From sinuously twining Aquatic Caecilians and beautifully toxic Poison Dart Frogs to enormously wrinkled Hellbenders, the galleries of the River Journey building are packed with some pretty amazing amphibians.

Fascinating as amphibians may be, Aquarium members might quirk an eyebrow at the notion that frogs and salamanders can help tell the story of fresh water.

The reason amphibians are just as vital to that tale as minnows, sturgeon and trout is all in the name. The root of that moniker, the Greek word "amphibios," means "double-living." Despite their ability to exist on the surface, few terrestrial animals are as reliant on water as amphibians.

During their larval stage, most amphibians live exclusively in the water, eventually metamorphosing into adults that (typically) migrate onto land. Some species, like the Cane Toad, spend most of their lives on terra firma, and others, such as the Alabama Waterdog, never set foot on shore.

In many respects, then, amphibians are the embodiment of life’s reliance on fresh water.

"By the nature of the beast, amphibians are as dependent on fresh water as fish are," explains Director of Forests and Animal Behavior Dave Collins. "The fact that they’re so highly tied to the aquatic system makes them a great vehicle for explaining that connection that all animals have to water."

Biologists categorize amphibians under the class “amphibia,” which encompasses three orders: Urodela (salamanders and newts), Anura (frogs and toads) and Apoda (caecilians). Scientists have identified about 7,700 species of amphibians, about 90 percent of which are frogs and toads.

Visitors can see examples of all three amphibian orders just by visiting the Rivers of the World gallery. There, they can see Fire-bellied Newts in the Chinese Mountain Stream exhibit and tanks dedicated to Vietnamese Mossy Frogs and Aquatic Caecilians.

Amphibians don’t just represent an important chapter in the story of fresh water; they are a pillar of the Southeast’s incredible biodiversity.

The Southern Appalachians are world-renowned for their salamander diversity. A third of the 715 known salamander species live in North America, and about 80 percent of these can be found within a 500-mile radius of Chattanooga.

The sheer density of salamanders in the region makes the Southeast ground zero for study of these fascinating amphibians. Especially in headwater streams, which make up more than 70 percent of the stream length in the Southern Appalachians, salamanders are by far the dominant vertebrates.
according to a study published this year in the journal Freshwater Biology. “Growing up in East Tennessee and loving being outside, you develop a respect for salamanders because this region is the hotspot for them,” says Dr. Josh Ennen, a conservation biologist at the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute. “If you’re a herpetologist in the Southeast and live near the Southern Appalachians, you might as well work with salamanders,” he adds, laughing.

Like most amphibians, salamanders have a thin, permeable skin, which makes them especially susceptible to environmental changes. Because of this, scientists look to amphibians as an indicator species, meaning the health of a salamander population tends to reflect the well-being of the surrounding habitat.

At the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, Ennen is in the midst of a collaborative project with scientists from Sewanee: University of the South and Southeast Missouri State University to study how salamander communities in the Southern Appalachians could respond to future climate change.

The group’s findings, which were published in Animal Conservation, a London-based, peer-reviewed scientific journal, suggest smaller salamander species put on extra weight rather than growing longer if conditions warm. A second, pending study found that, when conditions warmed, larger salamanders became less competitive with smaller species living in the same stream.

“Size structure is one way to partition a community, where the big salamander gets the creek and smaller ones are pushed onto the land,” Ennen says. “If that’s one of the reasons we have so many species but it’s disturbed by climate change, will that decrease the Southeast’s biodiversity? That’s what we’re trying to tease apart.”

(continued on next page)
As fascinating as they are and as long as they’ve existed, amphibians are some of the planet’s most threatened animals. More than 40 percent of all amphibian species are in decline due to a combination of diseases and human-induced threats. Comparatively, about 12 percent of birds and 23 percent of mammals are threatened.

“Like everything else, amphibians seem to be having trouble with climate change and pollution,” says Senior Herpetologist Bill Hughes. “They tend to be sensitive to environmental conditions, so if those conditions change, their populations don’t do as well.”

By visiting the Aquarium, members can not only see many amazing amphibians they might not otherwise encounter but also learn ways they can safeguard the species living just outside their doors.

“I think it’s a strong message for us to talk about the animals in our backyard,” Collins says. “By making just a few changes to your lifestyle and landscaping, you can make your home and yard a rich environment for amphibians.”

**MAKE YOUR HOME MORE AMPHIBIAN-FRIENDLY!**

**AVOID USING CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES.** Amphibians can absorb more than just water through their permeable skin. Bonus: Many amphibians feed on insects, so they’ll tamp down any six-legged pests for you.

**CREATE A FROG/TOAD-FRIENDLY REFUGE.** Turn a ceramic flowerpot upside down on the ground in a shady spot under a plant and near a water source (even a saucer will do). If it doesn’t already have a crack or cut-out for an entrance, prop it up on a rock.

**OFFER UP WATER SOURCES.** Amphibians rely on moisture to keep their skin from drying out, in addition to drinking and breathing. If you don’t have a pond, shallow containers of water will do. Place near natural or man-made shelter and rinse/refill them once a week.
**SALT DOUGH SALAMANDERS**

This easy dough is great for making lots of cool things, like SALAMANDERS!

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. In a large mixing bowl, combine the salt and flour.
2. Slowly add your water into mixture until it starts forming a dough ball.
3. Use your hands to knead the dough and smooth it out.
4. You are ready to create and sculpt your salamander!
5. Once you have made your salamander, allow it to dry or bake it in the oven at 350°F until it is hardened. Be sure to ask an adult for help.

**MATERIALS:**
- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup water
- Large bowl

**SILLY ANIMAL JOKES**

What is a frog’s favorite hot drink?

Answer: Hot croak-o

**AMPHIBIAN FINDER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SALAMANDER • CAECILIAN • NEWT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FROG • TOAD • LOG • STREAM • POND</td>
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**ACTIVITY: SALAMANDER SCIENCE!**

Salamanders have many predators in their natural habitats such as large fish, small mammals and birds. Do you think your salamander looks like the real deal? How do you think animals will interact with your salamander in nature? Find a place outside to leave your salt dough salamander and observe it every day for a week. Based on your observations, did you make accurate predictions? When we form predictions, collect data, and test our predictions we are participating in the scientific method. Take pictures and send them to education@tnaquarium.org for a chance be featured on our Facebook page.
MR. BILL CELEBRATES 25 IMPACTFUL YEARS

BY THOM BENSON, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

There’s an air of excitement each time a bright blue Volkswagen, covered with pictures of fish and turtles, pulls into a school parking lot. The kids inside almost cheer because, “Mr. Bill’s here!”
“I tell people all the time that part of my pay is in smiles,” says Bill Haley, the Aquarium’s education outreach coordinator. “Whenever I walk into a school and I see their smiles, it really makes my job worthwhile.”

Haley has been traveling to schools, libraries, churches, and special events since 1994. That year, the outreach program was established to extend the reach of the Aquarium’s educational mission into communities within 100 miles of downtown Chattanooga.

Since then, more than 455,000 individuals have learned about the natural world from “Mr. Bill” while meeting the creatures that travel with him. Each program may be relatively short, but their impact is deep and lasting.

Recently, a school bus driver hopped out to greet Mr. Bill. “He was in the fifth grade when I visited his class, and he even remembered the program and what animals I brought,” Haley recalls, smiling. “You never know how impactful your lessons will turn out to be, or how people will respond to the natural world on down the road.”

On average, Haley visits 100 to 120 different venues each year, although some are repeat visits. Many schools book his programs multiple times, and some even request monthly visits. Whether it’s a program called, “Creepy Crawlies,” “Tropical Treasures” or “Swamp Things,” Haley hopes his lessons inspire kids to:

• Respect animals and nature
• Form a lifelong connection with the natural world
• Get out and explore, beginning in their own backyards

In addition to his drive to make science fun and meaningful, Haley has a passion to encourage kids to read more. “That’s why I look forward to visiting libraries and being a special guest during summer reading programs,” Haley says. “My animal presentations help draw more kids into the library where we talk about wildlife and reading more about these fascinating creatures.”

Reflecting upon his Aquarium career, which began when he joined the first volunteer docent class, Haley believes he’s one lucky guy. “I tell the kids that I handle tarantulas every day, and then I ask them if they’d like to have a job like mine. Most of them think that would be the coolest job in the world.”

REACHING THE CLASSROOMS OF THE FUTURE

The next time you’re in the Chattanooga Airport, you’ll see live views of our big, toothy sharks on a giant, crystal-clear 4K screen. Originally launched as a demonstration project using Nokia- and EPB-powered technology, this monitor serves as a live portal into the Secret Reef, Alligator Bayou and one of our jelly exhibits as part of the Aquarium’s “Classrooms of the Future” initiative.

Thanks to grant funding from the Mozilla Foundation and a partnership between the Enterprise Center, the Hamilton County Department of Education, the Public Education Foundation and EPB, these live views play a role in environmental science programs and STEM opportunities at Opportunity Zone Schools in the district.

“Streaming our exhibits into classrooms represents an innovative way to spark the curiosity of students and teachers every day, deepening the impact of their field trips to the Aquarium,” says Dr. Brooke Gorman, the Aquarium’s director of science education. “All students deserve an excellent science education, and this is just one way we plan to continue partnering with and supporting the Opportunity Zone Schools.”

Through the Classrooms of the Future program, the Aquarium and its partners are using technology to both broaden and deepen the impact wildlife can have on young minds.

“We invested in the Classrooms of the Future because it showcases how a strong community and collaborative atmosphere can develop an innovation ecosystem. This is such a fantastic project, and we’re especially excited to see it span to Lafayette, LA,” says Katie Hendrix, Portfolio Manager for the Mozilla Foundation in Chattanooga. To support science education and conservation through the Tennessee Aquarium, join our “River Society” of annual donors. tnaqua.org/donate-now.
AQUATOTS
AGES 4-5
SESSIONS
9 am - 12:30 pm • Monday - Friday
Aquatots will jump right in to discover different habitats and explore the animals who live in them with a week packed full of animal encounters, stories, games and outdoor adventures.
$95/Member; $127/Non-member

AQUATOTS: PRESCHOOL CHAMPIONS
AGES 4-5 Who have not yet attended kindergarten
SESSION 2
9 am - 4 pm • Monday - Friday
Pull up your rain boots for a full day version of our Aquatot summer camp! Campers will discover all kinds of animals and investigate their habitats through the same fun activities as the half-day Aquatot camp, plus expeditions to both the IMAX Theater and Crabtree Farms!
$180/Member; $240/Non-member

TADPOLES
AGES 5-6
SESSION 4 • JUNE 25, 26 & 27
9 am - 11 am • Monday - Wednesday
Tadpoles wiggle into fun while meeting unique creatures, creating nature-based art and exploring how science can help us to understand nature. We will investigate ecosystems at the Aquarium and outside, including a trip to the zoo and Reflection Riding.
$180/Member; $240/Non-member

TIPS ON REGISTERING YOUR CAMPER:
• Have your credit card and current membership number (on the back of your Riverwatch) ready when registering.
• Renew your membership now to be ready for early registration! Call 423-267-FISH (3474).
• Camp activities are developed for specific age groups. Children must be the correct age for the camp they register for during the camp session.
• Spaces are limited! Only register for one week of camp per child.
• A $25 fee will be applied for transfers or cancellations.

ADD A CAMP LUNCH FOR $40
Buy lunch for your Tadpole, Polliwog, Treefrog, Bullfrog or Eco-Explorer. This is a great option for busy parents of non-picky eaters with no food allergies.

Questions? summercamp@tnaqua.org • 423-785-4176

MEMBER REGISTRATION BEGINS
MONDAY, MARCH 5TH @ 8:30AM EST
NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION BEGINS
ON MONDAY, MARCH 12TH @ 8:30AM EST
The Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute invites science teachers to join us for a week of learning and exploration. Our summer camp will provide a unique opportunity to expand your knowledge of aquatic ecology, collaborate with scientists and other teachers, and create new science curricula.

Most of the week will be spent out in the field, learning about various aquatic conservation topics and practicing aquatic field research techniques. Activities may include sampling fish in South Chickamauga Creek, testing water quality, snorkeling on the Conasauga River, working in our aquaculture facility, learning new laboratory techniques, and earning Georgia Adopt-A-Stream certification.

The week will culminate in a teacher summit, during which educators will reflect upon the week’s experiences to create new lesson plans and develop innovative learning opportunities.

For more information or to be added to our teacher email list, please contact Hayley Wise at ConservationEd@tnaqua.org.

Polliwogs
AGES 7-8
SESSIONS 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9
9AM - 4PM • Monday - Friday
Polliwogs dive deeper within the Aquarium as well as beyond our walls on field trips. We will experience animals from small to large as we go deep in behind-the-scenes adventures and explore animals around the world. Polliwogs run, jump, splash, paddle and play as they learn about the wonderful world of nature.
$200/Member; $267/Non-member

Treefrogs
AGES 7-8
SESSIONS 1 2 6
9AM - 4PM • Monday - Friday
Treefrogs have the best of Reflection Riding and the Tennessee Aquarium! The two organizations join forces to bring campers nose to nose with animals indoors and out. Campers learn to canoe, hike and get down and dirty on Mud Day. Drop-off and pick up at Tennessee Aquarium!
$200/Member; $267/Non-member

Bullfrogs
AGES 9-10
SESSIONS 1 3 4 6 7 8 9
9AM - 4PM • Monday - Friday with a Wednesday overnight
Bullfrogs leap into fun discovering the aquatic world and how to protect it. We will spend our time on explorations at the Aquarium visiting with animals and their caretakers and sleeping overnight alongside “River Giants.” Bullfrogs dig deeper into local habitats while hiking, rafting, and caving.
$250/Member; $333/Non-member

EcoExplorers
AGES 11-12
SESSIONS 1 3 4 6 7 8
9AM - 4PM • Monday - Friday with a Thursday overnight
EcoExplorers launch an investigation into the relationship between waters and wildlife. Inside the Aquarium, we encounter animals as the river leads us to the sea and there we spent a night with sharks and sea turtles. Outside, we explore the Tennessee River watershed while getting our feet wet in the tributaries, paddling the lakes, and zipping through the trees.
$275/Member; $367/Non-member

Quest
AGES 13-14
SESSIONS 2 9 HIGH ADVENTURE
SESSION 7 INTRODUCTORY ADVENTURE
9AM - 4PM • Monday - Friday with a Tuesday overnight
Quest campers explore the intersection of recreation and conservation while hiking, rafting, climbing, camping, caving, and exploring the Aquarium. Seasoned adventurers are invited to join us for a high-adventure sessions two or nine; campers looking for more introductory experiences can join us session seven instead. Lunch provided for this camp.
$345/Member; $415/Non-member
ALL EVENTS UNLESS NOTED BELOW ARE LISTED BY EASTERN TIME.

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/animals-exhibits/extraordinary-experiences

**SPRING MEMBER EVENTS**

Register online: tnaqua.org/events-programs or call 423-267-FISH (3474)

**APRIL NATURE WALKS**

8 Spring Wildflower Walk
Sunday • 2-5pm
Join Christine Bock, the Aquarium’s lead horticulturist, for a wildflower walk. As we explore a private farm in Rising Fawn, Georgia, we’ll seek out bursts of color in spring’s ephemeral flowers, such as the Shooting Star and Virginia Bluebell! An afternoon outdoors at this stunning location is sure to be a fun memory worthy of your family’s scrapbook!
All Ages • $4/Member

15 Cumberland Trail Wildflower Walk
Sunday • 1-4pm
Join Aquarium Lead Horticulturist Christine Bock on a guided walk to see abundant native flowers on the Rock Creek section of the Cumberland Trail in Sale Creek. This wilderness habitat features wild Blue Phlox and Geranium, many species of Trillium, hundreds of Trout Lilies, Red Buckeye trees and much more. (Lower Loop: Easy walk on wooded trail with a few gradual inclines.)
All Ages • $4/Member

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**Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute Tours**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>Tuesdays • 4-5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>Curious about what the Aquarium’s team of researchers is working on in their new riverfront conservation science facility? Come take a tour and see for yourself! We will visit the main learning, research, and conservation spaces in the new building, including the research labs and propagation room, before stepping outside to appreciate the beautiful landscaping. We will also take participants on the journey of a raindrop as it makes its way from the Conservation Institute’s roof into the Tennessee River (and to the ocean beyond). Participants will learn how the building and site’s innovative design helps protect freshwater by treating stormwater in a sustainable way that mimics natural processes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>All Ages • $10/Member; $6/Student</td>
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**JOB SHADOW PROGRAM: Tennessee Aquarium**

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<td>Wed 9-noon</td>
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Are you curious about the day-to-day care of Aquarium animals or the work we’re doing to protect freshwater life in the Southeast? The Tennessee Aquarium is proud to offer a unique opportunity for students interested in animal care! The job shadowing program will give participants a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the daily responsibilities of our aquarists and forestry staff. Students will follow our animal husbandry staff for three hours, during which they can ask questions and find out how they too can pursue a career caring for animals at an aquarium. Space is limited, so submit your application today.
Grades 8-12 • $20/Individual

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**JOB SHADOW PROGRAM: TN Aquarium Conservation Institute**

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The goal of the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute’s job shadow program is to mentor the next generation of freshwater conservation scientists by providing opportunities for high school and college students to develop new job skills, explore conservation career opportunities, and receive college and career advising.
Our hope is to create a mutually beneficial relationship between the Conservation Institute and shadows. Aquaculture shadows will work with a reintroduction biologist on tasks related to the propagation of native fish, including Lake Sturgeon and Brook Trout.
Grades 8-12 • $20/Individual

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Full event details and Non-Member pricing at: tnaqua.org/events-programs
**Ages 3-5 • Members: $4/Child**

**Pack a snack (and a change of clothes) and exploring for tadpoles in the pond.**

**Spring is bustin’ out all over!** There are wildflowers, tadpoles, early butterflies and the first trickle of migratory birds arriving to nest. Come explore the woods with us. Together, we’ll find something new! The Tennessee Aquarium Nature Nuts program connects children and their families to the amazing diversity of nature in our own backyards and around the world.

**Ages 5-12 • Members: $11/Child**

**Frogs & Toads**

Sunday • 1-3PM

This program will take preschool tykes on an outside adventure at the Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center. Your little adventurer will discover the world of frogs and toads through hands-on activities and exploring for tadpoles in the pond. Pack a snack (and a change of clothes) and join us as we explore the world of amphibians! This adventure is intended for explorers ages 3-5 and their parents, but siblings are welcome to join the expedition.

**Ages 3-5 • Members: $4/Child**

**April**

**Member Night**

**Backyard Scientists**

Friday • 5-8:30PM

The Southeast is home to an almost unimaginable number of plants and animals, many of which can be encountered in your backyard. In celebration of the new IMAX film, “The Wild Around You 3D,” you’re invited to join our experts in River Journey for a fun-filled evening that will reveal some of the exciting behaviors and adaptations of your wildest neighbors. While getting up close and personal with some animals, you’ll learn how our scientists are working to understand, protect and restore native species. Enjoy a tasty treat that you make yourself, and learn how you can make your yard more inviting to the watchable wildlife living in our area.

**All Ages • FREE with Membership**
EIGHT PENGUINS’ CROSS-COUNTRY TREK TO A NEW HOME

BY CASEY PHILLIPS, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST • PHOTOS BY TODD STAILEY

This summer, the Aquarium celebrated the arrival of its newest Gentoo chick—the aptly-named Bigfoot—to the bustling colony at Penguins’ Rock. With this latest hatchling, however, the exhibit had become a little too bustling.
All 17 species of penguins are social animals. Some, like Chinstrap Penguins, live in colonies numbering in the millions. In a space like Penguins’ Rock, however, even a group of 28 birds can turn to squabbling and territorial behavior, especially during breeding season.

With Bigfoot’s arrival, Aquarium experts decided it was best for the colony to move some of our penguins to other facilities. In January, four Gentoo — Bobber, Scooter, Kirby and Pickle — and four Macaronis — Little Debbie, Iggie, Paulie and Sweet Pea — were flown to SeaWorld San Diego.

“In the grand scheme of things, it was the better choice for our birds that are staying and for the birds that were moved,” says Senior Aviculturist Loribeth Lee. “By getting our numbers back down to 19, it will be easier on the birds during breeding season — less competition for space, less competition for mates.

“It’s also going to be a good thing for our birds that moved because they have the potential to find new mates they haven’t been with before. Making sure we keep the genetics healthy is a priority.”

The Aquarium participates in the Species Survival Plan Program for both Gentoo and Macaroni Penguins. As part of these inter-facility management programs, animals often are moved between zoos and aquariums to ensure the captive population remains healthy and genetically diverse.

This isn’t the first time the Aquarium has relocated some of its penguins. When Penguins’ Rock opened in 2007, it was populated with 20 penguins sent to the Aquarium as part of a long-term breeding loan agreement with SeaWorld. In 2009, the Aquarium celebrated the arrival of its first hatchling, a Macaroni named “Pepper.” In the next four years, 10 more chicks joined the colony, many from the same breeding pairs.

By 2013, Penguins’ Rock had ballooned to 30 individuals, and keepers decided it was in the colony’s best interest to relocate 11 chicks to SeaWorld San Diego.

The younger penguins who were moved this year will have more opportunities to breed at the new facility, where they’ll join a group of almost 300 Gentoo, Macaroni, Adelie and Emperor Penguins.

“SeaWorld is the predominant penguin leader in the country, if not the world,” says Dave Collins, the Aquarium’s Director of Forests and Animal Behavior. “They have a huge amount of experience and we’re grateful that they share knowledge and animals so that people across the country can get eye-to-eye with these amazing birds.”

In the weeks before our penguins’ flight to San Diego, during which they were accompanied by a SeaWorld expert, Lee visited the West Coast facility to meet their penguin keepers in the hopes of gleaning management practices that will improve husbandry and programming at the Aquarium in the years to come.

Leading up to her trip, Lee said she hoped to seek out some of the penguins who were sent to San Diego in 2014. Even if they didn’t recognize her, however, she says, seeing them being cared for by expert hands would reinforce that these types of relocations have sweetness to offset the sadness.

“It’s a good thing for them, even though it’s hard on us,” she says. “They’re little birds that hatched here in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and now, they’re global travelers. We’re getting to share our birds with the world.”
WATERSHED PATH OPEN AT CONSERVATION INSTITUTE

Something truly historic is afoot (and underfoot) at the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute. In November, the Aquarium’s freshwater science center became host to an educational walking trail. The Watershed Path, funded by a grant from the Chickamauga Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, consists of five interpretive panels celebrating the area’s rich biological and cultural significance.

“Our members are happy that our organization could participate in the development of permanent educational materials relating to our local history,” said Barbie Standefer, Special Project Grants Chairman for Chickamauga Chapter NSDAR.

Shards of pottery and other archaeological evidence found during construction of the science center in 2016 suggest this location was used as a short-term campsite more than 3,000 years ago. The walkway’s other panels discuss how waterways shape the world and influence the communities that spring up along their banks.

CONSERVATION INSTITUTE NOW LEED-CERTIFIED

From a rainwater catchment system to the exclusive use of native plants in its landscaping, the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute’s new headquarters was intended not only to serve as an epicenter of freshwater science but an active embodiment of environmentally harmonious design. The Aquarium passed an important milestone toward this goal in the form of earning the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification. This honor, conferred by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), highlights the institute’s role as “a showcase example of sustainability” and its “leadership in transforming the building industry,” according to Mahesh Ramanujam, USGBC’s President and CEO.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Travel with a small group of like-minded people to destinations that perfectly combine luxury and adventure, leaving you with a better understanding of our amazing world. Learn more about the Aquarium’s upcoming eco-tourism adventures at tnaqua.org/events-programs.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER DRIVE

Are you a teenager with a drive to learn more about biology, a passion for conservation and a desire to take an active role in education all while meeting like-minded teens? The Aquarium’s Teen Volunteer Program is seeking applicants for its winter recruitment class.

Selected teens will be responsible for a 4.5-hour shift twice a month for a year. Participants will have opportunities to spend time with fellow volunteers through socials and recreational activities, as well as a chance to design and work on a conservation project based on their interests.

Prospective volunteers must be 14-17 years old, have completed at least one year of high school science and be able to fulfill a yearlong commitment. Students must fill out their application and submit it online along with a letter of recommendation and high school transcript. Those selected following a round of interviews must complete a day of mandatory training. The application is available at tnaqua.org/volunteer-opportunities.
Recognizing Support for the Annual Fund of the Tennessee Aquarium

The River Society is a new level of recognition for donors who wish to make a greater annual impact on our three-point mission—science education, environmental research and restoration, and economic impact. Recognizing former Contributing Members making gifts of $1,000 or greater annually, The River Society celebrates friends of the Aquarium by providing opportunities to connect in a deeper way with our work.

Celebrating Our Annual Fund Donors

A key component of The River Society is the addition of a personal staff liaison who will provide you with unique and personal connections to the animals, people and programs that mean the most to you.

The River Society recognizes your gifts to the Annual Fund at the Conservationist, Guardian, Sustainer and Visionary levels. Qualifying gifts include any unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund. You will be recognized as a member of The River Society on the Aquarium’s Donor Wall, and in printed and digital publications. You will also be invited to special events to learn about the impact of your support and get closer to our animals and the people who care for them.

As a member of The River Society, you and the people closest to you enjoy the same high level of access to our facilities you received as a Contributing Member.

THE RIVER SOCIETY GIVING LEVELS:

- **Conservationist** gifts of $1,000-$2,499
- **Guardian** gifts of $2,500-$4,999
- **Sustainer** gifts of $5,000-$9,999
- **Visionary** gifts of $10,000 and greater

THE POWER OF THE TENNESSEE AQUARIUM ANNUAL FUND

Yearly gifts to the Tennessee Aquarium help deepen our overall community impact. Your support:

- Fuels our education programs, providing more opportunities to inspire a new generation of environmental stewards and future scientists
- Bolsters the growth of collaborative scientific research and field work to better understand and protect aquatic wildlife across the Southeast
- Sustains our world-class exhibits, ensuring the Aquarium continues to drive more than $115 million annually in economic impact for our community

To learn more about The River Society, please contact: Mary Anne Williams, Development Manager | 423-785-3037 or mkw@tnaqu.org.
The mission of the Tennessee Aquarium is to connect people with nature and empower them to make informed decisions about water and wildlife.

Your dollars support our many education, conservation and research programs. Follow us on Facebook & Twitter and partner with us to continue our mission.

community.tnaqua.org/donate-now

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

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**MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU.**

3D ADVENTURES IN IMAX® WITH LASER • FOR SHOWTIMES, VISIT TNAQUA.ORG/IMAX

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**THE WILD AROUND YOU**

BACKYARD 3D WILDERNESS