



Protecting, preserving and promoting the natural integrity of Radnor Lake through land acquisition, environmental education and park support

The Hideaway

At Radnor Lake — it's all about the land

By Steve Ward and Robin Conover

While there are many great things that come to mind when talking about Radnor Lake State Natural Area, it always comes back to the protection of the natural area's surrounding ecosystem that is at the heart of every visitor's experience. Each hike, photograph, wildlife observation or memorable walk with friends or family has been possible because we have protected the land since the inception of the natural area. The park, the trails and even our current environmental education project, The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center, would not be the same experience without the protection of the land.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation along with Friends of Radnor Lake just celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Radnor Lake. Protection of the natural area began in the late 1960's with a group of forward-thinking conservationists who wanted to save the lake from imminent development. The first 653 acres were saved in 1973 when Radnor Lake was designated as Tennessee's first state natural area. Today, it has grown to more than 1,300 acres and is the most visited natural area in the state. Preserving the land as Nature intends it to be with undeveloped hilltops surrounded by protected lake and land, creates a healthy ecosystem and outdoor experience unparalleled in Middle Tennessee.

The Hideaway — protected forever

Thanks to the leadership of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau, Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill, Friends of Radnor Lake Presidents Greer Tidwell and Nan Adams, recently we have added 63.5 acres known as the Hideaway Acquisition. It includes the last remaining hilltop in the viewshed and the surrounding critical field habitat that is now protect forever.



Photographs by Charlie Tallent

This addition is the result of three years of hard work, many successful partnerships and numerous individual donors. Partners included the Vanderbilt-Dyer Observatory, Frist Foundation, AWC Foundation, The Land Trust for Tennessee, Cal Turner Foundation, Adams Foundation and several others. The Hideaway Acquisition is truly a reflection of what makes Radnor Lake unique.

More than 900 visitors have attended some 70 ranger-led hikes to the Hideaway. Members of the Radnor Lake staff, Friends of Radnor Lake, The Land Trust for Tennessee, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas and Dyer Observatory staff have been fortunate to hike those miles with our partners, donors and friends. Each hike seemed to offer something different, each group photograph atop of the ridge top, each visitor experience and feedback became a rewarding validation of the countless hours of behind the scenes work.

Endangered Species

An added benefit has been the discovery of two endangered plants that had not been previously identified in the natural area. This has created new research opportunities with Penn State University and Middle Tennessee State University. Over the next two years, State Park Rangers and staff will

remove invasive-exotic plants, continue research from several perspectives and lead many more hikes to highlight this acquisition.

The Future

While we have many exciting environmental programs, hiking trails, photography and wildlife viewing opportunities, none of these experiences would be possible without the protection of the surrounding hilltops and adjacent wildlife habitat. Our job is not done nor is the need to protect Radnor Lake.

The next five years will be the most critical in Radnor Lake's history. As we celebrate the successes of the past three years, we know there is more work to do. Two more pieces of land with watershed, viewshed and adjoining acreage are within our reach. This new land opportunity, bordering the Natural Area, has the potential to expand the trail system and add another access point. Thank you for your support to make this goal become a reality, because at Radnor Lake, it's all about the land.



The Hideaway.

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A Letter from the Board: President's Message



Nan Adams
President,
Friends of Radnor Lake

Dear Friends,

Radnor Lake is my favorite place in the world. It is where I feel most connected, inspired and joyful. I am honored to be the new president of the Friends of Radnor Lake (FORL) and to have the opportunity to give back to the place I love.

Unless you are really tuned into all that happens at Radnor Lake State Natural Area, you might not be aware of exactly what the friends group does to help support the park. We work to carry out our mission — to preserve, protect and promote Radnor Lake State Natural Area — on a daily basis.

FORL helps fund projects such as land acquisition, plant and historical research, and invasive exotic plant removal. Since 1973, when the original friends and supporters fought to save Radnor Lake, we have worked to help the state acquire and secure more than 573 additional acres surrounding the park. All of our efforts help to return the land to its natural state and protect this land forever.

For the last two years, FORL and The Barbara J. Mapp Foundation have partnered to fund and build another incredible addition to the Natural Area. The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center is close to being completed. The aviary will house non-releasable, injured birds of prey and is unlike any other facility of its kind in Tennessee. It will provide Radnor Lake visitors with a new destination to hike to and many up close educational opportunities.

Important park support that FORL provides includes the Junior Ranger program, Volunteer Days (with more than 2,000 volunteer last year), special off-trail land and aviary hikes and water

quality studies. FORL produces this newsletter, manages the website, provides park signage and installed a security camera system to increase safety for all of our visitors.

So many of you who love the park like I do have asked how you can help and also give back to this amazing sanctuary that's right here in Nashville's backyard. The answer is to become a friend and get involved. We absolutely need your help to continue these programs, complete the aviary and purchase more land to potentially build new trails. Friends of Radnor Lake is reaching out to you to become a Friend and support us as we try to make this special park even better.

Joining me in this invaluable work to preserve, protect and promote Radnor Lake, are new FORL board officers for 2014: **Paul M. Buchanan** (vice president), **James Weinberg** (treasurer), and **Lester Turner, Jr.** (secretary). I am also happy to welcome new board members **Kimberly Bell**, **Kara Jacobs**, **Janet Miller** and **Charley Wray**. **Jenny Vazquez** will serve as Young Leaders Council intern.

Thank all of you for your support and generosity to Radnor Lake. As our Park Manager Steve Ward says, "This is what it looks like when we leave nature alone." Radnor Lake is a truly unique and beautiful treasure that is ours to preserve, protect and promote. I ask you to become involved and Be a Friend of Radnor Lake.

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

Nan Adams

How You Can Help

• BECOME A FRIEND

Donate annually to Friends of Radnor Lake.

• SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Purchase a Friends of Radnor Lake license plate. The money goes directly to us and when you renew, you keep giving.

• BE A VOLUNTEER

Help our rangers (the best in the land!) mulch the trails, clear storm damage, repair bridges, and move invasive plants. Check www.radnorlake.org for Volunteer Day dates.

• INVOLVE YOUR COMPANY OR FOUNDATION

Does your company or foundation want to support a place that fosters health and fitness, education, community, wildlife protection and land preservation? We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about the possibilities.

• BE A RADNOR ROCK STAR

Our park serves as a refuge and place of peace to many talented musicians and entertainers. Peter Frampton, Steve Winwood and Kent Blazy are just a few of our heroes who have donated proceeds from their concerts to FORL. Who's next?



Photograph by Robin Conover

Excellence In Resource Management

By Patty St. Clair

In 2013, Radnor Lake State Natural Area proved once again why it's a leader in resource management after receiving the Excellence in Resource Management award at the Tennessee State Parks meeting in January of this year. Parks nominated for the Excellence in Resource Management award have demonstrated excellence in effective and abundant resource management activities within their park, including invasive species management, historic preservation, rare species inventory, habitat enhancement or protection, pest management and oral history collection.

Those activities at Radnor Lake which garnered this prestigious award included a \$15,000 Forestry Stewardship grant, combined with Iris Fund money and a \$10,000 REI volunteer grant, which allowed more than 3,500 volunteers to clear over 25 acres of invasive-exotic plants from the park. A 40 Hikes in 40 Days campaign to raise funds for land acquisition to protect watershed and view shed at the park, was spearheaded by Park Manager Steve Ward in the past year.

An additional 64 acres were added to the natural area in 2013, thanks to the efforts of the park staff, Friends of Radnor Lake, TDEC, Vanderbilt-Dyer Observatory, and the Land Trust for Tennessee. An ongoing historical and geographical partnership with Middle Tennessee State University and vegetation research partnership with Penn State University resulted in land identified for future acquisition. The construction of the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center began last year, with 350 volunteers clearing the site so construction of the aviary could begin. The largest education project developed at Radnor Lake since 1973 was funded from grants and in-kind donations of nearly \$700,000. Once completed, the aviary will consist of a 550' raised boardwalk with five individual aviaries for injured, nonreleasable birds of prey and three bald eagles.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of park staff and volunteers over this past year, Radnor Lake continues to be an urban sanctuary for wildlife and waterfowl and a place of peace and tranquility for its visitors.

Top Honors

Congratulations to Park Ranger Dustin Howell, who graduated from the Tennessee State Law Enforcement Academy in March. He received top academic honors in the class of 85 city and county police officers, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency officers and park rangers.

Photograph by K. Crowell



RADNOR LAKE
State Natural Area

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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

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**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

**Volunteer
Days**

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

The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center

By Charley Hankla

As we all who love Radnor Lake know, there are many special moments that we remember as we walk, run, roll or bike through the Natural Area. I can recall my very first hike on the Lake Trail at Radnor Lake — I saw a red fox! I haven't seen one since that early Saturday morning in 1986 and just don't get to spend much time on the trails, as I am one of those 'dog people' relegated to walking on the road. Another memorable event was the day I was swooped by an eagle! I recall it vividly — it literally flew right over my head and I was spellbound watching this magnificent bird fly across the lake and land in a tree. Fortunately there were other people in the vicinity who saw it and actually verified it for a newspaper report.

Well, lots of miles have been walked in those intervening years and several eagles have come and gone at Radnor Lake. It seems that no matter how much additional land you generous donors help us add to the Natural Area, we have yet to land a resident population of eagles. That is about to change!

This fall the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center at Radnor Lake will welcome all of our friends and visitors to see eagles up close and personal, as well as our resident Barred Owl, Red Shouldered Hawk and Red Tailed Hawk and a few other raptors, yet to be identified. Friends of Radnor Lake (FORL) and the Mapp Foundation have joined together to build this Aviary for educational programs that will be unlike any other facility in Middle Tennessee. The vision for this project came from Head Ranger Steve Ward and the impetus came about three years ago in the form of a grant from the Mapp Foundation, which has been matched by FORL and other generous donors who have heard about the project. In addition, several individuals, companies and institutions have blessed us with generous donations of materials and labor that we could not have afforded to buy on the open market. Were it not for Nashville Electric Service, Nashville Wire Products, Stansell Electric Company, John Carpenter, Centric Architecture, and other vendors who have given us favorable pricing, and the many volunteers who have spent their time on site, we would not be as far along as we are.

We are in the home stretch of construction, but as with any project, especially one that is as unique as this one, the Aviary still is in need of many items, specifically electricity, lighting and water which are still not yet



Photograph by Charlie Tallent

funded, that are needed to make the day-to-day operations of the facility more efficient.

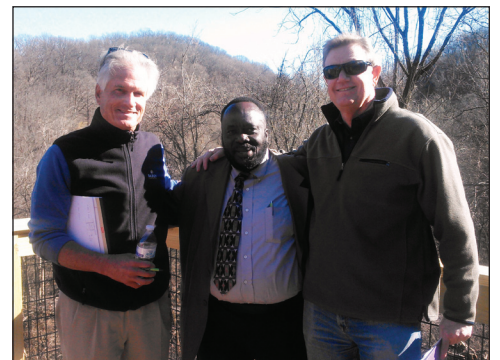
It will take time, talent and money to sustain this project going into the future. While we can conceive it, design it, fund it (or at least most of it — hint hint), and build it, we now need to run it and run it correctly. We will need your help over the years to sustain this wonderful addition to the Natural Area. Steve Ward has recruited a new Ranger from Reelfoot Lake — Dustin Crowell — who has over 500 hours of training with eagles. He will be working with Jesse Germeraad, Sam King and Leslie Ann Rawlings who all have experience teaching the public about the birds at Radnor Lake over the last 13 years. The new Aviary will broaden the educational component of what the Park offers our visitors. Let's all support the Ranger's efforts and help the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center be all it can be.

Will there really be an eagle at the Aviary? Yes! — and there may be more than one. We are in the process of formalizing a partnership arrangement with the American Eagle Foundation which, has been in operation for 25 years ago and is headquartered at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, TN. Their management and two of their board members visited the site and consulted with us on finishing details for the 60' x 80' x 30' tall eagle aviary. They will provide educational materials for our interpretive signage, Visitors Center display and most important of all, likely will provide us with at least

two eagles, which are unable to be released into the wild, for permanent residency at Radnor Lake.

With any construction project, you never can predict exactly when it will be finished and ready for occupancy (or visitors), and the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center is no exception. The best place to check on when the aviary will officially be open will be at www.radnorlake.org.

While you are there, please consider making a donation to complete work on the Aviary. As you will soon see, with help from our partner, the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, FORL has been a solid steward of the time, talent and funds invested in the new Aviary Education Center. The Board of FORL can't wait for you to see the completion of this exciting project.



Mike Baron, Issac Okoreeh-baah and Norm Miede meet to discuss ADA improvements at Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center.
Photograph by Steve Ward



During one of the "40 Hikes in 40 Days" in October 2013, Roger McCoy discovered a state-listed plant species on the recently acquired Hiwayway Tract.



Roger McCoy pointing out Copperleaf (*Acalypha deamii*) discovered at Radnor Lake in October 2013. Photographs by Steve Ward

Acalypha Deamii at Radnor Lake

Story by Roger McCoy
Director, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas

Last fall, I assisted Park Manager Steve Ward on a few of the "40 Hikes in 40 Days" at Radnor Lake State Natural Area. During one outing, we led a group to an area of mature forest near the top of the ridge, referred to as "the Hideaway" by Radnor staff. There we all took a breather, sipped some water, and discussed the tree composition as well as our appreciation of this state natural area. While folks were chatting, I looked down and noticed a cluster of short, somewhat non-distinctive plants. They possessed no showy flowers or other obvious structures that would attract much attention. I investigated the plants more carefully and peered through my hand lens to look at their fruiting structures. By this point, the participants noticed what may have appeared as odd behavior, and I explained that we had just found a state-listed plant species, *Acalypha deamii*. Realizing this was not just a record for the state natural area but for Davidson County, I made a small collection that I deposited at the UT Knoxville Herbarium. Based on the number of individual plants we observed, such a collection would not diminish the overall population.

With a variety of common names such as Deam's copperleaf, two-seeded mercury, large-seeded copperleaf, and large-seeded mercury, *Acalypha deamii* was named in honor of Charles Deam (1865-1953), Indiana State Forester, botanist, and conservationist. A member of the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae), *Acalypha deamii* has alternate, serrated leaves. Although the species can grow to 60cm, most plants I've observed have not exceeded 20cm. *Acalypha deamii*

closely resembles *Acalypha rhomboidea* (rhombic copper leaf), a native species often occurring as a lawn weed, but the two are distinguished by *Acalypha deamii*'s two-seeded – as opposed to three-seeded - fruits.

Considered globally secure but often locally rare, *Acalypha deamii* ranges from eastern Kansas, east to Virginia and south to northern Alabama (Kartesz 2013). TDEC's Division of Natural Areas lists the species as special-concern, a legal status slightly below threatened or endangered. The first documentation of the species in Tennessee occurred in the late 1940s, and botanists hadn't again vouched for it until 2000. I first learned of the species while botanizing at Edgar Evins State Park in Dekalb County. Later, when a co-worker and I conducted vegetation sampling for the National Park Service along the Natchez Trace Parkway, we vouchered the species from Williamson County. The new find at Radnor Lake brings the total number of Tennessee occurrences to six, only three of which are known from protected lands.

Acalypha deamii resembles more common, sometimes weedy, species. Such resemblance combined with its often diminutive size, lack of showy flowers, and need to inspect fruiting specimens with a hand lens for proper identification, has resulted in the species being under reported. As such, the species is likely more common than current distribution data suggest. Or as one botanist noted after she rediscovered the species in Ohio and then located other occurrences, "The species likely is not rare, but rarely noticed

and will be found throughout [the area], possibly elsewhere in the state, and in neighboring states" (Becus 2003). However, until we better understand the species' distribution in Tennessee and determine the number of protected populations, it will remain on the state's rare plant list.

Acalypha deamii may not readily capture our attention the way some of our Spring ephemerals do. I suspect that had our group not stopped during this outing, I would have walked right over this state-listed plant without noticing it. The next time you're visiting Radnor Lake, take time to stop and observe your surroundings. When you do, another piece of Radnor's biodiversity may be revealed.

Citations

Kartesz, J.T., *The Biota of North America Program (BONAP)*. 2013. *Taxonomic Data Center*. (<http://www.bonap.net/tdc>). Chapel Hill, N.C.

Becus, M.S. 2003. *Observations on Acalypha deamii (Euphorbiaceae) in Ohio*. *Castanea*, Vol. 68, No. 2, pp. 175-178.

Endangered and Invasive Species Research

By Rob Loeb, Penn State DuBois Campus



Friends of Radnor Lake Board Members attending a land acquisition and vegetation research hike with Dr. Rob Loeb (Penn State).
Photograph by Steve Ward

In the botanical world, the too common bad guys are the invasive-exotic plant species and too rare good guys are the endangered species. In Radnor Lake State Natural Area two examples of invasive-exotic plant species are the transplants from Asia – bush honeysuckle and tree-of-heaven. For close to a decade rangers, volunteers, and professionals have combatted these two invasive species but bush honeysuckle and tree-of-heaven are pernicious species that bounce back from ongoing valiant removal efforts.

Last year a very unusual event occurred following a project to remove very dense growths of bush honeysuckle and tree-of-heaven in one of the ridges surrounding Radnor Lake. An endangered species named Wild Dill (or Yampah as the Native Americans named the species) appeared in the openings created by the removal efforts. The Wild Dill was discovered during a series of hikes conducted last year into the new Harris tract (Hideaway Tract) addition to Radnor Lake State Natural Area by the ranger staff (see article on page 7 by Ranger Leslie Anne Rawlings who registered the site as a location for the endangered species) at Radnor Lake who consulted with Roger McCoy and staff at the Division of Natural Areas. McCoy is both a Tennessee endangered plants expert and is the Director of the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas.

Steve Ward, Radnor Lake State Natural Area Park Manager mentioned the discovery of Wild Dill to Robert Loeb of Penn State and suggested that the plant could be a new area of investigation for the Penn State Research Collaborative. With support from the Friends of Radnor Lake, the new project was born in the closing weeks of March 2014. First, Ward and Loeb searched for more locations for Wild Dill and the searches resulted in a total of seven locales within Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Dr. Loeb selected two sites to set up 60 sampling plots in each site in order to examine the ecology of Wild Dill, which has been little studied in the field. The scientific need for two sites is to examine in more detail the response of Wild Dill to bush honeysuckle and tree-of-heaven removal. As mentioned before, one site has had invasive species removal work completed but the species have bounced back so a second round of removal is needed. The second site has not had treatment done.

The bush honeysuckle aspect of the research is a follow-on study of previous research Dr. Loeb has done with rangers Jesse Germeraad and Sam King concerning the multi-year efforts of the Friends of Radnor Lake, ranger staff, and many volunteers to remove bush honeysuckle from the Natural Area.

The research collaborative among the Friends of Radnor Lake, Radnor Lake State Natural Area and Penn State is focused on long-term forest change, which has resulted in five scientific research journal publications. The bush honeysuckle study was published in the journal *Invasive Plant Science and Management* in 2010. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* published the white-tailed deer research in 2011. The landslides project was published in *Arbiculture and Urban Forestry* in 2011. Again, *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* was the publication outlet for the North American beaver research in 2014. The forthcoming article in 2015 on the ridge forests will be published in the *Natural Areas Journal*.

For the current Wild Dill research, a new Radnor Lake State Natural staff member funded by a Forestry Stewardship Grant received in 2013, Will Peters is working with Dr. Loeb to set up the plots, count the plant populations present in the plots, and perform the bush honeysuckle and tree-of-heaven removals. Loeb plans to return in May to observe the end of this year's life cycle of this spring blooming plant and to count the plant populations in the plots after invasive species removals have been performed. The expectation is the research will encompass approximately two years before sufficient data is available to publish the results in a scientific journal, which carries on the tradition of the Penn State Collaborative. However, the removals and measurements of the plant populations will continue for many years to come with hopes of the Wild Dill population spreading to other parts of Radnor Lake State Natural Area for additional study areas to be available for further comparisons. Finally, the search continues for more endangered species in Radnor Lake State Natural Area for expansion of the Friends of Radnor Lake, Radnor Lake State Natural Area and Penn State Research Collaborative.



Friends of Radnor Lake Board Members attending a land acquisition and historical hike with Dr. Doug Heffington (MTSU).
Photograph by Steve Ward

South Central Historical Archeology Conference and Radnor

By Dr. Doug Heffington, Middle Tennessee State University

Radnor Lake State Natural Area (RLSNA), Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), and the South Central Historical Archeology Conference (SCHAC) have a long history together. Typically, the conference is attended by historical archeologists and geographers and historians from the mid-South. Our work over the past decade at Radnor, through a joint partnership with RLSNA and MTSU, along with support from external funding/sources and the FORL, has been presented periodically at SCHAC since 2007. A short time line of our involvement is as follows:

2007: Poster presented at the 9th SCHAC at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians in Natchez, MS. Poster title, "Above Ground Geohistorical Archeology: A Radnor Example," (Doug Heffington).

2008: Paper presented at the 10th SCHAC at Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Petit Jean, AR. Paper title, "The Radnor Lake Project: Coalescence of Geography, History and Archeology," (Doug Heffington/Steve Ward).

2009: Poster presented at the 11th SCHAC at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette, Lafayette, LA. Poster title, "Radnor's Legacy in Stone," (Megan McClure/Doug Heffington/Steve Ward).

2010: RLSNA served as conference host for the 12th SCHAC. There was an opening reception, a full day of papers and posters and a field trip on the closing day. The meeting was well attended and well received by the professional community. The staff and MTSU geography presented a Radnor Lake Round Table session to start the conference.

2012:

Poster presented at the 14th SCHAC at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. Poster title, "40DV635 and the Making of a Historic Interpretive Trail," (Doug Heffington/Steve Ward).

2013: Poster presented at the 15th SCHAC at the LSU Rural Life Museum, Baton Rouge, LA. Poster title, "Public History and Historical Archeology at Radnor Lake State Natural Area (Nashville, TN)," (Sam King/Steve Ward/Doug Heffington).

In **2014** Radnor and MTSU plans to present the final poster in our series depicting the completion of the Historic Valve House Trail and 40DV635.



Progress of Historic Interpretation Projects

Since the opening of The Historic Valve House Trail in September of 2012, many visitors to Radnor Lake State Natural Area have had a chance to get an in depth look at Radnor's roots. With a visitation of around one million people annually, information about the historical and industrial roots of this now protected area are now available to the masses. Over the past year, stone markers with interpretive information about the lake, dam, valve house, and valve itself have been installed. An informational panel about Mrs. Carrie McElyea was installed at the trailhead. This ongoing project would not be possible without the cooperation between Middle Tennessee State University, park staff, and countless volunteers.

How to Find an Endangered Species

By Leslie Anne Rawlings, Park Ranger

Radnor Lake is many things to many people, but to me, it will always be the place where we identified and reported a state endangered plant. It all started with a phone call from the Park Manager last Spring. "I've seen a plant I never seen before on my hike today and its leaves look like a domestic poppy" said the voice. I tossed out a few suggestions over the next couple of hours but it was decided that I needed to go on the next hike in the series to see it for myself. But wait, I'm getting ahead of myself so let me catch you up to speed.

Last Spring, FORL initiated a *40 hikes in 40 days* campaign to raise money for a piece of property called *The Hideaway*, near Dyer Observatory. In preparation for these hikes to the possible acquisition, Park Rangers, along with the help of volunteers, began to clear invasive bush honeysuckle from adjacent state property in the Fall of 2012. Some of the bushes were over 8 feet high with bases as big as basketballs. The bushes were very old and the area had not been cleared in years. Bush honeysuckle leaves come out earlier than the canopy trees and, as a result, steals sunshine from native Spring wildflowers. When you clear out the honeysuckle, long dormant wildflowers may reappear. Here I go, getting ahead of myself again.

On the hike there was no mistaking which plant was noticed. As we walked through the area cleared of honeysuckle, it was everywhere! I knew right away what plant

family it belonged to (Carrot/Apiaceae) but, I, too, had never seen it in nature I took many photographs and collected a leaf and flower stalk in order to compare while using a botanical key. All my keys and field guides pointed me to eastern yampah (*Perideridia americana*), a type of wild dill. I'm a visual person and the flora keys didn't have pictures. Also, my field guides didn't have drawings or photographs so all I had to use were words that described the plant. I decided to use *Google* to try to find the scientific name. This took me to a website with photographs confirming my identification. There in black and white, it said the plant was State Endangered in Tennessee and some other eastern states. I could not believe it and started to doubt my identification. So I emailed the photographs to Roger McCoy, *Director of the Division of Natural Areas* to get his opinion.

The photos were also sent to Todd Crabtree, *Division of Natural Areas Botanist*. Todd replied that we did, indeed, have wild dill at Radnor Lake, but that it hadn't been seen in the area since 1979. Either we had rediscovered an old population or found a new one. Prior to this observation, botanists had located only 1 or 2 plants in 3 nearby areas. They estimated the populations were on the losing end because invasive plants were gobbling up the habitat. Wild dill is only found in 4 Middle Tennessee counties in dry limestone woodlands often with Eastern red cedar. I don't know why we were so shocked.

This IS one of the reasons why Radnor Lake and other natural areas in the state are set aside and protected. Our find ended up being an update of an old record but with our detailed directions and GPS points, the *Division of Natural Areas* could more accurately map the record in their rare species database.

At Radnor Lake, we like the saying "there is no 'i' in 'team'". When my co-workers cleared the path to *The Hideaway*, they exposed a secret that had been hidden away and protected for more than thirty years. The manager noticed the plant on his hike and asked me to identify it. From there, I had the botanists confirm it. This teamwork effort proves "there is no 'I' in team". This is how we like to work here at the park. Everybody working together for the benefit of a new species.

Photographs by Leslie Anne Rawlings



DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS 2013

THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to Friends of Radnor Lake. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated and will help us to further our mission to protect, preserve and promote Radnor Lake.

This list reflects donations, gifts, grants and memorials made in 2013. Please let us know of any omission or listing error.

\$5,000+

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Adams Family Foundation
Kathy and Steve Anderson
AWC Family Foundation
Dorothy Cate and Thoma F.
Frist Foundation
The Frist Foundation
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Photograph by Steve Ward

Ranger led Hikes at Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

Over the course of the past 18 months, as part of our land acquisition efforts, we have focused on offering over 100 hikes for our park visitors to see our latest land acquisition projects. These have focused on both the Harris Ridge Acquisition of 2010 and the most recent Hideaway Acquisition of 2012-13. These hikes concluded on Earth Day (April 22nd) with the last hike being led by Ranger Jesse Germeraad to Harris Ridge.

We will be offering more of these ranger lead hikes in the Fall of 2014, more details will be available in our Fall Program Schedule and at our website: www.radnorlake.org.

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