



FRIENDS OF
RADNOR LAKE

PROTECT | PRESERVE | PROMOTE

Reflections

Summer 2015

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



Lazy Days of Summer? Not at Radnor Lake!

Radnor Lake Sunrise Canoe Float led by Ranger Will Peters

Photograph by Sam King



Board of Directors

Nan Adams
President

Paul Buchanan
Vice President

James Weinberg
Treasurer

Lester Turner, Jr.
Secretary

Andrew Amonette

Amy Atkinson

Kim Barrick

Kimberly Bell

Karen Bird

Robin Conover

Martha Cooper

Charley Hankla

Kara Jacobs

Douglass Johnson

Jeff King

Billy Leavell

Bev Leiser

Janet Miller

Tatjana Paterno

Marc Stengel

Ann Tidwell

Greer Tidwell

Charlie Wray

Supporting Staff

Gretchen Pritchett
Operations Manager

Lyndy Maness
Volunteer Coordinator

Jenny Vazquez
Young Leaders Council Intern

Board of Advisors

Martha Ann Caldwell

Buddy Caldwell

Vince Gill

Amy Grant

Speaker Beth Halteman Harwell

Sen. Douglas Henry

Margaret Henry Joyce

Chris Karbowski

Will Martin

Jeanie Nelson

John Noel

Mack Prichard

Dan Smith

Phil Vassar

A Letter from the Board: President's Message

Radnor Lake State Natural Area is a special place – we all feel that. But what makes it **exceptional** is you – the Friends of Radnor Lake.

You are a community of supporters, who have for over 40 years, taken care of Radnor Lake like it was your own backyard. Our community, of course, includes our dedicated ranger staff and the Tennessee State Parks department - both an integral part of the team. But the commitment of so many of you who love Radnor Lake is what makes it so treasured.

You have shown that dedication and commitment in many ways. Your generous financial support assures all-important continued land acquisition and park support. We are so fortunate to have land owners who are willing to help preserve this place by offering their land back to Radnor.

There are more than 2,000 of you who supported us annually by purchasing Radnor license plates. The park has more than 2,500 volunteers a year who help mulch trails, build bridges and maintain the high quality of our park. We cannot do it without you and we sincerely thank everyone.

This Fall we have a special opportunity for you to give to Radnor Lake and take a piece of art home with you: The “Love the Lake, Love the Land, Love the Locals” Art Show and Sale in November. We hope to see you there!

Together, through our mutual love and gratefulness for Radnor Lake, we have created a thriving natural area of 1,400 acres in the middle of an urban community. It is an amazing place, enjoyed by over one million visitors a year. Your continued support is a key element in maintaining and improving our park. We so appreciate you and ask you to continue giving back to the place we love.

Nan Adams

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

Love the Lake, Love the Land, Love the Locals

**Art Show and Sale to benefit Radnor Lake
 with Friends of Radnor Lake
 and The Chestnut Group**

November 6-8, 2015

Walter Criley Visitor Center
 at Radnor Lake

This exhibit and sale of paintings features the landscape and wildlife of Radnor Lake. The plein air artists have been painting year-round to capture the beauty of Radnor Lake in all four beautiful seasons. Mark your calendar for this fun event.



Nan Adams
President
 Friends of Radnor Lake



Photograph by Robin Conover

Plein air painter Michael Poindexter
 at Radnor Lake

Radnor Lake license plates: The gift that keeps on giving.

Currently there are approximately 2,000 active Radnor Lake plates. **Help us raise that number to 2,500 in 2015.**

Have you seen Radnor Lake license plates in our parking lots and around town? The specialty plates raise awareness about our state natural area and help fund mission-driven activities including purchases of additional property, continued trail maintenance, volunteer support, and educational programs. Tennessee specialty license plates allow you to show people what you care about, and provide revenue for these activities.

Thanks to stalwart proponents and countless hours from Friends of Radnor Lake Board members like Ann Tidwell, former park staff and help from Senator Douglas Henry, the Radnor Lake License plate made it through the legislature and became available in 1998. Funds started to be directed to Radnor Lake in 2003. Since then this program has generated over \$500,000 for land acquisition and park support, and the ongoing support from our license plate bearing friends provides tens of thousands of dollars annually.



FORL board member Ann Tidwell and her Radnor plate – one of the first 500 produced.

Photograph by Robin Conover

Did you know? The Radnor Lake plate was designed by artist Dan Webber from a photograph by John Netherton, with the addition of the sun for color and interest, to represent our beloved Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

GO THE EXTRA MILE FOR RADNOR LAKE!

Show your support with a specialty license plate.



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

Summer Sightings at Radnor Lake



Radnor Lake Junior Ranger Interns 2015 - Funded through Friends of Radnor Lake, the Jr. Rangers gain invaluable environmental awareness and put in many hours on trail maintenance



Ranger-led canoe floats are a favorite summer activity at Radnor Lake from Memorial Day to Labor Day. You can find more information and registration information at radnorlake.org under program schedule.



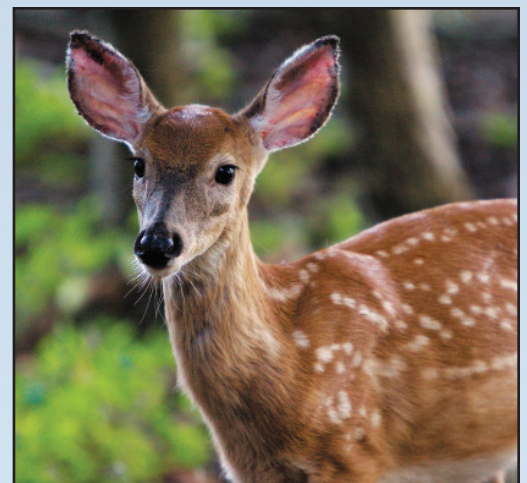
Nodding Rattlesnake Root, recently discovered endangered plant, is fenced to protect it from whitetail deer and visitors.



Photograph by Steve Ward

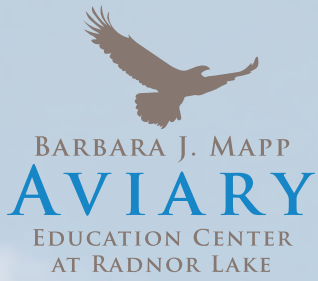


Photograph by Steve Ward



Photograph by Robin Conover

Summer is a great time to enjoy sightings of bullfrogs, late summer flowers such as Frostweed, and fawns.



The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center opened to the public on May 2.

Summer hours: Wednesdays 7 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Saturdays 1 p.m. – Sunset
Special programs are listed at radnorlake.org



Park Ranger Same King conducting a birds of prey program with a red-tailed hawk at the amphitheater at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center.

Photograph by Tennessean photographer Shelley Mays



The Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center is now open with frequent ranger-led birds of prey programs and tours for park visitors during posted hours.



Steve Ward
Park Manager

Dustin Crowell
Park Ranger

Sam King
Park Ranger

Will Peter
Park Ranger

Charles Okoreeh-Baah
Ranger Aide

Isaac Ball
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:
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

New and Renewed

Come check out the newly renovated Walter Criley Visitor Center at Radnor Lake!



Photograph by Charlie Tallent

On June 16th, Radnor Lake State Natural Area reopened the Walter Criley Visitor Center.

Celebrated by a ribbon cutting ceremony with TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau, the Walter Criley Visitor Center is now open to be enjoyed by more than one million annual visitor to Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

The \$500,000 renovation focused on improving interpretive exhibits, ADA accessibility and energy efficiency. The concept for this project was completed by Studio Eight Design and was approved and funded in partnership with the State of Tennessee, Friends of Radnor Lake and an in-kind donation from Joan Lagrasse, owner and CEO of Imagen and Studio Eight Design.

Construction crews from Concord Building Group and Imagen worked diligently making improvements to the

building to enhance visitor usage and experience. New display cases were installed and numerous energy efficient changes were made during this process thanks to TDEC's Office of Sustainability grant funds for Radnor Lake.

Special thanks to Studio Eight Design, Concord Building Group, Imagen, Friends of Radnor Lake, State of Tennessee, Radnor Lake staff and all of our volunteers who contributed their time and photographs for our displays.



Photograph courtesy of Jane Word
TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau cuts the ribbon for re-opening of the Visitor Center.

Radnor gets an energy makeover, saves money

Article written by Heather Foust of the Office of Sustainable Practices, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.



Photograph by Robin Conover

Nan Adams, FORL president and Lori Munkeboe, Director of the Office of Sustainable Practices, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

It's 90 degrees outside the Radnor Lake State Park and Natural Area visitor's center on a sunny Friday afternoon. The parking lot is full and visitors are going in and out, but all is cool inside.

With new energy-efficient upgrades at the visitor's center and ranger residences, park staff don't have to sweat their utility costs either. Since last summer, the park has been working with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Office of Sustainable Practices on numerous energy conservation projects. Enhancements to the Visitor Center and several ranger residences include: installing spray foam insulation; replacing old, inefficient water heaters; converting lights to LEDs; installing Energy Star Windows and installing new energy-efficient insulated doors.

The partnership between the Office of Sustainable Practices, Friends of Radnor Lake, and Tennessee State Parks has "enabled us to efficiently manage our operation dollars to better serve and protect Radnor Lake State Natural Area for years to come," said Park Manager, Steve Ward. He hopes that maximizing taxpayer dollars to create a more energy efficient park will serve as a role model to other parks. Ward said the spray foam in buildings has "made all the difference." The insulation acts as a sealant for any gaps or holes in buildings keeping the cold air in and hot air out in the summer and doing the opposite in the winter. The insulation in the Visitor Center could help save the park up to 20 percent on their annual utility bills.

The Office of Sustainable Practices welcomed the opportunity to use their expertise to make the park even better. Chad Kimes, an Environmental Specialist in the Office of Sustainable Practices said, "Not only were we able to replace inefficient, older equipment, but ultimately we were able to protect our natural resources by lowering greenhouse gas emissions."



Photograph by Robin Conover

The park's Hideaway House ranger residence also received spray foam insulation to fill in various gaps around windows and doors and helped to stabilize the roof and attic. The five-room farmhouse, built in 1904, "is now more soundproof. The house is simply tighter," said Steve Ward. Special thanks to Egotia, LLC for the spray foam insulation.

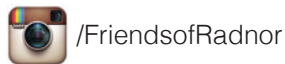
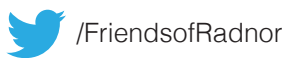
Frist Foundation awards Technology Grant to Radnor Lake

Our rangers were thrilled to learn that each will receive a new laptop computer through a Frist Foundation Technology grant. The machines will be used to gather research, to develop interpretative programs, and to improve communication with park visitors through social media. Ultimately, the new technology will enhance park operations and make for a better visitor experience.

Thank you, Frist Foundation, for your support of Radnor Lake.

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

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.



Support Radnor Lake. Invest in the places you love!

It's easy to help protect Radnor Lake!

- **Mail us a check using the envelope enclosed in this newsletter**
- **Make your one-time or sustaining gift at radnorlake.org**
- **Purchase a Radnor Lake License Plate**