

Another Gorgeous Evening: Conservation Celebration

"Another Gorgeous Evening" is a grand outdoor dinner party at a beautiful venue that overlooks the "Gateway to the Gorge," which includes Williams Island and several protected properties at the entrance to the Gorge. The event will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 11 at Tennessee RiverPlace in Lookout Valley, 3104 Scenic Waters Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37419.

Guests will enjoy a night of cocktail-hour style mingling that will include dinner-by-the-bite catered by Lee Towery and specialty cocktails courtesy of The Feed Company, 1885 Grill, and Tremont Tavern. Live music, including the Americana sounds of Broke Down Hound and jazz with



a Latin flare by the **Ben Friberg Trio** will entertain guests. Throughout the evening, guests can also enjoy paintings of the Gorge that will be created by local artists including those from **Artists on the Loose** and **Art Creations**; these works will be for sale via silent auction to benefit the Trust. The money raised from "Another Gorgeous Evening" will help pay for ongoing land protection and stewardship in the

Gorge, as well as educational programming for our community.

Individual tickets are \$125 prior to May 7. They are \$150 after May 7. Tables for 6 and 8 are also available. For more information, please visit www.trgt.org/ events or call the office at 423.266.0314.

Thanks to Our 2017 Gorge Partners

PLATINUM PARTNER



Colonial Pipeline Company

GOLD PARTNERS









SILVER PARTNERS







BRONZE PARTNERS

















SPECIAL THANKS













MEDIA SPONSORS



Our mission is to preserve the Tennessee River Gorge as a healthy and productive resource through land protection, education, community engagement, and the promotion of good land stewardship.



Rick Huffines

DIRECTOR'S NOTE Every non-profit organization is required to have a *purpose* – the fundamental principles by which they operate. The purpose keeps us focused on our work and our supporters confident in their advocacy for our cause. The abbreviated version of our purpose, which is found within our Charter states: "To promote for the benefit of the general public the preservation of natural resources... and the preservation of land for scientific, historical, educational, ecological, recreational, scenic, and open space opportunities...."

The dedicated staff and leadership team at the Trust work on a daily basis to fulfill the principles within our Charter. We continue to buy land to protect natural and historic resources and conduct scientific research. Our work is for the public – for you – and we continue to

strive to improve access and deliver excellent educational programs. Please take a few moments, read about the work that is being done in tandem with many partners in our community, and know that we are ever-grateful for your support.



Sunset Paddling excursions in partnership with Outdoor Chattanooga

Choose a date: Thursday, June 22, July 27, August 24, or September 28. \$35 per paddler; includes all gear and a guide.

Space is limited to 10 spots for each paddle. Minimum paddle age is 14.

Family Camping on Williams Island in partnership with **Outdoor Chattanooga**

Friday, June 9-Saturday, June 10

\$50 for adults; \$25 for children; includes full campfire dinner, dessert, and breakfast. Tents will be provided or you can bring your own.

Limited to the first 25 people to register. Hosts include Sarah Quattrochi and Hugh Bullock from the Trust and Terri Chapin from Outdoor Chattanooga

For full details and to register for either event, please visit www.trgt.org/events.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS George Caudle, President Robert L. Donina, Jr., Vice President Jack D. London, Treasurer Barry Allen, Secretary

> Annette Allen Thom Benson Andy Carroll Nancy W. Evans Evann Freeman Russell Friberg Jim Hall Anne Holt Nicole "Nikki" Lewis Vivian Lozano Stormy McGauley Jerry W. Miller John W. Myers **Betsy Nichols** Kathy Patten Dean Poi Sam Powell Fred K. Robinson Henry G. Spratt, Jr., Ph.D. Mary Beth H. Sutton Greg A. Vital

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Hale Booth TO Helton K. Donald Jensen Michael McGaulev Norma P. "Butch" Mills Mary Navarré Moore Gladys Mynatt Richard Park

PAST CHAIRMEN

Amanda Stofan Dean Poi **Daniel Carter** Stormy McGauley Jack Kruesi Hale Booth Kenneth G. Goodhue Dr. Robert W. Montague W. Alan Nichols Nancy W. Evans Gladys Smith Mynatt K. Donald Jensen William G. Raoul Jon O. Fullerton Adele B. Hampton

> STAFF Richard D. Huffines Executive Director Sarah L. Quattrochi Associate Director Hugh A. Bullock Conservation Director Mariah C. Prescott **Business & Community** Access Director Audrey Nord Accountant

TRAIL UPDATE

Pot Point Nature Trail

The Chattanooga Hiking Club and the Southeast Conservation Corps helped the Trust complete a trail re-route away from the fire road at the Pot Point Nature Trail. This added an extra .5 mile to the existing trail – and it's more beautiful than ever! The Pot Point Nature Trail also had a makeover around a landslide on River Canyon Road.



Swallow Trail

In the spring of 2016, the Trust held a dedication ceremony for the new 1-mile loop trail at the Trust's Bird Observatory. The new trail was dedicated in memory of Arlene Swallows, who was an avid hiker and a beloved member of the Chattanooga Hiking Club. This trail is not accessible without permission, so

call the Trust office at 423.266.0314 if you would like to visit.



The Trust is currently working on a 2.5-mile trail that will connect the Pot Point Nature Trail at the bottom of the Gorge to the Cumberland Trail system at the top of the bluff. The Ritchie Gulf Trail will pass several old moonshine stills and a 35-foot waterfall, and will cross over multiple streams.







In the spring of 2017, through a grant from prAna, Rock/Creek employees worked on the Ritchie Gulf Trail for

9 days. It was a huge success and guite a pleasure to make new friends while working with this awesome outdoor retailer. The Trust is very appreciative of the hard work and everything that Rock/Creek accomplished in just 9 days!

A big thank you goes to Rock/Creek Race Series for donating the proceeds from the River Gorge and StumpJump trail races during the last several years to help us make the Ritchie Gulf Trail a reality.

Additional thanks go to the Southeast Conservation Corps for their hard work on the toughest rock sections on the Ritchie Gulf Trail and to Chattanooga Hiking Club for their volunteer trail workdays and gracious donation of trail tools to complete the Trust's collection!

> **Looking for trail maps?** trgt.org/explore

Honorary & Memorial Gifts A gift to the Trust is the perfect way to honor

a friend, the birth of a child, a marriage or to memorialize a special person's legacy. All gifts support future land protection, education, and stewardship efforts of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust.

In Memory Of:

Robert Brown

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Mr. Allen Campbell Brown

Mr. & Mrs. A. Howard Bickerstaff, III Michael & Stormy McGauley Dr. Bob Montague

Hardwick Caldwell

Mr. & Mrs. A. Howard Bickerstaff, III

Dr. James H Creel, Jr.

Dr. Bob Montague

Ms. Louise G. Currey

Mr. Brad Currey

Roberta Davis

Deborah & Jack Lambert

Max Everhart

Mr. & Mrs. A. Howard Bickerstaff. III

Selmen Ted Franklin, Jr.

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Philip Gwynn, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Howard Bickerstaff, III

William (Bill) Hall

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Adele Hampton

Mr. & Mrs. Al Ceren, III Mr. Bill Hampton

Steve Harvey

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Mr. William Holmberg

Margaret Holmberg & Demie Duckworth Elin T. Holmberg

Earl Humber

Mark & Amy Arnold Linda Garber Claudine Lee Annis Shaver Belinda Thornton

Hollis Huffines

Debbie Ball William & Nancy Fronk Michael & Stormy McGauley Mary Jane Myers Mrs. Kathy Patten Linda & Brian Pearcy Mrs. Annette Allen & Mr. John Shearburn Sylvia & John Stepp

Mr. Jay Johnson

Dr. Bob Montague

Frederick D. Lansford

The Frederick D. Lansford Memorial Fund

Bonnie Limer

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Carol McKenzie

Mr. & Mrs. Olan Mills, II

Mr. Bud Mills

Mrs. Leland H. Davenport Mark Hardy Patricia Hardy Susan Hardy Lavinia K. Johnston Mr. & Mrs. Summerfield K. Johnston, Jr. Rita Kerr Robert Moore Thomas Rueber

Sarah Moore

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Dr. Paul Nassour

Dr. Bob Montague

Max Raynow

Mr. James B. Baker

Pat St. Charles, Jr.

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Jack Swafford

Mrs. Judy A. Swafford

Raymond Taylor

Mrs. Denise Taylor

Jean Tipton

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Arch Trimble, III

Mr. & Mrs. Alan R. Smith

Betty Webster

Michael & Stormy McGauley

In Honor Of:

Dabney Carden

Mr. & Mrs. William P. Cushman

Che Carico

Deborah & Jack Lambert

Linda Collins

Flossie Weill & Barry Parker

Ben & Kimberly Friberg

Faye Hayes Maye Jepson

Mr. & Mrs. Jim and Annie Hall

Barbara Keeling

Mr. & Mrs. Don Jensen

Mr. & Mrs. Michael N. St. Charles

Mark & Natalie Knutsen

Nancy & John Watts

Dr. & Mrs. Jack McGauley

Michael & Stormy McGauley

Stormy & Mike McGauley

Mr. Gary Rudning Mr. & Mrs. Michael N. St. Charles

Betsy Nichols

Brenda Rogers

Eddie & Becky Piper

Linda Key

Mariah Prescott

Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club

Sarah Quattrochi

Courtney Krueger

Protecting: **LOWA**

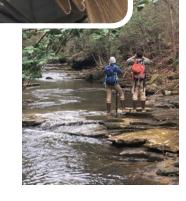
ouisiana waterthrush (LOWA) are Neotropical songbirds that have been identified as a "species in decline" by the Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture – our regional authority on bird population health. LOWA serve as stream health indicators because they feed on macroinvertebrates such as mayfly larvae, which are only found in healthy water sources.

At the Trust, we want to understand what pressures are causing this unique bird to decline. In the summer of 2016, we deployed geolocators (geos) on 16 LOWA in order to learn more about their full life cycle. These geos are tiny battery-powered instruments that were harmlessly attached to the birds. The birds carried them for almost one year. The geos collect information every day to give us an estimated latitude and longitude which allows us to understand more about the LOWA's migration routes, where they spend the winter, and how much time they spend in each location and in migration.

The information we hope to retrieve from the geolocators will be incredible to science and field ornithology. It was challenging to catch the birds and attach a geo to them, but now we have to go back into the forest and relocate

these birds after their annual migration from Central America or the Caribbean! To put this task in perspective, we are looking for a bird that weighs 20 grams in a 27,000acre forest. This is not an easy task!

Eliot Berz and Holland Youngman, the Trust's Avian Technicians, have already recaptured 4 LOWAs with geolocators this spring! The birds have been healthy and in very good condition. Once



we retrieve the data from the geolocators, we will be able to turn these geo points into maps and share the information with the local community and the ornithological community. We can use this knowledge to better address threats to LOWA habitat – whether they be local or global!

Water Quality Testing Has Begun!

7ater is essential to life. As a steward of the Gorge, we want to be fully aware of the condition of our land and water. Monitoring streams that feed into the Tennessee River will allow us to take the right steps to improve water quality. We also want to encourage community interest concerning the necessity of clean water and more broadly, a healthy ecosystem.

That's why we've started a water quality program to monitor 13 streams in the Tennessee River Gorge. We partnered with the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute and GA Adopt-A-Stream to certify Trust staff and interns as chemical, bacterial, and macroinvertebrate monitors. Regular testing for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, bacteria, and macroinvertebrate counts have begun!



oils, sediment, pesticides, and fertilizers are carried from land into water, causing health risks and other harmful impacts. Without clean water, we do not have a healthy ecosystem. Detecting water quality problems is essential to better management of our lands, which will improve the overall health of the ecosystem in the Gorge.

Pollutants such as metals,

Tennessee American Water provided us with a gracious grant in 2016 to purchase a multiparameter unit. This unit has helped make testing more efficient and accurate. Thank you Tennessee American Water!

Weed Wrangle: Removing invasive privet in the Gorge.



TVA employees helped spruce up Williams Island during their annual CFC Day of Caring



AROUND the GOTGE

Volunteer shout-out.....

The Trust has an amazing cadre of volunteers consisting of individuals, corporate sponsors, civic clubs and groups of friends who enjoy giving back to their community. Thank you to all of these people who understand that no one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

Thank you to Rock/Creek for supporting the construction of the Ritchie Gulf Trail near Pot Point. (L-R) Mariah Prescott, Chad Wykle, Rick Huffines and Jonathan Scott.



The Vreeland family from Chattanooga Gas helping during Tennessee River Rescue.



Thanks to Tennessee American Water for supporting the Trust. (L-R) Rick Huffines, Valoria Armstrong, and Mariah Prescott.



Our friends from Chattanooga Community Kitchen's Transitional Housing enjoyed a hike on Stringer's Ridge with Trust staff members.

Connecting and Inspiring:

Dalewood Middle School Pilot Program







ast fall, Trust staff and board leaders determined that partnering ■with Ryan Keller and Clark Brewer of Bridge Chattanooga to run a pilot program at Dalewood Middle School for 6th and 7th grade students was a great opportunity to increase the Trust's capacity to introduce students to the outdoors.

While Clark and Ryan are providing great leadership with the direct service portion of the program, the Tennessee River Gorge Trust provides the infrastructure to support their ability to plan, collaborate with partners, fundraise, and take care of administrative tasks that accompany this important work.

We are currently finishing up the second month of the pilot, which has served 21 students at Dalewood Middle School. It's been a great few months connecting students to local community resources, inspiring them through outdoor adventures, and helping them find their voice. One seventh grade participant lit up when he heard

about the opportunity to participate, saying "I always wanted to see the world, but I never thought I would." He and all of his friends have ventured into places that they didn't know existed, but were located close to home. While students enjoy these excursions, Ryan and Clark are instilling a positive group culture that has allowed friendships to flourish – and this is a key part of the program's success.

We appreciate all of our community partners, especially Dalewood Middle School and Principal Arielle Hayes, as well as First Cumberland Presbyterian as they provide a small bus for transportation. This effort would not be possible without our funders, including Archer Daniels Midland, Lyndhurst Foundation, WalMart Neighborhood Market in Brainerd, and more than fifty 2016 Giving Tuesday donors who helped provide funding for this pilot project. We look forward to sharing more updates as we plan for the future of the program.



Thank you for helping to preserve the Gorge.

DONOR NAME					
ADDRESS					
CITY	STA	ATE	ZIP		
PHONE					
■ Sign up for e-updates:					
E-MAIL					
Please indicate your membership level:					
\$10,000	\$5,000		\$1,000		

\$50

\$100

\$500

Other ___

Please make your check payable to:

Tennessee River Gorge Trust 1214 Dartmouth Street Chattanooga, TN 37405

Or you may pay by credit card:

■ Visa ■ MasterCard ■ Discover ■ American Express

CARDHOLDER'S NAME

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

Prefer to give online? Visit www.trgt.org/donate

All gifts to the Tennessee River Gorge Trust are fully tax-deductible. The Trust does not share information with any other entities.

Statement of Activities for the years ending December 31, 2016 and 2015

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE Contributions Rent & Royalties Gains on Investments Special Events In-Kind and other	2016 \$269,075 \$254,350 \$133,391 \$102,204 \$22,630	2015 \$297,633 \$225,036 (\$52,395) \$96,535 \$22,838
Total public support and revenue	\$781,650	\$589,647
EXPENSES		
Land Preservation	\$168,460	\$165,281
Land Stewardship	\$340,780	\$368,848
Outreach & Education	\$67,628	\$97,373
Administrative	\$73,785	\$62,055
Fundraising	\$61,574	\$60,152
Total expenses	\$712,227	\$753,709
Change in net assets	\$69,423	(\$164,062)

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2016 and 2015

ASSETS	2016	2015
Cash and investments	\$2,922,061	\$3,044,672
Accounts receivable	\$145,584	\$117,810
Prepaid expenses	\$40,122	\$0
Fixed assets - net	\$8,613,685	\$8,500,704
Total Assets	\$11,721,452	\$11,663,186
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities	\$64,576	\$75,733
Net Assets	\$11,656,876	\$11,587,453
Total Liabilites and Net Assets	\$11,721,452	\$11,663,186

Audited financial statements, prepared by Johnson, Murphy and Wright, P.C., are available at www.trgt. org or at the TRGT office by request.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CIRCLE OF CONSERVATORS

One way you can help ensure that our work continues is to name the Trust as a beneficiary in your will. To learn more, or to notify the us that you have named the Trust in your

estate, call 423.266.0314. Our thanks to these individuals for supporting the lasting legacy of the Trust.

Ms. JEAN BIDDLE (deceased)

MR. ROBERT D. BROWN (deceased)

Ms. Elisabeth Bryan (deceased)

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Evans

Ms. Betty Hall (deceased)

Mrs. Mabel Hampton (deceased)

Ms. Adele P. Hutchinson (deceased)

Mr. and Mrs. K. Donald Jensen

Ms. Marguerite H. Lehmann (deceased)

Mr. Alan Nichols (deceased)

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Park

Mr. Richard Park, Jr.

Mr. Dudley Porter, Jr. (deceased)

Mr. Sam Powell

Mrs. Sam (Emilie) Powell (deceased)

Mr. RALPH SHUMACKER (deceased)

JAMES AND MARILEE STITES (deceased)

— and three anonymous donors



To mail or not to mail? To save money and strengthen the Trust's efforts as a leader in the environmental community, we have reduced the number of newsletters that we mail each year and rely more heavily on electronic communications through e-mail and social media. However, if you prefer to receive updates via mail rather than e-mail, please fill out and send this form to our office at 1214 Dartmouth Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405. You can also e-mail sarahq@trgt.org and type "Please send my updates to my mailbox" in the subject line.

If you are not yet on our e-mail list, but would like to receive our digital communications, register at www.trgt.org. Enter your e-mail address in the box that reads "Sign up for e-updates."

STATE ZIP
E-MAIL

NEW STAFF

This is the first newsletter that the Trust has written in quite some time, but we want you to know that 2016 was filled with wonderful transitions for our organization. The work carried on and the depth of our capacity increased as we welcomed some very talented people to our staff. In January 2016, we welcomed our in-house Accountant, Audrey Nord. In April 2016, we said a fond farewell to Hannah Shadrick, our Business and Creative Director as she moved to San Francisco, CA to pursue new opportunities. We welcomed long-time volunteer and Arborist, Mariah Prescott to take over as Business and Community Access Director. In August 2016, recent Sewanee grad, Eliot Berz joined our group to assist as a Field & Avian Technician. Finally, in February 2017, we welcomed Hugh Bullock as our Conservation Director – a new position that is going to help take our organization to the next level.

Audrey Nord, Accountant -

Although Pine Mountain, GA will always be home, Audrey has spent the better part of the last 18 years living in Asia with her family. After Audrey graduated from Columbus State University in 1997 with a B.B.A. in Accounting and passed the CPA exam, she met her husband Tom on a blind date. Eleven months later they were married and living in Japan. Altogether, Audrey and Tom spent 11 years in Japan and China and moved back to



the States in 2012 with their two sons. The Nord family moved to Signal Mountain in 2014, and they soon fell in love with their community and with Tennessee. Audrey was first introduced to the Trust at Another Gorgeous Evening in 2014, and expressed interest in the organization. Audrey came on board in January 2016 as the Trust's part-time Accountant, and comes to us with an extensive background in banking and auditing. When Audrey isn't crunching numbers she loves cooking (sushi is lots of fun to make), traveling (Iceland and Scotland are recent favorites), photography (you can find beauty anywhere!) and spending time outside with her three most valuable and loved assets: Tom, Grant, and Henry.

Eliot Berz. Avian and Field

Technician – A Chattanooga native, Eliot received his B.S. in Environmental Studies from Sewanee: The University of the South. Before returning to Chattanooga, Eliot worked with a land trust in Northern Virginia. He has enjoyed working and studying within the conservation field, pursuing a variety of forestry and wildlife-based projects. Eliot has also worked on public access endeavors



on various blueways and greenways, such as the Rapidan River in Virginia and Hiwassee River in Tennessee. Eliot is leading the Trust's Louisiana waterthrush study and helps with stewardship, water quality, and boundary marking. When not working, you will likely find Eliot in the river kayaking or fishing.

Hugh Bullock. Conservation

Director – Born in New Orleans but raised in East Tennessee. Hugh has lived and worked all across the state. He has a B.A. from Memphis State University and a M.S. in Forestry from the University of Tennessee. Over the years Hugh has worked for universities, state parks, and another land trust but joins the Tennessee River Gorge Trust after working as a Field Forester for 13+ years with Tri-State Forestry Consulting, Inc. As a Consulting Forester Hugh



has worked on projects in the Gorge and will continue to help us manage our lands as we move forward. His primary responsibilities at the Trust include stewardship, education, and research. Hugh has travelled with his wife and son from the Virgin Islands to Alaska, and enjoys sharing a wide variety of outdoor adventures with them including bird watching, backpacking, hunting, fishing, and a variety of paddle sports. "I am thrilled to join TRGT and to share my passion for conservation with this exceptional team and with others who love the Tennessee River Gorge!"

Mariah Prescott. Business & Community Access Director-

Mariah is a Certified Arborist and obtained a B.S. in Environmental Science from Michigan State University. Mariah and her husband, Greg, moved from northern Arizona in 2011 and love living in Chattanooga. Part of Mariah's position with the Trust is to connect the community to the land through access and to help manage that land for the people – while still preserving it for the plants and animals that inhabit the wild terrain. She maintains and builds



trails on the 17,000 acres that the Trust helps protect. Mariah also developed and currently leads the water quality program, which consists of 13 monitoring sites in the Gorge. When she is not busy with being the Chair of the Tree Commission or a Committee Member for the Southeast Conservation Corps, you may find her rock climbing or paddle boarding through the Gorge.

Long-time employees include Executive Director, Rick Huffines; Associate Director, Sarah Quattrochi; Field Technician, Charlotte Bossy; Avian Technician, Holland Youngman.

TENNESSEE RIVER GORGE TRUST

TENNESSEE RIVER GORGE TRUST, INC.

1214 Dartmouth Street Chattanooga, TN 37405 423.266.0314 www.trgt.org return service requested

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Chattanooga, TN Permit No. 456

This is worth saving! Protected lands of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust

