

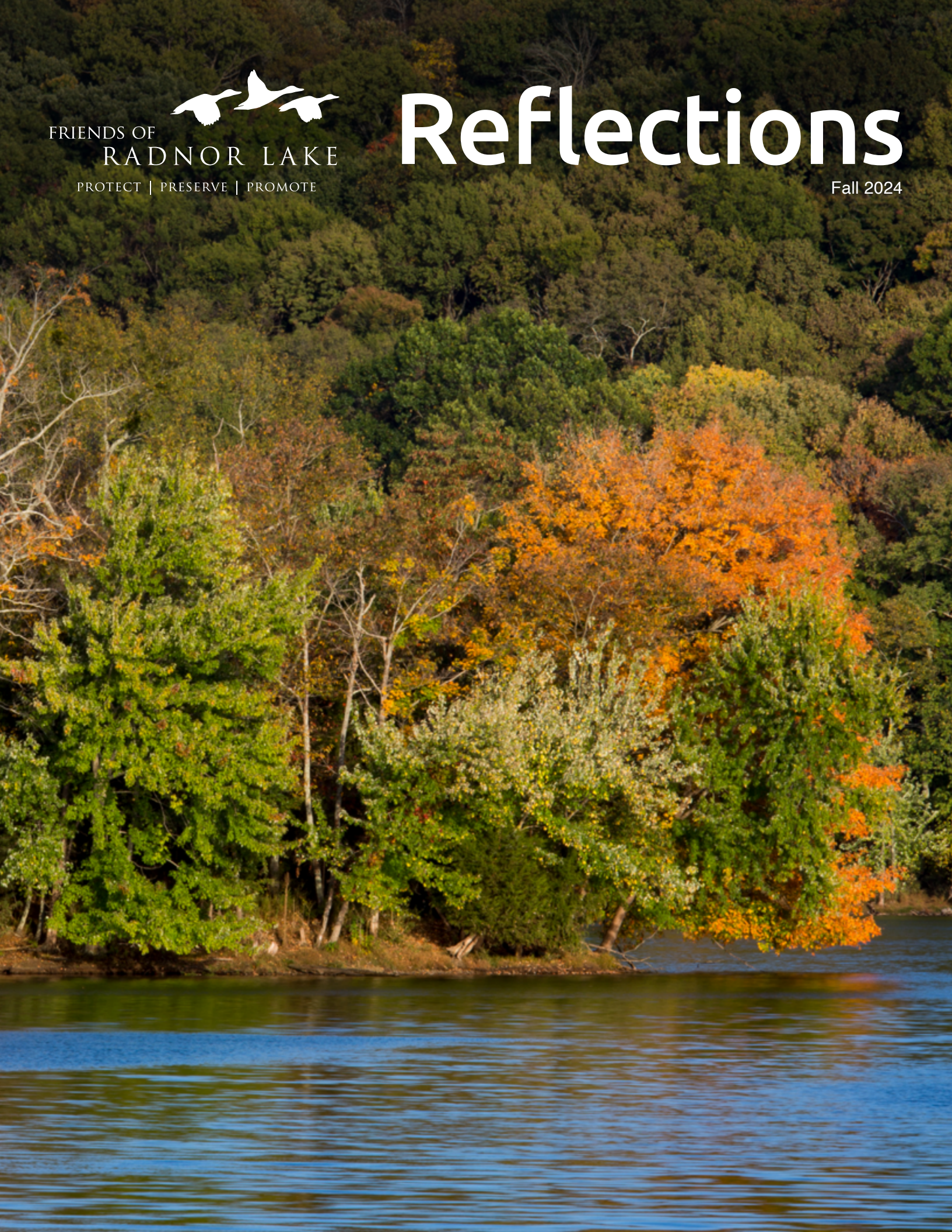


FRIENDS OF
RADNOR LAKE

PROTECT | PRESERVE | PROMOTE

Reflections

Fall 2024



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About the Cover

Photograph of Radnor Lake
by Robin Conover

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Rob Cochran

From the Board President

I view Radnor Lake State Natural Area as my backyard, as do 2.2 million visitors annually. It is a postcard example of the strength of a public/private partnership.

Comfort. My back yard brings me comfort and quiet enjoyment when I need solace for personal reflection.

Connection. My back yard gives me the opportunity to connect with nature, my family and my friends. What a great place to walk, hike and visit!

Exercise. A run on the road, a hike up South Cove Trail or Ganier Ridge, or a trip to the aviary certainly will work toward the step count for the day.

Education. The park staff do an amazing job offering us educational opportunities. From cameras and spotting scopes on the road and trails, open houses at the Barbara J. Mapp

Aviary Education Center, or just conversation about anything nature, the entire park staff are educated, professional and ready to help.

Safety. Again, thanks to the rangers, my backyard is very, very safe. They work diligently to ensure visitor safety and eliminate hazards from public areas. The trails are built and maintained to excellent standards. It's great to walk through the back yard, by myself or with others, with no worries.

Source of Pride. 8 miles from the Tennessee State Capitol are 1,400 acres of pristine property full of animals, forest and grasslands. What an amazing back yard!

Reap what you sow. The need for investment today is as strong as it was over 50 years ago. There are numerous volunteer opportunities. (I personally like World Wetlands Day as it allows off-trail cleaning efforts.)

Financial opportunities also abound, from \$5 to \$50M. Money is efficiently and safely invested into items such as trails, native grasslands, land purchases and the aviary, just to name a few. Every penny counts!

Thanks for joining me in enjoying, growing and maintaining our very own backyard!

– Rob

Photo by Robin Conover



SIR Mackenzie Maness (left) & Bridges Vice President of Adult Education & Outreach Mike Helms (right). Photo by Steve Ward

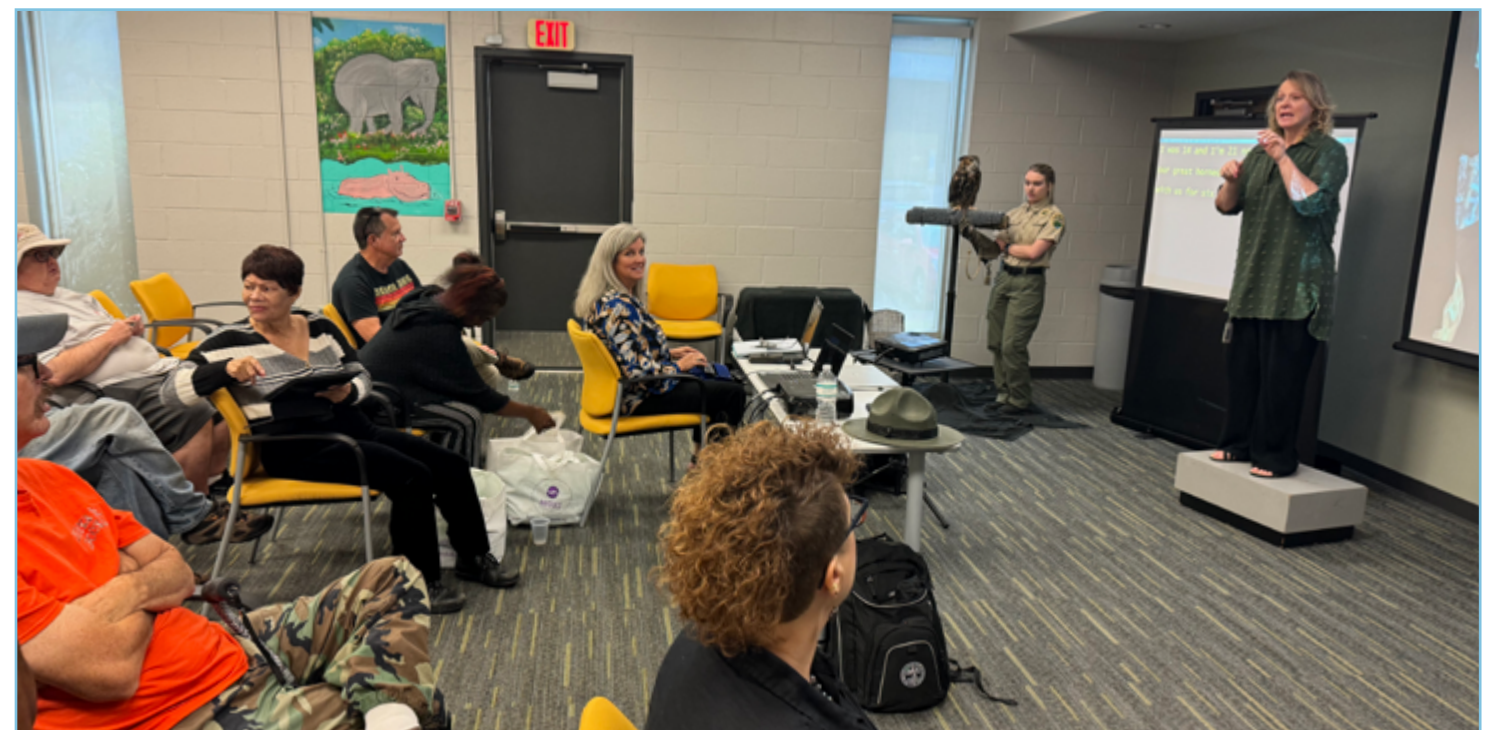


Radnor Lake Attends Bridges' CommunityFEST 2024

As part of our continued partnership with Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Radnor Lake joined in celebrating Deaf Awareness Month at CommunityFEST 2024 on Saturday, September 14. Park Manager Steve Ward gave a presentation about Radnor Lake, Seasonal Interpretive Ranger Mackenzie Maness conducted a glove program with our Great Horned Owl and Ranger Matthew Bowling provided interpretive programming with our resident captive cornsnake. Friends of Radnor Lake Director Tina Corkum was there gifting "I'm a friend of Radnor Lake" T-shirts to guests.

Special thank you to Vice President of Adult Education & Outreach Mike Helms and all of the Bridges staff who rolled out the red carpet for us to participate and for inviting us to be part of this great event. We're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have participated, and look forward to working with Bridges on more events in the future! ■

LEFT: Ranger Bowling and FORL Director Corkum. BELOW: SIR Maness program with sign language interpreter. Photos by Steve Ward





- Steve Ward**
Park Manager
- Lyndy Maness**
Administrative Assistant
- Ann Duncan**
Receptionist
- Paul Schauer**
Park Ranger
- Matthew Bowling**
Park Ranger
- Brandon Jarratt**
Park Ranger
- Jack Foresman**
Park Ranger
- Alexia Shore**
Park Ranger
- Mackenzie Maness**
Seasonal Interpreter/Recreator
- Taylor Smith**
Ranger Aide
- Shawn Byington**
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



Photo by Steve Ward

Celebrating American Eagle Day

June 20, 2024 | Story by Will Ferrell

This past June 20th on American Eagle Day, I had the pleasure of spending the day with TN State House Representative Caleb Hemmer (District 59), Caleb’s assistant Kathryn Farris, and TN State House Representative Darren Jernigan (District 60). It was a warm, humid summer day. We were glad it wasn’t over 90 degrees, which meant the birds-of-prey could come out and be handled by the rangers. The rangers seek to make the birds-of-prey feel comfortable, and if the birds-of-prey are signaling that they do not want to come out of their habitats, the rangers will listen. There are seven non-releasable birds in residence at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center. They are: a Great Horned Owl, a Red Tailed- Hawk, a Vulture, a Golden Eagle, and three Bald Eagles. All the birds-of-prey live in their own habitat, customized to provide for their individual needs and to offer protection. The day started off with park manager Steve Ward telling the history of how the aviary got started at Radnor. After that, we were off to see some beautiful, amazing birds.

The aviary at Radnor Lake State Park opened in 2015 and includes a 550-foot boardwalk that allows for visitors to be in a natural area while interacting with the birds-of-prey and getting a “bird’s eye” view of the surrounding park. This boardwalk is fully accessible, and I was easily able to access the boardwalk in the park’s wheelchair. The staff are fully trained to help me transfer from my wheelchair to one that is at the park, and then into the elevator to bring me up to the boardwalk. The transition couldn’t have been smoother.

We first saw a Vulture. The Vulture was handled by park ranger Jack Foresman. The Vulture is the smartest bird-of-prey at the aviary. Here is what I learned about the Vulture: When the rangers feed the vultures, they have to make a little hole in their glove and stick the food down in that hole. Vultures are used to hunting and pecking and digging for their food; they find it stimulating to “dig” their food out of the ranger’s glove.

Next, we saw the Red-Tailed Hawk. The Red-Tailed Hawk was handled by park ranger Matthew Bowling. One of the wings on the Red-Tailed Hawk was injured in the wild and then the hawk came to the aviary for care. The injury on the wing affected the hawk’s breathing because birds’ respiratory systems include some of the major bones in their skeletal system. Therefore, the Red-Tailed Hawk’s wing could not be fixed and it remains at the aviary.

Third, we saw a Bald Eagle which is my favorite bird-of-prey. This Bald Eagle is an 8-year-old female. This is the most magnificent bird that I’ve seen in my life. The Bald Eagle was handled by Steve Ward. The Bald Eagle received a shower as a reward for doing such a good job of being handled and presented to the public. It was neat to watch how much she enjoyed her shower, especially on such a warm summer day.

Finally, we saw the Golden Eagle. This Golden Eagle was handled by Steve Ward and is a 19-year-old female. It was amazing to see how the Golden Eagle had such a strong bond with Steve. The bird-of-prey even put her head on Steve’s shoulder and nuzzled his cheek a few times. This type of bond is so rare and takes many years to develop. Steve had to persist every day and have patience as he learned the bird’s personality and earned her trust. The eagles love to eat trout from Bucksnot Trout

Farm in McEwen, TN. Much care is taken to ensure the birds only eat the highest quality food. The Friends of Radnor Lake 501(c)3 organization helps to fund the purchasing of the birds’ food.

Each member of the Radnor Lake State Park is trained and certified on how to work with the birds-of-prey. It was so amazing to hear how much knowledge the staff had about each bird they were working with, in addition to all of the other park ranger knowledge they have. Nashville is so blessed to have this dynamic staff of rangers.

If you haven’t been to the aviary at Radnor, please make a point to do so! The aviary is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. If you need a wheelchair, please call or email Lyndy Maness (lyndy.maness@tn.gov 615-339-9829) to make a reservation at least 24 hours in advance.

If you would like to know more about my aviary experience, or hear more about my love for Radnor, you can e-mail me at willf3@bellsouth.net.

Hope to see you at Radnor! ■

Get more information on our automated, all-terrain wheelchairs—and reserve your own—at radnorlake.org/park/automated-wheelchairs



Photo by Steve Ward



ABOVE: Stephen Francescon & Tina Corkum. Photo by Brandon Jarratt.



FORL Receives Grassland Restoration Grant

Thank you to Stephen Francescon of Piedmont Natural Gas, who awarded Friends of Radnor Lake a \$10,000 grant as part of the company’s 40th Anniversary celebration of their parent company, Duke Energy.

This grant provides for planting native grasses as part of the wildlife habitat restoration efforts of Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Over time, critical areas throughout the park have been negatively affected by invasive-exotic plants. Our park staff have designed their own native grasslands seed mix to replace these invasive species, and provide host plants for animals—such as common milkweed for Monarch butterflies, and native grasses for ground-nesting birds like the eastern meadowlark and bobwhite quail.

The hillside in the background of the above photo is the target area for this expanded native grasslands project. Friends of Radnor Lake is pleased to support the restoration of these areas, and thanks Piedmont Natural Gas for helping to fund this important work. ■

LEFT: Photo by Steve Ward



2024 Jr. Ranger Intern Program conducting a 5.5-mile cleanup of the Duck River State Natural Area in July 2024. Photo by Steve Ward

It all starts with the water quality at Radnor Lake!

Story by Steve Ward

At the core of our resource management plan to protect Radnor Lake and manage it for future generations has been the water quality of the lake. This is one of the main justifications of our land acquisition efforts (protection of the watershed) & environmental education efforts between Friends of Radnor Lake, The State of Tennessee, the City of Oak Hill, volunteers, and other partners for over 50 years. In addition, the quality of our watershed at Radnor Lake has been essential for the establishment and success of our first American Bald Eagle nest and eaglets over the past 3 years as a tangible example of the “why” on our watershed protection efforts.

On the environmental education front and part of our interpretive master plan, active on the ground learning is essential for engaging our youth not only on the “how” but more importantly on the “why” it is important to protect our natural resources. Thanks to funding from Friends of Radnor Lake, our Jr. Ranger Intern Program offered 18 days each summer which includes an off-site river clean up trip for youth to act on making the environment better.

Likewise, volunteers have been an essential mechanism of that water quality focus, both individual volunteers who donate their time and corporate groups who annually schedule workdays thru the Friends of Radnor Lake Volunteer Program. Working with our park staff, the secret to the success of our volunteer program is the financial support we receive from external grant funds and donations to efficiently make the most of our volunteers’ time who work hard to assist our park ranger staff on the ground and school groups who come to the park with an army of youth to make a difference on the ground. Also, another critical key to over 20 years of success of our volunteer program is annual review of how to cut out administrative/burdensome time that is better utilized on the ground with our volunteers working with them.

One example of the Radnor Lake volunteer spirit is Scott Hall. Scott has volunteered countless hours over the past 10 years to help us in our water quality efforts and expertise guiding us on how we can best monitor the water quality at Radnor Lake. In addition, Scott assisted us in reestablishing our water quality internship this summer (see article on facing page on Jessi Meghreblian) funded by Friends of Radnor Lake and managed by Administrative Assistant Lyndy Maness with support from FORL Director Tina Corkum. Thank you, Scott, Lyndy, and Tina for all your time and efforts to make that opportunity possible for us again at Radnor Lake!



Jessi Meghreblian and dad, Mark Meghreblian, with the education poster she completed for Rachel Carson Day 2024. Photo by Steve Ward



2024 World Wetlands Day volunteers work with the park staff to remove invasive-exotic plants at Radnor Lake. Photo by Steve Ward

2024 Water Quality Internship at Radnor Lake

Story by Steve Ward

Beginning in May 2024 thru August 2024, Jessi Meghreblian joined our staff as our Water Quality Intern at Radnor Lake to help us refocus on efforts on monitoring the water quality of Radnor Lake. As with everything at Radnor Lake, it takes a team effort and making the most of this water quality internship window.

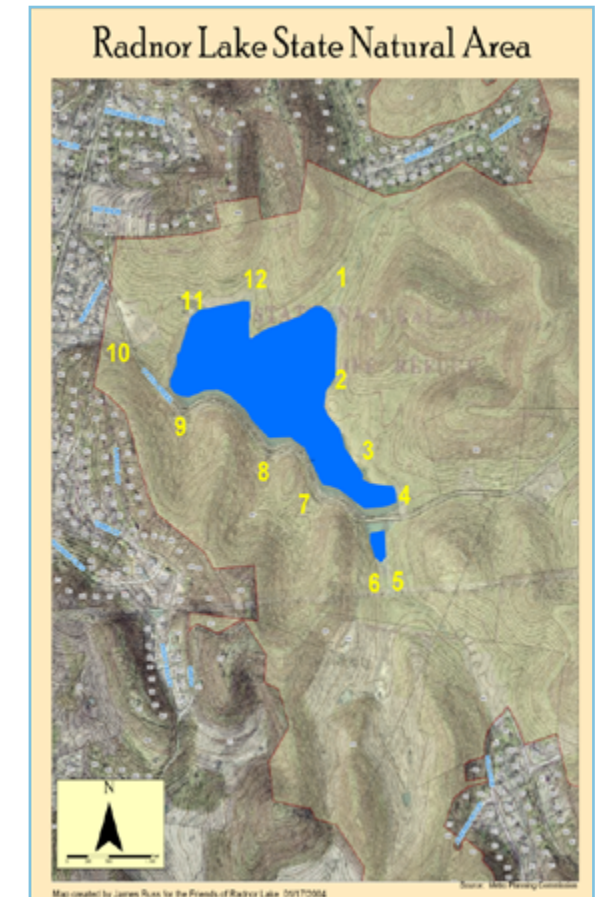
Jessi is a Middle Tennessee native, a 2022 graduate of BGA and now currently a student attending Eckerd College in Saint Petersburg, Florida with a major in environmental studies. Jessi worked with Administrative Assistant Lyndy Maness, our park ranger staff on the ground and with park volunteer Scott Hall to conduct testing at the water quality testing points established in 2004 for the original baseline water quality study. This was during the peak heat of the summer, often taking home numerous ticks, chiggers, and muddy uniforms to be washed.

Jessi hit the ground running, taking on a long list of needs relative to our water quality focus at Radnor Lake. This included several critical needs now and for future management for this resource management priority not only to conduct testing this summer but in upcoming years. A few of those are listed below:

1. Working with Administrative Assistant Lyndy Maness and Volunteer Scott Hall on the purchase of updated testing supplies for water quality testing at the lake and feeder streams housed at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center thanks to funding from Friends of Radnor Lake.
2. Assisted park management and Ranger Matthew Bowling with a 5.5-mile river clean up on the Duck River State Natural Area with our Jr. Ranger Interns and the purchase of supplies for the interns environmental education efforts.



L to R-Radnor Volunteer Scott Hall, Water Quality Intern Jessi Meghreblian and Ranger Matthew Bowling conducting water quality testing in the lagoon area of Radnor Lake in August 2024. While conducting testing, we discovered what is believed to be the first native plant swamp milkweed recorded at Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Photo by Steve Ward



Map of water quality testing points at Radnor Lake State Natural Area established in 2004. Map by James Russ

3. Assisted the park staff and Synergy display consultants with updating our Water Quality Case display in the Walter Criley Visitor Center.
4. Conducted two days of water quality testing by boat and at adjacent feeder streams at Radnor Lake with volunteer Scott Hall.
5. Inventoried and organized historical slides for water quality research.
6. TDEC ARAP Permit for repairs to Otter Creek from past flood damage.
7. Completed an educational poster on Rachel Carson for our Rachel Carson Day 2024 for the Walter Criley Visitor Center and Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center.

We would like to thank Jessi for spending her summer with us, for all her hard work and we hope she will return to us next summer for another summer focused on our water quality efforts at Radnor Lake. Great job Jessi! ■



Photo by Steve Ward



Native plants such as Swamp Milkweed are now being found for the first time in recent memory in the Lagoon area at Radnor Lake (August 2023). This is in response to prescribed burning and the targeted removal of invasive-exotic plants. Picture by Steve Ward



Administrative Assistant Lyndy Maness and Ranger Matthew Bowling displaying our native grasslands seed mix (now for sale in the park gift shop) in the native grassland project area adjacent to the Walter Criley Visitor Center in Spring 2024. Photo by Steve Ward

Protect and Preserve: Radnor Lake State Natural Area 2025

Story by Steve Ward

As we close out our 50th Anniversary of Radnor Lake State Natural Area, 2024 has been a great reminder of the awe, beauty, and foresight of those who originally “Saved Radnor Lake” in the early 1970’s from development. All of which bring us back to the ever-evolving management goal of being great stewards of our natural resource placed under our protection. “Protect and Preserve” is always at the forefront of our management of Radnor Lake State Natural Area and helps us stay focused on our main resource management priorities of water quality, land acquisition, professionally managed system of trails and the protection of plant/wildlife species. After 50 years, our focus of mission could not be stronger, and we are beyond grateful to the support from all of you. The celebration of our 50th Anniversary has been a great reminder of how we got here, the teamwork of great people who made that happen and our need to focus on the ground of protecting and preserving Radnor Lake State Natural Area for the next 50 years.

Why our Native Grasslands are so important at Radnor Lake?

A critical part of our resource management plan to protect Radnor Lake and manage it for future generations has been our native grasslands initiative we began in 2013. Eleven years later looking back, 2013 was the perfect time to begin the Native Grasslands Initiative as three fundamental historical events were occurring.

1. **Piedmont Pipeline and TVA Easement:** Established in the 1950’s when most of the area around Radnor Lake was farmland, this easement was absorbed into the natural area land acquisition plan in 1973 as those before us began to understand the scope of the ecosystem that supports Radnor Lake outside of the original 700 acres acquired in 1973. Rampant with invasive exotic plants such as bush honeysuckle, privet and tree of heaven, this easement corridor was absent of the adjoining natural area diversity of plant life while also continuing as a source of seed spread into the ecosystem. During implementation of the Piedmont Pipeline Project in 2013, we began working with both utility partners to convert most of the easement over to native grasslands as this corridor runs east to west through what is now known as Radnor Lake State Natural Area. This area was the first of our native grassland plantings with 3 plant species that included partridge pea, switch grass and Indian grass.



Photo by Steve Ward

2. The acquisition of 63+ acres of land along our southwestern boundary thanks to a great landowner who worked with us to acquire this property over two years. In addition to critical viewshed and watershed property that needed protecting from development to ensure the natural area experience stayed undisturbed, there was also about 10 acres of pastureland with this critical acquisition which was part of an active farm being grazed. The second of our native grassland plantings and expanded list of seed mix of 20 plant species.
3. The creation of the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center. Located in the Hall Farm, the education center building was primarily utilized for our historical research with three classes being taught annually with students from Middle Tennessee State University. As part of our Interpretive Master Plan, the creation of an aviary to house non-releasable birds of prey which focuses on our mission of environmental education began with the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation and Friends of Radnor Lake. This grew to include multiple partners which established a hike to destination for visitors to come that overlapped resource management needs such as removing invasive-exotic plants that had become rampant in the Hall Farm during succession from farmland. What had been actively farmed up until 1979 was still in early succession and mostly a monoculture of invasive-exotic plants, maple species, etc. which had become a monoculture absent of diversity of plant and wildlife found in other areas of the natural area. This area around the construction of the 550-ft. boardwalk that houses our captive non-releasable birds of prey was the third of our seed mix with 15 plant species selected and now the baseline of our native grasslands seed mix (also sold at the park gift shop).

All three of these events allowed us the perfect opportunity to create a baseline of native grassland project areas. All geographically aligned, these areas were former pastureland, which we know from historical photography dating back to the 1930’s, badly in need of an aggressive invasive-exotic plant removal plan and all of these combined would allow us to engage the public with an opportunity to volunteer on the ground working with our park staff given the geographic location of the education center to base our volunteer efforts.

Early on, some of this had been a methodology of trial and error, working on just a couple of acres at a time to ensure that we efficiently manage our external dollars and time to



Native Common Milkweed is the host plant and key plant species for Monarch Butterflies. This important host plant has seen an increase of over 500% the past 5+ years due to aggressive resource management plan which includes prescribed burning, gyrotrac machine work and native planting efforts as part of the Radnor Lake Native Grasslands Initiative. Photo by Steve Ward

get this process “right”. Over time, our park staff developed an internal management process which began with inventory of species, historical mapping, oral history recordings and vegetative research to identify key areas within the natural area to establish these grassland habitats. Then, an on the ground process of protecting key tree species for long-term protection, contract gyrotrac (machine that chips trees into mulch while protecting soil from erosion), prescribed burning of areas never burned the past 50 years and treatment/removal of invasive-exotic plants in adjoining areas to no-till planting of our own native grasslands seed mix became our standard.

Since that time, thanks to support from Friends of Radnor Lake, AWC Family Foundation, Tennessee State Parks, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, Tennessee Division of Forestry, TVA, the Iris Fund License Plate, Piedmont, private foundations, and individual donors who have contributed funds to Radnor Lake, we have been able to create/convert over 60 new acres of this habitat to date.

Confirmation of that value of those partnerships can be heard from sights, sounds, and feel of experiencing our native grasslands initiative at Radnor Lake. Whether it is the sound or sight of bees, birds and butterflies or unique wildlife experiences such as a bobcat hunting for food, young turkey poults learning from their mother hen how to catch a main staple of their diet or the 2023 historical first (captured on video) sighting first-hand of one of our American Bald Eaglets learning to hunt in these restored grassland areas after fledging from the nest.

There are countless scientific studies and data that support our Native Grasslands Initiative at Radnor Lake, ranging from the protection of specific plant species to the long-term management of butterflies (specifically the Monarch and our state butterfly Zebra Swallowtail), ground nesting birds



Zebra Swallowtail (official state butterfly) photo captured in the native grassland project area adjacent to the caretaker residence. Photo by Steve Ward

(Meadowlarks, Bobwhite Quail, Woodcock) and/or pollinators (bees) and their contributions to our ecosystem. In addition, the creation of these native grassland areas has already provided a broader diversity of plant life species unknown to most at Radnor Lake. New plant species are returning or being found for the first time, such as Swamp Milkweed, and other plant populations, like cattails, that have not been seen in years and are now expanding annually. Sightings of Monarch and Zebra Swallowtail butterflies are becoming an expectation for our visitors, and we are seeing birding species such as wintering red-winged blackbirds within the Hall Farm for the first time in recent memory. Native grasslands also directly support other resource management priorities such as the long-term water quality of Radnor Lake. This is allowing us to improve natural area acres of land which were once a monoculture of invasive-exotic plants with lower absorption rates to now a biodiversity of grassland species with higher absorption rates.

What's next?

In the coming months, thanks to additional funding from Friends of Radnor Lake, Piedmont, and Iris Fund License Plate monies, we will continue expansion of these native grassland areas. One project restoration area we have been gradually working on over the past two winters is invasive-exotic clearing that may have caught your attention while visiting the areas adjacent to the Walter Criley Visitor Center and Caretaker Residence. All these areas were early field succession up until the 1970's and we intend on restoring these areas back between December 1, 2024, thru June 1, 2025, and it will be like these areas when they were acquired in 1973.

As we head into 2025, we are thankful for the support from you and all of our partners as we work toward completing the Native Grasslands Initiative at Radnor Lake for now and for future generations to enjoy. To learn more about this conservation work on the ground, please join us on one of our ranger-led off-trail hikes or come donate some time in the coming year for events such as World Wetlands Day, International Mountain Day and/or our Native Grassland Hikes offered at Radnor Lake. ■



Contractor Josh Delozier with Grounded Land Solutions operating a gyrotrac in the Hall Farm prepping a native grasslands initiative 15 seed mix. Photo by Steve Ward



LEFT: 1939 aerial photograph showing a much more open landscape and past land use of open fields in the Oak Hill and Forest Hill communities. Working with higher education partners such as Dr. Doug Heffington and Dr. Robert Loeb, our park staff developed an internal management process which included historical mapping, oral history recordings, historical aerial photographs, and vegetative research to identify key areas within the natural area to establish these grassland habitats. Bottom right of this photograph is where the current East Parking Area and east entrance on Otter Creek Road at Radnor Lake. Photo from the Radnor Lake State Natural Area archive.



ABOVE: 1970's photograph of the West Parking Area and future site of the Walter Criley Visitor Center. Unknown to most visitors in 2024, this area around the current Walter Criley Visitor Center was primarily fields when acquired in 1973. Photo from the Radnor Lake SNA archive.



ABOVE: 2024 comparison photograph of the same spot 50 years later of the West Parking Area and Walter Criley Visitor Center. Photo by Steve Ward



ABOVE: 1970's photograph of the Lake Trailhead at the West Parking. Unknown to most visitors in 2024, this area below the dam to the Lake Trailhead was primarily fields when acquired in 1973. Photo from the Radnor Lake State Natural Area archive.



ABOVE: 2024 comparison photograph of same location 50 years later of the West Parking Area Trailhead. Photo by Steve Ward



Photo by Robin Conover

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Thank you for your support during our 50th Anniversary!

We are deeply grateful for the many individuals and organizations who supported Radnor Lake with a charitable contribution to Friends of Radnor Lake during Radnor's 50th Anniversary year.

This past year, our community reflected on Radnor Lake's origins with immense gratitude. Again, we want to thank...

- the community members who helped ensure this land wasn't developed,
- the State of Tennessee for protecting this natural area for the public to enjoy,
- the Radnor Lake park staff who manage the park and welcome all visitors, and
- everyone who has hiked, volunteered, donated, advocated and in some way helped Radnor thrive for the past 50 years.

It sparked so much joy for so many of us to know that we have worked together, with help from the State of Tennessee, to protect this local treasure.

We celebrate all of you who contributed to our mission to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural area through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.

Together, we are helping Radnor last another lifetime.

Thank you!

Legacy Gifts

Friends of Radnor Lake would like to acknowledge a few special gifts that we received this year, including a few dear friends who gave funds from their estates to Friends of Radnor Lake:

- Kathryn B. Cheek
- Laura Lea Knox
- Robert P. Maynard
- Bettye Reynolds and Flora Annette Twyford

Friends of Radnor Lake extends our sympathies to the families of these departed friends and our thanks for your lovely notes sharing stories of their devotion to Radnor.

To discuss a Legacy Gift to Friends of Radnor Lake, please contact FORL Director Tina Corkum at 615-251-1471 or tcorkum@radnorlake.org.

Photo by Robin Conover



Protecting Our Trails & Protecting Our Views

Friends of Radnor Lake is excited to share the successful completion of a significant and recent land acquisition. This acquisition—a 1-acre parcel—was critical in preserving the stunning views along the Lake Trail and preventing potential development that could have compromised the integrity of the natural area.

The plot was sold to us by two wonderful neighbors, Chris and Linda Magill, and plays a crucial role in our ongoing efforts to restore and enhance the park's ecological diversity with the conversion from a residential acre to one of native grasslands near the Visitor Center. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Magills for their generosity in selling this land to us below market value, and to the Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation for the generous grant which enabled us to pay off the debt this year.

Saving Radnor Lake from development in 1973 was Friends of Radnor Lake's first land acquisition project. Over the last 50 years, FORL has continued to work with park leadership and the State of Tennessee, land owners and donors to acquire land parcels which support Radnor Lake State Natural Area's strategic land management plan, protecting viewshed, watershed, wildlife and the hiking experience.

Thanks to all who contributed to making this possible. Special thanks to the Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation, the Landen Family Foundation and the State of Tennessee for their ongoing partnership and investments which have enabled us to protect Radnor Lake.



Photo by Robin Conover

Family Foundations

Two family foundations stepped up and made significant contributions which enabled us to purchase new critical parcels to advance the goals of Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Our deep and heartfelt gratitude to the boards of these organizations who made important acquisitions possible:

- The Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation
- The Landen Family Foundation

Both Foundations provided funds which filled the gap needed to complete critical land parcels this summer.

We celebrate all of you who contributed to our mission to protect, preserve and promote the natural integrity of Radnor Lake State Natural area through land acquisition, environmental education and park support.

Druid Tree Service team (left) removed invasive plants to prepare the site (right) for planting of native grasses. Photos by Steve Ward



Demystify Your Donations

Attend an info session and maximize your charitable giving strategy

You're charitable, and there are causes you love. For years you've written checks to support the charities that matter to you. Now people talk about Planned Giving and Donor Advised Funds, QCDs and QR codes. We want to help demystify the charitable giving landscape with help from a financial planning professional. Come, ask questions and share what you've learned as we discuss tax strategies in charitable giving and estate planning.

We invite you to participate in one of our upcoming informational events to learn more:

- **Thursday, November 14, 2024**
- **Thursday, December 5, 2024**

All presentations begin at **9:00 a.m.**

Location: Walter Criley Visitor Center at Radnor Lake

Let us know you're coming and send any specific questions to rsvp@radnorlake.org

Light refreshments will be provided.

Our presenters are volunteering their time to benefit Friends of Radnor Lake because they love Radnor. They are not prospecting for new clients. ■



Photo by Robin Conover



Photo by Robin Conover

Partners Driving Change at Radnor Lake

We regularly benefit from the support of our community partners in preserving Radnor Lake State Natural Area, through both financial aid and volunteer efforts. One such partner is Nissan, whose financial support has aided the park's Jr. Rangers Intern Program, volunteer initiatives and special events—all in the name of helping to promote environmental education and conservation.

In addition to funding, Nissan employees have actively volunteered at Radnor Lake, assisting with trail maintenance, invasive plant removal and other vital resource management projects. Their hard work ensures the park remains accessible and healthy for all visitors.

A big thank you to **Nissan** for their continued support, and to all the volunteers who contributed their time this season! Your hard work and dedication helps keep Radnor Lake thriving. ■



Jr. Ranger Interns and community volunteers assist with mulching trails. Photo by Steve Ward

Mack Prichard Collection Finds New Home at MTSU

Thanks to the generosity of the Mack S. Prichard Foundation, Mack's personal collection of books, papers, and postcards has found a permanent home at Middle Tennessee State University's Special Collections section of their James E. Walker Library. This incredible donation offers students, researchers and the community a chance to engage with the tools that guided Mack Prichard throughout his impactful career.

Prichard, Tennessee's first state naturalist, dedicated his life to preserving the state's natural resources. His extensive contributions included founding the Tennessee Trails Association and playing a key role in the creation of over 20 state parks and natural areas. His passion for the environment was matched by his curiosity, reflected in the items he collected—thousands of postcards from across the country, personal papers and a rich library filled with knowledge of Tennessee's landscapes.

This collection is now a treasure trove, available to inspire future generations of conservationists, historians and nature lovers. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the Mack S. Prichard Foundation and their commitment to ensuring that Mack's remarkable legacy will continue to educate and inspire. It is through gifts like this that we can continue to honor the legacies of those who shaped our parks and protected our natural wonders. ■



Mack Prichard assembles a slide show in his crowded office. Courtesy of Mack Prichard.

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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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Tennessee Specialty License Plates

Show your support of Radnor Lake and upgrade your vehicle - **BUY A RADNOR LAKE LICENSE PLATE!**

Our unique John Netherton-inspired specialty license plates have become an increasingly important source of funding for Radnor Lake State Natural Area! The \$35 per license plate brings us over \$62,000 a year - every penny of which goes directly to park support, such as land acquisition, invasive plant removal, care of the non-releasable raptors at the Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center, and other stewardship of natural resources.

So with this one minor expense, you can contribute to Radnor Lake, advertise your support, and beautify your car!

Why not?

RadnorLake.org/get-involved/ways-to-donate



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