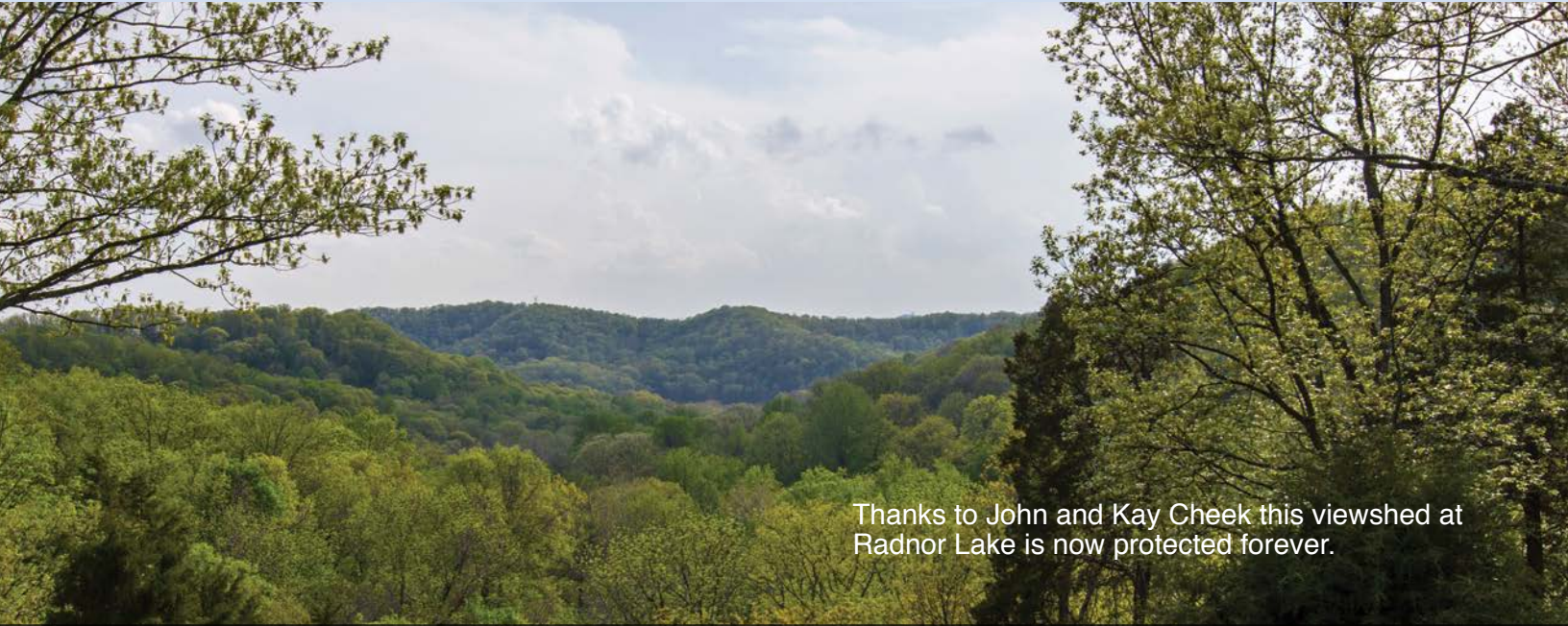




**Our Mission:** Protecting, preserving and promoting the natural integrity of Radnor Lake through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.



Thanks to John and Kay Cheek this viewshed at Radnor Lake is now protected forever.

Photograph by Robin Conover

## Family Legacy

### Cheek Family preserves 15 acres of land on Radnor Lake's northern border

By Patty St. Clair

Radnor Lake has long been a special place to the Cheek family, who made it a priority to protect this unique natural area. The late John Cheek, who passed away in the winter of 2002, rode his horse around Radnor Lake while he was growing up, long before it became Tennessee's first natural area. His vision for the future use of his property located alongside the northern border of Radnor was to leave it in its natural state and preserve it as a biological reserve.

His dream has been fulfilled with the recent 15-acre acquisition of undeveloped property from the Cheek family by Friends of Radnor Lake. This makes the fourth such acquisition from the Cheeks, from the initial contract to purchase 20 acres in December 2001, with sequential purchases of another 40 acres through 2005. Along with the recent 15 acre addition, a total of 75 acres of land will now be protected forever on behalf of and in memory of John Hancock Cheek, Jr. and John Hancock Cheek, III.

According to Park Manager Steve Ward, "this acquisition is the perfect example of how we've been able to form

successful public and private partnerships, thanks to the State of Tennessee, Friends of Radnor Lake and private landowners like Kay and John Cheek all working together towards a common goal to protect and preserve the natural integrity of Radnor Lake."

The new acreage in Oak Hill, with a value among the highest in Tennessee, is vital to the preservation and growth of Radnor Lake State Natural Area, with eight of the 15 acres within the watershed of Radnor Lake.

"We deeply appreciate the Cheek family for having the vision that, as Kay Cheek so beautifully described it: The land is only ours for awhile and we can now have it all together," says Nan Adams, President of Friends of Radnor Lake. "Due to their generosity, it is now possible to preserve the land forever so that it can continue to serve as an urban sanctuary for wildlife and waterfowl and a place of peace and tranquility."

### Board of Directors

Nan Adams  
*President*

Paul Buchanan  
*Vice President*

James Weinberg  
*Treasurer*

Lester Turner, Jr.  
*Secretary*

Andrew Amonette  
 Kim Barrick  
 Kimberly Bell  
 Karen Bird  
 Robin Conover  
 Martha Cooper  
 Charley Hankla  
 Kara Jacobs  
 Douglass Johnson  
 Jeff King  
 Billy Leavell  
 Bev Leiser  
 Janet Miller  
 Tatjana Paterno  
 Patty St. Clair  
 Ann Tidwell  
 Greer Tidwell  
 Charlie Wray

Jenny Vazquez  
*Young Leaders Council Intern*

**Supporting Staff**  
 Gretchen Pritchett  
*Operations Manager*

Lyndy Maness  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

**Board of Advisors**  
 Martha Ann Caldwell  
 Buddy Caldwell  
 Vince Gill  
 Amy Grant  
 Speaker Beth Halteman Harwell  
 Sen. Douglas Henry  
 Margaret Henry Joyce  
 Chris Karbowskiak  
 Will Martin  
 Jeanie Nelson  
 John Noel  
 Mack Prichard  
 Dan Smith  
 Phil Vassar

## A Letter from the Board: President's Message

Dear Friends,

Radnor Lake is truly blessed. As I look back on what a small group of very dedicated individuals did to save this sanctuary, I realize how much we owe to their vision and determination. Without it, Radnor Lake would most assuredly have been developed and the natural area we know today would have been lost.

Nearly every day, I enjoy hiking the trails and observing the wildlife. Feeling the subtle changes of each season in the air renews my spirit. I realize that saving Radnor in 1973 was not the end of the story, but rather, just the beginning.

We appreciate all of our friends who cherish Radnor Lake, and were thrilled to recognize the recipients of the 2014 Environmental Awards. It was a special treat to have Kay Cheek join us to celebrate this annual event. Kay and John Cheek were the recipients of the 2006 Environmental Award, and have given generously to the preservation of Radnor Lake.

Please help us continue to protect, preserve and promote this wonderful gift that gives so much, by donating your time, talent or treasure to Friends of Radnor Lake. Thank you.

Love the Lake, Love the Land — Be a Friend.

*Nan Adams*



**Nan Adams**  
*President*  
 Friends of Radnor Lake



*Photograph by Robin Conover*

Rocky Alvey, Nan Adams, Greer Tidwell, Kay Cheek and Jeff King at the 2014 Environmental Awards at Radnor Lake.

### Correction:

In our last newsletter, some donors were unintentionally misrepresented. We appreciate all donations and sincerely apologize for this error. *Donors in Memory of Frank Simmons: Archie and Gayle Adams, Betty and Arthur Simmons, and Carol Wyatt*

# Friends of Radnor Lake Honors King, Tidwell and Alvey

Friends of Radnor Lake celebrates National Public Lands Day with 14th Annual Environmental Awards

Story by Patty St. Clair • Photographs by Robin Conover

Jeff King, Greer Tidwell and Rocky Alvey have shown first-hand how creating and nurturing relationships between people, organizations and ideals can ensure long-term protection, preservation and promotion of Radnor Lake.

**Jeff King – Environmental Award** A practicing attorney for more than 30 years who earned a degree from Tulane Law School, Jeff King focuses on real estate projects, currently with the law firm Stites & Harbison PLLC. Those professional skills have proven invaluable to FORL in acquiring additional land contiguous to Radnor Lake State Natural Area. His volunteer service as chairman of the FORL land acquisition committee includes all aspects of acquiring land for Radnor Lake, where he has donated tens of thousands of dollars annually of his professional services during the past 12 years, culminating in 17 parcels of land totaling 198 acres being successfully protected.

**Greer Tidwell – Blue Heron Award** Greer Tidwell, director of environmental management for Bridgestone Americas Tire Manufacturing Group, is a registered patent attorney with a law degree from Vanderbilt University, an undergraduate degree in engineering. Under Tidwell's leadership as FORL board president from 2012-2013, 63.5 acres known as the Hideaway was added to the natural area and a new trail was created to the historic 100 year old valve-house, located approximately 200 yards away from the caretaker's residence.

Tidwell has been a strong supporter of the Radnor Lake Junior Ranger Intern Program, including having all three of his children participate. He helped implement the tire recycling program through Bridgestone Tires4ward which over the last two years recycled 80+ tires removed from the Buffalo River. The program has an invaluable lasting impact of conservation for the young rangers.

**Rocky Alvey- Partnership Award** Rocky Alvey, director of Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory, was instrumental in building the strong partnership between Dyer and Radnor Lake for the past 13 years, including the development of co-programming, which served as an extension of the park's environmental education outreach. In the past two years alone, Dyer was the platform for more than 100 hikes for park visitors to view newly acquired land surrounding the observatory, including two popular New Year's Eve hikes involving a total of 110 hikers.

An astronomy enthusiast for more than 40 years, he was instrumental in converting the historic Dyer Observatory from an inactive facility to one of middle Tennessee's most effective educational outreach destinations. Alvey sees the relationship between Dyer and Radnor Lake as the perfect marriage between heaven and earth. He has been a true ambassador for Radnor Lake and generous contributor of his time and of Dyer's land and facility.



Park Manager Steve Ward and TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau, join Nan Adams, Ann Tidwell, Greer Tidwell, Jeff King, Rocky Alvey, Joe Fareed and Paul Buchanan



Jeff King receives new Radnor Lake t-shirt and framed photograph by Robin Conover



Greer Tidwell with wife Marian and parents Greer and Claudette Tidwell



Rocky Alvey with Paul Buchanan holding painting of "Moon over Radnor" by board member and artist Kim Barrick.



**RADNOR LAKE**  
State Natural Area

**Steve Ward**  
Park Manager

**Dustin Crowell**  
Park Ranger

**Jesse Germeraad**  
Park Ranger

**Sam King**  
Park Ranger

**Leslie Anne Rawlings**  
Park Ranger

**Will Peter**  
Seasonal:  
Invasive Plant Removal

**Taylor Smith**  
Ranger Aide

**Lyndy Maness**  
Secretary

**Angelina Clarke**  
Receptionist

**Radnor Lake State  
Natural Area**  
1160 Otter Creek Road  
Nashville, TN 37220  
(615) 373-3467

**Park Hours:**  
6 a.m. until dark

**Visitor Center Hours:**  
Open Daily: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Closed: noon - 1 p.m.

**Park Visitor Center:**  
(615) 373-3467

**Event Schedule  
and Updates:**  
[www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org)

**Volunteer Days**  
Fourth Saturday  
of the month  
(Meet at the Visitor Center)  
8 a.m. - noon

## Rare plants discovered at Radnor Lake State Natural Area



Photograph by Robin Conover

Dr. Loeb flags endangered plants.



Photograph by Steve Ward

Dr. Loeb with Rangers Sam King and Will Peters study newly discovered endangered plants.

The Tennessee Division of Forestry generously awarded FORL \$10,000 to help fund the removal of exotic invasive plants from the recently acquired 63 ½ acres of property known as the "Hideaway".

Restoring the land back to its natural state within the natural area has been a top management priority over the past 13 years. This has been done annually thanks to the labor-intensive efforts of the park ranger staff, invasive grant seasonal positions and countless volunteers who have worked with the ranger staff to remove these non-native plants.

Thanks to funding through FORL and grants from the Tennessee Division of Forestry, the park staff has been able to clear large areas of invasive exotic plants, allowing native plants to reappear. In addition, substantial funding from the Tennessee State Iris Fund License Plate and private donations through Friends of Radnor Lake has assisted with contract removal targeted areas to accelerate this removal process while maximizing volunteer efforts.

Dr. Robert Loeb, a researcher from Penn State University, who has spent seven years doing research at Radnor Lake, says the recent discovery of three endangered and threatened plant species in the Natural Area is a perfect example of what can be achieved once these non-native plants are removed. These plants naturally returned to their habitats once invasive-exotic plants such as bush honeysuckle was eliminated.

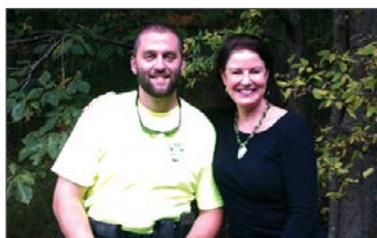
## Volunteers

Radnor Lake State Natural Area is proud of an exceptional volunteer program that is supported by FORL and REI. Every fourth Saturday, volunteers dedicate a few hours to assist park staff. Private groups interesting in scheduling a special volunteer work day at Radnor Lake can contact Volunteer Coordinator, Lyndy Maness at [lyndy.maness@tn.gov](mailto:lyndy.maness@tn.gov)



Photograph by Steve Ward

Volunteers at National Trails Day included 75 employees from Deloitte.



Photograph by Gretchen Pritchett

Park Ranger Sam King and FORL president Nan Adams.

## Ranger Sam King

FORL President Nan Adams congratulates Ranger Sam King on completing his EMT certification. The safety of all visitors at Radnor Lake is the number one priority for the park staff. FORL funded the Emergency Medical Technician course with the State of Tennessee, making it possible for Sam to pursue the Certification this summer. Three of the five Radnor Rangers hold this certification. Good job, Sam!

# National Public Lands Day, a busy day at Radnor Lake

More than 80 volunteers participated



Photograph by Steve Ward

REI presents a \$5,000 grant to Friends of Radnor Lake.



Photograph by Leslie Ann Rawlings

National Public Lands Day volunteers at Radnor Lake.

REI was out in full force supporting the Radnor Lake volunteer program on this special day. All volunteers were given great REI t-shirts, there was a drawing for prizes from REI and lunch was provided for all. Brenda Mikec, REI's Brentwood outreach coordinator, personally participates in the Radnor Volunteer program on a regular basis and coordinates special programs and drawings throughout the year. REI has been a valuable supporter of Radnor Lake for 12 years. During that time they have awarded \$60,000 in grants to FORL. Special thanks to REI and all the employees who came out on September 27th and volunteered on this special day.



New Human Footprint kiosk installed. Photograph by Steve Ward

Dr. Doug Heffington of MTSU, joins Robin Conover, and rangers Sam King and Jesse Germeraad, at installation of new "Human Footprint" Kiosk at the East parking lot. Special thanks to the following for all their efforts on making this long term project a reality:

- Dr. Heffington for his extensive research
- Robin Conover for design
- Sam King for additional input and coordination
- David Adderly of High Tech Signs for producing the final product
- John Froeschauer, Middle Tennessee Interpretive Specialist for Tennessee State Parks, Sue Joyner and Lyndy Maness for editing



Photograph by Robin Conover

FORL Operations Manager, Gretchen Pritchett and Jr. Board member Cage Spoden raise awareness by selling t-shirts.



Photograph by Steve Ward

Dr. Loeb of Penn State University leads special Environmental Research hike.

# 2014 Junior Rangers Internship Program

## Partners with Bridgestone Americas Tires4ward

Photographs by Steve Ward



Our popular Junior Ranger intern program returned to Radnor Lake this summer. Funded through donations to Friends of Radnor Lake, the 2014 summer program ran three six-day sessions with 15 interns participating in each session. Through the river cleanup portion of the program, more than 40 tires were collected from the Buffalo River and recycled through Bridgestone Americas' Tires4ward program.

"These industrious youth work hard to care for the park and take time to help clean up rivers like the Buffalo in West Tennessee, many miles from Nashville, exemplifying that we are all in this together," said Greer Tidwell, director of Environmental Management at Bridgestone Americas. "Support through our Tires4ward program is a great way to reinforce the important lessons they are learning. We're honored to help them as they learn more about the environment and how to protect our natural resources." Past president and longtime supporter of Friends of Radnor Lake, Tidwell has been an active participant in the Junior Ranger river clean up program for the past six years.



Bridgestone's Tires4ward program is one way the company is working to achieve its environmental mission. Founded on the vision of a waste-free tire industry, Tires4ward seeks to ensure that for every tire Bridgestone sells in the U.S., one spent tire (or any tire that has been taken out of use) goes on to another valuable purpose. Last year, Bridgestone recovered more than 10 million spent tires at its company-owned retail locations across the country. And, through support of community clean-up programs – including Friends of Radnor

Lake Junior Rangers – Bridgestone has collected more than 70,000 tires from streams, waterways and communities nationwide since 2012. Together we can achieve a waste-free tire industry in Tennessee and other communities across the country.

# Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center

The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center project consists of two phases, with planned opening for Spring of 2015.

**Phase I** – 550' foot boardwalk and 5 pens that will be home to four non-flighted raptors and one non-flighted American Bald Eagle.

Thanks to recent \$50,000 matching grant from Barbara J. Mapp Foundation and many generous donors, phase one is nearing completion and permitting to place birds in the pens has been submitted. The permitting can take up to 90 days. We hope to have raptors in their new homes by December 2014.

**Phase II** – a netted Eagle aviary that will house two flighted American Bald Eagles. Friends of Radnor Lake is actively fundraising by seeking grants, corporate partners and private donations to raise the final \$100,000 to complete the Eagle Aviary, and related education programs and materials.



Photograph by Charlie Tallent

Construction phase of the Aviary is nearing completion.



Photograph by Steve Ward

CapStar Bank executives tour the Aviary. Thank you CapStar for being a supporting partner.



Photograph by Steve Ward

Radnor Lake ranger staff attended two day Aviary training conducted by Dale and John Stokes with nonprofit, Wings that Soar. Training was funded by FORL and the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation.

## Thank you to our Aviary Education Center Corporate Partners and Private Donors.



Adams Family Foundation  
Sherry and James Aldredge  
Kathy and Steve Anderson



John Carpenter  
Marion Fowlkes  
Charley Hankla



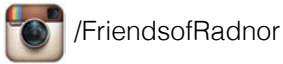
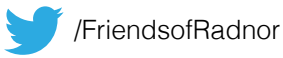
Ken Levitan and Gloria Dumas  
Jimmy and Shirley Stansell  
Lester Turner & T&T Family Foundation



For information on how to be a partner and support the Aviary, contact FORL at 615-251-1471.

P.O. Box 40324  
Nashville, TN 37204  
(615) 251-1471  
FORL@radnorlake.org  
www.radnorlake.org

Friends of Radnor Lake was born in 1973 when the lake and surrounding hills were threatened by residential development. As the Tennessee State Parks system's oldest and most successful nonprofit support group, FORL has purchased critical properties and supported protection efforts in many other ways.



## Rather be at Radnor – Fall is in the Air

Friends of Radnor Lake will be selling Radnor Lake t-shirts and hats every Saturday, 9 a.m. - noon throughout October and November (weather permitting). Enjoy a hike and stop by the tent at the visitor center parking lot, to buy a t-shirt and support Friends of Radnor Lake.



National Trails Day

*Photograph by Steve Ward*



National Lands Day

*Photograph by Tabitha Tune*

The 2015 FORL Calendar will be available soon. Check the website for retailers, availability or to order.



*Photograph by Robin Conover*