yard road leads directly to the top of Rock Bridge. Several small trails lead down to the creek from here, where you will see the archway. *Robert Schuffert*

Maps were obtained from web sites courtesy of TopoZone.com and RandMcNally.com.

Photographs in this issue are available for purchase on-line at www.SchuffertStudios.com. If the photograph you want is not listed on the web site, please e-mail your request to Robert.