SERVE & PROTECT
The Tennessee Aquarium, Alton Brown and Sustainable Seafood
Serve & Protect: Reeling in Results

By Thom Benson, Communications Manager

Twenty years after opening, people continue to remark about how they are enlightened on each visit to the Tennessee Aquarium. “One of the great aquariums in North America,” wrote one recent visitor in a TripAdvisor™ review. “It has all the 3E’s! Education, Environment and Entertainment. You may have been to other aquariums, but don’t miss this one!” More than 19 million guests have had fun while discovering that geographic location does not diminish our global connections.

When celebrity chef Alton Brown stepped onto the stage in the IMAX® Theater last September, a new learning adventure began. Serve & Protect bundled a measured amount of marine science with a dash of culinary humor and a reminder that bringing sustainable seafood to Chattanooga’s collective table is at the heart of our mission.

“One of the important things the Tennessee Aquarium has always been so good about is reminding people that the seas start inland,” Alton Brown told the audience. “Rivers become seas. They are part of the same system and when we think seafood, we tend to think of big, blue water. But rivers, ponds and tributaries are all parts of that system.”

To prove his point, the Food Network star then spent the next 90 minutes extolling the virtues of farm-raised channel catfish, one of the five species featured in the inaugural Serve & Protect program. “This fish, of all American fish, responds to an aquaculture environment better than any other,” said Brown. “They love being in a pond with a bunch of their buddies and if the water is managed properly, the flavor becomes amazingly sweet.” He made believers out of the audience by preparing a mouth-watering catfish ceviche and yes — catfish soup during his live cooking demonstration. The audience fell in love with Alton’s witty presentation. And, they seemed eager to learn more about how wise seafood choices help level the playing
field for species that need time to recover from overfishing. “The event was amazing,” said one event attendee. “Before tonight, I never gave a thought to what I ordered at a restaurant. But now I know what I should be asking before ordering seafood or buying it at the store.” Several weeks later, attendees were surveyed to measure the impact of the kickoff event. An amazing 87% of respondents reported sharing information they learned with friends and family.

Since the Aquarium’s first-ever fundraising event, Serve & Protect has become an integral part of our ongoing educational outreach and conservation dialogue. It’s also the focus of lively dining affairs.

Each day Aquarium guests learn about sustainable seafood options through interpretive panels near exhibits displaying featured species. Each display is accompanied by a cell phone audio tour stop recorded by Alton Brown. We have hosted several on-site programs to expand the reach of these messages to partner restaurants, teachers and school groups. Aquarium members are also encouraged to register for our Sensational Sustainable Seafood Dinner series. Participants enjoy great food, informational conversations with an Aquarium expert and a cooking demonstration at each partner restaurant.

Jackson Andrews, the Aquarium’s director of husbandry and operations, was the host of one recent event at Broad Street Grille. “Everyone was impressed with Chef Pinner’s creative preparation of each seafood dish,” said Andrews. “This dining event proves that making sustainable seafood discoveries leads to a lot of conversations.”

The buzz generated among family and friends helps lead others to ask the right questions about seafood. “We hope to plant seeds of interest,” said Brown. “We want everyone to go to the seafood counter and ask where the fish came from.” To help in this process, the Aquarium has established a “Shop with the Chef” program with Whole Foods to help participants learn how to select, prepare and serve seafood at home.

Finally, we know that teens and tweens have a big influence on family dinner choices. “So we’ve concentrated some energy to increasing awareness among younger decision makers through outreach,” said Dr. Anna George, director of the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute. “The high school students we’ve
already worked with become excited to learn more about the complex issues surrounding fisheries and food. A few even seem interested in pursuing practical applications of science and technology.” More Serve & Protect outreach programs are planned for the upcoming year to help expand the reach of the Aquarium’s initiative.

Excitement is already building for the Second Annual Serve & Protect events. Alton Brown will deliver two cooking demonstrations at IMAX — a midday event that allows more people to become excited about sustainable dining and the elegant evening affair. Brown is looking forward to reeling in even more ocean advocates with four new species to see and learn about at the Aquarium, and then tempt the tastebuds with something different. “All I’m trying to do is get people to diversify.”

When you’ve got fish to fry (or bake or broil), there’s nothing better than a Lodge cast-iron skillet. We’re partnering with this local manufacturer that is internationally-known and respected for the quality and sustainability of its products. They’ve created a custom 10 ¼-inch Serve & Protect skillet and packaged it with recipes from Alton Brown. 75% of each sale (cost is $25) directly supports the Aquarium’s conservation programs. Buy them direct from the River Journey gift shop or order online and ship as gifts. www.aquariumshop.org

**HEALTH BENEFITS OF SEAFOOD**

Seafood is tasty and good for you. But are we getting enough for the maximum health benefits? The average American only eats 3.5 ounces of seafood per week, but we should be including more in our diets. “Recent USDA Dietary Guidelines recommend replacing two servings of meat or poultry with seafood,” said Rebecca Greer, registered diettian with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. “Eating 8 to 12 ounces each week gives us a high quality protein without high saturated fat content. Also, seafood is an important source of omega-3 fatty acids which helps prevent heart disease and plays a role in cognitive development and brain function.”
The name Cousteau is practically synonymous with ocean exploration. Jacques Cousteau’s explorations showcased the hidden world of oceans and were a huge influence on those of us absorbed by our watery world. Fortunately for us, his pioneering work has become the prelude to a bigger story of our water planet, a story that continues to be told by the granddaughter he taught to dive when she was just seven years old.

Alexandra Cousteau, a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in her own right, is keenly aware of the legacy she has inherited and the story she has yet to tell. She takes seriously her role as a global water advocate, seeking to inspire conservation and sustainable management of our water resources. Cousteau has taken her grandfather’s legacy inland to connect communities with their watersheds and empower protection of all stages of the water cycle.

“Despite the best efforts of scientists, filmmakers and explorers, like my father and grandfather, our generation knows little more than theirs did about its ocean depths or the fragile scarcity of our freshwater resources,” said Cousteau. “We can’t afford to divide over protecting freshwater or focusing on the world’s oceans, as though they are unrelated goals. If we are to solve any of our problems, we have to return to the simple truth so many of us learned in grade school science courses: our planet’s hydrosphere is a single, inter-connected system.”

In 2008, Cousteau started Blue Legacy, an initiative to bring light to the state of water worldwide. With Blue Legacy, she has made two global expeditions, visiting countries including Botswana, Cambodia, India and Israel to explore how water resources are shared. During all of her expeditions, Cousteau’s team is constantly posting daily updates, photos and videos through blogs and social media in order to create a daily conversation on water issues.

On her Expedition Blue Planet in 2010, Cousteau traveled through North America on a 17,100-mile journey to explore water challenges faced in our continent, from the overuse of the Colorado River supply to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The 2010 expedition team also spent time in the Tennessee River watershed at the Kingston coal ash spill. Aquarium scientists spent the morning with Cousteau’s expedition on the Emory River by the Kingston Fossil Plant, talking about our research on the fish community at the site. Cousteau helped us collect fish, water and sediment samples that were analyzed for our research.

In the afternoon, we headed just 30 miles upstream to the Obed National Wild and Scenic River, one of the headwaters of the Emory River. Because Tennessee has more species of freshwater fish than any other state in the country, we were excited to snorkel with Cousteau and show her part of our underwater rainforest. “The waters of our rivers course through our veins,” she said. “It is only after people can see, smell, hear and touch their river—and let the current pass through their toes on a warm summer day—can you ever expect someone to be truly motivated to protect their river. It starts with realizing that we are all intimately connected to our watersheds, and their health is a proxy for our own.”

Cousteau’s work to motivate people to protect their own watersheds is just beginning. We’re happy to invite you to be part of this journey when Cousteau comes to the Tennessee Aquarium on Thursday, September 6. She will be the final speaker in the Aquarium’s Our Blue Planet Speaker Series, funded through a NOAA grant to connect inland residents to the world’s ocean.
**A Lasting Summer Experience**

Some of our best summer memories involve time spent in the water. Whether it’s that cannonball jump into a pool or floating down a stream in an inner tube, we all seem deeply connected to water. But how often does aquatic summer fun lead to a passion to protect our most precious natural resource?

The “Conservation Leadership in Action Week,” or CLAW, is a new summer camp adventure launched by the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, TNACI. Campers came to Chattanooga from throughout the region to paddle, hike, snorkel and learn how to examine nature with fresh eyes seeking to solve problems. “The goal is to foster a passion for the environment and to provide a safe place for students to tackle some of today’s pressing environmental issues,” said Dr. Anna George, director of TNACI. “It’s part of a long-term strategy to integrate conservation into the daily lives of teens.”

Campers explored the Hiwassee River by kayak to sample water quality and examined the biodiversity of the Conasauga River while snorkeling the crystal-clear waters and seining for fish. Any of these activities are fun and memorable, but George and others were focused on long-term take home messages. “The students were paired up with our biologists, other conservation leaders and teachers to develop projects in their own communities after CLAW,” said George.

In June, Toyota and the National Audubon Society awarded a TogetherGreen Fellowship to George in support of CLAW. The $10,000 grant came after a competitive nationwide selection process designed to nurture conservation leadership, achieve conservation results and engage millions of Americans in conservation action. “Anna is an environmental hero,” said Audubon President David Yamold. “She and the other TogetherGreen Fellows help people engage with nature. Anna is a leader, and we’re pleased to give her a chance to invent the future.”

The spark ignited by CLAW will be reinforced with year-round science programming for high school students, especially in partnership with Serve & Protect. “I’m hopeful this new camp will produce some of tomorrow’s environmental leaders who were initially inspired to make a difference by their experience here,” said George. ♦

Inspiring students to make a difference has been at the heart of the Aquarium’s work for 20 years. With support from people like you, our award-winning educational programs prepare today’s students to be the conservation heroes of tomorrow. Help shape the future of our community by making your contribution to the Aquarium today: community.tnaqua.org/donate
By Kathlina Alford, TNACI Conservation Associate

The southeastern United States is a global hotspot for freshwater fish species, making this region an exciting place to be a freshwater fish biologist. But, with this extreme biodiversity, comes a large percentage of imperiled species. So our backyard is in need of future aquatic conservationists dedicated to helping these creatures.

The Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute (TNACI) has several on-going projects focused on imperiled fish species, and we’re working to reel in the next generation of environmental stewards with these exciting field projects.

The Tennessee River Lake Sturgeon Working Group was established in 1998 to bring lake sturgeon back to their native range in Tennessee. This local river giant had disappeared from our rivers because of overfishing and dam construction. In 2000, the first release was made of captive-born fish that were collected as eggs from a stable population in Wisconsin. Since that time more than 130,000 sturgeon have been released into the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers.

The population in the Tennessee River is doing well enough that we can finally start catching them. In November 2011, the working group collected more than 30 lake sturgeon in the Tennessee River that had been released during this project. These fish ranged in size between 19 and 42 inches in length and gave us valuable data about their movement patterns, growth rates and survivability.

National Geographic Explorer Dr. Zeb Hogan joined us for a special lake sturgeon effort in April to help TNACI release a group of fish into the Cumberland River in Nashville. A group of Nashville-area home school students came to meet Dr. Hogan and help us with this release. Over the years, we have partnered with school groups in Knoxville and Chattanooga to give students a chance to participate in reintroduction efforts. There’s no better way to learn about endangered species than to get to hold one and then release it into the wild.

The Conasauga logperch is another endangered fish in our backyard that we are working to save. Definitely not a river giant, this small, tiger-striped darter lives in only a few miles of river in Tennessee and Georgia. Over the last two years we have done extensive surveys of the wild population. One of our partners in this program, Conservation Fisheries in Knoxville, was able to produce more than 700 babies in captivity from a small group of wild parents. Many of these fish were held at the Tennessee Aquarium until they were large enough to be released. All of the released fish were tagged with neon rubber tags under the skin so that we will be able to track movements as they disperse. To commemorate Endangered Species Day 2011, we met up with a group of students from Valley Point Middle School in Dalton, GA while we released some of these tagged fish into the river.

Seeing endangered species face to face is an awesome experience and really helps make conservation come to life for these young scientists. That’s what we try to do every day at the Aquarium. Exhibits such as the sturgeon touch tank and River Giants are aimed at giving guests a personal connection to some amazing fish from our backyard. Your donations help us share these important environmental messages with future generations.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, some Native American tribes believed that lake sturgeon in the Great Lakes were caught in greater numbers during the August full moon. So, it became known as the “Full Sturgeon Moon.” This year, there are two full moons in August on the 1st and 31st.
Thrills, Gills & Chills 2012

Somewhere within the waters of the new River Giants exhibit lurks a catfish with a man-eating reputation. The wallago has a mouth full of teeth, eel-like body and the face of a bulldog.

“It’s one of my favorites,” said Curator of Fishes Thom Demas, “they appear to be grinning like the evil creatures in the movie Gremlins.” Native to Southeast Asia, wallago are known as voracious predators that reach lengths of eight feet in the wild. They will consume fish, frogs and even small mammals. There have even been reports of finding human remains in their stomachs!

The Aquarium was fortunate enough to acquire two of these “monster fish” for the newly opened exhibit. “The dark wallago catfish can be seen by guests slithering around near the back of the exhibit,” said Assistant Curator of Fishes Carol Haley. “Even though they look as if they are smiling, their bite could be dangerous. That’s why you’ll see our divers feeding these fish with three-foot-long tongs.”

Fear-less, not fear-some, would best describe a creature of the night that is featured in Ranger Rick’s Backyard Safari. “Velcro,” a Southern flying squirrel, makes frequent appearances in the gallery along with other creepy, crawly and cool animals. Most people think of Rocket J. Squirrel, the infamous sidekick of Bullwinkle, whenever flying squirrels are mentioned. But many Aquarium guests don’t realize that they probably have this species living in their own backyard.

“Flying squirrels are nocturnal, so most people wouldn’t see them living among the treetops near their homes,” said senior educator Susie Grant. “It’s pretty amazing to see Velcro gliding in the gallery for a tasty treat. He’s trained to glide to our hand from a respectable distance.” Rest assured, this wide-eyed mammal is only looking for a peanut or sunflower seed. Flying squirrels prefer nibbling on fruits and nuts rather than people. The widest eyes might belong to visitors watching this thrilling aerial stunt or on the faces of those who get to touch this charismatic creature.

Come in costume and celebrate a safe but spirited Halloween with the wild ones! Trick or treat for loads of loot in our haunted river galleries and win treasures as you play fun games. This year’s party will stay in River Journey for more convenience with twice the fun. Ocean Journey will be closed this evening. Pre-register by Oct. 24.

SAVE THE DATE for the “Aqua-Scarium” Halloween Party Friday, October 26th 6:30- 9:30 pm (Full details on page 10)
### FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

Pre-registration is required for events!

Register online at: tnaqua.org/Events

### SEPTEMBER

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<td>Tues.</td>
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<td>Get in Touch with Aquarium Critters</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>An Evening with Alexandra Cousteau</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>6:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Big River Man Film Screening</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>The Aquarium’s Big Backyard Clean-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>5-7</td>
<td>Whopper Fish!</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sun.</td>
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<td>A &amp; Tots</td>
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<td>Sat.</td>
<td>10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>A &amp; 10+</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>Seafood Dinner at Easy Bistro</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>Aqua-Scarium Halloween Party</td>
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<td>9-11</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.-Noon</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>5-4 &amp; A</td>
<td>‘Awe-some’ Opossum</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Adults</td>
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### DECEMBER

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sun.</td>
<td>6:30-9 p.m.</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Caroling with the Fishes Member Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>31/13</td>
<td>Mon.-Tues.</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>A &amp; 6+</td>
<td>New Year's Eve Family Sleep in the Deep</td>
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**Fun for Families**

**Sleep in the Deep**

**Usher in the New Year — Aquarium-style**

*Monday, Dec. 31, 2012 • 5:30 p.m. - Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013 • 8:30 a.m. EST*

Usher in 2013 and celebrate with special New Year’s Eve shenanigans, as you explore behind the scenes and get up-close with our critters. At light’s out, bed down in the Undersea Cavern of Ocean Journey while sharks and thousands of colorful fish swim over and around you. Includes overnight, guided tours, special activities, pizza and continental breakfast.

Families with children ages 6 & older, accompanied by an adult • $45/Member, per person; $55/Non-Member, per person • Souvenir Patch: Add $3.50

**Harvest Sleep in the Deep**

*Sept. 29 - 30 • 5:30 p.m. Saturday – 8:30 a.m. Sunday EST*

Celebrate the Harvest Moon as you sleep in the deep with your family. Learn fascinating facts about Aquarium animals as you explore behind the scenes. Enjoy up-close encounters with our critters and animal experts. At light’s out, bed down in the Undersea Cavern in Ocean Journey surrounded by schools of tropical fish and toothy sharks. Includes overnight, IMAX movie, guided tours, special activities, pizza and continental breakfast.

Families with children ages 6 and older accompanied by an adult • $50/Member; $60/Non-Member per person • Souvenir Patch: Add $3.50 • Minimum of 30; maximum of 40

**Trekking with Tykes**

**Backyard Safari**

*At Riverpoint Play Trail*

*Sunday, Oct. 7 • 2 – 4 p.m.*

Explore the wonders of nature with your little ones on a guided backyard safari. Join our hike leader for an adventure at the Riverpoint Play Trail off Amnicola Highway. Young adventurers will have fun on Play Core’s innovative playground installations. As the trail winds its way along South Chickamauga Creek, children will learn about actual critters that live along the creek. Then, seesaw on a dragonfly, climb through a bee’s honeycomb and crawl across a spider web. Bring your own snacks and drinks. (Stroller friendly)

Parents and young children • Limited to 25 • Free/Member; $5/Non-Member

**AquaScarium — Family Halloween Party**

*Friday, Oct. 26 • 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.*

Come in costume with your favorite treat bag and celebrate a safe but spirited Halloween with the wild ones! See what ‘monster’ fish lurk beneath the surface of River Giants, like the Wallago catfish with a toothy grin and the giant whiptail ray. Enjoy the “wild” antics of our costumed divers, touch the bony-plated body armor of a sturgeon, dare to be surrounded by toothy piranhas and encounter slightly scary scales, tails and skeletons. Trick or treat for loads of loot in our haunted river galleries and win treasures as you play fun games. Storyteller Jim Pfitzer will tell seasonal animal tales. Interact and do the Monster Mash with our loveable mascots in their own Halloween costumes. This year’s party will stay in River Journey for more convenience with twice the fun.

Families with young children (Children must be accompanied by an adult) • Member: $6 per person, Adult or Child (3-12) • Non-Member: $18.50/Adult; $13.50/Child (3-12)

Non-member price includes River Journey admission and party. After Oct. 24, tickets available on Oct. 26 at the door.

Register now online at tnaqua.org/Events or mail form on page 16 or call 423-267-FISH (3474).
**FUN FOR KIDS**

**BUG CLUB**  [tnaqua.org/Education/BugClub.aspx](http://tnaqua.org/Education/BugClub.aspx)

Bug Club is for kids who love learning about fascinating multi-legged creatures. Club meets from 4 to 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month and membership includes a monthly newsletter and T-shirt. Games, snacks and experiments round out the fun.

**Get in Touch with Aquarium Critters**

*Tuesday, Sept. 4 • 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.*

Since we are not able to touch most animals in the Aquarium exhibits, we don’t normally get a chance to discover how their bodies actually feel. After visiting some of our live animals in the Rivers of the World gallery, we will use our senses and biological animal props to help us imagine what it’s like to be them. Then we’ll talk about our favorite creatures while enjoying a snack. *Please advise us of any known food allergies.*

**You Have How Many Turtles?**

*Find Out! Behind-the-Scenes with our Turtle Keeper*

*Saturday, Sept. 15 • 10:00 a.m. – Noon*

Did you know the Aquarium is home to over 75 different species of turtles, some of them classified as endangered? From four-eyed turtles to map turtles, we have raised many of their young right here under the glass peaks that very few get to see. Bill Hughes, an Aquarium senior herpetologist, will lead us on a behind the scenes adventure to discover how we care for such a large and varied turtle population. We will help make diets, weigh and feed turtles and learn how to identify some of the many species that call the Aquarium home. We will also see some of the really rare and endangered turtles that are not on exhibit. You don’t want to miss this cool keeper caper!

**The Tennessee Aquarium’s Big Backyard Clean-up**

*Saturday, Oct. 6 • 10 a.m. – Noon*

Help clean up local wildlife habitats with your family during the annual Tennessee River Rescue in the Tennessee Aquarium’s big backyard! Play earth-friendly games to discover why animals in the Tennessee River all the way to the ocean will thank you! Meet a live critter and one of our Aquarium Mascots before we clean up their backyard. This event is a kid-friendly way to teach children how to be good environmental stewards. *Wear old clothes and shoes and bring gloves and optional drink and snack.*

Families with elementary age children (children must be accompanied by an adult) Free to Members and Non-Members (does not include optional Aquarium admission) Meet under the white tent outside River Journey’s Members Entrance.

**Whopper Fish!**

*Saturday, Oct. 6 • 10:30 a.m. to Noon*

Did you ever wish you were a fish? How about the BIGGEST freshwater fish in the world? If you told a ‘tall’ fish tale about the largest Arapaima ever, you’d need arms that would stretch almost 15 feet! That’s about five people your age lying head to toe! Wow your friends with neat facts about the Arapaima and other big whoppers in the new River Giants exhibit and make a cool craft.

Children ages 5-7 • Limited to 15; Minimum 4 • $8/Member, $13/Non-Member
River Journey Delta Swamp Classroom

**‘Awessum’ Opossum**

*Saturday, Nov. 10 • 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.*

Did you know that opossums are the only marsupials in North America? A pouch, a mouth full of teeth, and an unusual way of protecting itself put this nighttime critter in a category all its own. You’ll discover the incredible life style of the Virginia opossum through playing games, having a live animal encounter, touching cool things and listening to a story.

Children 3 & 4 years old (must be accompanied by an adult) • Register child only •Limited to 15; Minimum 5 • $8/Member; $13/Non-Member • River Journey Auditorium

**Big Fish Story**

*Saturday, Nov. 17 • 10:30 a.m. – Noon*

What does it take to create a watery home for so many giant fish in the new River Giants exhibit? Join educator Julia Gregory to go behind the scenes of the exhibit and discover how we care for these mega fish from around the world. You will get the inside step-by-step scoop on what it took for the Aquarium to open this exhibit, from demolition and design, to construction and acquisition of these giants and how our staff prepared them to co-exist.

Children 8-12 years old Limited to 15; Minimum 5 • $8/Member; $15/Non-Member
River Journey Delta Swamp Classroom

REGISTER NOW online at [tnaqua.org/Events](http://tnaqua.org/Events) or mail form on page 16 or call 423-267-FISH (3474).
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**An Evening with Alexandra Cousteau**  
*Thursday, Sept. 6 • 6 - 8:30 p.m.*

Meet Alexandra Cousteau, National Geographic “Emerging Explorer,” filmmaker and globally recognized advocate on water issues. Cousteau, like her grandfather Jacques-Yves, is dedicated to promoting the conservation and sustainable management of water in order to preserve a healthy planet. Her global initiatives seek to inspire and empower individuals to protect not only the ocean and its inhabitants, but also the human communities that rely on freshwater resources. Closer to home, on her Expedition Blue Planet: North America, Alexandra joined Dr. Anna George, Director of the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, on the Clinch River in Tennessee to determine the long-term impacts on fish populations after the Kingston Coal Ash Spill in 2008. A remarkable storyteller, Alexandra will leave you inspired to be a voice for freshwater stewardship for future generations.

**All Ages • Limited seats available • Free**

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**Oktoberfest Beer Tasting & Dinner**  
*At Big River Grille • Presented by Big River Grille & Brewing Works*

*Tuesday, Oct. 23 • 6 – 8:30 p.m.*

Become beer-savvy during a beer tasting with brew-master David Sharpe. You’ll learn the nuances of evaluating fine-crafted brews. Keep tasting notes about the appearance, aroma, texture and finish of specially selected beers. Then enjoy a delicious four-course Brewer’s Dinner paired with appropriate beers. Big River Grille and Brewing Works features hand-crafted beer and made from scratch regional cuisine. It’s a ‘Hoppin’ event you won’t want to miss!

**Adults Only • Limited to 40 • $35/Member (Aquarium or Big River Passport Members); $45/Non-Member • Please add your own tip. Or $40/45 including tip • Location: Big River Grille Downtown**

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**“Lock Through” Cruise**  
*On the River Gorge Explorer • Presented by **TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER***

*Sunday, Sept. 23 • 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.*

Board the River Gorge Explorer and navigate up river to the Chickamauga Dam on a three-hour sunset cruise. It is rare, not only to see two side-by-side lock projects, but to hear two experts give their perspectives on each. Learn about the construction of the new dam from Jamie James, project manager with the Nashville District Corps of Engineers. At the Dam, we will be raised and lowered by a system of locks as lock master Matt Emmons provides technical insight about how it all works. Enjoy a complimentary snack on our return to Ross’s Landing as our naturalist identifies wildlife and points of interest as the sun sets.

**Snack included. Cash bar with beer, wine and soft drinks. Expected docking time is 7:30 p.m. barring any unpredictable delays due to lock-in boat traffic. In the unlikely event that commercial traffic ties up the lock, we will tour the lock from the down-river side with a narrated look at how it works.**

**All Ages • Limited to 66 • $30 w/ snacks Member Adult; $22/Member Child (0-12) $35/Non-Member Adult; $25.50/Non-Member Child (3-12); $18/Child under 3**

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**Civil War Sunset Cruise**  
*With historian Jim Ogden • Presented by **TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER***

*Saturday, Oct. 20 • 4 – 7 p.m.*

Civil War Historian Jim Ogden brings stories of daring and sacrifice, endurance and struggle, terror, loss, and victory to life every time he's aboard the River Gorge Explorer. Ogden's narration, and the unique views from the river, help us visualize how events unfolded during the Civil War along the Tennessee River in late October, 1863. You’ll picture sharpshooters in the gorge, a silent flotilla emerging out of the mist to establish the ‘cracker line’ supply route, and a battle on a looming mountain slope. These events all helped make Chattanooga's story critical to the development of our nation and can hardly be told any better than from the river itself. Enjoy the beautiful fall color as you explore this passageway through history. *A snack is included.*

**All Ages • Limited to 68 • $30/Member Adult; $22/Member Child (0-12) $35/Non-Member Adult; $25.50/Non-Member Child (3-12); $18/Child under 3**

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**REGISTER NOW online at tnaqua.org/Events or mail form on page 16 or call 423-267-FISH (3474).**
**Big River Man — AEC Back Row Film Screening**

*Thursday, Oct. 4 • 6:30 p.m.*

The documentary film “Big River Man” follows Slovenian endurance swimmer Martin Strel as he attempts to become the first person to swim the entire length of the world’s most dangerous river, the mighty Amazon. The legendary Strel swims rivers — including the Mississippi, the Danube and the Yangtze — to highlight their pollution to the world. He will lead a Q&A discussion after the film screening. On October 6, Strel will join swimmers from around the world for the 3rd Annual 10-mile Swim the Suck event through the Tennessee River Gorge as part of the RiverRocks festival. Come early to tour the Aquarium and experience our rivers of the world before the film! Optional Aquarium Admission for non-members is additional.

All ages • Limited to 195 • $5/Member; $10/Non-Member (Tickets to the film screening and discussion)

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**Serve & Protect**

Serve & Protect is the Tennessee Aquarium’s sustainable seafood initiative that promotes responsible seafood choices which maintain the health of our ocean. Please join us at these fun events with our partners.

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**Seafood Dinner at 212 Market Restaurant**

*Thursday, Sept. 27 • 6:30 – 8 p.m*

For a memorable dining experience, join us at 212 Market for a delectable dinner with an Asian motif that features sustainable seafood and fresh produce from local farms. Begin with squid tempura with a sweet & sour dipping sauce followed by Kung Pao Catfish, an adaptation of the spicy Szechuan classic with peanuts, with jasmine rice & stir fry vegetables. End on a sweet note with roasted apples and house made 5-spiced ice cream. *Dinner includes wine pairings, tax and gratuity.*

Adults • Limited to 30 • $45/Member; $55/Non-Member

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**A Day at Pickett’s Trout Ranch**

*Saturday, Sept. 29 • 10 a.m. – Noon*

Join Steve Pickett and an Aquarium expert at Pickett’s Trout Ranch, a working aquaculture facility in Whitwell, Tennessee. Learn the challenges of successfully raising trout sustainably, and the importance of local inland fish farms. You’ll tour the ranch, from the headwaters of the cave that supplies water for trout raceways, to the hatchery, and finally to trout runs where fish are allowed to mature to marketable size. Children will even have a chance to feed the trout. You are free to stay and fish for your own dinner in the trout ponds. Corn is provided for bait, but please bring live bait for better fishing. There is a pavilion if you’d like to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy.

All Ages • Limited to 50 • $5/Member; $10/Non-Member

Rod Rental: $2 per hour or bring your own
Trout: $3.75 per pound live weight (there is no catch and release) • Trout Fillets: add $0.75 per fish

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**Seafood Tasting Menu at Easy Bistro**

*Tuesday, Oct. 16 • 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.*

Easy Bistro offers memorable French bistro dining in a sophisticated setting. Join Chef Erik Niel and Aquarium staff for a specially designed multi-course tasting menu that showcases sustainably harvested U.S. seafood and fresh local produce. Sample four of Easy Bistro’s best seafood dishes ending with something sweet for a delicious evening. *Includes tasting menu, fountain drinks or ice tea, tax and gratuity.* Wine, beer and coffee drinks, with appropriate tip, are additional.

Adults • Limited to 30 • $45/Member; $55/Non-Member

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**Seafood Dinner at Porter’s Steakhouse**

*Thursday, Nov. 8 • 6:30 – 8 p.m.*

In addition to fine steaks, Porter’s also features fresh U.S. caught or harvested sustainable seafood. Join Executive Chef John Palacio for a special culinary experience starting with blue fin crab cakes topped with burnt chile relish. Your second course features a roasted corn and parsnip salad with blue cornmeal fried Mississippi catfish nuggets. Cleanse your palate with mango sorbet before enjoying a farce of American lobster-stuffed trigger fish with a Meyer lemon beurre blanc. Finish with a duet of chocolate torte and vanilla bean brulee. *Includes a four-course dinner with wine pairings, tax and gratuity.*

Adults • Limited to 30 • $65/Member; $70/Non-Member

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REGISTER NOW online at tnaqua.org/Events or mail form on page 16 or call 423-267-FISH (3474).
**WORLDSHOPS**

**Rain Barrel Workshop**
*Saturday, Sept. 22 • 10 a.m. - Noon*

A rain barrel collects water from gutters and stores it for future uses like watering plants and washing cars, especially during periods of drought. Go green and convert an empty 55-gallon Coca-Cola syrup drum into a working rain barrel by attaching connectors during the program with the help of experts with Ace Hardware. Learn how to install your rain barrel onto your downspout at home and the importance of practicing water conservation. Includes a pre-drilled barrel and a kit with hose adapters, spigot and basket for trapping debris. Bring a vehicle to accommodate a 55-gallon rain barrel.

Adults - Limited to 20 • $25/Member; $30/Non-Member • Location: IMAX Center Classrooms

**Yoga Under Water!**

**Four week Yoga Workshop in the Undersea Cavern**
*Thursday, Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25 • 7 – 8 a.m.*

Experience yoga in a unique way — surrounded by colorful reef fish in the Undersea Cavern in Ocean Journey! This tranquil setting is ideal for learning and practicing the poses of Level One Hatha Yoga. Certified yoga instructor Maggie White will guide you through proper alignment and body awareness practices appropriate for all levels. Start your morning off inspired by the beauty of nature underwater and within you!

Adults - Limited to 20 per session • $12/Member; $15/Non-Member per session
$40/Member; $52/Non-Member for all four sessions

**Decorate your Holidays Naturally**

**A FREE Seminar at The Barn Nursery**
*Saturday, Nov. 17 • 10 a.m. – Noon*

Join The Barn Nursery’s nationally-known head designer, Aaron Shiver, for a free holiday seminar! Shiver will share trade secrets and demonstrate how to incorporate natural materials, from your landscape, into beautiful holiday decorations. Examples will inspire you to create your own lovely decorations at home. A workshop will follow for those who would like to create something unique to bring home. Discover a wide variety of beautiful items and plant materials in the Garden Gift Shop, available for purchase. Talented designers will provide free coaching and assist with your project. Enjoy refreshments and take home informational material and inspiration for this festive season.

Adults - Limited to 50 • FREE Seminar; optional plants/decorative items available for purchase

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**OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

**Early Risers Sunrise Paddle**
*Saturday, Sept. 8 • 6 – 9 a.m.*

Nothing is more beautiful than watching the sun rise and glisten on the water’s glassy surface and the gentle ripples at morning light. Experience the quiet of Chickamauga Lake and its wildlife during this most magical time of day. We will meet and launch kayaks at the main boat ramp at Chester Frost County Park in Hixson, Tennessee. Bring optional binoculars and/or a camera in a water proof bag and your own insulated mug. Includes coffee and a granola bar.

Adults & ages 12 and older (children must be accompanied by an adult) Limited to 12; Minimum 6 • $30/Member; $35/Non-Member

**Downtown Sunset Paddle by Kayak**
*Thursday, Sept. 13 • 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.*

Tour the heart of Chattanooga on the Tennessee River as the sun sinks below the mountain ridges. We will launch kayaks at Renaissance Park, adjacent to Coolidge Park and paddle past downtown landmarks and around Maclellan Island, a beautiful bird sanctuary where large blue herons roost at sunset. Afterwards, feel free to grab a casual late dinner on the North Shore or downtown at one of Chattanooga’s great restaurants. Meet at Coolidge Park.

Adults • Limited to 12; Minimum 6 • $30/Member; $35/Non-Member

**Introduction to Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP)**
*Saturday, Sept. 15 • 10 a.m. – Noon*

Here’s your chance to experience one of America’s fastest growing water sports — Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP). It’s fun, easy and almost like walking on water. Learn the basics including how to mount your board, paddle, stay upright and negotiate a turn. We will paddle downtown on the Tennessee River around Maclellan Island, stopping mid-way to explore a small beach. Include instructors with L2 Paddleboard, all equipment and an Aquarium naturalist.

Adults and ages 12 and older (children must be accompanied by an adult) Limited to 8 $40/Member; $45/Non-Member

REGISTER NOW online at tnaqua.org/Events or mail form on page 16 or call 423-267-FISH (3474).

Go green and get Riverwatch online! Visit tnaqua.org/Membership/Riverwatch
Hike to Laurel Falls

Saturday, Oct. 13 • 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m

Join Aquarium education programs manager George Bartnik for a hiking adventure at this beautiful natural area near Dayton, Tennessee. Our goal is to reach Laurel Falls, a spectacular 80-foot waterfall where we’ll break for lunch. Along the way, encounter scenic creeks, steep gorges, geologic features, historical remnants of the mining industry, and the beauty of fall. Please bring your own drinks, snacks and lunch. (5-mile round-trip hike with lots of ups and downs).

Adults and children ages 10 and older accompanied by an adult • Limited to 20 • $8/Member; $13/Non-Member
Meet at the Laurel-Snow State Natural Area

Family Canoe Trip

North Chickamauga Creek
Sunday, Oct. 21 • 4 - 6 p.m.

Get up close and personal with creek critters as you float the pastoral waters of the North Chickamauga Creek in canoes. Then, paddle into the faster current of the Tennessee River. All equipment and transport are provided. Please bring your own snack and drink as well as a picnic dinner to eat after the paddle if desired. Meet at Greenway Farm.

Adults and children ages 5 and older accompanied by an adult
Limited to 16 per session; Minimum 10
$13/Member; $18/Non-Member

Snorkel with the Manatees Weekend

Friday, Jan. 25, 10 p.m. departure - Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013

Discover why the West Indian manatee has become endangered and what is being done to save this “vanishing mermaid” on our family snorkeling trip to Fla. Led by the Aquarium’s senior aquarist Rob Mottice, we’ll drift-snorkel down the slow-moving Rainbow River and swim with manatees in the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge. We will also visit the Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park. Includes trip orientation, transportation by motor coach, one night hotel lodging, buffet breakfast and snorkeling excursions. Other meals are on your own. Snorkeling equipment may be rented or purchased with a special discount at Choo-Choo Dive Center (423/899-1008).

Families (children must be 8 and older) • Limited to 20, minimum of 16 • Members: $410/Adult per person, double occupancy; $375/Child (8-12) $340/Child (8-12) sharing room with 2 others • Non Members: add $25 per person or join as a member. Single Occupancy: Add $60

Experience the Galapagos Islands & Ecuador 2013

Experience close encounters with animals found nowhere else on earth. Six hundred miles off the coast of Ecuador, Charles Darwin used the Galapagos Islands as his living laboratory to gather evidence for his theory of Natural Selection. Swim and snorkel with sea lions, come within mere inches of Blue-footed Boobies and rare Marine iguanas as mysterious as the volcanic islands they inhabit. The intimate atmosphere of your luxury ship with spacious rooms and common areas makes this an unforgettable adventure.

Contact Betty Miles for a trip brochure: ebm@tnaqu.org or 423-785-3008

Presented by DASANI

Renew your Membership — anytime! Visit tnaqua.org/Membership
PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW! tnaqua.org/Events

Registration is required for all programs with payment in full.

ONLINE: www.tnaqua.org/Events

PHONE: 423-267-FISH (3474) or 800-262-0695, ext. 3400, 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. weekdays. Please have event and credit card information ready.

PAYMENT is required by credit card, cash or check when registering.

CONFIRMATION with event details will be mailed upon receipt of event fees.

CANCELLATIONS/REFUND: We cannot provide refunds for no-shows. Unless noted differently, cancellations must be received no less than two weeks prior to event date for a refund. A full refund is made if the Aquarium cancels an event or if an event is full.

RENEW ONLINE — ANYTIME! tnaqua.org/membership

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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*Excludes feature-length films

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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The Tennessee Aquarium is a non-profit institution. Your dollars support our many education, conservation and research programs.
The Tennessee River may seem like a bustling waterway today, but that wasn’t always the case. The rocky “reefs,” wild rapids, log snags and unpredictable shallows struck fear into anyone contemplating heading downstream through the Gorge at Walden’s Ridge. Heading upstream to Chattanooga was too terrifying for anyone to consider until 1821. That’s when the captain of the Atlas used high water in the spring to push past Ross’s Landing claiming a $640 prize for being the first steamboat to reach Knoxville.

Imagine if one of these early river pioneers could visit Chattanooga now and cruise in style aboard the River Gorge Explorer. “I think those captains might be most amazed by the size and depth of the river,” said Aquarium naturalist John Dever. “Back then, the width of the Tennessee River was only about as wide as today’s commercial channel.” Heading downstream, the old captains would be surprised by the current shape of the river at Moccasin Bend and how the Gorge rapids have been tamed. “They’d probably relax and enjoy the view with our passengers,” Dever said.

Bringing historical points of interest to life is what Aquarium naturalists enjoy most, whether cruising upstream on the Seven Bridges Cruise or heading downstream on Tennessee River Gorge excursions. Naturalists stay busy pointing out wildlife along the way on both excursions.

Kids will receive an “Eagle Eye” sticker when they spot animals and report the sighting to crew members.

The new upstream trips have been very popular with guests, offering an opportunity for everyone to explore a stretch of river many local people have never been on before. “Having grown up in Chattanooga, the Seven Bridges Tour was great fun,” posted one recent guest on TripAdvisor™ before offering some advice. “Because so much time is spent on the top deck, be sure to bring sunscreen if you plan to take full advantage of Chattanooga’s beautiful scenery.”

If you’d like to experience the Seven Bridges cruise, you have until September 30th to reserve your seats. Beginning on October 1st, all of the cruises will head downstream into the Gorge to take advantage of the fantastic fall weather and magnificent color changes taking place within “Tennessee’s Grand Canyon.” ♦
Turtles are probably not the first animal that most people think about when you say you work at an aquarium, but at the Tennessee Aquarium, turtles are an integral component of the animal collection. There are currently more than 500 turtles here, representing more than 75 different species. Some of these animals are extremely rare like the Southern Vietnamese box turtle, Cuora picturata. The population of this species in U.S. zoos or aquariums consists solely of a single male and single female – both of which live here at the Tennessee Aquarium.

With so many individual turtles living under our care, many people ask, “How do you provide for such a wide variety of animals?” My quick answer is, “It’s challenging.” While a lot of turtles have similar care requirements, it turns out that there are lots of exceptions and many of the species at the Aquarium have somewhat specific needs.

Varied diets are important. Nutrition and attention to providing proper diets are among the key factors to maintaining turtles successfully. Most of the aquatic and semi-aquatic turtles at the Aquarium get a commercial chelonian pellet as the bulk of their diet. This “first course” is augmented with various species-specific food items such as nightcrawlers, mice, mealworms, or fruit. The Blanding’s turtle, Emydoidea blandingi, will eat pelleted food, but seem to prefer moving prey such as crickets. The same is
true for the black-breasted leaf turtle, *Geoemyda spengleri*, in the *Chinese Mountain Stream* exhibit. This species is fairly fast (for a turtle) and will actively pursue moving prey. However, some aquatic turtles won’t feed on pellets at all. The snake-neck turtles refuse to feed on anything but mice or live insects.

As one of the turtle chefs, I can tell you that the frequency of feeding also varies. Juvenile turtles should be fed three to four times each week, while adults may only need to be fed two to three times a week. To complicate matters, feeding routines change throughout the year for turtles. When temperatures are lower during the winter months, turtles may feed very little or not at all.

We are also mindful that turtles may eat the diet of the other animals in the exhibit. A mixture of aquatic turtles, ducks and fish live together in the *Delta Country* exhibit. The ducks and fish eat the pelleted food we provide with the same fervor as the turtles. So we have to feed a little extra to ensure that the turtles actually have enough to eat.

Turtles need to be taken out of an exhibit occasionally. It may be a temporary move or a permanent move to another exhibit. It may also just be time for an annual physical exam by veterinary staff. Whatever the reason, catching the turtles from an exhibit requires some teamwork. While some might think of turtles as slow and easy to catch, aquatic turtles in large tanks can be very difficult to apprehend. A deep tank might require the aid of a SCUBA diver or the crafty use of some long-handled nets. Visually locating all, or sometimes locating any, of the turtles in the Aquarium’s multi-story *Nickajack Lake* exhibit is a very difficult task. This tank has multiple viewing windows and many hiding places for turtles. Catching these rather crafty creatures in this tank is usually only possible by using SCUBA gear and several divers.

I enjoy working with our entire collection, but I’m especially proud of the success we’ve had breeding some of the threatened and endangered species like spiny turtles, *Heosemys spinosa* and four-eyed turtles, *Sacalia quadriocellata*. Aquarium guests can see some of the juveniles on display in the *Turtle Gallery* along with other species that are rarely seen in any zoos or aquariums. Among my favorites are the flattened musk, *Sternotherus depressum*, keeled box turtles, *Cuora mouhotti*, and padloper, *Homopus signatus*. I invite you to take a turtle’s pace on your next visit and seek out the amazing turtles we have in our collection. 🎤
20 Year Volunteers

Wanda Wilmoth began volunteering when the Aquarium first opened and was SCUBA diving with her daughter, Kathy Goforth, to greet our first guests. Twenty years later, Wanda has donated 3,000 hours of her time and currently serves as a volunteer docent. She is among more than one dozen volunteers who have been serving since 1992. We’ve posted a special tribute to these dedicated individuals in the Aquarium blog (tennesseeaquarium.blogspot.com). We'd like to thank all of our volunteers who help make the guest experience the best in the nation.

If you’d like to join our enthusiastic team of volunteer docents — now is the time. Apply to become a volunteer docent by Friday, September 14th. tnaqua.org/GetInvolved/VolunteerOpportunities

We’ll begin training the fall docent class on Tuesday, September 25th. You’ll learn all the insider information to answer visitor questions about playful penguins, feisty otters, giant freshwater fish and toothy sharks. You’ll enjoy interacting with people from around the world and benefits such as a FREE Aquarium Family Membership.

Tennessee River Rescue

We’re fortunate to live along one of the most scenic waterways in the United States. Unfortunately, upon closer inspection, the Tennessee River has another side that’s not so pretty. Plastic bottles, empty cans, worn out tires and other household debris can be found in virtually any location. But each year, on the first Saturday in October, hundreds of volunteers show up to reverse the tide of garbage lining our scenic waterways. Tennessee River Rescue is a grassroots effort to remove trash in Bradley, Hamilton and Marion counties. Scout groups, churches, businesses and SCUBA divers divvy up nearly two dozen zones for a one-day deep cleaning. Each year organizers see improvement, but some zones remain favored locations for litterbugs.

Now in its 24th year, Tennessee River Rescue not only improves the ecology of our backyard, it also helps everyone and every thing living downstream. According to the Ocean Conservancy, an estimated 60 to 80 percent of all marine litter originates on land. To join this effort, go to: tennesseeriverrescue.com.
Mug With a Mission

The Tennessee Aquarium gift shop now offers a Serve & Protect coffee mug to remind everyone to think about tasty ways to help our ocean. This high quality mug is perfect for sipping pekoe, cocoa, espresso or plain ole Joe. Each one features the Aquarium logo on one side and the Serve & Protect logo on the other. These mugs are offered in three different colors; red, blue and green. Visit one of our three shops on your next visit or stop in at the online gift shop at shopaquarium.org To receive your 10% member discount enter in either SERVE or PROTECT at checkout.

Seeing Double

Aviculturists have had their hands full caring for penguin chicks this year. The two early birds were macaronis. The first hatched on May 24th to parents Hercules and Shamrock. The second hatched on June 1st to parents Paulie and Chaos. A blood sample will be drawn later in the year to determine the sex of these two youngsters. In the meantime, start thinking of names. Join us on Facebook for an upcoming penguin naming contest.

Tennessee Aquarium Business Partners

We gratefully acknowledge the following Business Partners of the Tennessee Aquarium, IMAX® 3D Theater and River Gorge Explorer. These partners help support the Aquarium’s many conservation, education and research programs. To learn how you can become an Aquarium Business Partner, contact Meredith Lewallen at (423) 785-3019 or mml@tnaqua.org.

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As choice for your dinner, this fish is quite proper
It could feed very many because it is a whopper.
Its mealt ime just might fill your grand seafood wishes
while munching on mollusks, crustaceans and fishes
 “Her” peculiar life cycle might make your head whirl:
 “he” starts off as a boy but ends up as a girl!
And where might one find ‘mundi paraphernalia?
Coastal rivers from Asia to northern Australia.
But a trip round the world, friend, you won’t be needing
to see them with divers while swimming and feeding.
Check out River Giants, where they are a feature
and see for yourself this incredible creature!

FEATURE CREATURE

BARRAMUNDI

Lates calcarifer

Many wonders of nature are hiding in the water, but sometimes
it is hard to see beyond the surface. Build an underwater viewer
to discover what lies beneath.

MATERIALS:
• Round plastic container
  (like coffee or yogurt )
• Plastic wrap
• Rubber band
• Scissors

DIRECTIONS:
1. With adult help, cut off the
   bottom of the container.
2. Cover the bottom with plastic
   wrap and secure with rubber
   band.
3. Place the plastic covered end
   into the water and look through
   the other end.
4. Enjoy using your viewer to
discover insects, fish, eggs,
amphibians, and many other
wonders below the water.

Always have adult supervision while
using your underwater viewer.
ANIMAL MIX & MATCH
Unscramble the names of these animals below and match them to their photos!

- SYMOS GFOR
- BUAREML ML EVER
- LEWILT
- TEARSEN UEDEBBIL
- SRCETDE ODWO DAGERIPTR
- YDRE-QUE EUTLTR
- EKLAGERSOTNU
- TUSTLCEIHF
- NELHBRELEDE

RECIPE FOR RELEASING 2,000 ENDANGERED FISH

- 30 adult Barrens Topminnows
- 10 cans brine shrimp eggs; hatched, swimming and ready to use
- 30 pounds frozen mysid shrimp (various sizes)
- 20 pounds Nutremia (adult frozen brine shrimp enriched with beta carotene)
- 30 pounds blood worms (chopped)
- detailed record keeping
- excellent hydrovac (underwater vacuuming) skills
- frequent water changes
- generous supply of elbow grease for scrubbing

1. Divide the adult Topminnows into 6 to 8 breeding tanks and begin to remove babies before their parents can eat them.
2. Feed brine shrimp, mysid shrimp, Nutremia and blood worms three times each day. It’s important to feed live brine shrimp every day so that babies will know how to hunt when they are released.
3. Hydrovac every day.
4. Scrub and change water as needed, probably every other day.
5. Keep records daily. Record the work you did, water quality, how much was fed, deaths and births.
6. During these last three steps, be sure to use dedicated aquarists, interns and volunteers who will work hard to do a good job no matter how busy they are with other duties.
7. When new Topminnows are at least 30 millimeters long they are ready. Take to a spring or the headwaters of a clean, cold creek in middle Tennessee. Gently release into water and enjoy!
The Tennessee Aquarium is a non-profit institution. Your dollars support our many education, conservation and research programs. Visit www.tnaqua.org for more information. Join us on Facebook and Twitter.

VISION
The Tennessee Aquarium envisions a world that values all aquatic environments.

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The Tennessee Aquarium is open daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., except for Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day.

TheLastReef3D
CitiesBeneathTheSea

www.tnaqua.org/IMAX

Tornado Alley 3D
Narrate By Bill Paxton

Explore the science of the storm.