ODDTOBER
Celebrating the WEIRD and WONDERFUL

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ANIMAL LIVES
OUTSIDE THE NORM

In the dry grasslands of Southern Europe and Central Asia slithers a scaly creature about 54 inches long. At first glance, the Scheltopusik—Russian for “yellow belly”—is a snake, but visitors at our Ranger Rick Backyard Safari are often surprised to find out that it’s actually a legless lizard! Not only that, but it also has the ability to break off several segments of its tail, a tactic that serves to confuse predators as several wiggling pieces move about.

Meanwhile in the Northern Pacific Ocean, an eight-tentacled invertebrate known as the Giant Pacific Octopus has another interesting defense tactic. It can change the color and texture of its skin to blend in with surroundings, making it imperceptible to other animals that might want to make a meal of it.

While some animals have interesting ways of protecting themselves from being eaten, others, like the Eastern Screech Owl, rely upon other creatures’ eating habits to protect their young. These birds catch blind snakes to take back to their nests where they eat the parasites that threaten baby owls.

But what if babies need help not just after their born but during birth, like the aquatic caecilian? These amphibians give birth to young that have special gills — signature breathing organs for fish. The gills quickly fall off when the babies take their first breath. This is thought to help the baby caecilians survive the long birthing process.

Visit the Tennessee Aquarium throughout “ODD-tober” as we examine animals with attributes that defy norms, classifications and our own perceptions. Special animal programs, keeper talks, gallery encounters and an ODD-Tober cell phone audio tour will lead you through the bizarre traits and behaviors of creatures that really challenge most people’s ideas about the animal world. Check the Aquarium’s website for a schedule of ODD-Tober fun and events.

“ODDTOBER” is proudly sponsored by:
There’s something uplifting about watching the Aquarium’s North American river otters. Their agility and athleticism, both in and out of the water, captivates visitors. And, like the little girl in the TV commercial, guests have said, “We want more. We want more.”


Converting the Gulf of Mexico exhibit to create River Giants was an extreme makeover, but the changes coming to the Cove Forest will be the first time the Aquarium has so extensively remodeled an existing gallery. It will take what is already a great experience to a whole new level.

“If you go through the Cove Forest and the otters are out scampering around and swimming, guests are delighted with the experience,” said Jackson Andrews, the Aquarium’s director of husbandry and operations. “It’s still very nice strolling through that forest surrounded by a gorgeous variety of plants while enjoying the birds, fish and reptiles, but the impact is not the same if the otters are asleep. A dramatic otter exhibit is something people have really wanted.”

Think of the new exhibit as otters times three.

**THREE TIMES MORE OTTERS**

River otters are most active around sunrise and sunset, which are not optimal viewing times for guests. Four new otters will be added to the two that currently call the Aquarium home, enabling all six to rotate on and off exhibit in various groupings throughout the day. When one group is ready for a mid-day nap, another group will be ready to play and explore their new surroundings. “We’re going to create an exhibit that’s a more enriching environment for the otters, giving them more opportunities to show off their boisterous sides,” said Andrews.

**THREE TIMES MORE LAND**

Otters are terrestrial animals that swim in the water. Guests will still be able to see the remarkable way these furry critters use their paws and tails to twist and turn underwater, but the redesigned space will give the otters more opportunities to lope along a multi-tiered landscape. “There’s more shoreline so they can jump in and out of the water and playfully tussle with one another,” said Andrews. “The terrain of the exhibit will also feature various pools, a couple of waterfalls and natural substrate they can dig in and explore.” Behind the scenes there will be more space to care for and train the otters.

**THREE TIMES MORE VIEWING**

When visitors enter the redesigned Cove Forest, they’ll be drawn in by the expansive view of the new otter exhibit. It will stretch from where the stairs to the overlook are currently located to the waterfalls near the trout stream. “We’ve spent a lot of time considering ways to maximize the existing space to enhance sightlines and viewing angles,” said Andrews. “We will nearly triple the length of the viewing panels so more guests will be able to see the otters simultaneously. And instead of looking down most of the time, you’ll have more chances to see them face-to-face.”

Bringing the new otter exhibit to life is a massive project. Tons of
Your support can help ensure our otters have three times the fun! Every gift will fund enrichment games to encourage exploration, foraging and natural otter play. Donate online at: community.tnaqua.org/otters

rockwork have to be removed before the new infrastructure can be put in place. An ambitious construction timeline has been developed to ensure the work can be accomplished in the minimum amount of time. The Cove Forest will close on Tuesday, September 3 so this exciting project can begin.

The Aquarium’s otters will “go on vacation” to meet their new Cove neighbors at another facility before the work begins. The birds have all been moved to other exhibits. The trout and other fish will be moved to the Animal Care Facility during the demolition phase.

By mid-April 2014 the birds and fish will be on exhibit, ready for the otters return to the Cove Forest. After an acclimation period, the new otter exhibit will be ready for visitors at the end of April. “There are a lot of unique challenges associated with this project,” said Andrews. “But a more exciting experience for our visitors and an upgraded home for the otters will be well worth the effort.”
3RD ANNUAL SERVE & PROTECT

THE DECAPOD DUEL
While planning this year’s Serve & Protect events an idea surfaced for the 2013 live cooking shows at IMAX®, “What if we had a culinary duel of sorts? Shrimp versus crayfish could be interesting.” Lots of imagery popped up of these two decapods squaring off in an underwater ring wearing boxing gloves or wrestling masks.

Suddenly, highlighting Gulf seafood and injecting some Creole flair made perfect sense. “I love the idea of comparing and contrasting the two species,” said Chef Tamie Cook, who will produce and host this year’s live Food Network-styled shows. “There are so many culinary possibilities and a strong tie to the Aquarium’s mission.”

KICK IT UP A NOTCH
Comparing and contrasting two different, yet similar, sustainable seafood choices piqued interest in having two chefs with different backgrounds on stage together. “That creates a lively and fun atmosphere and opens up a new dimension for Serve & Protect,” said Cook.

One of the first people considered was Virginia Willis, Cook’s friend and mentor. Both are Atlanta residents, but they met for the first time at La Varenne, a renowned French culinary school. “Her skills are this beautiful combination of classic technique and southern hospitality,” said Cook. “People are charmed by Virginia and leave her live shows knowing that they can reproduce what she presents.”

Willis authored the acclaimed cookbooks, “Bon Appétit, Y’all” and “Basic to Brilliant, Y’all.” She is a contributing editor to Southern Living and has produced more than one-thousand TV episodes, working for Martha Stewart and Bobby Flay, and was the executive producer for the Discovery Channel’s “Epicurious.”

As a sustainable seafood advocate, Willis serves on the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch Blue Ribbon Task Force.

Susan Spicer is a one-woman industry in New Orleans. Among her many awards, Spicer has been named one of Food and Wine’s 10 Best New Chefs and has received the James Beard Award for Best Chef, Southeast Region. Her French Quarter restaurant Bayona has been featured in Bon Appétit and has been listed as one of the top 5 restaurants in the Zagat Guide for New Orleans.

Cook feels honored that Spicer has chosen to support Serve & Protect. “Susan is a chef who truly walks the walk,” said Cook. “You’ll always find fresh, sustainable seafood at her restaurants and she gives back to her community in a myriad of ways.”

SEAFOOD WIT AND WISDOM
Film buffs will fondly recall Pvt. Benjamin Blue telling Forrest Gump about his favorite seafood—“Shrimp is the fruit of the sea. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, sauté it...” Pvt. Blue manages to rattle off 21 ways to prepare these delectable sea creatures in that scene. Tamie Cook chuckles at the movie reference and says people will enjoy discovering something new during this year’s Serve & Protect events. “I
think shrimp might be in the middleweight class, while I think of crawfish as the meatier heavyweight. Crawfish has a deeper, richer flavor than the lighter qualities of shrimp. I also think we can surprise folks by showing them techniques to utilize the meat other than simply using the meat in its whole state.”

While sustainable seafood wasn’t addressed in *Forrest Gump*, audiences got a glimpse of life aboard a shrimp boat. Almost 70% of the shrimp harvested in the U.S. comes from the Gulf of Mexico. For many captains and seafood vendors, depending on the ocean’s bounty has been a family tradition for generations.

But 2013 might be a challenging year for Gulf shrimpers. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, predicts a possible record-setting dead zone for the Gulf of Mexico this year. Runoff from inland locations ends up in the Gulf, creating a massive area of oxygen-depleted water. Populations of shrimp and other marine animals, which live in the near-bottom waters along the Gulf coast, plummet as they essentially suffocate. A dead zone between 7,200 and 8,500 square miles is forecast—barring any tropical storms or hurricanes that could mix in seawater from deeper locations.

The core message of Serve & Protect is, “buy U.S. harvested or produced seafood.” This simple introduction helps inland residents make better seafood choices. Regulations keep domestic fisheries operating in a manner that protects remaining seafood stocks. And, buying American seafood protects jobs.

“We are connected to the fishermen, oystermen and seafood shop owners through our rivers,” said Cook. “If we’re doing a good job caring for our water, we are helping them. If not, we are not only affecting a food source, we’re affecting someone’s livelihood.”

Chattanooga’s reputation as a “green city” continues to grow with more people focusing on “thoughtful eating.” It’s one reason Cook loves the city and has enjoyed being part of Serve & Protect since the program began. “People do learn while being entertained, but I think it’s really important for everyone to take that next step and try these sustainable recipes themselves. The audience will love Virginia and Susan’s presentations and their approachable recipes.”

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**3RD ANNUAL SERVE & PROTECT • THURSDAY, SEPT. 19TH**

Get your tickets at: tnaqua.org/SustainableSeafood

**LUNCH EVENT**

IMAX® GREAT HALL & THEATER

11am • Cooking Demonstrations & Reception
11:45am • Cooking Show with Gourmet Box Lunch
1pm • Dessert Buffet with Chef Meet & Greet

**DINNER EVENT**

IMAX® & THE TENNESSEE AQUARIUM

5:30-6:30pm • Cocktails & Appetizers, IMAX
6:45pm • Cooking Show, IMAX Theater
8pm • Seated Dinner, Tennessee Aquarium Galleries
9pm • Dessert Reception, River Journey Lobby
FALL EVENTS

Register online & discover newly-added events at: TNAQUA.ORG/EVENTS
OR CALL 423-267-FISH (3474)

All events are held on Eastern Time. Full event details, including Non-Member pricing, are available at tnaqua.org/events. There’s plenty of fun every day at the Tennessee Aquarium. Before your next visit, check the list of FREE PROGRAMS (with your membership or paid admission) to make the most of your day of aquatic adventure: tnaqua.org/RangerRicksBackyardSafari.

SEPTEMBER

7 Civil War History Cruise: “Over the Plateau”
Saturday • 10:30AM-12:30PM
This special Civil War Sesquicentennial cruise brings to life the troop movements of the Army of the Cumberland. Discover how soldiers endured the elements and traversed the rugged local terrain to play a key role in the Battle of Chickamauga in the late summer of 1863. Cash bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks available during the cruise. Presented by First Tennessee and Tennessee American Water.
All ages • Limited to 68
$24/Adult Member; $18/Child Member

8 Feed the Birds! Wreath Workshop
Sunday • 2-3:30PM
Your family can learn how to make decorative treats to keep your feathered friends happy! Make a natural bird-attracting wreath and get suet feeding tips. Take home a wreath, suet cake, and a suet cage with easy to follow instructions.
All ages • Maximum of 15 • $8/Member

21 Harvest Sleep in the Deep
Sat.-Sun. • 5:30PM-8:30AM
Join us for an overnight adventure complete with a guided tour of both Aquarium buildings, an IMAX film and pizza dinner. Go behind-the-scenes with an Aquarium expert and then bed alongside sharks, stingrays and more!
Ages 6+ • Limited to 40 • $50/Member
Souvenir Patch: Add $3.50

29 TVA History Cruise: “Lock Through Chickamauga Dam”
Sunday • 4:30-7:30PM
Join Chickamauga Lockmaster Matt Emmons on a special three-hour tour through the historic lock at the Chickamauga Dam. Learn surprising facts about the history of TVA and modern commercial operations on the Tennessee River. You’ll get a unique view of the location where President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s gave a historic address while actually locking through to Chickamauga Lake. Cash bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks available during the cruise. Presented by First Tennessee and Tennessee American Water.
All ages • Limited to 68 • $24/Adult Member; $18/Child Member
River GORGEous Fall Color Cruise
Saturday • 10AM & Noon
Enjoy a 3-hour fall foliage cruise through the entire 26 mile Tennessee River Gorge during peak color. The first cruise departs from the Chattanooga Pier at 10 AM. Passengers for the second cruise will board a bus at Noon and travel to Hale’s Bar Marina to board the River Gorge Explorer. Disembarking guests board the bus for the return trip to Chattanooga. Lunch, music and bus transportation provided. Presented by Tennessee American Water.
All ages • Limited to 68
$55/Adult Member; $49/Child Member

Color and Wildlife Cruise: “Hawk Watch”
Saturday • 10AM - 12:30PM
Bring your binoculars and join Kevin Calhoon, the Aquarium’s assistant curator of forests, for a revealing look at birds of prey. You’ll scan the skies and riverbanks for hawks, eagles, osprey and vultures while soaking in the first colors appearing in the “Tennessee’s Grand Canyon.” Cash bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks available during the cruise. Presented by Tennessee American Water.
All ages • Limited to 68
$24/Adult Member; $18/Child Member

SPECIAL MEMBER NIGHT
AquaScarium Halloween Party
Friday • 6-9:30PM
Don’t miss AquaScarium VI: Pirates of the Aquarium on Oct. 25! Details on page 2.
All ages • $6/Adult & Child Member
Please register by Oct. 23. Tickets sold at the door after that date.

Civil War History Cruise: “Brown’s Ferry Raid”
Sunday • 9:30-11:30AM
Join Chief Historian of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Ranger Jim Ogden, on the day of the 150th Anniversary of the Federal strike against Brown’s Ferry. The raid successfully established the “Cracker Line” and was the major turning point in the Battles for Chattanooga. Cash bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks available during the cruise. Presented by First Tennessee.
All ages • Limited to 68
$24/Adult Member; $18/Child Member

Rain Barrel Workshop
Saturday • 10AM-12 Noon
Go green and convert an empty 55-gallon Coca-Cola syrup drum into a working rain barrel with the help of experts from Ace Hardware. Learn how to install your rain barrel at home and the importance of practicing water conservation. Price includes a pre-drilled barrel, hose adapter kit, spigot and basket for trapping debris. Bring a vehicle to accommodate a 55-gallon rain barrel. Presented by Ace & Coca Cola.
Adults • Limited to 20 • $25/Member

Photo Safari at the Aquarium With Tom & Pat Cory
Saturday • 8:30AM-3:30PM
Join professional photographers Tom and Pat Cory for a photo workshop that begins inside the Aquarium before opening. Enjoy a special close-up photo shoot of live animals with Aquarium staff before a private session inside a living forest. Improve your skills and receive hands-on help for taking great images of butterflies, penguins, colorful fish and more in Aquarium galleries. Snacks and lunch included.
Adults • Limited to 12 • $75/Member

Civil War History Cruise, “Sherman’s Crossing”
Saturday • 1:30-3:30PM
During this Civil War Sesquicentennial cruise you’ll venture upstream from downtown Chattanooga to where The Army of the Tennessee and General William T. Sherman crossed the river at Chickamauga creek. Learn how the subsequent Battle of Missionary Ridge helped end the Battles for Chattanooga in 1863. Cash bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks available during the cruise. Presented by First Tennessee and Tennessee American Water.
All ages • Limited to 68
$24/Adult Member; $18/Child Member

Amazon Riverboat Voyage: The Greatest Voyage in Natural History
October 10-19, 2014
TNACI director Anna George leads this 10-day expedition aboard the new riverboat La Estrella Amazonica October 10-19, 2014. Navigate more than 500 miles into pristine tributaries. Excellent wildlife viewing, rainforest walks and visits to local villages are included in this trip of a lifetime. Optional Machu Picchu post trip extension available Oct. 18-25.
For pricing and additional information, send all inquiries to: join-us@tnqua.org.

Full event details & Non-Member pricing at: tnaqua.org/events
“There’s too much plastic in the Tennessee River,” says Christine Bock, the Aquarium’s lead horticulturist and co-coordinator, along with Nancy Brice, of Tennessee River Rescue. Plastic, almost every bit of it recyclable, isn’t the only thing that befoils the river and its banks.

Food and drink containers, old tires, snarled fishing line, six-pack rings and a variety of other unsightly items—including microwave ovens, refrigerators and other detritus of contemporary life—also pose significant dangers to people, wildlife and the environment.

Tennessee River Rescue, celebrating its 25th anniversary this fall, works to clean and protect the river and to raise awareness of the need to do so. The annual rescue, planned this year on Oct. 5, is the organization’s most high-profile effort. Over the years, it has become a widely recognized community event sponsored by a consortium of individuals, public and private groups and businesses. It continues to grow, and the river, the community and the environment are the better for it.

In its first year, Bock recalls, about 100 volunteers participated in the River Rescue, picking up trash and debris that filled hundreds of bags and several trucks along the River in Hamilton County. This October’s event, organizers confidently predict, will attract a thousand or more volunteers who will collect and haul away tons of trash—easily a barge or more full, an organizer says—from the banks of the Tennessee and some of its tributaries in Hamilton, Bradley and Marion counties. Such commitment has produced measurable results, and inspired many individuals and groups to patrol and clean parts of the river all year.

“Tennessee River Rescue,” Bock says, “is a community effort. It always has been. Companies support it. Schools support it. One university, in fact, gives extra credit, to students who join the rescue effort.” The hard and often dirty work brings both short and long-term results.

In the short-term, the river and its shores are a bit cleaner and safer following the annual Rescue. In the long-run, the rescue effort raises awareness of dangers to the environment and people posed by dumping trash along the river. Those who work to clean the river take a
valuable lesson home after the day’s work. Men, women and children who voluntarily toil along the river are unlikely to trash it once they’ve walked its shores and seen the damage caused by the actions of those who have little respect for its timeless beauty. That awareness is valuable.

Trash on the river remains an environmental issue, but there are signs of improvement. The number of large items—refrigerators, microwaves, auto parts, etc.—removed by volunteers has declined over the years River Rescue has served the community. Still, problems remain. Too many people continue to throw trash in the river rather than take it home and dispose of it properly.

Tires, especially, remain a problem. According to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, five million waste tires are generated each year in the Volunteer State. It is illegal to store or dispose of waste tires without a permit. Some years, rescue volunteers collect and properly dispose of well over 100 illegally dumped tires. Bock is especially pleased with that. “I love that we collect and recycle the tires. Over the years, I believe the rescue workers have filled the equivalent of a semi-truck trailer with tires to be recycled. That’s the proper way to dispose of them.”

The Tennessee River Rescue enjoys a wide and growing base of community support. The Aquarium and its staff have helped River Rescue grow over the years and continue to support and to encourage the effort. The work of preserving and protecting the Tennessee River continues. Information—times and sites—for individuals and groups interested in joining the Oct. 5 rescue is available from the Rescue hotline at 423-785-4177 or call 423-718-7057 or 423-413-0700.
A DECADE OF LOVE FOR AN ENDEARING SEA TURTLE

BY SHANNON COLBERT, SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST
Aquarium staff and volunteers are often approached by visitors with questions about one of our most peculiar residents, such as: “Did you know that one of your sea turtles is missing a flipper?” And just as often, guests are soon enthralled by the story of Oscar the sea turtle.

In May, 2003 a little Green Sea Turtle arrived at the Florida Marine Science Center, covered from head to toe with green hair algae. The Marine Science Center staff called him “Oscar” because of his resemblance to “Sesame Street’s” Oscar the Grouch.

He was missing his right rear flipper and about a third of his left rear flipper. The injury to his right rear flipper—most likely caused by a predator—was old and had already healed. However, his other injuries were extensive.

He had a deep cut from a boat propeller through his carapace (the top of his shell) down into his plastron (the bottom of his shell). His lung was exposed and it expanded outside the wound area with every breath he took. The wound was also filled with silt and debris.

Marine Science Center staff members cleaned his wound and began to stitch it up. This was very difficult because every time Oscar took a breath, his lung came out of the opening, so they had to stitch him up one exhale at a time.

Within a month, Oscar began to behave more like a sea turtle but with one small problem—he was buoyant in the water and bobbed like a cork. Why is Oscar so buoyant? Many things can cause air bubbles in turtles. Foreign bodies, obstructions, bacteria, protozoa, polyps or parasites are possible causes. Many sea turtles that experience trauma have buoyancy control issues from their injuries. But Oscar has developed his own style of swimming with his front flippers.

Although the Florida facility’s mission is to return rehabilitated turtles to the wild, Oscar’s extensive injuries make him non-releasable. Instead, Oscar (then about the size of a dinner plate) came to the Tennessee Aquarium in 2005 as part of the Gulf of Mexico exhibit.

Oscar later made his move to the Secret Reef in Ocean Journey. This meant a deeper tank and more neighbors. He now swims beside more diverse marine species, and has even been spotted chasing some of the sharks that share his tank.

Today, Oscar weighs around 125 pounds and is thriving as one of the Aquarium’s most recognizable animals. According to Aquarist Jake Steventon, he has certainly made his home in the Secret Reef. “Oscar has his favorite napping spots, including a couple where he can wedge in under the rocks to keep his rear end down,” said Steventon. “He is pretty fearless and mischievous. He is unafraid to try to steal the sharks’ food from right under their noses.”

While he continues to grow (Green Sea Turtles can grow to weigh 400 pounds), he serves as an important reminder of both human impact on ocean life and the power of our efforts to save it.

Each year, hundreds of sea turtles are injured by boat propellers, trash in the water or by natural causes like encounters with predators. More public education is needed to help save sea turtles like Oscar and other marine animals impacted by our presence in their environment.

While Oscar will enjoy life at the Aquarium for years to come, you can now bring home your own special edition Oscar plush to mark the 10th anniversary of his rescue. This new stuffed animal is missing its tail, whole right, and half of its left flipper. And, just like the real Oscar, this cuddly soft creature has an injured shell. “Oscar the Plush” is an inspirational gift that can be found in the Aquarium’s Gift Shops.
NEW INSTALLATIONS IN JELLIES: LIVING ART

Some other-worldly art has been added to the collection of mesmerizing jellies pulsing in Ocean Journey. The new works by artist Lanny Bergner are a bit of a contrast to the glass installations Aquarium guests have come to appreciate since the gallery first opened.

Bergner creates biomorphic and geometric works of art from industrial woven bronze, brass, aluminum and stainless steel mesh. He uses fire as a tool to infuse his works with unique patterns. “This patterning is inspired by 19th century naturalist Ernst Haeckel and his book, Art Forms from the Ocean,” said Bergner. “The shapes have an organic sea creature look, but they are not specific to a particular species. They’re more like imaginary organisms inhabiting some deep recess in an unexplored ocean.”

Residing on an island in Washington’s Puget Sound, Bergner is surrounded by marine life and lives a conservation ethos by maintaining his property as a state certified wildlife habitat. Within his studio, a torch, pliers and cutting shears transform mundane materials into wonderfully expressive semi-transparent chambers, vessels and angular constructions.

Now, thanks to an on-going partnership with the Hunter Museum of American Art, Tennessee Aquarium guests will have an opportunity to enjoy some of his fanciful pieces. “Jellies: Living Art is a wonderful concept and a great way for the public to see how art is inspired by nature,” said Bergner. “My hope is that my work will engage the imagination of the viewers.”

Several new Dr. Seuss-like creations by Stephen Rolfe Powell have also been installed. Fanciful names such as, “Pushy Purple Snorter” and “Snorkeling Orange Sniffer” add whimsy to this collection of colorful creations. Powell calls these works “Whackos,” saying they are inspired by the wonderful snouts of aardvarks, anteaters and elephants. “We were pushing the limits of the hot-making process with these pieces,” said Powell. “We exaggerated the shapes to an extreme that resulted in new postures and gestures.”

“BENEATH THE OCEAN DEEP” BY LANNY BERGNER
MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS

If you would like to honor special people in your life, please use the enclosed envelope or click “Donate” at tnaqua.org. Please include the name and address of the person you would like us to notify of your thoughtful remembrance. If you would like to discuss your gift and how the contribution will be used, please contact the Development Office at contributions@tnaqua.org or (423)785-3038. The Tennessee Aquarium gratefully acknowledges the following tribute gifts received in recent months.

In Memory of Theodore W. Alexander, Jr.
Sharon & Bill Alexander

In Memory of Essie Arant
Patrick, Bead, Schulman & Jacoby, P.C.

In Memory of Tracy Army
Walter & Gail Army

In Memory of Rose Lee Becherer
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In Memory of Mary Claire Blackshaw
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Charles Stafford

In Memory of Stephen Calhoun
Kevin Calhoun

In Memory of Emma Calhoun
Colin Escobedo

In Honor of Beaver Eubank
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In Memory of Gabrielle & Leonmina Yves Rochon

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Robert & Sharon Klein

In Memory of Joe B. Griffin, Jr.
Robert & Sharon Klein

In Honor of Dr. Jim Hammon
Dr. Randall Hammon

In Honor of Dr. Randy Hammon
James & Jill Hammon

In Memory of Sara Candace Hines
Ms. Courtney Herda

In Honor of Mary B. Holland
TVA Community Connections Program

In Memory of Bill & Norma Hobbuch
Herbert & Joan Thornbury

In Memory of Jamie Jackson
Jackie Jackson

In Honor of Judy Lowe
Linda T. Collins

In Honor of Grandson Luke
Betty Henley

In Memory of Jack Lupton & Casey Hanlin
Anonymous

In Memory of Grace McKinney
Robert Keylon

In Memory of Nicki Mears
James Mears

In Memory of All Military Service
Anonymous

In Honor of Sue & Joe Minton
Mr. & Mrs. Latham W. Davis

In Memory of Merrill Nelson, MD
Margaret Haley & Beth Haley Ripley

In Memory of Stephen Nevals
Matthew & Frances Nevals

In Memory of Joanne Pantuso
John Pantuso

In Memory of Allen Roberts
Laura & James Kroogor

In Memory of Lorraine Schlescher
Richard Pelletier

In Memory of Henry Severyn
Betty J. Severyn

In Memory of Cleve, Eunice, & Dwayne Shiple
Sandra Sodemann

In Memory of Allen R. Smallwood
Janie & Wayne Shiple

In Memory of Dr. Myron Szczukowski, Jr.
Lillian Szczukowski

In Memory of David E. Thompson & Wil Young
Jerry & Peggie Young

In Memory of Mark Thompson
Ms. Patricia M. Jones

In Honor of Christy Wright
Billie Wright

In Honor of Zaizer Grandchildren
Charles & Joanne Zeiser

In Memory of Joe B. Griffen, Jr.

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RIVERWATCH 15
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VOLUNTEER EFFORTS HELP EARN SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Adam Johnson who was recently awarded several scholarships for academic achievement, national test scores and community involvement. Adam served as an Aquarium youth volunteer for two years with additional husbandry duties. He will begin pursuing a degree in Marine Sciences at Jacksonville University this fall. “His time at the Tennessee Aquarium has helped solidify his desire to learn all he can about our marine and freshwater ecosystems so he can help to educate others of the importance of preserving these resources for the future,” said Adam’s father Jerry.

We’re looking for more Youth Volunteers like Adam. Candidates must be enthusiastic high school students that have completed one year of high school science. Youth volunteers enhance the guest experience by sharing information about our animals and exhibits. Our next mandatory training session for new recruits is on Saturday, October 19th. We’re also seeking outgoing adults to serve as volunteer docents. Training begins on October 1st. For more information on fun and exciting volunteer opportunities, call 423-785-3057 or online at: tnaqua.org/GetInvolved/VolunteerOpportunities.

NEW BACKSTAGE PASS

Beginning Tuesday, September 3rd, Aquarium guests will have an opportunity to explore the Keepers Only area above the River Giants exhibit. Register for our River Journey Backstage Pass and you’ll learn about the “Jurassic Park” containment system needed to keep prehistoric-looking Arapaima in the water. (In the wild, they can leap more than six feet out of the water to snatch prey off of low hanging branches.) You’ll also see how our “chefs” prepare diets for fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. Tour a baby animal nursery in the Q-room and then see how enormous pumps and filters circulate crystal clear water throughout the World’s Largest Freshwater Aquarium. Wrap up your 45-minute adventure with a fun and educational animal encounter. The River Journey Backstage pass begins daily at 11 a.m. Like sea creatures? The Ocean Journey Backstage Pass is offered daily at 2:30 p.m. Reserve your tour today online at: tnaqua.org/PlanYourVisit/BackstagePass.