

FRIENDS OF
RADNOR LAKE
PROTECT | PRESERVE | PROMOTE



Reflections

Summer 2023



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About the Cover

Photograph of
 Carolina Wren by
 Robin Conover

From the Board President



Rob Cochran

Dear friends,

A little over 50 years ago, Radnor Lake and about 700 acres were to be subdivided into a large single family housing development.

A very lucky, very complicated, quite extraordinary series of events happened that included land owners, developers, State and Federal governments, along with hundreds of community members. An amazing series of events.

The result was the creation of Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Radnor Lake State Natural Area and we are so excited to celebrate this throughout the year.

Over the last 50 years, Friends of Radnor Lake (FORL) and many, many partners have:

- Doubled our acres saved forever
- Created a safe place to hike thanks to the park rangers and staff
- Maintained the much-loved trails
- Added new trails and expanded the wildlife habitat
- Built seven bridges and Lake Trail Observation Deck working with individual donors and the state of Tennessee to improve our trail system, enhance wildlife observation opportunities and improve water quality within the natural area
- Eradicated many invasive plants and replenished native grasses
- Built and supported the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center where park staff care for seven non-releasable birds of prey, including eagles, hawks and owls that you can visit during Open House hours

Just to name a few.

I am deeply grateful for the millions of people who have hiked, donated, volunteered, picked up trash, and thanked staff. If this is the first time you've seen this newsletter, know that we all work together to do what we can to protect and preserve Radnor Lake.

As we reflect on our hurdles and successes over the past 50 years, I can't help but wonder what the next 50 years, 100 years and 1,000 years will bring. I believe Radnor will be around for at least that long.

What an amazing legacy that present generations can give to many future generations by continuing to expand and preserve our sanctuary, only eight miles from the Tennessee State Capitol!



Photo by Robin Conover

One of Radnor Lake's juvenile Great Blue Herons.

**Welcome
 New Board
 Members**

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



Norm Miede



Charley Hankla

These FORL Board Members were photographed during a visit to the Birds of Prey training by Wings to Soar hosted at Radnor Lake for wildlife rehabilitators in the State Park system.

SAVE THE DATE 2023 Chestnut Art Sale Event

November 3-5, 2023

Walter Criley Visitor Center
at Radnor Lake
1160 Otter Creek Road.

For more than 15 years, Friends of Radnor Lake has partnered with The Chestnut Group to present the Love the Lake, Love the Land Art Show and Sale at Radnor Lake State Natural Area. This much-loved biennial event gives Radnor supporters the opportunity to purchase original paintings of the scenes of Radnor Lake painted en plein air.

The Love the Lake, Love the Land Art Show & Sale celebrates The Chestnut Group's passion about their art form and about the preservation of threatened natural habitats and local landscapes. The Chestnut Group has partnered with Friends of Radnor Lake to support our mission to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

Join us in November and see if one of your favorite fawns, turtles or landscapes of Radnor has been painted by a Chestnut Group artist. It is the one chance you have to take home a piece of art that has stolen your heart while supporting the preservation of this treasured place.

Patron level support from our community members is appreciated. To learn more about sponsorship and patron support, please email Tina Corkum at tcorkum@radnorlake.org.



Painting by Donna Brumbergs "Valve House Trail," 9 x 12 oil on panel



Friends of Radnor Lake is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Radnor Lake State Park and Natural Area, as 2023 marks 50 years since the state of Tennessee officially opened Radnor Lake State Park as a designated State Natural Area. Keep an eye out for this logo for special events to help us celebrate.

What's Your Story?

Tell us what Radnor means to you

Everyone loves a good story, and we want to hear yours.

Since Radnor Lake State Natural Area first opened 50 years ago, millions have found the peace and inspiration of nature in this sanctuary.

If you have ever hiked a trail, listened to migratory warblers at the spillway or watched an eagle soar above the lake, you understand how special Tennessee's first designated natural area is to so many.

During our 50th anniversary we want to know your Radnor story.

Tell us what Radnor Lake means to you. Please send your story to radnor@radnorlake.org and put your name in the subject line. Or, mail us a letter to FORL, 1160 Otter Creek Rd., Nashville, TN 37220. Include your name, mailing address, phone number and preferred email address in all correspondence.

By submitting your story, you give Friends of Radnor Lake permission to use your submission in any materials, both written and web based. All contact information will remain confidential. Please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous.

Big Old Tree Awards



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

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Park Ranger

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Taylor Smith
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Shawn Byington
Ranger Aide

Grace Kueker
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)



Matt Rollins with rangers and Vicki Turner, Nashville Tree Foundation board member, at Glen Leven Farm.

Photo by Steve Ward

Every year the Nashville Tree Foundation hosts the Big Old Tree Contest, an event that began as a way to educate school children of the importance of big trees. This celebration of preservation has evolved into a great resource to locate Davidson County's largest and most notable specimen trees. Trees are judged within their species by their size, measuring circumference, height, and crown spread.

Radnor Lake State Park staff and Radnor's Lipscomb IDEAL Intern nominated trees that stand within Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Five trees at Radnor Lake were nominated and all five trees were winners!

The overall winner of the Big Old Tree Contest this year was our very own Matt Rollins, Lipscomb IDEAL Program Intern, who nominated a beautiful Northern Red Oak tree measuring 178 inches in circumference, with a height of 127 feet and a crown spread of 133 ½ feet. That's a really big tree!

Congratulations Matt!



Matt Rollins holding his award. Tina Corkum with Vicki Turner. Photos by Steve Ward

Radnor Lake's other winning trees and nominators are as follows:

Tulip Poplar by Ranger Paul Schauer

Green Ash by Ranger Dameon Fontenot

Sycamore by Ranger Matthew Bowling

Black Walnut by Ranger Brandon Jarratt

The Big Old Tree contest winners this year are yet another great example of the value of the land acquisition and resource management protection efforts of the State of Tennessee in partnership with Friends of Radnor Lake.

The awards ceremony was a great event, hosted by the Nashville Tree Foundation as part of Tree Spree on November 12 at the Land Trust for Tennessee's Glen Leven Farm.

Radnor Lake State Park Named Park of the Year

The Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation (TDEC) announced their annual Tennessee State Park Awards of Excellence at the Park Managers' meeting in fall of 2022, and our beloved Radnor Lake State Park and Natural Area received two awards — the coveted Park of the Year and Excellence in Sustainability.

“Radnor Lake State Park is a perfect example of why we are so proud of our parks,” said TDEC Commissioner David Salyers in a press release. “The park has initiated outstanding programs, and it consistently earns great support from the community. Its performance in sustainability is just part of the park’s overall achievements. We are excited to recognize Radnor Lake with these awards.”

Radnor Lake’s initiatives that helped Park Manager Steve Ward and his staff earn this statewide recognition include:

- Ranger-led interpretive programs utilizing spotting scopes to view the park’s first-ever American Bald Eagle nest and interpretive programming for visitors with special needs at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center with the aviary’s non-releasable birds-of-prey.
- Other park programs included the Junior Ranger Intern Program which hosted 51 youth over four weeks in summer; the annual Trees to Trails program that recycled 900 Christmas trees, a park record; and working with more than 1,500 volunteers on projects ranging from invasive plant removal to stream cleanups and trail projects.
- Welcoming Rivian electric car charging stations as the first park with two of the chargers, used daily, making up over 60 percent of EV use in Tennessee State Parks.
- Hosted a ribbon-cutting with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development for the first wheelchair accessible colorblind viewfinder in Tennessee.
- Using Go Green building products with recycled materials and recycling electronics items also contributed to the park’s recognition for excellence in sustainability.



Photo credit TDEC

Radnor Lake State Park is named Tennessee State Park of the Year and also received the award for Excellence in Sustainability. From left are Chris Padgett, Area Manager; Greer Tidwell, Deputy Commissioner of TDEC; Steve Ward, Park Manager; David Salyers, Commissioner of TDEC; and Mike Robertson, Director of Operations for Tennessee State Parks.

The park kicked off National Public Lands Day last year with the opening of its Lake Trail Bridges Project, three bridges to improve water quality and accessibility, funded by the Friends of Radnor Lake.

The park’s various programs draw support from the Friends of Radnor Lake which leverages donations from the community and other partnerships to fulfill the mission to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural Area.



Photo by Steve Ward

Beaver research hike led by Dr. Rob Loeb from Penn State University.



Photo by Steve Ward

Ranger Brandon Jarrett sets up a spotting scope on the Lake Trail Observation Deck to enable visitors to view the Bald Eagle nest.



Photo by Steve Ward

Lake Trail Bridges Project Opening September 2021. This project funded in partnership with individual donors, Friends of Radnor Lake, State of Tennessee and other partners was part of our Excellence in Sustainability due to recycled materials used in construction. Ranger Paul Schauer and Tennessee State Parks Trails Coordinator Michael Meister work on finishing touches for grand opening.



PRESENTED BY



Radnor in Round

Photographs By Weatherly Hulsey

Thank you to our sponsors, patrons, ticket holders, artists and volunteers for contributing to Radnor in the Round. We had an amazing afternoon of community and music that allowed us to highlight favorite songs and raise funds for a cause we all believe in.

The event was a huge success!! With your help, we raised \$72,039 to support the projects and priorities of Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

Special thanks to Radnor Lake Park staff members; Ranger Chris Cole; Tina Corkum, Director of FORL; Kat Wenzler, Event Captain; Dyer Observatory staff; and the members of the Radnor in the Round event committee for making this event possible.



Jeff and Ashley Gould and Nancy and Dennie Hammer.



Rivers Rutherford



(L-R) Lisa Maki, Holly Whaley and Loren Chumley.
(Bottom) Amy Atkinson, Radnor in the Round Committee



2023 Radnor in the Round artists

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Kellie + Will
Robinson



We hope you will mark your calendar for **June 2, 2024** for the annual Radnor in the Round event where you can be assured there will be another great lineup of talent!

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Thank you to all of the FORL board, advisory board members and volunteers who give their time in supporting Radnor Lake.

This list reflects donations and grants made in 2022. Please let us know of any omissions or listing errors.



Flowering Dogwood

Photo by Robin Conover.

Planned Giving

Don't forget to plan for the future.

Sustainability 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!

Tribute Gifts

In memory of...

Mark Bilbrey

Neal Anderson
Eve Bilbrey
Larry & Alice Wells

Brant Bousquet

Virginia Bousquet

Cynthia Brown

Sharon & Dennis Monroe

Joseph Bryan

Angela Sevier

Jeanette Buchanan

Karen Davis

Marti Carrell

Her loving family: Marsha,
Lindsay, Matt, Ryan,
Aimee & Families
Dennis Christian
Timothy Easter
Jack Gangluff
Junior High
Diana Landa
Mary Marshall
Robert & Barbara Nash
Jane Salem
Jennie Scott Giving Fund
Allison & Chris Thompson

Kay Cheek

Bradford Family Foundation
Dorothy Earthman
LIVE Design Group, PC
T & T Family Foundation

Paul Julian Cobb

Elizabeth Ann Stringer
Jan and Jim Wood

Paul Conkin

Clay Bailey
George and Amy Lynch
Charitable Fund
Sharon Ruiz

Carol (Toni) Conover

Nan Adams
Karen & Pete Bird
Tina Corkum
Jane Kirk
Lambert Animal Clinic

Maggie Cox

Elaine & Robert Smyth

Benjamin Clay Dysart, III, Ph.D.

Jane R. Snyder

Bob Fajardo

Elliott Kestner

Robert Fidler

Angela Sevier

John Hugh Fisher

Sue Faulk-Kaplan

Roy Glenn Hammonds, Jr.

Terry Katzman-Rosenblum

Robert Lewis Jones

Ms. Jacqueline Jones

James Kaminski

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kaminski

Elizabeth Lawhon

Lori L. Dulaney

John Lovell

Charley & Carol Hankla

Margaret Mann

Peggy Vietti

Pamela Moore

Dale Strickland

John Netherton

David Badger

William (Bill) O'Fallon

Ivy Derderian
Lorelee & John Gawaluck
Dave Layman
Alice Malone
Bijan & Katherine Mansouri
Ed & Jan Routon
Ann Tidball

Coleman Perry

Coleman and Delia Brown

Dr. Phillip Levitan

Tammy Logan

William (Bill) Price

Nan Adams
Kerry Brock &
John Seigenthaler
Ann and Tom Curtis
Karen Davis
Carney Overall Farris
Nelson Parks
Jim and Jan Ramsey
Mike Schmerling
Judith Smith
Lester & Kathryn Smith Jr.

Mack Prichard

Norm & Debby Meide

Bettye Reynolds

Wanda Webb

Jane Robinson

Christine Morrison Bliven &
Jeff Bliven

Kent Sandidge III

Sandra Duncan
Mike Rice

Joan Schmitt

Kristin S Anderson
Renee Arndt
Denise Chastain
Kim McCauley

Bill Sheriff

Charlie & Carol Wray

Ben Shields

Mary Myers

Ernie Shockley

Jennifer Castleman
Charles Johnson
Ron Koesler
Penny Moore
Mary Sifford
Charlotte Smith
Karen Thomas

Linzey Smith

Stewart and Dorothy Brandt
Ashley Bufford & Sunny Dhokia
Tommy and Lynn Cresswell
The Kirkham Family
John & Betsy Koomen
Mireille Lalanee
Richard Morgano
Nashville State Nursing
Class of 2018
Janet Phelps
Alice Rogan and
Leonard Amdur
Lauren Smith and family

Sarah Stamps

Patricia Adams
Leslie Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Berry
Ben and Mary Byrd
Mr. & Mrs. Keith D. Frazier
Norman and Shari Frost
Christi Griffin
Dorothy Stamps Ingram &
George Emory Ingram
Alice Jacobson
Joyce Johnson
Cynthia Kershner & Mark Manz
Mary Leyden
and Torry Johnson
Deborah Oliver
Kathy & Robert Rolfe
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Lynn Scarborough
Mr. & Mrs. Don D. Swain

Sue & Robert Stamps

Dorothy Stamps Ingram &
George Emory Ingram

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Mary Lee Faircloth
Lise Hicks
Kate Michaud
Rebecca Whitehead

Kathryn Beckman Voekel

Will & Sarah Braam

Barbara Ward

Juliet Aldridge
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kaminski
Roger and Margy Milam
Kelli Smith

Stella Waters

Rita Johnson

Medford Webster

Beverly Browning

John L. Wood, D.D.S.

Mark Mittleman & Susan Wood

In honor of...

K. Barnes

Heather Baldry

Barrett & Susan Brantley

Marsha Crownover

Paul & Rebecca Buchanan

Kirby & Ann Davis

James Byrd

Tad & Richard Lisella

Julia & Brian Christman

Richard & Marilyn Thompson

Margo Cloniger

Margie Martin

Jill Lindner & Don Cobb

Susan & Henry Hipkens

Doug Darwish & Silvia Vajushi

Janet Kalnas

Jim and Jann Darwish

Janet Kalnas

Virginia DeVault

John DeVault

Pat Dishman

Janice Spillman

Miles Ezell, Jr.

Purity Foundation

David Faulkner

Abigail Faulkner

Dr. Curtis Hagenau

Katherine and Bruce McCrea

Mack Hallmark

Juanita & Charles Fentress

Henry Von Harshman

Amal Afyouni

Susan & Henry Hipkens

Jill Lindner

Anne Holder

Elizabeth Swope

Cornelia Hollister

Robert Hollister

Suellen Joyner

Sherry Harrison
Janice Spillman

Ken Levitan & Gloria Dumas

Tammy Logan

Susan Logan

Carrol Walton

Margaret Lovett

Marianne Johnson

Amy Lynch

Farris Ralston

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Richard & Beth Chapman

Laura Moran

Katherine Murrie

Bobbi Peek

Carrol Walton

Radnor Lake park staff

Janet Belser
Anita Schmid & Ty Finch Family
Cornelia Hollister
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Maynard
Larry & Carolyn Moore
Brian Stogdill
Charles & Laurel Wood

Mary Reeves

Julie Stevens

Emmie & Jim Thomas

Mal & Debbie Baird

Steve & Laura Ward

Linda Heflin Johnston

Wanda Webb

Carrol Walton

Charlie & Carol Wray

Margaret Behm &
Harlan Dodson

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!

Radnor 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.

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 to get a 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.