



FRIENDS OF  
RADNOR LAKE  
PROTECT | PRESERVE | PROMOTE

# Reflections

Fall 2022



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*Vice President*

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 Divya Shroff  
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 Margaret Henry Joyce  
 Will Martin  
 Jeanie Nelson  
 John Noel  
 Dan Smith  
 Phil Vassar  
 Eugenia Winwood  
 Steve Winwood

Tina Corkum  
*Director*

### About the Cover

Photograph by  
 Robin Conover.

# From the Board President



Will Robinson

It's been another busy, albeit hot, summer at Radnor Lake and now we can all enjoy some good leaf-changing, nature-filled fall hikes. A lot has happened since the last newsletter and we have many to thank for continued success at the park.

In early June, Friends of Radnor Lake hosted our third and most successful Radnor in the Round fundraising event at Dyer Observatory, where on a perfect Sunday afternoon we experienced some great music and raised \$70,265! We owe big thanks to the event host Phil Vassar, the incredible line up of Hall of Fame songwriters, and all the board and staff who contributed their time. And, of course, without all of our sponsors and attendees none of it would have been possible. Thanks to all of them for helping us hit one out of the park, so to speak.

Later in June, when the Junior Ranger Interns arrived, the Radnor Lake staff did their usual thorough job of educating these budding conservationists about the park and how to stay safe in the brutal heat. The interns did great work at Radnor and many enjoyed it so much that they returned for a second week.

As the summer progressed you maybe noticed more butterflies at the park such as monarchs, swallowtails, and others, partly thanks to the public-private partnership between Friends of Radnor Lake and the State of Tennessee which continues to invest in our native grasses. While some conservation organizations are considering adding the colorful monarchs to their endangered species lists, we're proud to be part of the effort to help them survive and hopefully one day thrive... another reason to love Radnor Lake State Park.

One big piece of news is that our long-time stellar board member, past president and friend, Greer Tidwell, has been appointed to the role of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's deputy commissioner for the Bureau of Parks and Conservation. He is filling the big shoes of Jim Bryson, who in June became Commissioner of Finance and Administration, and who, like Greer oversees Tennessee's 57 State Parks and 85 Natural Areas. Congratulations to you, Greer!

As Greer moves on, we welcome two new board members: Jeff Gould and Kara Holzer. We are grateful to them and all our board for their generous commitment to making Radnor the special place that it is.

We look forward to much excitement in 2023, which will mark the **50th anniversary** of Radnor Lake's opening, and we don't plan to let it slip by without making a lot of noise (nothing you'll hear on the trails!). Please be on the lookout for events next year where you can be part of the Golden celebration of Radnor Lake.

Friends of Radnor Lake greatly appreciates all of you who support us with your time and donations and look forward to seeing you out on the trails.

Will Robinson  
*President*



Photo by Robin Conover



Photo by Ron Boniol

Pollinators in action this spring at the Hall Drive.



Jeff Gould



Kara F. Holzer

## Welcome New Board Members

We are pleased to announce the July 1 addition of the following new members to the Friends of Radnor Lake Board of Directors:



# Congratulations Deputy Commissioner Greer Tidwell

**O**n Wednesday, July 20, 2022, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner David Salyers announced the appointment of Greer Tidwell, Jr. as deputy commissioner for the department's Bureau of Parks and Conservation.

Greer Tidwell has more than three decades of leadership experience in the public and private sectors, along with extensive involvement in conservation groups at the local, state and national levels. Known largely for his leadership at Bridgestone Americas, Greer is well-known at Radnor Lake due to his long service as a board member of Friends of Radnor Lake, serving as Board President from 2012-2013.

"Greer's imprint on Radnor Lake over the many years as a board member is impossible to overemphasize. Whether as an active and engaged board member for so many years, as past board president, or in his role on the FORL Land Committee, Greer has been invaluable to the successes of FORL and the entire park. While he will be sorely missed on our board for his stewardship, steadiness and wisdom, we are very happy for him and know that his presence at Radnor will still be felt. We have a great friend working for State Parks and are excited that his passion for conservation will now be shared throughout the state," says FORL Board President Will Robinson.

Congratulations Greer! Thank you for your many years of service to FORL.



*Photo by Robin Conover*

## Tennessee State Wildflower– Passion Flower



*Photo by Steve Ward*

**A**ccording to the TN Secretary of State website, there are two State Wildflowers: Tennessee Echinacea (Coneflower) and the Passion Flower.

The passion flower grows wild in the southern part of the United States and in South America. It is also commonly known as the maypop, the wild apricot, and the ocoee. The last is the Native American name given to the flower, a name that has also been applied to the Ocoee River and valley. Native Americans prized the ocoee as the most abundant and beautiful of all their flowers. The passion flower is so named because of the early Christian missionaries to South America who saw in the various parts of the curiously constructed flower symbols of the Crucifixion - the three crosses, the crown of thorns, nails, and cords.

From [www.sos.tn.gov/civics/pages/tennessee-state-symbols](http://www.sos.tn.gov/civics/pages/tennessee-state-symbols)



# Jr. Ranger Intern Program



**Steve Ward**  
Park Manager

**Lyndy Maness**  
Administrative Assistant

**Ann Duncan**  
Receptionist

**Paul Schauer**  
Park Ranger

**Matthew Bowling**  
Park Ranger

**Brandon Jarratt**  
Park Ranger

**Dameon Fontenot**  
Park Ranger

**Jack Foresman**  
Park Ranger

**Mackenzie Maness**  
Aviary Assistant

**Taylor Smith**  
Ranger Aide

**Eli Ward**  
Ranger Aide

## Radnor Lake State Natural Area

1160 Otter Creek Road  
Nashville, TN 37220  
(615) 373-3467

### Hours

6:00 a.m. until 20 minutes  
after sunset

### Visitor Center Hours:

Thurs – Mon:  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
(Closed: Tues and Wed,  
and daily 1-2 p.m.)

### Walter Criley

Visitor Center:  
(615) 373-3467

### Park Events Schedule:

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

During three weeks this past summer, groups of curious teens were seen in the park with binoculars, rakes, wheelbarrows and matching t-shirts. Who are these young, budding conservationists? These are the Jr. Ranger Interns!

For the last 20 years, Radnor Lake Park staff have led the way in providing a valuable education through this program, instilling a conservation ethic and teaching about stewardship of our natural resources to teens. The Jr. Ranger Intern Program creates a unique outdoor opportunity for participants to work with state park rangers on trail projects at Radnor Lake and maintenance at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center, increasing their exposure to quality environmental education programs which help them gain insight into natural resource protection.

During each of the three weeks, up to 18 young people spent six full days in the park working on a variety of projects. Maintenance on trails and at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center have been staples of this program for many years. In the last few years, Jr. Ranger Interns have had the opportunity to learn about trail building while constructing parts of the Harris Ridge Trail from Radnor park rangers and expert trail builder Michael Meister, Tennessee State Parks Trails Coordinator. In addition, this year Ranger Matthew Bowling conducted a full day of birding orientation and training for these youth during each of our three sessions.

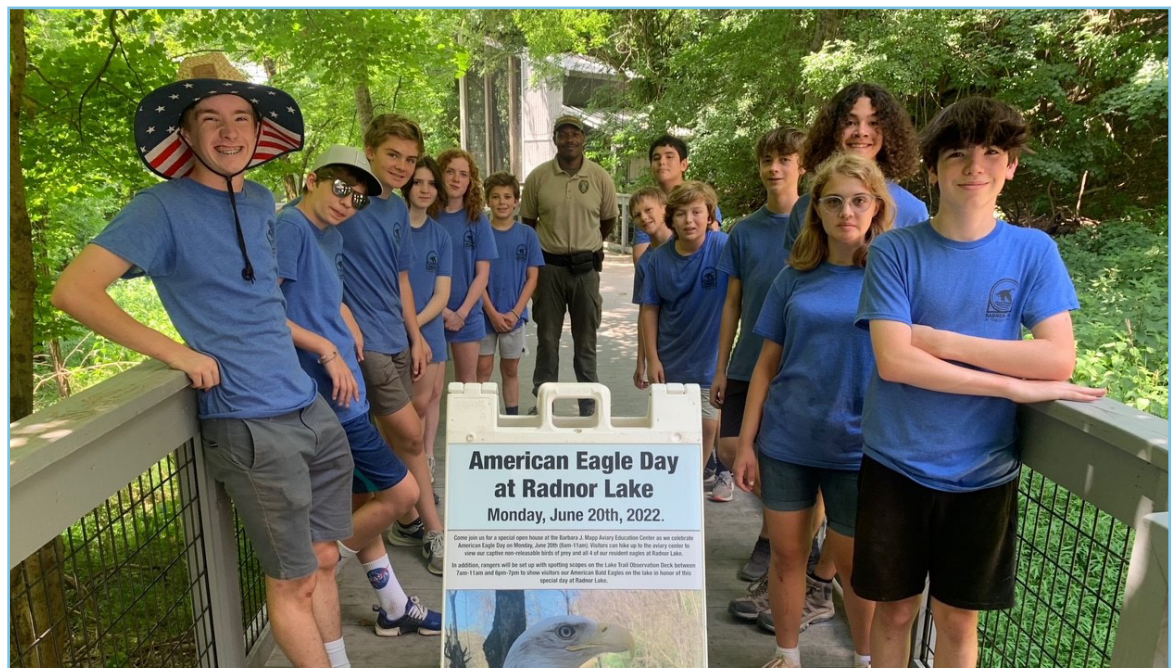


Jr. Rangers with great horned owl.

Photo by Steve Ward

Special thanks to the park staff who led these programs and guided these young people, much of the time in extreme heat conditions, and to Lyndy Maness who expertly coordinates this program behind the scenes.

We hope to see many of these Jr. Rangers again next year! Thank you to the parents of these interns who support them and our work.



Jr. Rangers celebrating American Eagle Day.

Photo by Steve Ward

# Jr. Ranger Reflections

Story by Lila Welch

**My** time as a junior ranger intern was full of learning, bonding, and exploration. Participating in the program helped me to understand the importance of good citizenship as well as caring and putting in the work to keep the environment healthy and enjoyable. Alongside being taught responsibility, I also formed many wonderful friendships with other junior rangers while working with them. From learning about unique birds, to mulching the trails, every activity was captivating. Moreover, the junior ranger program was an experience to remember and certainly the highlight of my summer.



Photo by Steve Ward

## Radnor Lake License plates: The gift that keeps on giving.



**R**adnor Lake license plates are in our parking lots and around town. Not only do they raise awareness about our favorite state natural area, but those license plates also help fund mission-driven activities, including ongoing trail management, volunteer and education programs, and support for the aviary program at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center. Tennessee specialty license plates allow you to show people what you care about, and they also provide revenue that we count on to help us support Radnor Lake.

### The history:

The Radnor Lake license plate has been around for many years thanks to stalwart proponents including the late Tennessee Senator Douglas Henry who shepherded a bill through the Tennessee State legislature and Friends of Radnor Lake Board Member Ann Tidwell who was central to the effort. The plate, designed by Dan Weber, was modeled after a photograph by John Netherton, one of the first FORL board members, with the addition of the sun for color and interest, to represent our beloved Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

License plate funding now accounts for approximately \$50,000 of annual revenue, which provides critical funding to help further our mission to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural Area through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.

### How do I get my own Radnor Lake license plate?

Radnor Lake license plates are available at the County Clerk offices downtown (700 2nd Ave South, Suite 101, Nashville, TN 37210) and in Green Hills (4009 Hillsboro Pike, Suite 207, Nashville, TN 37215). To transfer your existing license plate to a Radnor Lake plate, take your license plate (yes, your actual physical license plate!) to one of these locations and exchange it with your \$35 fee. You can make the switch before you are due to renew your registration, but remember to take a screwdriver so you can drive away with the license plate on your car. Once you've made the switch, your renewal paperwork will reflect your specialty plate fee so that you can continue to support Radnor Lake without any additional fuss. The Radnor Lake license plate is available to all Tennessee residents.

### Thank you for your support

Our heartfelt thanks to all of our license plate holders! We appreciate the financial support and your display of loyalty to Radnor. Many of you have retained your license plate(s) for many years and we couldn't be more grateful.

Join us in supporting Radnor Lake Natural Area with a license plate exchange.



# Radnor Sightings

Photographs By Ron Boniol

Pictures from the Hall Drive at  
Radnor Lake State Natural Area  
Courtesy of Ron Boniol



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Zebra Swallowtail



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Spicebush Swallowtail



Monarch

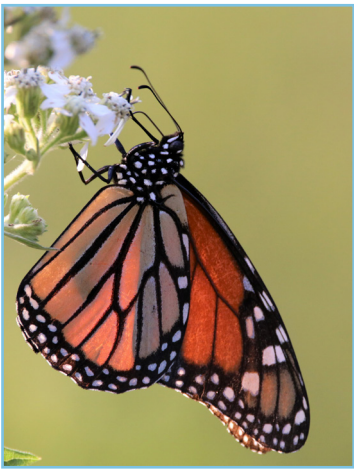


Giant Swallowtail



Gulf Fritillary

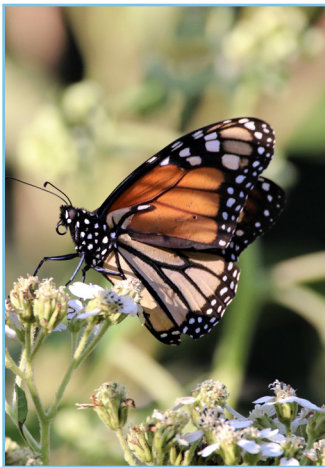




Monarch



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail



Monarch



Gulf Fritillary



*Photo by Robin Conover*

Flowering Dogwood

## Planned Giving

Don't forget to plan for the future.

**S**ustainability is core to our identity as an organization that supports the oldest State Natural Area in Tennessee. There are multiple definitions of sustainability. Two that are the foundation of our work at Friends of Radnor Lake are: 1) avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance and 2) the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.

For more than 50 years, Friends of Radnor Lake (FORL) has existed to protect the natural resources on the land that is Radnor Lake State Natural Area. FORL partners with the State of Tennessee in supporting the land management goals that they identify as the most important in maintaining ecological balance at Radnor Lake.

Whether through individual donations, your purchase of a Radnor Lake license plate, your attendance at Radnor in the Round, or your purchase of a calendar, coffee, or art from the Chestnut Art Show, your donations enable us to do the work we believe in. With your help, the Friends of Radnor Lake have worked tirelessly for decades to ensure this wondrous place is protected and preserved for generations to come.

In order to continue this support at a certain rate, FORL is committed to being good stewards of the gifts we receive and to ensure that the support of friends like you leads to increased sustainability. One of the ways we do this is through our planned giving program, which offers an opportunity to make a lasting impact at Radnor Lake by including Friends of Radnor Lake in your estate plans.

As we consider sustainability at Radnor Lake and the long-term protection of this jewel in the city of Nashville, we ask that you consider remembering Friends of Radnor Lake in your will. Regardless of the size of the gift, a direct bequest through your will or a charitable trust, or a designation as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan, life insurance policy or designated endowment fund are meaningful toward sustaining Radnor Lake beyond your lifetime.

Thank you for considering leaving a legacy for Radnor and the Nashville community. Such gifts greatly help Friends of Radnor Lake to continue our mission to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural Area through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.

Thank you for protecting Radnor Lake, a rare natural resource, for future generations!


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.

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## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



Shop at smile.amazon.com  
and select Friends of Radnor Lake  
as your charity of choice  
to donate 0.5% of each purchase  
to support Radnor.



### **Kroger Community Rewards**

Sign up at kroger.com. Choose  
WP565 Friends of Radnor Lake,  
and all your Kroger purchases will  
pay rewards!

# GIVING TUESDAY

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Tuesday, November 29, 2022.**

Giving Tuesday is a movement  
that unleashes the power of  
radical generosity around  
the world.

**RadnorLake.org**