



# Protecting Radnor Lake

Critical land is now under contract along southwest boundary  
by Gretchen Pritchett

Bob Martineau, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, recently announced that another key piece of land, adjacent to Radnor Lake State Natural Area, is under contract. This 23.5 acres represents the next step in a 60-acre acquisition on the natural area's southwestern boundary.

In May, the first 40 acres was secured and is now owned by the State of Tennessee. The remaining 23.5 acres is now covered by a contract and fundraising is actively underway to complete the purchase.

"Protecting this land is an exciting project for Radnor's public-private partnership," says Greer Tidwell, Board President, Friends of Radnor Lake. "Our project partner, The Land Trust for Tennessee, and TDEC's park management team have been working very hard with us to protect this area."

The new 23.5 acre tract includes unique grassland habitat for ground-nesting birds such as bobwhite quail, whippoorwills and

wild turkeys. The entire 63.5 acres will be known as "The Hideaway at Radnor Lake."

With Commissioner Martineau's announcement, fundraising has kicked into full swing. Generous early contributions from The Frist Foundation and the AWC Family Foundation along with a recent grant from the Cal Turner Family Foundation serve as phenomenal anchor donations.

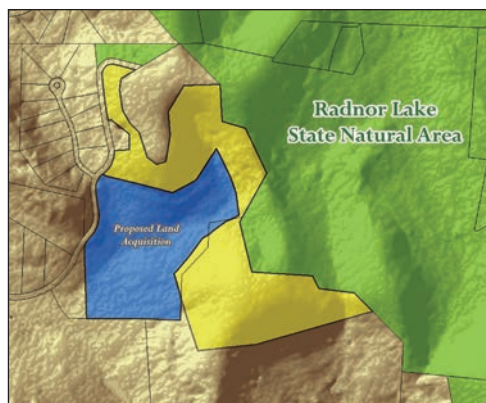
Contributions from hikers and lovers of Radnor have made a huge difference as we only have \$60,000 more to raise.

Even as we work to add the next 23.5 acres, Radnor Lake State Natural Area staff has already started working on the first 40 acres and are using it for education. Several key activities are already proving the value of this land including invasive plant removal; native plant identification; research by MTSU geography and history students to locate, document and assess cultural resources; and ranger-led hikes. This critical



**Commissioner Bob Martineau announcing that 23.5 acres bordering Radnor Lake State Natural Area is under contract and will soon be protected. Photograph by Stephanie McKinney**

property conserves unique wildlife habitat and offers many opportunities for environmental education. Everyone benefits, and every donation helps us get a step closer to protecting this land forever. You can make a donation online at [www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org) or write a check payable to Friends of Radnor Lake and send to P.O. Box 40324, Nashville, TN 37204. Please reference "Land" in the comment line.



**Along the southwestern boundary of RLSNA, the yellow area represents the first 40 acres secured in May. The blue area represents the recently announced 23.5 acres which includes grassland habitat saved for ground-nesting birds. Map created by James Russ**



**Hikers waded through a stand of late summer wildflower, White Snakeroot, while enjoying one of the 43 hikes offered to the recently acquired property along the southern boundary at Radnor Lake State Natural Area in October 2013. Photograph by Steve Ward**

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## A letter from the board: President's Message

*Dear Friends,*

At this time of year I'm thankful to see, hear and even smell the next layer of soil being created as last year's leaves cover the ground. Radnor's autumn colors are glorious, but what happens beneath the surface (behind-the-scenes) builds the foundation for the forest's long-term health.

As the park's nonprofit support organization, Friends of Radnor Lake continues to achieve milestones furthering our Mission to Preserve, Protect and Promote Tennessee's first designated State Natural Area. Our accomplishments arise from teamwork and accumulated impressive acts of love of Radnor by hundreds of volunteers, dozens of junior rangers, and thousands of hours of committed work by the Ranger staff. We savor the exciting results!

- Walking the new Historic Valve-House trail
- Opening an upgraded bridge with Peter Frampton by our side
- Watching a bald eagle from a new observation deck

These tangible results are merely the tip of the iceberg of the long lasting impact our teamwork has on the community and future generations.

### Behind-the-Scenes Teamwork

Radnor's successful teamwork is based on a unique public-private partnership. Assuring Radnor's long term foundation is healthy requires wide-ranging work, from mulch-hauling volunteers using tools purchased by Friends donations to pencil-pushing, conference-calling Board members like Charley Hankla, Paul Buchanan and Jeffrey King working out intricate details to ensure critical acres are saved under Radnor's protection.

Helping the State of Tennessee add acres is the core of the Friends' work, and just as the long term health of the forest relies on building good soil, a great deal of the work is behind-the-scenes. Board of Directors members Tatjana Paterno and Lauren Stone are launching a Junior Board Committee for young professionals. This new group will launch December 10; please con-

tact us if you would like to join this fun, new part of the Radnor team. The Membership Committee chaired by Karen Bird, along with local marketing professionals, will engage 400 new members of Friends of Radnor Lake during Radnor's 40th anniversary year to also build strength for the long term.

### Radnor Gateway to the Outdoors

I'm thankful about Radnor's role as a gateway park. One blessing of marrying my wife 24 years ago is joining in her family's four decade tradition of retreating at a Tennessee State Park cabin for Thanksgiving. It is the most relaxed and rejuvenating time of the year for me. Because of its location in Nashville, Radnor Lake serves as a gateway park to conveniently engage people in the out-of-doors which we hope leads visitors to visit Tennessee's other great state parks. Marian grew up in one of those families. While I romped around in the woods at our family farm, my wife's family was having outdoor adventure in the suburbs at Radnor like many of your families. Her time here and at other Tennessee State Parks were the foundation for our love of being outdoors together as a family.

It has been a gorgeous autumn. Thanks to my friend Park Manager Steve Ward and all those who joined him on one or more of the "40 Hikes in 40 Days" to visit our newest 40 acres of protected land.

I'm thankful to have an opportunity to help build foundations for Radnor's ongoing success. And, to those of you who are helping in our public-private teamwork to purchase the next critical parcel, know that when we announce the successful addition, it is merely the tip of the iceberg in terms of the long-term impact you are having.

Respectfully,

Greer Tidwell, Jr



**Greer Tidwell**  
President,  
Friends of Radnor Lake

## Thank you to Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory



**Lynn  
Maddox  
McDonald**

A very special thank you to our friends and neighbors at Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory for the gracious access to their land and facility and generosity of their time. We could not have succeeded in this valuable addition to Radnor Lake State Natural Area without them. Outreach Director Lynn Maddox McDonald and Director Rocky Alvey are longtime supporters of Radnor and their personal contributions have been invaluable.



**Rocky Alvey**

## Correction

In our last newsletter we incorrectly identified the Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Foundation as the Bob and Margaret Maddox Charitable Foundation. We apologize for this error and sincerely thank the Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Foundation for their support.





**FORL President Greer Tidwell with award winners above, from left: Norm Miede, Debby Miede, Robin Conover, Steve Winwood, Bob Martineau and Steve Ward.**

# Environmental Awards

Friends of Radnor Lake honors Conover, Miedes and Winwood for extraordinary contributions

Story by Patty St. Clair • Photographs by Stephanie McKinney

A little rain couldn't dampen spirits at the 2013 Friends of Radnor Lake (FORL) Environmental Awards and 40th anniversary celebration at Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory on October 6. Current FORL board chair Greer Tidwell, along with the past three chairs, Charley Hankla, Joe Fareed, and Ann Tidwell, jointly presented Robin Conover with the 2013 Environmental Award, given to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable, voluntary contributions in conserving Radnor Lake's precious resources. In addition to serving as Vice President of Communications and Editor at Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, Conover is a nature photographer, who has been actively involved with Friends of Radnor Lake for almost 20 years, including serving as a board member since 2002.

Her photography statewide introduces and engages people in important wildlife habitat conservation. Using her photojournalistic talents, she has co-written and edited the Friends of Radnor Lake newsletter for the past 12 years and has produced the annual wall calendar featuring her photographs of the wildlife and landscape of Radnor Lake since 2006, with 100 percent of the proceeds from the calendar sales going directly to the protection of Radnor Lake. For her award, Conover was given a beautiful painting of Radnor Lake by artist Kim Barrick.

FORL board member Lester Turner recognized Norm and Debby Miede with

the 2013 Blue Heron Leadership Award, a special distinction given to recognize the highest level of support toward preserving Radnor Lake. Norm Miede is senior counsel for Nissan North America and Debby Miede is a toxicology consultant, who have



**Past FORL President Ann Tidwell and Park Manager Steve Ward present Robin Conover, on left, with a painting by Kim Barrick, after receiving the Friends of Radnor Lake Environmental Award on October 6 at Dyer Observatory.**

both been active volunteers and supporters of the park, especially in the areas of education outreach and wildlife conservation. Through The Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, where Norm Miede serves as the executive director, Radnor Lake was awarded a generous grant in 2011 to improve the care of the captive reptiles used for educational programming by the ranger staff. After the successful upgrade to the reptile exhibits, The Barbara J. Mapp Foundation gave a \$150,000 grant towards construction of the

Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center, which will ultimately house five injured, non-releasable birds of prey and two bald eagles and include an amphitheatre for wildlife and nature programs at Radnor Lake. An additional \$50,000 matching grant will help fund the educational programming for the aviary, with a planned spring 2014 opening.

Steve Winwood, four-time Grammy award-winning artist, received the 2013 Partnership Award, given to an individual or group that has shown exceptional support for Radnor Lake. In May 2012, Winwood performed a benefit concert for Radnor Lake at the Woods Amphitheatre at Fontanel that brought hundreds of music fans and Radnor Lake supporters together and raised awareness and funds for the park. Winwood discovered Radnor Lake State Natural Area in 1988 when he first came to Nashville with his wife, Eugenia, who has been an active member of the Friends of Radnor Lake board for the past three years. Both are avid supporters of protecting natural, indigenous woodland such as those found at Radnor Lake and in Steve's home country of England, for future generations. At the ceremony he was presented a framed photograph of Radnor Lake by Robin Conover had taken

These award winners not only make extraordinary contributions to supporting Radnor Lake, but also serve as highlights of the hundreds of Radnor lovers who take care of Tennessee's first designated natural area and protected ecosystem.

# Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center

## Help Us Fly

*Opening Spring 2014*



## Double your Donation

The Barbara J. Mapp Foundation will match 100% of your donation up to \$50,000 through April 30, 2014

Help Us Fly — we need your help to finish this incredible education center and habitat for injured birds of prey.

## Two Easy Ways To Give

- Visit our online donations page at [radnorlake.org](http://radnorlake.org)

Write "Aviary" in the comment line.

- Mail a check to:

Friends of Radnor Lake

P.O. Box 40324, Nashville, TN 37204

Write "Aviary" in the comment line.



FRIENDS OF

**RADNOR LAKE**

PROTECT | PRESERVE | PROMOTE

[www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org)



# The Aviary: A Special Legacy

by Norm Miede, Executive Director, The Barbara J. Mapp Foundation

Barbara Mapp loved animals and avidly supported animal causes throughout her life. The Barbara J. Mapp Foundation is her wonderful legacy in pursuit of this noble mission, and it is hard to imagine a more worthy example of that legacy than the future Aviary Education Center at Radnor Lake which bears her name.

It started three years ago when a mutual friend, Barrett Sutton, initially brought then FORL President Charley Hankla and me together to discuss how the Mapp Foundation and the Friends of Radnor Lake might partner. Park Manager Steve Ward joined the discussion and shared his vision of an aviary education center at the park. It has been quite a journey since then, but we're now near the goal line, and the excitement of the seemingly endless visitors to Radnor Lake is palpable.

Like so many others, my wife Debby and I instantly fell in love with Radnor Lake when we moved here six years ago. It is one of the real gems of Tennessee, and the aviary center just adds a giant exclamation point. And what makes this project so special? First, there is the sheer magnitude of this future home for non-releasable raptors. You will find it nestled in the surrounding woods to the rear of the historic education building, with its meandering 550-foot boardwalk and amphitheater, five "raptor condos" (as fellow Aviary Committee member Lester Turner affectionately calls them), and the future bald eagle pen, the crown jewel – all supported by NES-donated poles. The pens are state-of-the-art facilities, and the design, construction and engineering are all top notch. Pictures certainly give testimony to that, but to get a true sense of how unique the project is, you have to actually see it. The WOW factor is off the charts.

Beyond the facility itself is the incredible connection-with-wildlife opportunity the aviary center presents. From its inception, this project has not only been about the extremely important education programming potential (which is tremendous), but also about public access to the future aviary residents, including special needs groups such as the disabled (project is all ADA compliant), the elderly and inner city communities. The keynote of the Mapp Foundation's mission is improving the bond between people and animals, and this fabulous center will no doubt serve that goal — something Barbara would have been very proud of.

Then there is that essential ingredient to success — teamwork. No shortage of that here. First and foremost has been the partnership between FORL, the Mapp Foundation and the State of Tennessee, evidenced not only by the Aviary Committee's hard work these past couple of years, but also by the efforts of a devoted FORL board and staff, by the support of TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau, Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill and State Parks Director of Operations Mike Robertson, by TWRA's wildlife specialist Walter Cook, and by the hard-working rangers and park staff who assist Steve in the day-to-day management of this incredibly busy state natural area. And there are so many more team players, such as project architect Marion Fowlkes, a key member of the committee from early on, the Baron Construction team, John Carpenter, who has volunteered his time and considerable engineering expertise, and all the other contractors and suppliers for the project, many of whom have also generously donated time and



**FORL Board Member Lester Turner works on installing wire panels (donated by Nashville Wire Co.) along the 550' board walk at the aviary center. Photograph by Steve Ward**

materials (NES, Nashville Wire, Stansell Electric, to name a few). Just as important are the never-ending streams of volunteers that have cumulatively invested so much time and sweat at the facility, and, of course, all those individuals and other donors who have already given financially to the cause. It has been a community effort indeed!

Yet, more remains to be done. Not only completion of the aviary, but the Education Building itself is getting a significant facelift. Then there is the need for sustainability. To that end, it is critical to ensure that in the years ahead, the aviary residents are properly fed and cared for, the center is managed and maintained at the highest standards, and the wildlife and other environmental education programming thrives. Only further funding, staffing and volunteer time can make that happen. So, this is not only a huge THANK YOU to all who have brought the project to this point, but also an appeal to all the partners, stakeholders and entire community: Let's please continue to do whatever we can to both Help It Fly and then Keep It Flying!

Look forward to seeing you all out there this spring.



**Photo on far left: Aviary Committee members (left to right) Norm Miede, Charley Hankla, Lester Turner and Debby Miede lay out the amphitheater at The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center on National Public Lands Day. Photograph by Ranger Sam King. Photo of Jimmy Stansell (on left) with the team from Stansell Electric who set all of the utility poles at The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center.**





**Steve Ward**  
*Park Manager*

**Dustin Crowell**  
*Park Ranger*

**Jesse Germeraad**  
*Park Ranger*

**Sam King**  
*Park Ranger*

**Leslie Anne Rawlings**  
*Park Ranger*

**Chris Corsi**  
*Ranger Aide*

**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 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Closed: noon-1 p.m.

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

Event schedule and updates  
at: [www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org).

## Volunteer Days

Fourth Saturday  
of the month  
Meet at the Visitor Center.  
8 a.m. - noon



# National Public Lands Day at Radnor Lake

More than 120 volunteers participated in National Public Lands Day at Radnor Lake State Natural Area on September 28. Radnor Lake park staff volunteers spent the entire day working on trail projects on the South Cove Trail and at The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center.



**Park Manager Steve Ward leads a tour of the aviary for volunteers on National Public Lands Day.**



**Above left, FORL, Radnor and REI Staff celebrate Radnor Staff Member Lyndy Maness birthday on National Public Lands Day. Above right, FORL Operations Manager Gretchen Pritchett with park visitor on National Public Lands Day.**



Volunteers also had the opportunity to enjoy hikes led by Ranger Sam King and Ranger Leslie Anne Rawlings. The day concluded with a hike led by Ranger Rawlings to the historic valve house, the site of last year's National Public Lands Day project. REI gave out water bottles and T-shirts to all volunteers.

REI, Granny White Market and Friends of Radnor Lake provided lunch to all the volunteers and staff who worked so hard on this day.



**Volunteers hauling sections of utility poles (donated by NES) at The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center.**





# 40 hikes in 40 days

by Steve Ward

In an effort to educate park visitors and neighbors about the value of the land we are protecting at Radnor Lake, the park ranger staff at Radnor Lake has conducted more than 60 off-trail hikes for more than 500 visitors since our New Year's Eve hike to ring in 2013.

During October and November, I was fortunate enough to lead our 40 hikes in 40 days campaign to the newly acquired property along our southern boundary. While leading hikes is what we do and a part of our overall environmental education at Radnor Lake, it wouldn't be possible without the support of our partners. A special thanks goes to the following for helping to make the hikes a reality:

**Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory** for allowing Dyer to be the platform for all of our hikes to the new property. Rocky Alvey and his staff have rolled out the red carpet for us during our hikes to the newly acquired property.

**The Radnor Lake Staff** for all of their efforts. The entire staff took on extra responsibilities at the natural area, visitor center and trails to allow me to focus on the hikes.



**Gretchen Pritchett and Lyndy Maness** for their time and efforts to make sure the hikes were a success and for all the logistical support.

**Friends of Radnor Lake Board Members** who assisted with the hikes.

**Roger McCoy**, Director of Tennessee State Natural Areas, for co-leading six hikes.

**Bob Brandt** with The Land Trust for Tennessee for co-leading five hikes.

**Shannon York** for all of her work keeping the website and gallery photographs up-to-date.

**Land Trust for Tennessee** for helping us with the acquisition project and promoting the hikes.

In addition to the 40 hikes in 40 days from Dyer Observatory, the park ranger staff also led a series of hikes to Harris Ridge to highlight our last land acquisition partnership between the Friends of Radnor Lake and the State of Tennessee.

## New Year's Eve Hikes:

Several of you have participated in our New Year's Eve Hike to ring in the new year hiking at Radnor Lake. On January 1, 2013, the Radnor Staff, Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory Staff and Friends of Radnor Lake hosted the hike in conjunction with the Tennessee State Parks First Hike Campaign. More than 25 visitors attended and enjoyed a hike to a recently acquired ridgetop and a tour of Dyer Observatory.

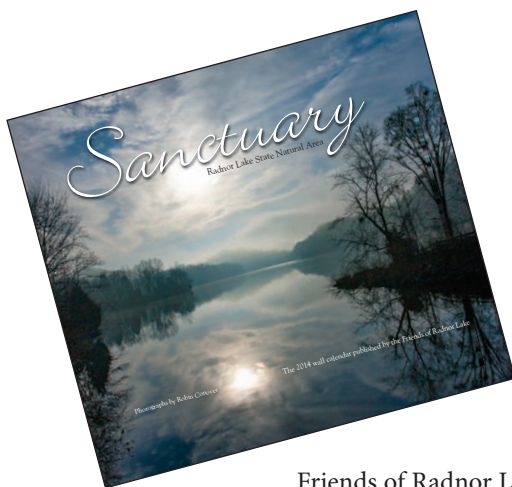
This year, will mark our 11th New Year's Eve Hike and we will continue our tradition with our partners at Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory and Friends of Radnor Lake. We hope you can attend and help us kick-off 2014. More details will be available after December 1 at [www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org).



**Roger McCoy, the Director of the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, on left, and Steve Ward, Radnor Lake Park Manager.**

**What's ahead for 2014?** Ranger staff will continue leading hikes focusing on the Harris Ridge and Hideway acquisitions. These hikes will run March 15 through April 15. More details will be available in our March Program Schedule and at our website: [www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org).

Hope you can join us!



On Sale Now!  
Makes a perfect gift.

## 2014 Radnor Lake Calendars



Friends of Radnor Lake presents "Sanctuary." A 2014 wall calendar with images by nature photographer Robin Conover.

All proceeds go directly to the Friends of Radnor Lake to continue the mission of protecting, preserving and promoting the natural integrity of Radnor Lake.

**Visit our retail locations or order online at [www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org)**

*Bulk pricing is available for purchase of five or more calendars.*

*For more information please call 615-251-1471.*

**Granny White Market**

5301 Granny White Pike  
Brentwood, TN 37027

**REI**

261 Franklin Rd  
Brentwood, TN 37027

**The Beveled Edge**

73 White Bridge Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37205

**Parnassus Books**

3900 Hillsboro Pike  
Nashville, TN 37215

**A Thousand Faces**

1720 21st Ave S.  
Nashville, TN 37212

**BookManBookWoman**

1713 21st Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37212



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 non-profit support group, FORL has purchased critical properties and supported protection efforts in many other ways.

**Friends of Radnor Lake**

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(615) 251-1471

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