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Reflections

Spring 2022



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About the Cover

The photo is of dwarf larkspur. Dwarf Larkspur flourishes along the Lake Trail each spring. Blooms will peak toward the end of March and Early April. Photograph by Robin Conover.

From the Board President



Will Robinson

As if Spring wasn't filled with enough excitement at Radnor Lake with wildflowers bursting, wildlife rousing from their winter sleep and people feeling more adventurous as the pandemic wanes, we now have the additional thrill of being able to watch a pair of American bald eagles build their nest directly across the lake from Otter Creek Road. It was as if they knew where they could be in full view of the most visitors possible. If you're not sure of the nest location, you need only walk down Otter Creek Road along the lake in the early morning or late afternoon where photographers and binocular toting onlookers gather.



Photo by Robin Conover

The nest is a wonderful spectacle of nature and also complete validation of the value of every dollar and every hour of work spent by the State of Tennessee and Friends of Radnor Lake since the opening of the park nearly 50 years ago. As the first State Natural Area, Radnor has been managed to provide the best wildlife refuge environment possible, with the park size doubling from 700 acres to more than 1,400 (and growing!) since the gates opened in 1973, providing an incredibly desirable spot for the eagles to nest and raise their young. If all goes well, we hope to see eaglets poking their heads out of the nest by early summer.

Another exciting event of ours will happen in June with the return of Friends of Radnor Lake's biggest annual fundraising event, Radnor in the Round, after a two year hiatus. We are planning a great line-up of hit songwriters, each of whom will perform two of their biggest songs, hosted by country star Phil Vassar who is always a hit with the audience.

In an effort to share the story of our work with the ever-growing Nashville business community, FORL recommended and the Nashville Rotary Club graciously accepted that Radnor Lake State Park Manager Steve Ward be the guest speaker at their January meeting. Ranger Ward wowed the audience with news of ongoing conservation, restoration and education efforts at the park. His passion, knowledge, and his now 20 years experience with Radnor Lake (congrats Steve!), makes him an amazing presenter.

To the excitement of the crowd, Ward brought Eagle 1 to share the stage with him. Eagle 1 is a non-releasable golden eagle that is a resident of the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center at Radnor Lake. The eagle participates in programs to educate the public about conservation efforts and why eagles are so important to the survival of many species. Ward noted that as a result of such efforts, a pair of American Bald Eagles have recently built a nest at Radnor Lake.

The meeting was a big success. Thank you again Rotary Club!

Friends of Radnor is indebted to all the donors, both big and small, without whom we would not exist and who enable us to do our part to support the State and the Rangers in continually protecting and improving the park that we love.

Happy Trails,
Will



Photo by Deputy Commissioner Jim Bryson

Lauren Payne, President, Rotary Club of Nashville, is pictured with Ward and Eagle 1 at the Nashville Rotary Club meeting in January.



John Haubenreich

Welcome New Board Member

We would like to welcome a new member to our Friends board. John Haubenreich, an attorney at Waller Lansden Dortch and Davis and a Radnor enthusiast, joined the board in January.



PRESENTED BY



Radnor in the Round returns in 2022

After a two-year hiatus, we couldn't be more excited to once again raise money for our beloved Radnor Lake through music! Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

A Songwriters' Event
Presented by Phil Vassar and Friends
Benefiting Radnor Lake

Sunday, June 5 – 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory

Tickets \$250 per carload. On sale April 22.

To learn more about sponsorship and patron opportunities,
[visit radnorlake.org](http://visit.radnorlake.org)

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6:00 a.m. until 20 minutes
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(Closed: Tues and Wed,
and daily 1-2 p.m.)

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Park Events Schedule:

[tnstateparks.com/parks/events/
radnor-lake](http://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/radnor-lake)

The Importance of Wetlands

By Hannah Testa, Ingram Scholar at Vanderbilt University

Wetlands are vital to so many species — more than one-third of threatened and endangered species in the US live only in wetlands. Humans are also heavily reliant on healthy, thriving wetlands. Wetlands have remained the unsung hero to many aspects of our lives and at Radnor Lake.

With wetlands' productivity equivalent to rainforests and coral reefs, why are they so often overlooked and under-appreciated?

So before going into the importance of wetlands, we first need to understand what they are. Wetlands are ecosystems where large amounts of water are present in the soil all year long or at various times of the year. They are the transitions between land and water ecosystems. Wetlands are all unique to each other and can vary depending on soil, climate, vegetation, human disturbance, and more. At Radnor, wetlands created when American beavers build dams across streams that feed the lake, serve to filter water before it enters the lake.

Wetlands also provide many animals with food, water, and shelter — especially during migration. Thousands of plants and animals species (both land and aquatic) live in wetlands. Duckweed is one such example at Radnor that can be seen on the surface several months of the year.

Many species (including waterfowl, fresh-water dependent mammals, freshwater fish, amphibians, and turtles) are reliant on wetlands. Wetlands sustain many producers (such as algae), which are the base of the food chain. This helps supply the invertebrates, fish, birds, mammals, and other animals that rely on producers as a food source. The abundance of plant species attracts many animals to the wetlands — this fosters the base of the food web. The food chain keeps progressing as the next level of the food chain, consumers, eat other animals as their source of food.



American Bullfrog in duckweed

Photo by Robin Conover.

There are also a lot of decomposers (bacteria and fungi) that break down dead organisms into nutrients that are needed for producers to grow. By supporting plants (producers), animals (consumers) and decomposers, a food web is formed and continues to cycle throughout the wetland ecosystem.

Humans are also reliant on wetlands more than most people realize. Wetlands are like sponges: they absorb and release water. Because of this, they are great for water filtration, storm protection, and flood control. So watersheds (land areas where rainwater collects and flows into larger bodies of water) help supply us with clean drinking water and safer communities to live in. For human consumption of groundwater, wetlands replenish the supply and purify it by treating wastewater. Wetlands are also carbon sinks, meaning they take carbon from the atmosphere and store it in plants and soils. This helps to moderate the climate and mitigate the climate crisis.

Wetlands may be a small portion of our planet, but they are crucial to the health and wellbeing of humans and hundreds of thousands of other species. Wetlands International said it simply, "A world without wetlands is a world without water." Wetlands should be admired and nurtured for the life and beauty they provide.



Photo by Robin Conover.

Beavers have extended their territory with a newly constructed dam near where the old foot bridge was recently removed.

Protecting and Celebrating Old Growth Trees at Radnor

Story by Greer Tidwell • Photographs by Robin Conover



The Nashville Tree Foundation Big Old Tree Contest is an annual celebration of the value and importance of old trees. Over the past couple of decades, Radnor Rangers and others have nominated trees on the State Natural Area and on land that FORL owns.

As we carry on our tradition of teaming together in protecting, supporting and expanding the state natural area, it's inspiring to stop and consider what these ol'

trees have 'witnessed' over their many years.

Thanks to State Park Rangers Dameon Fontenot and Matthew Bowling for the extra effort to submit the nominations this past year, to all the rangers who protect these trees and to our teamwork between the State of Tennessee and the Friends of Radnor Lake for protecting this land.

One of these Big Tree Award Winners, nominated by Ranger Matthew Bowling, is located within the Hall Farm of Radnor Lake State Natural Area and is protected forever. The other, a sycamore nominated by Ranger Dameon Fontenot, is located on property purchased in May of 2019 by Friends of Radnor Lake. This land will soon be transferred to the State of Tennessee for protection under the State Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971 forever!

Big Old Tree 2021 winners

Sycamore — Ranger Dameon Fontenot nominated the huge Sycamore on our Radnor-adjacent property. It won the best of the best and highest point score of all the nominations. (Tree location is not accessible to the general public.)

Chestnut Oak — Ranger Matthew Bowling nominated a 130-foot tall Chestnut Oak. This tree is on the historic Hall Farm acquired in 1979. While parts of the farm had been cleared many times, this tree was never cut down. It's growth pattern indicates a history of an open field to it's north and forest to it's south. (Tree is accessible by ranger led hikes only.)

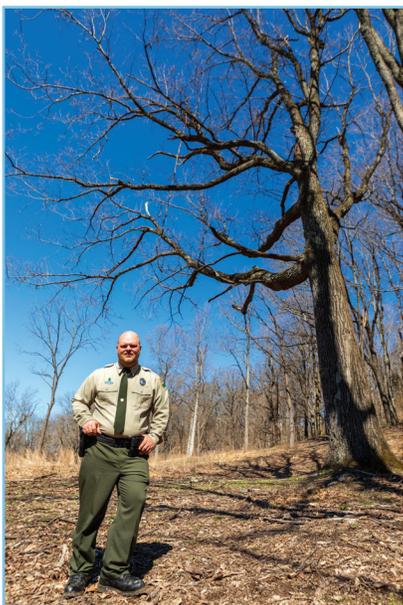


Photo by Robin Conover.

Ranger Matthew Bowling nominated this Chestnut Oak that won in the 2021 Big Old Tree Contest.



Photo by Robin Conover.

Ranger Dameon Fontenot with the old growth Sycamore he nominated and that won the best of the best with the highest score in the 2021 Big Old Tree Contest.



Photo by Robin Conover.

The old growth Sycamore nominated by Ranger Dameon Fontenot stands on property owned by the Friends of Radnor Lake.

Radnor Sightings

Story and photographs By Robin Conover

Spring wildflowers and trees will be blooming soon across Tennessee and Radnor Lake State Park is home to several varieties you may want to watch for in the coming weeks. I always look forward to this time of year when the forest floor comes alive with countless vibrant points of colors.

Every shade of green becomes visible as plants emerge from beneath the layers of last fall's leaves that have served as ground cover and shelter through the winter. As blooms begin to appear, every shade of French impressionist Claude Monet's palette seems to be represented.

Though I have frequently photographed many varieties of common wildflowers — including spring beauties, dwarf larkspur, Dutchman's breeches and trillium — there are a few that always stop me in my tracks when I see them.

The jack-in-the-pulpit is one such wildflower. Though they aren't particularly rare, I rarely see them. In all my miles of hiking Tennessee trails, I have run across fewer than 10 in pristine condition.

The Lake Trail is one of the best for wildflowers at Radnor, especially for Dwarf Larkspur. The peak of the wildflower bloom is usually during the first week of April.

As a nature photographer and avid hiker, I always adhere to the rule to "take only photographs and leave only footsteps." Please stay on existing trails and do not hike off trail to capture that perfect shot.

I can't wait to get out this spring to see what I find this year. You never know what nature will offer on any given day.



Jack-in-the-pulpit



Virginia Bluebells



Yellow Trout Lily



Spring Beauty



Trillium



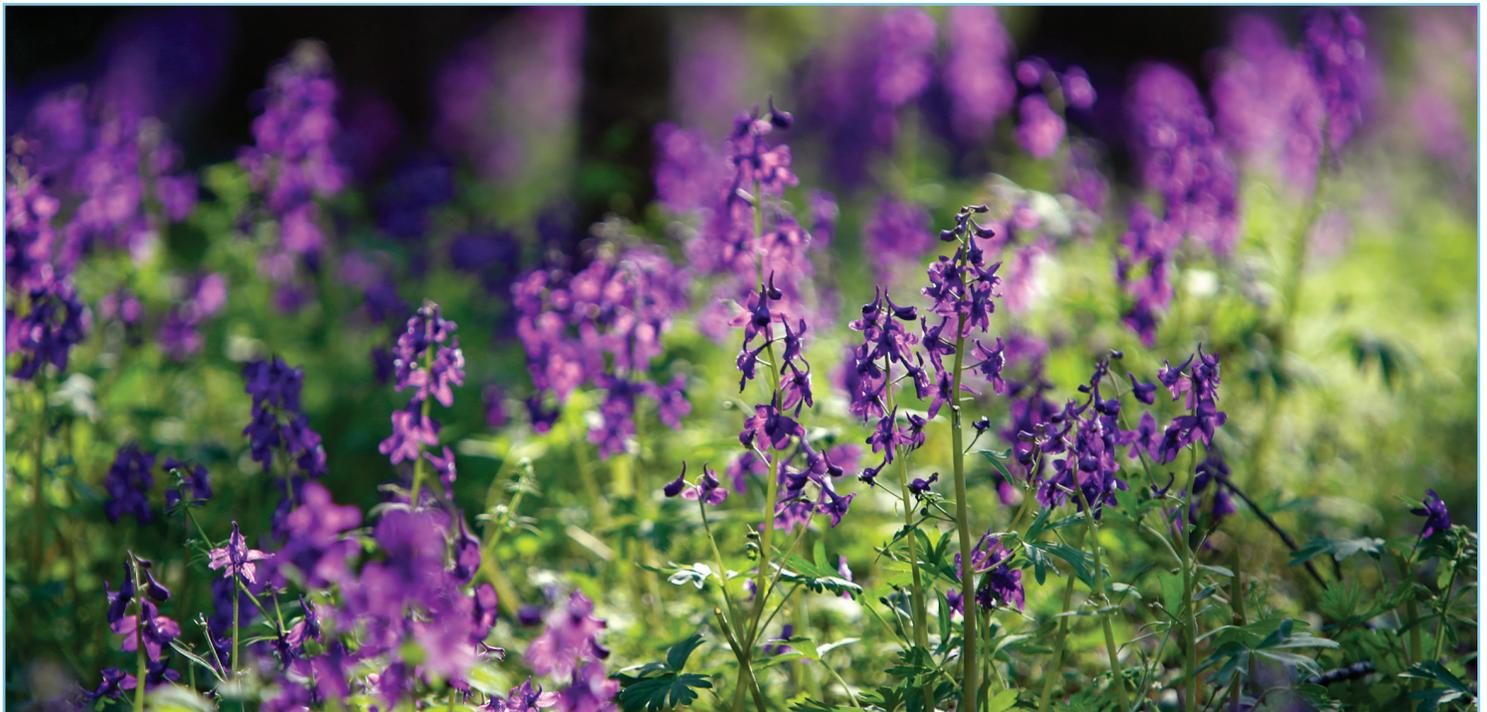
Redbud flowers



Flowering Dogwood



Toothwort



Dwarf larkspur

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Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Gotterer
Dennis Harris
Sherry Harrison
Pamela Hawkins
Carol Hewitt
Joe M. Hodgson
Larry Hunt
Sally & Joseph Huston
David Jones

Tribute Gifts

In memory of...

Claire Barry

Kevin Barry

Mark Bilbrey

Eve Bilbrey
Keith Bilbrey
Larry & Alice Wells

Cynthia Brown

Sharon & Dennis Monroe

Grant & Betty Browning

Emily Dresch

Mary Ella Burke

Jennifer Sammons

Alice Pearson Chapman

Elizabeth Knox

Wrigley Clemmons

Tamar Baxt Clemmons

Paul Julian Cobb

Dr. Judith Draper

Martha Hayes Cooper

Karen & Pete Bird
Mason Borneman
William Cooper
Margaret Behm & Harlan Dodson
Cathy Frierson
Riney & Lynn Green
Marc & Becky McNamee
The Raymond Ryan Family

Jerry Daniels

Mary Britton &
Jody Cummings
Betsy Gaccione
Roger & Margy Milam
Noni Nielsen

Virginia L. DeVault

John Devault

Mary Dunlap

William Lassiter, Jr.

Miles Ezell, Jr.

The Ezell family

Bob Goodrich

Hollis Johnson III
Mary K. Nichols

Glenn Hammonds

Mario Ascoli & Deborah Segaloff

Baby Liam Harwood

Marsha Crownover

William McAdams Hawkins

Nancy & David Crofford
Susan Evans

Ruth Link Hessey

Charles Biter
Martha Lou Deacon
Franklin Road Academy
Barbara Holbrook
Oak Valley Garden Club
Mike Paslay
F. Wilson Wattenbarger, Jr.
Chip Worley

Terry Higgins

Tina Corkum

Kuni Ichikawa

Lauren Lodl

Celeste Johnson

Hollis Johnson III

Nancy an Michael Kaiser

Mike Kaiser

Jim and Betty Lawhon

Lori L. Dulaney

Terri MacDonald

Jannine Sullivan

Margret Mann

Peggy Vietti

William W. McDowell

Laurence O. Trabue, Jr.

John Netherton

David Badger

William R. Pomeroy

Tracy and Lawrence Pomeroy

Mack Prichard

Mary K. Nichols

Jamison R. Gorrell

Jennifer Appelt

Margaret Richardson Randels

Megan Bish
Dan Surface & Aileen Katcher
Ann Wehby

Betty Richmond

Katherine & Bruce McCrea

Jane Robinson

Christine Morrison Bliven &
Jeff Bliven
Chuck & Debbie Robinson

Kent Sandidge III

Jimmy & Brenda Barker
Patsy Cooney
Mike Rice

Henrietta ("Henny") Shasteen

Bill Shasteen

Rick Sinclair

Michele & Brant Harrell

Sarah Ellen Winn Terry

Becky Estes
Danna Francis
Bev Leiser
Christine Thorpe
Kay Williams

Kathryn Beckman Voekel

Will & Sarah Braam

In honor of...

Bessie, a dog who enjoys her morning walks on Otter Creek

Jane Greer

Kent Blazy, in honor of his induction into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame

Suellen & Leon Joyner

Auden Blue

Torri Blue

Dan Boone on his 70th birthday

Laura Boone

Jean Bowden

Nancy Haile Bowden
Amy Mathis

Paul Buchanan

Harriet Austin

Paul & Rebecca Buchanan

Kirby & Ann Davis

Ingrid Burkett

Scott Craddock

Kay Cheek

Missy & John Cheek Eason

Dr. and Mrs. Davis Chappell

Ken & Linda Maynard

Julia & Brian Christman

Richard & Marilyn Thompson

Combustion Music

Jackie Byrom & Marc Fortune

Hudley Crockett

The Crockett grandkids

Doug Darwish & Silvia Vajushi

Jan Kalnas

Jim Darwish

Jan Kalnas

Karen Davis

Perry Macdonald

Trisha Ormand & Robert Deegan

Hannah Deegan

Ann Duncan

Nancy Duncan

Mary Dunlap

Patricia Davis

FCA Venture Partners

Matthew & Llew Ann King

Karen Fentress

Juanita & Chares Fentress

Friends of Radnor Lake

Bob & Cornelia Hollister

Deborah Gregory

Stacy Davis

Faith Haber Galbraith

Harriet & Mark Schifftan

Susan & Henry Hipkens

Jill Lindner & Don Cobb

Cathy & Clay Jackson

Laurence O. Trabue, Jr.

Iris Jeffries

Janet & Wallace Jeffries

Leon Joyner

Linda & Elwyn Raymer

Suellen Joyner

Sherry Harrison
Janice Spillman

Laura Knox

Joan Shayne

Mary Lou Kreiss

Bradley Fresia

Ken Levitan & Gloria Dumas

Adam Sansiveri
Tammy Logan
Molly Tuttle

Jill Lindner & Don Cobb

Susan & Henry Hipkens

Margaret Lovett

Marianne Johnson

Amy & George Lynch

Farris Ralston

Doug Markham

Cassie Surdivant

Amy & David Mathis

Nancy & Rhea Bowden

Suzi Oldham

Bill Shasteen

David N. Orth

Julie Arnold

Anna Person

Carol & Peter Person

Radnor Lake Park Staff

Bob & Janet Belser
Laurie & Jim Cooper
Tommy & Lynn Cresswell
Ann Duncan
Ty Finch & Anita Schmid
Robert J. Martineau, Jr.
Brian Stogdill
Charlotte Wyatt

Mary Reeves

Julie Stevens
Wanda McKnight

Ralph & Jane Roach

Sarah Roach

Will & Kellie Robinson

Benjamin & Tara Armistead

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Zary Rahimi

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Jackie Byrom & Marc Fortune

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Barbara Holloway

Sam Talley

Miriam Brooks

Emmie & Jim Thomas

Malcolm & Debbie Baird

Clark Tidwell

William Lassiter, Jr.

Heather Tiffany

Larry Hunt

Nicholas Tochelli

Helen McLean

Danielle Tyburski

Lindsey Thompson

Steve Ward and his eagles

Bob and Cornelia Hollister
Charlotte Wyatt

Steve & Laura Ward

Linda Heflin Johnston

Terry Weingartner

Robert
and Theresa Weingartner

Newlyweds Bob and Leslie West

Eva Parker

Spring 2022 Fundraising

The mission of Friends of Radnor Lake is to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural Area (RLSNA) through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.

Thanks to our donors, we are able to provide financial support for the following priority projects at RLSNA.

Harris Ridge Trail Project

Budget of \$75,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-22

Construction of the new trail on Harris Ridge, which is being built to National Trail Standards, will connect Otter Creek Road to a new trailhead on Franklin Road. This 3+ mile strenuous trail will provide a unique hiking experience with gorgeous views and will protect rare plant life and historical features.

Native Grasslands Initiative

Budget of \$115,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-22

This initiative is the result of a five-year plan to restore over 40 acres of the park to the native grasses that supported Monarch butterflies, pollinators, ground-nesting birds and other wildlife 50 years ago. The repopulation of these species will significantly improve the overall health of the natural area, providing a feeding environment for wildlife which better supports their wellbeing.

Volunteer Program

Budget of \$46,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-22

We provide funds for management, organization and supplies for the volunteer program year-round. This critical program engages community volunteers, through school groups, corporations, civic groups and monthly volunteer days in assisting park staff in regular maintenance, exotic plant removal and trail building in the natural area.

Land Acquisition

Budget of \$340,100 in Fiscal Year 2021-22

Central to the FORL mission is acquiring land which protects the viewshed, watershed and hiking experience.

Eagle Program at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center (BJMAEC)

Budget of \$39,300 in Fiscal Year 2021-22

Funding for the ongoing care of the non-releasable eagles in residence at the BJMAEC provides food, upkeep of shelters, vet care and bird-handler training for park staff. These raptors were designated as education animals after sustaining permanent injuries.

Our focus of The Big Payback on May 5, 2022 will be to raise next year's funding for this program.

Junior Ranger Intern Program

Budget of \$12,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-22

During the summer months, park staff conduct three six-day internship programs for teenage youth. The goal of this unique internship opportunity is to instill an environmental and conservation ethic in future generations.

Trail and land management, research and security

Budget of \$58,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-22

Donations from all sources, including license plate income, calendar sales, general contributions, TECC grants, sponsorships, company matching gifts, AmazonSmile, Kroger Rewards and the donation box at Radnor Lake combine to give us the resources to invest in these projects and programs at Radnor. Thank you for your support!

(continued from page 9)

Jonathan & Mary Lister	Salil Shihad
Cindy Lybarger	John & Beth Stein
Perry Macdonald	Cassie Sturdivant
Betsy & Gayle Malone	Barbara B. Sullivan
Amy Mathis	Meryl Taylor
Wanda McKnight	Lindsey Thompson
Susan Menking	Douglas Tutt
Elizabeth Merritt	Marie-Claire Tuzeneu
Justin & Maureen Milam	Peggy Vietti
Mark Mittleman & Susan Wood	Steve Vining
Lonnie Moore	Steven Wasserman
Craig Moskowitz	Ann Wehby
Molly & Mark Nicholas	Terry Weingartner
Joseph & Angela Nuyens	Patricia Weisner
Oak Hill Garden Club	Bryant Welch
Oak Valley Garden Club	Michelle J. & Stephen R. Williams
Lauren Obersteadt	Mary Womack
David Ogden	Alan Woodard
Eva Parker	Elizabeth Wright & Paul Moots
Theodore Pincus	Charlotte Wyatt
Vicky Santangelo	

In Kind donations

Our thanks to the individuals and businesses for support, gifts of their time or other resources. Your contributions enabled us to accomplish more than we could have otherwise.

Radnor Lake volunteers

Thank you for your time, hard work and good cheer!

Friends of Radnor Lake Board

Thank you for your years of commitment and generous gifts of time and professional services.

Church of the Advent Strong Tower Bible Church

Rob Cochran and Design Build Partners

We are deeply grateful for your skilled craftsmanship, quick response, and immense kindness.

The Chestnut Group artists

Thanks to all of the volunteers who painted, prepped and volunteered, making the Love the Lake, Love the Land Art Show and Sale a huge success! Special thanks to the following artists who donated paintings to the silent auction.

Kim Barrick

Donna Brumbergs

Margaret Cameron

Kristin Condurelis

Carol Demumbrum

Jean Gauld-Jaeger

Lou Hoover

Brigitte Hubbard

Bitsy King

Suzanne LeBeau

Brenda Morley

Judson Newbern

Pam Padgett

Ed Routon

Mike Sowers

Chestnut Art Show Support

Joann Ward - donated heaters

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

Your Support Makes a Difference

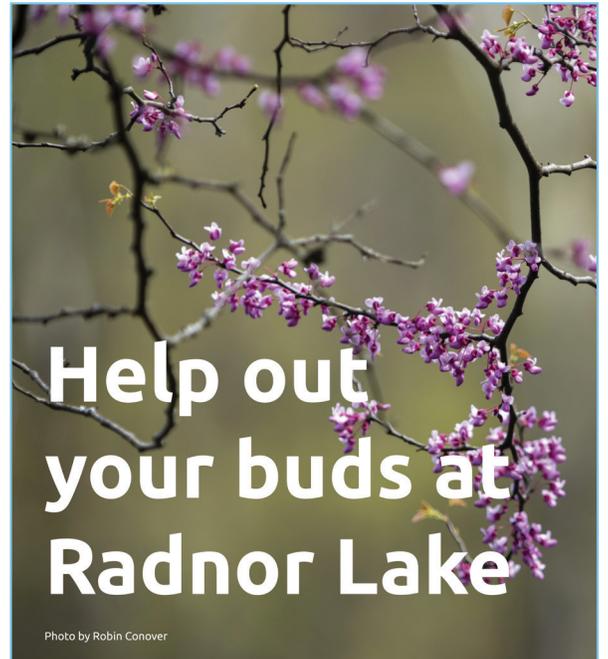


TN Specialty License Plate Program

Radnor Lake specialty license plates show your loyalty and provide funding for park support. Search "specialty license plates" at tn.gov for more information.

Thanks to the following businesses that made donations to Radnor Lake State Park

ACT Security	Druid Tree Service	Lowe's stores
Clean Earth Collections	Imagen, LLC	Parke Tree Service
	Lightning 100	



Help preserve Radnor Lake:
RadnorLake.org/Donate

