

Reflections

Fall 2016

Partners in Conservation

Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill and Friends of Radnor Lake President Nan Adams at the award winning Tulip Poplar on Harris property.

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Cover photo by
Robin Conover

From the Board President

Dear Friends,

Doesn't this hint of fall in the air feel wonderful?! Radnor Lake is beautiful year-round, but especially so as the leaves change with this season. Our autumn views make me especially grateful for the incredible collaboration and cooperation that makes these moments possible.

Without the unique synergy of our public/ private partnership, there would most certainly be a housing development where Radnor Lake thrives today. Instead, what began as 730 acres in 1973 will double to 1370 acres with the completion of our 34-acre Harris family land acquisition!

Our continued growth is possible only through strong relationships with the State of Tennessee, dedicated and hardworking board members, willing land owners, generous foundations, corporate and private donors, and our supportive surrounding community.

Your support helps us continue to provide more than one million visitors a year with the beauty, solitude, health-friendly hikes, nature watching and open green spaces that Nashville has grown to love. Thanks for being a part of what Radnor lake is today, and for helping us grow into our future.

Love the Lake, Love the Land,

Nan Adams



Nan Adams
President
Friends of Radnor Lake

MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY PLATE!

Your Radnor Lake license plate is an easy, fun way to support our mission every year. When it's time to renew your plates, don't forget to continue your Radnor Lake support!



Why Renew your Radnor Lake License Plate?

Raise Awareness. Everywhere you go, you show our community that Radnor Lake is a natural treasure worth supporting.

Support our growth and preservation. Since 2003, TN License plates have generated more than \$500,000 toward land acquisition.

Help us Reach our Goal. Friends of Radnor Lake counts on license plates to generate about \$40,000 per year. We're a bit off pace for 2016 – help us bridge the gap!

Radnor Lake Protects Additional Acreage with the Yarbrough Tract

by Steve Ward



Photo by Steve Ward

Many of our visitors would be surprised to learn that not all of Radnor's unspoiled acreage is protected from development; much of the view you enjoy from our hiking trails is actually privately owned and not officially part of the park. Thanks to a unique, three-way partnership between our adjoining landowners, Friends of Radnor Lake and Tennessee State Parks, we've spent many years working together to extend that protection to additional land around the natural area.

We are finalizing the protection of two additional acres of ridgetop moving closer to protecting the viewshed and

watershed at the natural area for future generations. Landowner Ed Yarbrough has worked patiently with Friends of Radnor Lake and Tennessee State Parks over the last year to orchestrate the sale and generous in-kind donation of this beautiful piece of land in honor of long-time Radnor supporter and friend John Hollins Sr.

Every land acquisition project must start with a landowner like the Yarbrough Family who is willing and able to work with us to acquire these properties. Together, we then combine and leverage state and private dollars to protect these last great pieces of

land. The Yarbroughs' relationship with Radnor Lake dates back to the 1930s, sparked by the mutual interest in bird watching. Since that time, good stewardship and partnership with the family has resulted in three parcels of land north of the lake being placed under state protection.

We are thrilled to announce this critical piece of land is being saved from development forever thanks to the generosity of the Yarbrough Family who support our mission to protect and preserve our vital oasis in the heart of an ever-growing city.

Friends of Radnor Lake received Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Grant 2016

On July 8th, 2016 Friends of Radnor Lake was awarded a generous grant of \$175,000 from The Heritage Conservation Trust toward the acquisition of two critical acres along the northwestern boundary known as the Yarbrough Tract. Friends of Radnor Lake would like to thank the Heritage Conservation Trust Board for their consideration and approval of these grant funds which will result in a total of 13 new acres of protected land transferred to the State of Tennessee along this northwestern boundary since 2010.

Radnor Expansion – New Land, New Trails, New Parking

Working Together to Protect Radnor Lake



April 2016 hike co-led by Roger McCoy, Director of Natural Areas, and Steve Ward, Park Manager.

Photo by Steve Ward

As with every acre of land we acquire at Radnor Lake, it all begins with a landowner who has the desire to work with us to achieve preservation of the land forever. We began developing a partnership with the Harris Family 14 years ago, resulting in three phases of property acquisition. Over the past 6 years Friends of Radnor Lake, Tennessee State Parks, and other partners have worked in unison to protect 89 acres of land at Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

Phase one consisted of 37 acres that was secured in 2011. Phase two was an additional 18 acres that was added in November 2015. The addition of this ridgetop property makes hiking the

Lake Trail and enjoying the view from the new observation deck unobstructed - now and for future generations.

The last phase of 34 acres, currently under contract for purchase, is the largest unprotected tract of land in Oak Hill and borders the South East area of Radnor along Franklin Road. Adding this land to the Natural Area will enable us the opportunity to create a new 3-mile trail, similar to what park visitors currently enjoy on the popular Ganier Ridge Trail, access to unique wildlife viewing and much needed new parking. Our continued growth is only possible through strong partnerships and support.

Double your impact on our historic expansion!

A generous private donor has pledged \$250,000 in matching funds towards our \$1M goal to secure this property. Please consider giving as you are able and indicate Land Acquisition on your donation envelope or online donation. Pledge forms are available at RadnorLake.org



30 HIKES

OCT. 15 — NOV. 15

30 DAYS

See For Yourself

Ranger led interpretive hikes will be available October 15 - November 15 so visitors can experience firsthand this raw, beautiful land.

"Reading about land... hearing about it—even observing from I 65—is not the same as experiencing the undisturbed hillsides for yourself and knowing that generations to follow can too," explained Steve Ward, Park Manager.

"That's why we're leading 30 off-trail interpretive hikes in hopes that seeing the untouched land firsthand, you'll want to support our preservation efforts."

Not for the faint of heart, the two-hour hikes for ages 14+ are strenuous, but with views that make it worthwhile. From the ridgetop, hikers will enjoy views of Brentwood to the southeast, and Radnor Lake to the northeast. Along the way, rangers point out historic and natural features including one of Davidson County's largest tulip poplar trees.

Visit radnorlake.org for information on signing up for hikes or contributing to the efforts of Friends of Radnor Lake.

Award Winning Yellow Poplar Tree on Harris Property



Radnor friend and long-timer supporter Jimmy Stansell

Photo by Steve Ward



Ranger Paul Schauer and Regional Interpretive Specialist John Froeschauer.

Photo by Steve Ward

This huge tulip poplar located on the newly acquired Harris property received the 2016 Big Old Tree Award from the Nashville Tree Foundation. Thanks to Ranger Paul Schauer and Middle Tennessee Regional Interpretive Specialist John Froeschauer for submitting the nomination, Robin Bible from Tennessee Division of Forestry for judging and the Nashville Tree Foundation for recognition of this magnificent Tulip Poplar!



Steve Ward
Park Manager

Dustin Crowell
Park Ranger

Michael Barnes
Park Ranger

Will Peter
Park Ranger

Paul Schauer
Park Ranger

Taylor Smith
Ranger Aide

Laurie Campbell
Seasonal Interpreter

Lyndy Maness
Secretary

**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:
Thurs – Mon: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(Closed: Tues and Wed,
and daily 1 - 2 p.m.)

Walter Criley Visitor Center:
(615) 373-3467

**Event Schedule
and Updates:**
www.radnorlake.org

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



Photo by Steve Ward

Lyndy Maness from Radnor Lake State Natural Area receives "STAR AWARD"

Pictured with Director of Operations Mike Roberston, and Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill. The Star awarded is presented to Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation employees who demonstrate serving others as their highest priority, professionalism and consistently exceeding performance goals. Great job Lyndy!



Photo by B. Belser

Radnor Ranger Staff Continued Excellence

Continued education and certification contribute to the excellence of Radnor Lake. Funded through FORL, over the last 12 months Radnor Rangers have completed valuable classes and certifications including: Chainsaw Felling, Wildfire behavior, Trail Master, Machine Trail Master and Birds of Prey.



Photo by Steve Ward on delayed timer

Bridgestone America partnered in a pilot educational program with Friends of Radnor Lake, Tennessee State Parks and The Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee to expose local youth to what is often the best classroom—the great outdoors. On July 29, 2016 this partnership resulted in a six mile trip along the Scenic Duck River through Yanahili Wildlife Management Area that offered many valuable lessons including getting young people on the water and exposing them to a whole new world of opportunity! Thanks to everyone for making this a great experience for all involved.

New Lake Trail Observation Deck

The “Best Seat in the House” just keeps getting better. The popular new Observation Deck on the Lake Trail was funded through a private donor. Thanks to additional funding by Friends of Radnor Lake, the ranger staff and park volunteers restored the area with native plants in May, 2016. Our Jr. Ranger Interns added a little TLC over the summer, enhancing the beauty and serenity enjoyed from this deck by park visitors.



Photo by Steve Ward



Ranger Paul Schauer planting native switchgrass at the new observation deck on the Lake Trail (May 2016).

Photo by Steve Ward



Jr. Ranger Interns working with the ranger staff to water native plants (June 2016).

Photo by Steve Ward

Look who's been hanging out at Radnor Lake!



Otters practicing their water ballet in the lagoon at Radnor Lake.

Photo by B. Belser



American Bald Eagle finding a safe haven to hang out at Radnor Lake.

Photo by B. Belser

1160 Otter Creek Rd.
Nashville, TN 37220
(615) 251-1471
FORL@radnorlake.org
www.radnorlake.org

Our Mission: To protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.

Friends of Radnor Lake was founded in 1971 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.

 /friendsofradnorlake

 /FriendsofRadnor

 /FriendsofRadnor

Friends of Radnor Lake T-Shirts are Here!



Proceeds from t-shirt sales go directly to supporting land acquisition.

Purchase Yours!

Saturdays through Nov. 19.
West Parking Lot at the Visitor Center
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Weather Permitting

**Also available online
at radnorlake.org!**