



# Canyon WATCHER

FALL 2018



**Ritchie Hollow  
Trail NOW OPEN!**

PAGE 3

**Songbird Migration**

PAGE 5

**River Rescue**

PAGE 8



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

### Dear Friends and Supporters,

Value – is often a word we associate with economical and consumer based “things,” but it can be much more when you consider the value of place, open space, and all of the natural things that exist within that space. In the conservation world, we recognize that it’s not always enough to know that a viewshed is protected. For many people the value is about a lot more than a view, it’s about place itself and all of the components associated with it. That’s why it is very important to acknowledge individual perceptions of value, or else we risk losing the very thing we are protecting – because when we don’t collectively value something, we tend to take it for granted.

The viewshed of the Tennessee River Gorge looks the way it does today because past boards, staff, and our community have worked diligently for over 36 years to ensure it is there and will always be there. They have listened to the community, bought and secured land, created access, and educated our community about the multitudes of values associated with the Tennessee River Gorge. TRGT continues that legacy today with an incredible board, staff, and volunteers who know the value of the view, but more importantly knows the value of a healthy and accessible ecosystem and a community who understands its value through much needed educational programs.

I hope you enjoy reading about the incredible access, science, and educational programs our staff and volunteers have been working on this past year. The Tennessee River Gorge is healthy, accessible, protected, and understood because we know what You value. And yes... we are still actively protecting that ever important view we all cherish in the Tennessee River Gorge. Thank you for your support - none of these things happen without your help!

Rick Huffines,  
Executive Director

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
 George Caudle, *President*  
 Robert L. Donina, Jr., *Vice President*  
 Anne Wilkins, *Treasurer*  
 Barry Allen, *Secretary*
- Annette Allen  
 Van Bunch  
 Brenda Brickhouse  
 Evann Freeman  
 Russell Friberg  
 Jim Hall  
 Anne Holt  
 Nicole “Nikki” Lewis  
 Henry Lodge  
 Vivian Lozano  
 Jerry Miller  
 John Myers  
 Kathy Patten  
 Sam Powell  
 Larry Roberts  
 Fred Robinson  
 Mary Beth Sutton  
 Greg Vital
- STAFF**  
 Richard D. Huffines  
*Executive Director*
- Alishea Hixson  
*Associate Director*
- Hugh A. Bullock  
*Conservation Director*
- Mariah C. Prescott  
*Business & Community Access Director*
- Audrey Nord  
*Accountant*
- Eliot Berz  
*Avian and Research Technician*

**TRGT Summer Interns** were amazing were They marked boundary lines, did trail maintenance, aided with projects at the Bird Observatory, and maybe learned a few things about poison ivy and snakes. Caryn Ross is working on her Masters in Environmental Science. Peter Ceren is a sophomore at Sewanee University studying Environmental Science, and Juan Sanduval Bucio is a student at Chattanooga State studying Computer Science.



# Ritchie Hollow Trail

by Mariah Prescott

The Ritchie Hollow Trail opened in late January. It is an alluring and uniquely charming trail that was built with local partnerships. Ritchie Hollow connects more Chattanoogaans and visitors to nature and conservation by providing more access to the River Gorge. The hope is it will provide the community with a scenic, historic trail to cherish for years to come!

## Why You Will Love It!

The Ritchie Hollow Trail is 2.6 miles one-way, and is moderately strenuous with over 1,200 feet of elevation gain. The trail links the Tennessee River to the Davis Pond campground in the Prentice Cooper State Forest. It is located at the top of the mountain, which passes the 12-mile Pot Point Loop Trail; linking into the 300-mile Cumberland Trail system.

The new trail leads hikers through a beautiful mature hardwood forest while passing by several historic moonshine stills, many creek crossings, and gives views of the Tennessee River in the winter. Complete with a 30-foot waterfall

(Blowing Wind Falls) that cascades along moss-covered rocks 1.8 miles in, Ritchie Hollow is an excellent day hike for all skill levels. The tread is steep, rocky, and narrow at times, but beginner hikers and families can go slow and still enjoy their time on this scenic trail.

Find out more! [www.trgt.org/explore](http://www.trgt.org/explore)

## Special THANKS

*Funding was provided by the Riverview Foundation, Benwood Foundation, and Rock/Creek. The trail was built with help from our amazing volunteers from Rock/Creek, the Chattanooga Hiking Club, and TVA. The Southeast Conservation Corps built the most technical sections, and the UTC Geospatial Lab created the trail map. The Ritchie Hollow Trail could not have been built without TRGT's Memorandum of Understanding with Prentice Cooper State Forest and TWRA.*



# Honorary & Memorial Gifts

September 2017 through August 2018

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 L. Donina, Sr.

Kristin Huntly

### Thad Fant

Barry and Laura Allen

### Michael Griffin

Michael & Stormy McGauley

### Flo Higgins

Michael & Stormy McGauley

### Charlie Hon

Bob Montague

### Ryan Keller

Marta Alder

Annette Allen

Vickie Allen

Eugene & Paula Amagliani

Benjamin Arnold

Jack Belz

Ronald & Anise Belz

Jack T. Billings

Elizabeth Black

David Bowen

Eugene Bursi

William Chase Jr.

Christian Community Foundation  
of Memphis

Nick Clark

Elise Crockett

Elizabeth Davis

John & Sue Dewald

Eleanor Dooner

John & Alice Dudas

Mary Edwards

Rachel Ferguson

Donna Flinn

Raleigh Francis

S. Lawless Glassman

Antoinette Good

Douglas Graydon

Jan Groveman

Judith & Merrill Heard

Mary Jayne Hamlett

Marie Holder

St. George Holdings

Susan Hornor

Martha Horton

Thomas Horton

James & Penny Keras

Jack & Deborah Lambert

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Langley

Christian Man

Martha Manley

Bob Marshall

Lea Marshall

Kristin Mason

Bill Mauldin

Mary Muscari

Cheryl Parker

Bryan & Kathy Patten

Mark & Kimbrough Petzinger

Mariah & Greg Prescott

Sarah & Sam Quattrochi

Bill Ray

Larry & Marty Roberts

James Shelton

Lois Sandusky

Christine Taylor

Texas Health Presbyterian

Hospital, Dallas

Joel Weinshanker

Joy Wiener

Hannah Wheeler

Duncan Williams, Inc.

### Bob Lyon

George & Leigh Skonberg

### Clifford Garrison Martin

James Baker

Hazel Bickerstaff

Deanna Dunkerley

### Braxton Moody

Autumn Boyd

### Susan Morris

Michael & Stormy McGauley

### Jim Reilly

Bob Montague

### Annie Rowland

Michael & Stormy McGauley

### Cyree Sharp

Michael & Stormy McGauley

## Dick Specer

Bob Montague

## Joseph Spurlock, Jr.

Michael & Stormy McGauley

## Arch Trimble, III

Alan Smith

## James (Bucky) Wolford

Bob Montague

## In Honor Of:

### Tim & Megan Bowman

Michelle Sims

### Heather DeDaetano

Larry & Marty Roberts

### Ben and Kimberly Friberg

Kathleen Summers

### Jim & Annie Hall

Barbara Keeling

### Dr. & Mrs. Jack McGauley

Michael & Stormy McGauley

### Michael & Stormy McGauley

Michael St. Charles

### Ned & Gladys Mynatt

Deborah Mynatt

### Richard & Pam Park

Judith Taylor

### David & Megan Vossel

Deborah McNary

### Dawson Wheeler

Jake Wheeler

# Remembering Alice Lupton

4.26.1927 - 6.31.2017



Alice Lupton has left a mark on Chattanooga through her philanthropic work. She passed away last year. Alice and her husband Jack were long time supporters of TRGT. Alice's daughter wrote a touching poem for her mother. It shows the power of the outdoors with our memories and love for each other.

## The Upper Lake

I walk along the wooded path  
that leads to a sacred spot  
flooded with the past,  
drenched in the present,  
and spilling over into the future.

The surface ripples with reflections  
reminding me that what I see  
mixes memory with reality.

The lake lined with evergreens  
is dotted with demise  
of ancient hemlocks older than I.

Death makes me want to cry  
when I see the naked limbs  
stranded in the sky.

But when I bow my head  
and see the barren branches  
mirrored in the water,  
the blight is blurred  
and death is beautifully blended in.

I don't know what I was looking for  
when I came to the lake today,  
yet I always find something  
floating up and sinking in.

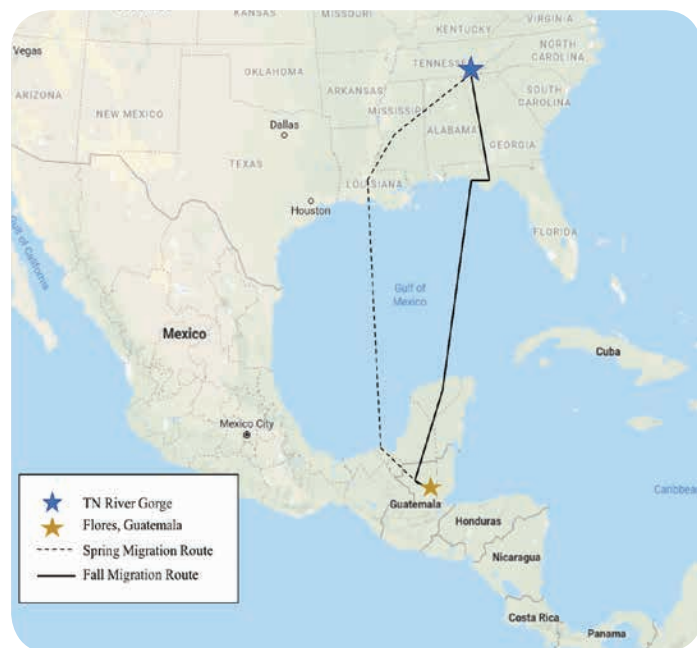
This family piece of peace  
is one of those thin places  
that feels like multiple spaces  
spliced together with mystery  
and pointing to eternity.

# Tracking Songbird Migration

by Eliot Berz

This Spring, the Tennessee River Gorge Trust's avian research team and partners at the University of Toledo (Ohio) and Harding University (Arkansas) deployed 120 electronic tracking devices on the backs of two migratory bird species, Louisiana Waterthrush and Worm-eating Warblers. These tracking devices, called geolocators, record sunlight levels and keep time throughout the day which can ultimately provide the researchers with the migratory birds' daily positions on Earth. By attaching geolocators to the birds, we are able to determine where the birds may be experiencing problems either on their migration routes or wintering grounds.

These birds arrive in the Tennessee River Gorge each Spring to find a territory, breed, and raise young. In the Fall, the adults and their young will migrate south to areas in the Caribbean and Central America to spend the winter months. The following spring, the birds will return to North America, often to the exact same territories they used the previous year. In order to avoid putting excessive weight on these small species (which weigh the equivalent of 3 to 4 nickels), the geolocators must only weigh 0.5 grams (roughly the weight of a paperclip). Due to these weight restrictions, the geolocators do not have the ability to send live tracking data to the researchers. Therefore, the devices must be manually removed the following Spring in order to retrieve the stored information. Searching for a bird that has traveled nearly 2,000 miles and has been absent for months may seem like searching for a needle in a haystack, but their ability to return to the exact same territory allows researchers to recapture individual birds year after year.

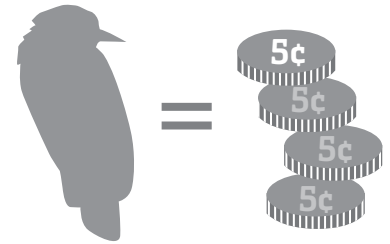


## LIGHT AS A FEATHER

Geolocator =  
.5 grams = paperclip



Bird (average) =  
20 grams = 4 nickels



Migratory wildlife is a shared resource between states, countries, and even continents. In order to effectively tackle conservation issues concerning migratory wildlife, we must see beyond borders and work in collaboration with all regions that are used by the migratory species. Therefore, TRGT decided to incorporate both communities that share these incredible birds. Our geolocator data from the 2016 pilot study, showed some of the Waterthrush spent their winter in northern Guatemala. In partnership with La Paz Chattanooga, we have created an inspiring project that uses this bird research as an avenue to connect the Chattanooga community with communities in Guatemala. TRGT chose Flores, Guatemala as the focal community. We are partnering with local schools, bird researchers, and birding clubs to implement an educational program that connects elementary school classes and families between the two areas through environmental education, outreach, and bird research. It is through programs like these that we can begin to truly tackle wildlife conservation issues as an international community.

## Special THANKS

The University of Toledo Lab and Harding University for staff time and equipment at their study sites. This large-scale study was funded by the Lyndhurst Foundation, Pineapple Fund, and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

# It truly was Another



## Thanks to Our 2018 Gorge Partners

### PLATINUM PARTNER



Colonial Pipeline Company

### GOLD PARTNERS



### SILVER PARTNERS



# Gorgeous Evening!



Save the date for  
**Chattanooga's Best  
 Cocktail Party!**  
**MAY 9, 2019**



## BRONZE PARTNERS



## SPECIAL THANKS



## MEDIA SPONSORS



If you are interested in becoming a Gorge partner  
 please email, [alisheah@trgt.org](mailto:alisheah@trgt.org)

# Monitoring Water Quality by Mariah Prescott

Tennessee River Gorge Trust strives to keep a watchful eye on the quality of our community's waterways within the Tennessee River Gorge. Pollutants such as sediment, pesticides, and bacteria can run off from land into our water, causing health risks to the entire ecosystem.

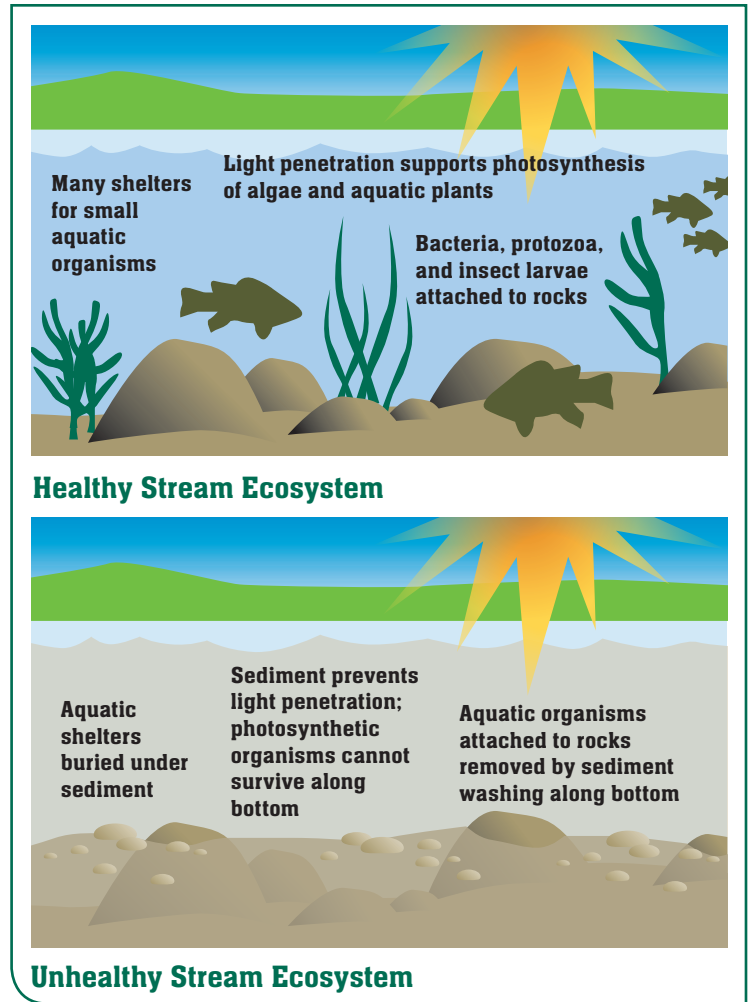
Since late 2015, TRGT has been regularly monitoring 13 streams in the Tennessee River Gorge. We partnered with the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute and Georgia Adopt-A-Stream to certify Tennessee River Gorge staff and volunteers as chemical, bacterial, and macroinvertebrate monitors. TRGT's water quality team conducts monthly testing for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, fecal coliforms, and aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Detecting what is present in the waterways not only helps TRGT better manage the overall health of the watershed but also helps safeguard our community members who paddle, swim, boat, and recreate in the Tennessee River Gorge.

To learn more: [www.trgt.org/water-quality](http://www.trgt.org/water-quality)



Mariah Prescott (center), TRGT's Water Quality Program Lead, accepting Georgia Adopt-A-Stream's "Beyond Borders" award for our continued water quality work in Tennessee.



# TENNESSEE RIVER RESCUE

Saturday, October 6 ~ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Tennessee River Gorge Trust is proud to lead the Suck Creek Zone. We need your help!  
Sign up to volunteer with us at [www.trgt.org/volunteer](http://www.trgt.org/volunteer)

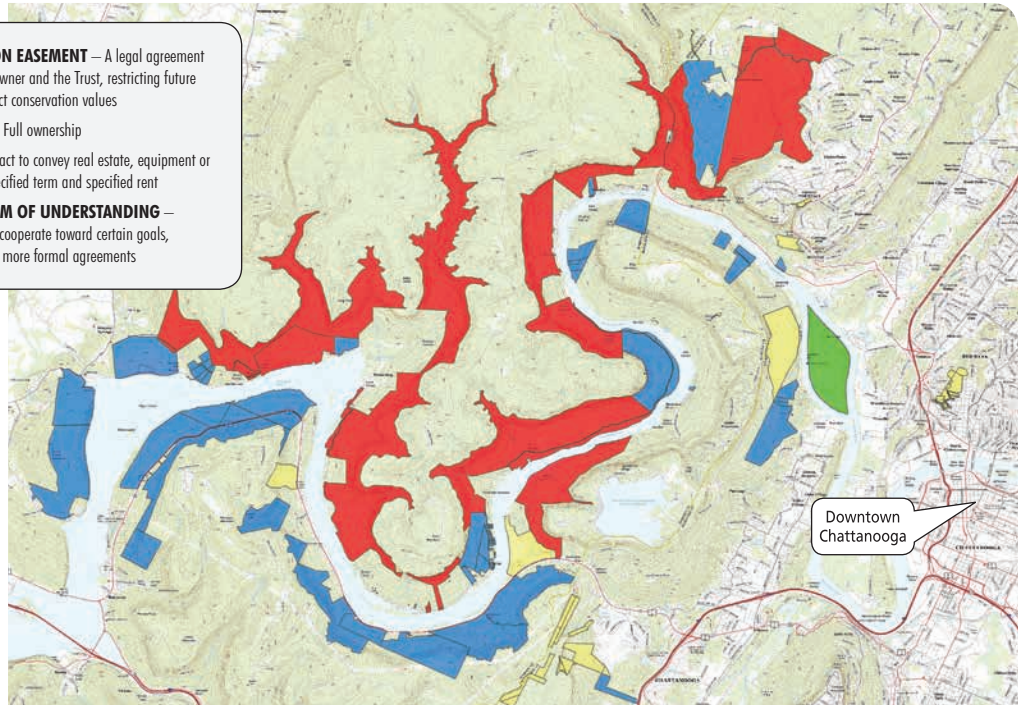


# Land Acquisition Update by Hugh Bullock

The Tennessee River Gorge Trust and our partners have protected nearly 17,000 acres of land. However, roughly 10,000 acres within the Tennessee River Gorge still remain in private ownership and unprotected. Protected land means a protected ecosystem. The land is able to remain natural and wild for mother nature to live and breathe. This also provides a place for the community to have open space and places to enjoy the outdoors. This is why TRGT is still working diligently to protect the scenic views and habitat in the Tennessee River Gorge. As an organization, TRGT is always looking to reach willing agreements with private landowners.

In 2018, TRGT worked with a homeowner and a local architect to acquire eight acres between two of our larger tracts. This project connected close to 300 acres of protected land. In addition to this project, TRGT's Executive Director, Rick Huffines, and Land Acquisition Committee Chair, Fred Robinson, have worked with the owners of more than 30 different parcels within the Gorge over the last year, and these parcels total more than 4,447 acres. We are still actively negotiating on several of these projects. The one thing our community can count

- **CONSERVATION EASEMENT** – A legal agreement between the landowner and the Trust, restricting future activities to protect conservation values
- **FEE SIMPLE** – Full ownership
- **LEASE** – A contract to convey real estate, equipment or facilities for a specified term and specified rent
- **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** – An agreement to cooperate toward certain goals, less binding than more formal agreements



on is the Tennessee River Gorge Trust is always focused on buying and protecting land.

**What role can you play in protecting the ecosystem of the Tennessee River Gorge?** If you own property in the Tennessee River Gorge, TRGT would welcome the opportunity to discuss protecting your land for generations to come. Conserving and protecting this land cannot be done without donations from the community. If you would like to support the ongoing work of TRGT you can go online to [trgt.org/donate](http://trgt.org/donate) or mail in the form below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONOR NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
(AREA CODE) PHONE

**Sign up for our eNewsletter:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL

**Please indicate your donation level:**

- \$10,000  
  \$1,000  
  \$100  
  \$25  
 \$5,000  
  \$500  
  \$50  
  Other \_\_\_\_\_

One-time Gift    Recurring Monthly Gift

**Leverage your:**    Employer Match    Stock/Securities

\_\_\_\_\_  
MATCH/STOCK INFO

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

## Three Easy Ways to Give!

### 1. Mail this card with check payable to:

Tennessee River Gorge Trust  
1214 Dartmouth Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37405

### 2. Credit Card Please call for my info

Visa    MC    Amex    Discover

\_\_\_\_\_  
CARDHOLDER'S NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
CARD NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
EXPIRATION DATE CVC CODE

### 3. Online at [www.trgt.org/donate](http://www.trgt.org/donate) to give a secure one-time or recurring contribution.

# Remembering Mac Clarke

6.1.1929 - 3.20.2017

Mr. William McMasters "Mac" Clarke and his wife Majorie were advocates of protecting the environment. When Mac passed away, they left a bequest to Tennessee River Gorge Trust to continue their legacy and love for the environment. They had a true love for mother nature. Mac and Majorie were active in their greenhouse growing succulents. Mac and Majorie both believed in protecting the environment before it was trendy. The Tennessee River Gorge Trust is grateful for their commitment for the environment and joining our Circle of Conservators.



## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CIRCLE OF CONSERVATORS

One way you can help ensure that our work continues is to name TRGT as a beneficiary in your will. To learn more or to notify us that you have named TRGT in your estate, call 423.266.0314.



*Our thanks to these individuals for supporting the lasting legacy of TRGT.*

- MS. JEAN BIDDLE (deceased)
- MR. ROBERT D. BROWN (deceased)
- MS. ELISABETH BRYAN (deceased)
- MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM McMASTERS CLARKE (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



**Thank you!** TRGT staff is honored to be entrusted to conserve and protect the Tennessee River Gorge. (left-right): Audrey Nord, Hugh Bullock, Mariah Prescott, Eliot Berz, Alishea Hixson, and Rick Huffines

### TO MAIL OR E-MAIL?

To save money and strengthen TRGT'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 [alisheah@trgt.org](mailto:alisheah@trgt.org) and type "Please send my updates to my mailbox" in the subject line.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**To join our e-mail list and receive digital communications, register at [www.trgt.org](http://www.trgt.org). Enter your e-mail address in the box that reads "Sign up for e-updates."**

## Volunteers

The Tennessee River Gorge Trust has an amazing group of volunteers. TRGT would like to introduce our Another Gorgeous Evening (AGE) volunteers. These volunteers help make the annual event go off without a hitch.

AGE volunteers work multiple days leading up to the event, as well as the day and evening of AGE. This year they weathered the rain, wind, thunder and lightning – literally!

Annette Allen  
Alison Bullock  
Nancy Evans  
Drake Farmer  
Hannah Fraley  
Victoria Fraley  
Phillip Grymes  
David Hixson  
Anne Holt

Gus Huffines  
Judy Huffines  
Anna Humphries  
Kyle Jones  
Vivian Lozano  
Laura Marsh  
Natalie Mason  
April McCay  
Vickie McCoy

Stormy McGauley  
Meredith Middleton  
John and Pamela Myers  
Grace Mynatt  
Rob Richie  
Larry Roberts  
Molly Rogers  
Josh and Kelleye Tilford  
Jimmy Urciuoli

A special mention must be given to our Special Events Committee Chair, Anne Holt. She worked countless hours alongside our board, staff and volunteers to help ensure Another Gorgeous Evening was enjoyed by all those who attended.



## New Staff



### Alishea Hixson, Associate Director

Alishea is originally from Decatur, TN where she grew up on a farm and understands the value of protecting our local open spaces. She is very excited about the opportunity to use her expertise and the skills that she has built during her decade of nonprofit experience to help protect the Tennessee River Gorge and to provide access for people in our community. Alishea moved to Chattanooga to attend UTC and received a Bachelor's Degree in Human Ecology. Her path to the nonprofit and fundraising world began during her youth. As a child, she participated in Girl Scouts and 4-H. It was through these programs that she learned how to raise funds to make things happen. In fact, when she was a junior in high school, she raised \$5,000 to build a playground at the local park for her Girl Scout Gold Award project.

Alishea's professional work includes serving as the Director of Special Events at First Things First for 8 years and the Associate Director of Annual Giving for the University of Chattanooga Foundation for 2 years. She is also a 2014 graduate of Chattanooga's Chamber of Commerce Protégé Leadership Program.

She and her husband, David, love to travel. In recent years they have been to Alaska, Colorado, and New York. Just this summer, they went out west to South Dakota, Yellowstone, and the Tetons.



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

TENNESSEE RIVER GORGE TRUST

# Gorgeous Adventures

We are excited to announce a series of guided adventures that will begin this Fall. Stay tuned to our e-newsletter, social media, and website for more planned excursions, including a few overnights!

[trgt.org/GorgeousAdventures](http://trgt.org/GorgeousAdventures)

*A limited number of spots are available for each adventure.*

*Hike locations are subject to change.*

Event: Bird Banding  
Date: October 12, 2018  
Time: 7 am – 12 pm  
Cost: \$10

**SOLD OUT**

Hike: Lower Pot Point Trail  
Date: October 12, 2018  
Time: 10 am – 12:30 pm  
Cost: \$10

Hike: Ritchie Hollow Trail  
Date: January 4, 2019  
Time: 1 pm – 4 pm  
Cost: \$10

Hike: Upper Pot Point Trail  
Date: February 18, 2019  
Time: 1 pm – 4 pm  
Cost: \$10