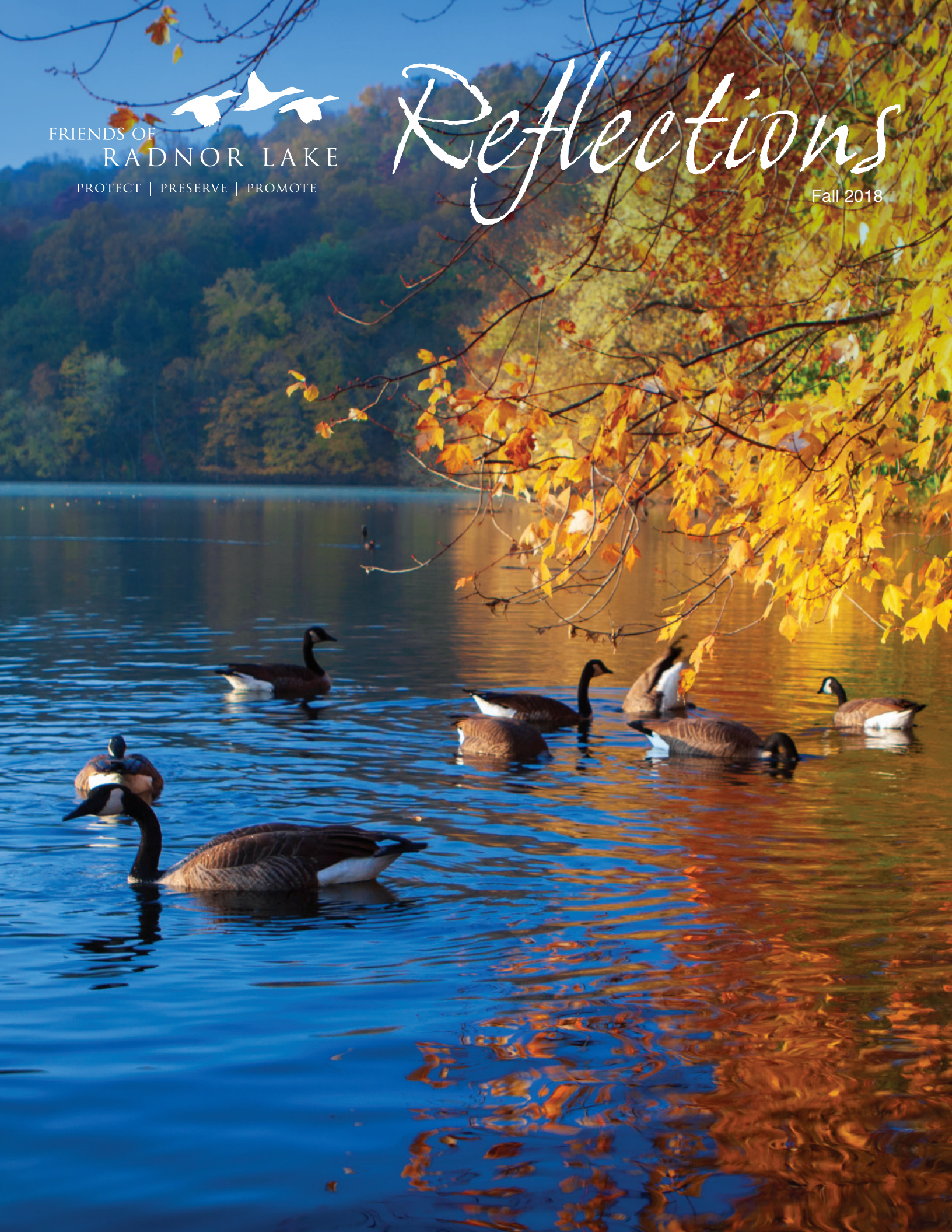




FRIENDS OF  
RADNOR LAKE  
PROTECT | PRESERVE | PROMOTE

# Reflections

Fall 2018



# From the Board President

Dear Friends,

Fall is in the air and what a perfect season to experience all that Radnor Lake has to offer. Personally, this is my favorite season. You can feel the change in the air with cooler temperatures, you can hear it along the trails as wildlife activity picks up with the arrival of migratory waterfowl, and you can see it as the tapestry of fall color paints the landscape.

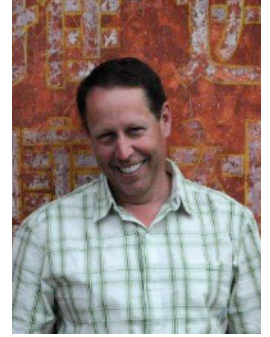
The need to experience nature is a given and as Nashville's growth continues, so too does the attendance at Radnor. It's more critical now than ever before to protect and preserve this beautiful natural area to be enjoyed now, and for generations to come.

The Friends of Radnor Lake's mission continues to focus on critical land preservation and wildlife protection which in turn creates an unmatched nature experience for visitors. Last year we were able to secure the last 34 acres of our Harris Ridge Trail Project. The ground work is underway with park management for three miles of exceptional trails on the south side and much needed new parking. More recently, working in partnership with the State of Tennessee, an additional nine acres of valuable viewshed, watershed and grassland properties have been added to the natural area.

Your support helps us continue to provide this year-round sanctuary where thousands enjoy moments of solitude, health-friendly hikes and wildlife observation surrounded by more than a thousand acres of land that is protected, forever. Nashville has grown to love Radnor Lake and we thank you for being a part of it. We can't do it without you!

Very Truly Yours,

Paul Buchanan



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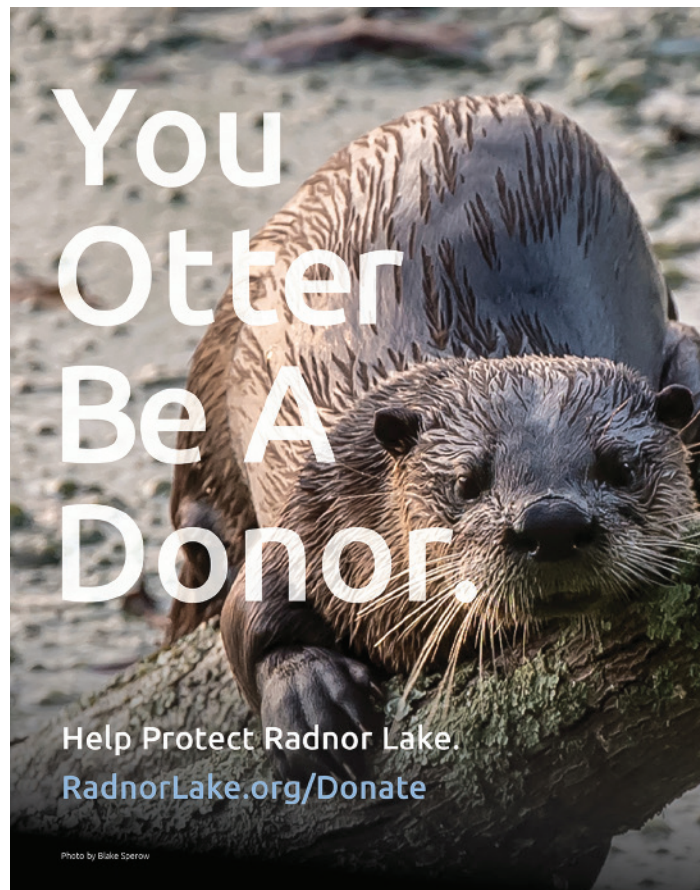
Mack Prichard

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Phil Vassar

Eugenia Winwood

Steve Winwood



**Friends of Radnor Lake is kicking off a new awareness campaign.**

**Whether new to Nashville, new to Radnor Lake or a frequent hiker, we hope you will consider supporting this beautiful oasis in the heart of Nashville.**

Donations help with critical land and wildlife protection which in turn sustains an unmatched nature experience for you and all who visit Radnor Lake.

We hope you will enjoy the series of fun signs in the park and follow us on Friends of Radnor Lake social media. Thank you to the wonderful photographers who share their beautiful Radnor photos.

Thank you to our generous donors who consistently contribute to the excellence of Radnor Lake for all to enjoy.

Cover Photo  
Robin Conover

Art Direction & Design  
Stephanie Simkin  
Stone + Steel Creative

Photo by Blake Sperow

# Radnor in the Round

The sold-out fundraising event held on Sunday, June 3, at Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory, surpassed all expectations! The program put together by songwriters Phil Vassar and Will Robinson, included seven of the top songwriters in Nashville. **Phil Vassar, Charlie Black, James Slater, Kent Blazy, Mike Reid, Dennis Matkosky, and Will Robinson** all generously shared their incredible talents in support of Radnor Lake.

Thank you to the artists, sponsors, Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory, Director Rocky Alvey and Dyer staff, and all our wonderful Radnor supporters who purchased tickets for helping make this first event a huge success by raising \$25,000 for Radnor Lake. To say it was AWESOME, doesn't do it justice. Stay tuned for next year!



Photos by Amy Atkinson

## THANK YOU TO RADNOR IN THE ROUND SPONSORS



*Douglass and  
Ella Johnson*



The Wallace Group  
of UBS

VANDERBILT DYER OBSERVATORY

# Volunteers make the difference!

Three national environmental days were celebrated at Radnor Lake with special volunteer opportunities and special interpretive programs for park visitors.

## Earth Day Weekend April 20-21

Volunteers worked with the park ranger staff mulching the spillway trail and the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Center was open for park visitors to participate in interpretive programs with our resident birds of prey and reptiles.



Photo by Steve Ward

## National Trails Day June 3

Volunteers worked on the Historic Valve House and South Cove Trails. Park visitors were treated to a special interpretive program and hike on the Historic Valve House by Dr. Doug Heffington from Henderson State University.



Photo by Steve Ward



Photo by Teshia Steuben



Photo by Steve Ward

## National Public Lands Day Sept. 22-23

Nissan Green Team volunteers kicked off the weekend working on the Lake Trail and Ganier Ridge Trails with the park ranger staff. Volunteers were treated to a ranger-led hike and tour of the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center. On Sept. 23, park visitors were treated to a special presentation and hike to the Historic Valve House by Dr. Doug Heffington and Ranger Paul Schauer.



Photos by Steve Ward

Special thanks to Nissan for their continued partnership and support of the Radnor Lake Volunteer Program.

## TN Promise Volunteer Days June 22-23



Over 60 TN Promise Volunteers worked with the park staff mulching the South Lake Trail. These volunteer opportunities enable students to complete their eight hours of community service as part of the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program.

*Photos by Steve Ward*

## Jr. Ranger Intern Program at Radnor Lake

Radnor Lake offers a unique internship and educational experience for high school students through the Jr. Ranger Intern program with funding from Friends of Radnor Lake. Now in its 16th year, the program impacts the future, one youth at a time.



Over 37 used tires and numerous bags of trash were collected from the Piney River in Hickman County during three river clean up trips with our Jr. Ranger Interns. Tires were recycled thanks to the **Bridgestone Tires4ward Program**.

*Photo by Steve Ward*



Jr. Ranger Interns working at the Historic Valve House.

*Photo by Steve Ward*



Jr. Ranger Intern mulching the Historic Valve House Trail.

*Photo by Steve Ward*



Ranger Brandon Jarratt conducting a birds of prey program with Jr. Ranger Interns.

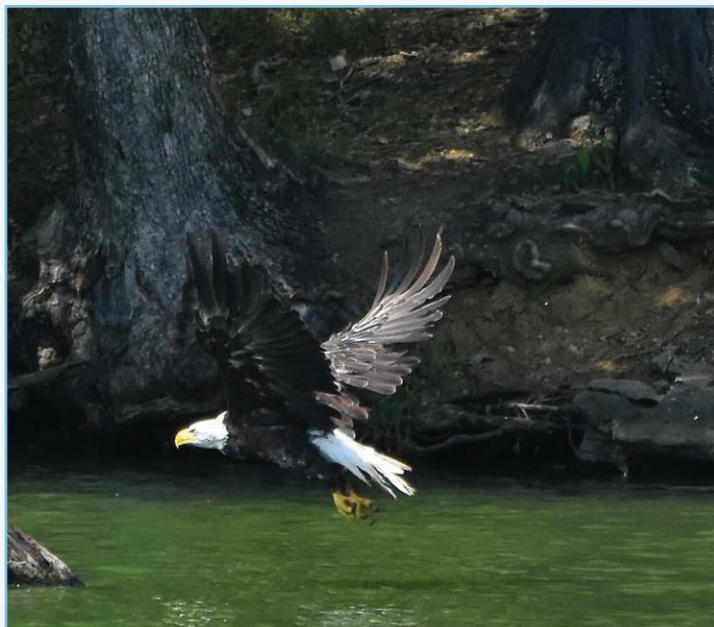
*Photo by Steve Ward*

# Donations to FORL contribute to a balanced ecosystem.

## We all live downstream!

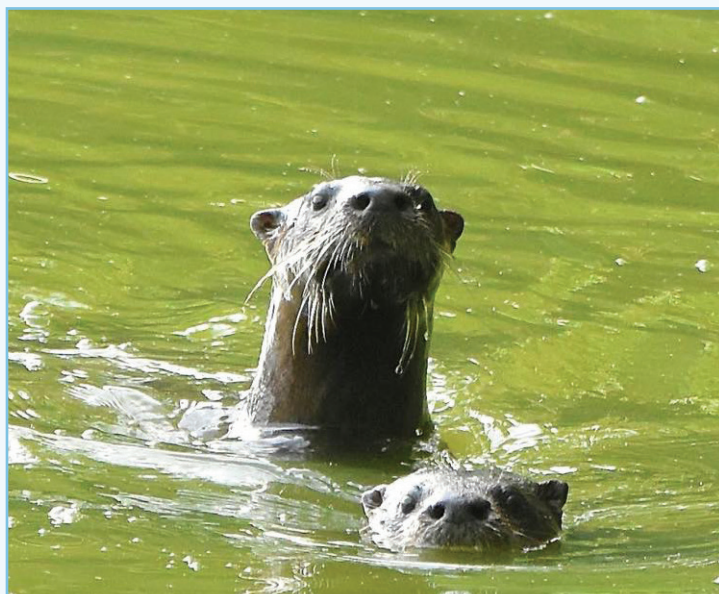
Over the past 15 years, Friends of Radnor Lake has supported water quality monitoring with the park ranger staff at 11 testing sites around the lake which include streams, drainages and wet weather conveyances.

Home to some very rare and endangered plant species Radnor also enjoys a long history of being one of the best birding spots in Middle Tennessee to view a wide variety of migratory bird species.



Bald Eagle

*Photo by Bob Belsler*



River Otters

*Photo by Donald Horne*



Great Blue Heron

*Photo by Robin Conover*



Wood Ducks

*Photo by Donald Horne*



Turtles

*Photo by Bob Belsler*

# John and Betsy Cartwright bestowed land legacy

By Steve Ward



John and Betsy Cartwright were presented with the 2018 Friends of Radnor Lake Environmental Partnership Award with a Robin Conover print at a special event at their home in May 2018.

*Photo by Robin Conover*

Efforts to protect land surrounding Radnor Lake always begins with our adjoining landowners, usually over long periods of time. Fortunately, this often results in achieving our mission to protect Radnor Lake for future generations by securing these last remaining portions of adjoining properties within our watershed and viewshed. John and Betsy Cartwright epitomize being willing landowners. They have recently added a piece of property to our land acquisition puzzle and have ensured that the State of Tennessee's First Natural Area will continue to flourish amid all the growth in Middle Tennessee.

## **New acquisition protects Radnor Eastern Boundary.**

Thanks to the wishes of these generous neighbors, the Cartwrights, we have secured an additional five acres of critical land along Otter Creek Rd at the Eastern Boundary. Working with the Friends of Radnor Lake and the State of Tennessee for the past two years, John and Betsy patiently and thoughtfully bestowed this invaluable legacy. Without their sizable and generous in-kind donation, this property would not have been attainable for Radnor at today's current land market. The viewshed, watershed property protects our eastern boundary from oversized houses, cut down trees to clear a view or future cell towers that would have no doubt impacted the natural area.

**Thanks to the genuine desire by our park neighbors to ensure Radnor Lake stays as it was intended when it was set aside in 1973, our 1.6 million annual visitors will continue to enjoy unique wildlife viewing, six miles of hiking trails, and improve their quality of life all within eight miles of downtown Nashville.**

I am thankful for our good friends and neighbors the Cartwrights, the leadership of Friends of Radnor Lake, President Paul Buchanan, the Friends of Radnor Lake Board, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation/State Park Leadership, Bill Avant and our many donors. Working hand in hand, leveraging both public and private funds in concert with the Cartwright's generous donation to protect these last remaining parcels, ensures all that makes Radnor Lake special will stay that way forever!



John and Betsy Cartwright with FORL president, Paul Buchanan and TDEC Real Property Manager, Bill Avant at property closing.

**Special thanks to the Heritage Trust for their contribution to this land acquisition.**

# Preservation and Restoration through Partnership.

Native Grasslands Initiative at Radnor Lake State Natural Area. **Article and photos by Steve Ward**



The Native Grasslands Initiative at Radnor Lake has been a resource management priority since 2015. This initiative is an effort to restore native grassland areas for ground-nesting bird populations such as eastern meadowlarks, bobwhite quail, wild turkeys, blue winged warblers along with butterfly species such as Monarch Butterflies are dependent on these areas and the plant species to survive.

As Middle Tennessee grows, these critical habitats are becoming a top priority in preservation, to ensure viewing for future generations at Radnor Lake. While we have benefited from fields of grasses in areas adjoining the natural area since 1973, increased surrounding development has enhanced our responsibility to protect of these species and has become a major focus moving forward.

Thanks to a 16-year Oral History Program conducted by Dr. Heffington, we have a roadmap to follow on restoring historical grassy areas surrounding Radnor Lake that over time have regenerated into forest. The interviews for the program captured early Radnor Lake advocates and birders such as Ms. Margaret Mann, who also provided photographs and birding counts as early as 1965. The historical information overwhelmingly supports the restoration of these key habitats at Radnor Lake State Natural Area while continuing our mandated mission of providing unique wildlife viewing opportunities for future generations.



Dr. Doug Heffington conducting interview with Ms. Mann for the oral history project in 2008.



Ranger Will Peters at the Hideaway Tract during conversion of 10 acres of fields in July 2017.



Same location at the Hideaway Tract after conversion of 10 acres of fields in August 2018.

Our first project area began in 2017 with 10-acres on our western boundary known as the Hideaway Tract. This land was historically fescue fields used for pasture. Today, resulting from restoration efforts, it has a diverse variety of native grasses and wildflowers and is providing a new habitat for numerous butterfly and birding species.

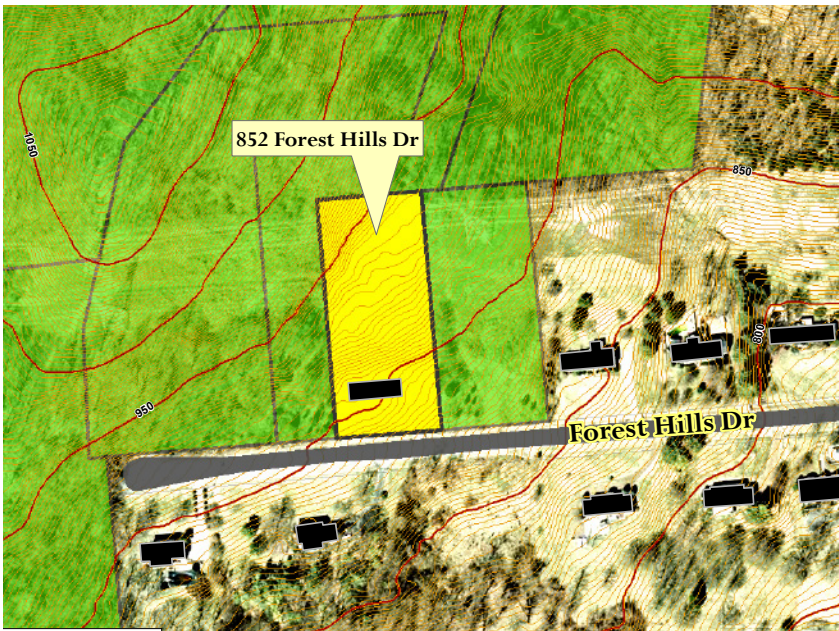
*The Hideaway tract was part of a major 2014 Land acquisition made possible through generous matching grant leadership from the Frist Foundation and AWC Foundation. Assistance from Friends of Radnor Lake, a generous landowner, Vanderbilt-Dyer Observatory, The Land Trust of Tennessee and the State of Tennessee was critical in adding this land to the Natural Area.*



## Land Acquisition through Partnership

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new acres along our eastern boundary off Forest Hills Drive. This two-acre acquisition was a critical addition as it was an in-holding, surrounded on three sides of state natural area since 2004. This acquisition by the State of Tennessee and Friends of Radnor Lake, which included the removal of an existing building, invasive-exotic plants and installation of boundary fencing allowed us to move forward with our native grass restoration effort conversion of 8.5 acres in 2018.

*This recent two-acre acquisition is another example of public-private partnerships at Radnor Lake, that allows us to leverage your donations to achieve critical acquisitions. Without funding partners such as the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, Friends of Radnor Lake and others, acquisitions by the state of Tennessee of this nature would not be possible.*



FORL Board checks out grassland restoration progress.

*Photo by Steve Ward*



TDEC Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill and FORL Board Member Greer Tidwell survey new in-holding acquisition.

*Photo by Steve Ward*

### 18 acres successfully converted to native grasslands in 2018

The implementation and success of the Radnor Lake Native Grasslands Initiative is made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Radnor Lake Staff, Friends of Radnor Lake, TN Division of Natural Areas, TN Division of Forestry, TN State Park Leadership, TVA and partners such as the AWC Foundation.

**Moving forward**, our long-term goal with the native grasslands initiative at Radnor Lake is three-fold:

1. Continue to restore critical habit for grassland plant species, ground-nesting bird's species and butterfly species within the natural area.
2. Expand our interpretive programming efforts on those species.
3. Provide unique wildlife viewing opportunities for our park visitors.

Stay tuned: in 2019, our goal is to convert another 20 acres of native grasslands at Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

**A generous grant of \$40,000 from AWC Foundation in 2017 provided funding for the ground-nesting bird habitat initiative. Thank you AWC Foundation for their vision and assistance in helping us complete this project in 2018!**

# Fall 2018 Harris Ridge Trail Update

By Steve Ward

Since we completed the land acquisition for the Harris Ridge Trail Project earlier this year, we have been very busy planning and laying out our long-awaited new trail. The three-mile trail will begin at the new southern entrance along Franklin Road. A switchback trail will lead visitors to the top of Harris Ridge, across the ridge and descend to the lake near where the long footbridge close to the current east parking lot is today. The trail will open a new area of the park to wildlife observation and hiking opportunities. Park management would like to thank Friends of Radnor Lake for funding the research and invasive plant removal efforts in preparation of the new trail.



Dr. Robert Loeb on Harris 2 Tract Spring 2018

*Photo by Steve Ward*



Dr. Doug Heffington with HSU Students conducting historical survey with Park Rangers Paul Schauer and Will Peters.

*Photo by Steve Ward*

## Historic, geographic and cultural research:

In preparation of the new trail, under the guidance of Dr. Doug Heffington, Radnor ranger staff and students from Henderson State University (HSU) in Arkansas, conducted a week-long historical research study on the property. Dr. Heffington is a long-time Radnor friend and past recipient of the Radnor Lake Blue Heron Award. His valuable research ensures that any historical or cultural sites will not be disturbed by the new trail while enhancing our interpretation of the Harris Tracts for future generations.

We have one more field session planned in March of 2019, to complete the research and allow us to plot and plan the trail, accurately interpret the landscape and preserve unique historical features such as the Inter-Urban Railway. Dr. Heffington and students will be offering park visitors and opportunity for an off-trail hike available to view this work on the ground.

Park management would like to thank Friends of Radnor Lake for funding this research as part of our future Harris Ridge Trail Project!

## Vegetative Research:

Vegetative research study with Dr. Robert Loeb of Penn State University was recently completed on the Harris Tracts. Much like the historical work with Henderson State University, this is a critical part of our trail planning process and ensures that our trail planning does the least amount of impact possible and does not threaten any rare or endangered plant populations.

## Land preparation:

With \$10,000 in funding from Friends of Radnor Lake this past year we have been working with our partners at IPC (Invasive Plant Control) to systematically remove large stands of invasive-exotic plants on the Harris 3 Tract. Overseen by Ranger Will Peters, we are battling thru these large stands of invasive bush honeysuckle, tree of heaven and privet which will not only help with the trail construction process but allow future park visitors to enjoy the same wildflower and wildlife viewing opportunities they have come to expect on our current trail system at Radnor Lake.



Students from Motlow State Community College work with Professor Kevin Fitch removing invasive-exotic wild garlic mustard on the Harris 3 Tract in May 2018.

*Photo by Steve Ward*

# A new resident to the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center

Since opening the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Center on May 1, 2015 we have been working toward the final phases of this incredible public-private partnership at Radnor Lake.

On September 27, 2018 we received the first of two eagles that will permanently reside in the flighted aviary from our partners at the American Eagle Foundation. This new eagle is a mature male American Bald Eagle, which sustained a broken femur and subsequent arthritis which deemed him non-releasable/unable to survive in the wild during his rehabilitation at the American Eagle Foundation. He will reside in the flighted aviary at the end of the boardwalk area and will be housed with another mature American Bald Eagle which we anticipate will arrive in the coming months.

In addition, we will be accepting transfer of a Golden Eagle which will reside in Aviary #4 that will be the last of our planned transfers at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center.

We look forward to these new and final additions to the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Center and thank all our donors, supporters, and external partners who have generously contributed to this project since its inception in 2013. We continue to seek support for the ongoing sustaining needs, which help with the maintenance and our high standard of care for all of the captive wildlife at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Center.



Our new resident in Aviary #4 at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Center.

*Photo by Steve Ward*



On September 27th, our newest resident to the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center arrives thanks to our friends at the American Eagle Foundation.

*Photo by Steve Ward*



## Check it out!

New gift shop at the Radnor Lake Visitor Center with lots of Radnor merchandise for all ages. Perfect for your holiday shopping including your 2019 Radnor Calendar which will be available in November.



**Steve Ward**  
*Park Manager*

**Matthew Bowling**  
*Park Ranger*

**Brandon Jarratt**  
*Park Ranger*

**Will Peters**  
*Park Ranger*

**Paul Schauer**  
*Park Ranger*

**Taylor Smith**  
*Ranger Aide*

**Mackenzie Maness**  
*Aviary Intern*

**Lyndy Maness**  
*Secretary*

**Ann Duncan**  
*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:**  
Thurs – Mon:  
9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
(Closed: Tues and Wed,  
and daily 1-2 p.m.)

**Walter Criley**  
**Visitor Center:**  
(615) 373-3467

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

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

# GO THE EXTRA MILE FOR RADNOR LAKE!

Show your support with a specialty license plate.



Since 2004, Friends of Radnor Lake has raised **more than \$500,000** through the specialty plate program.

These funds are used to acquire land and preserve the natural integrity of Radnor Lake.

**Available to ALL Tennessee residents at county clerk offices across the state.**