

# Radnor Lake Reflections



Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the Natural Integrity of Radnor Lake  
through Land Acquisition, Environmental Education and Park Support.

Spring 2007

## Please join us for the Friends of Radnor Lake 7th Annual Environmental Award

Honoring Governor Phil Bredesen

Friday, April 20th  
5 PM

Meet at 4:45pm at the Radnor Lake Visitor Center  
1160 Otter Creek Road  
We will walk to Netherton Point for the Presentation at 5:00 PM  
Reception to follow

"I ask you as we navigate that land together to remember with me that there are far deeper and more profound truths in this world than the politics and pressures of the moment: Remember the land of undiscovered shores, where the world is young and dreams are new, and the night wind brings visions of great deeds."

– Phil Bredesen  
State of the State 2007

The 7th Annual Radnor Lake Environmental Award will be presented to Governor Bredesen on Friday, April 20 at five o'clock in the afternoon at Radnor Lake.

Established in 2001, the award acknowledges individuals for a lifetime of achievement in protecting for perpetuity the natural resources of Radnor Lake State Natural Area. Past recipients include Senator Douglas Henry, Mayor Warren

Wilkerson, State Naturalist Mack Prichard, Councilman Ron Turner, Governor Winfield Dunn and Kay & John Cheek.

Friends of Radnor Lake is very appreciative of all that Governor Bredesen has done to preserve Tennessee's beautiful places. We are excited about honoring him in this way.

Please join us in our celebration.

**Save the Date for the 2007 Moogras Jam**  
Saturday, May 5th, 3:30 til the cows come home!

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# Lifting Our Eyes to the Future

A letter from the board

For the last few years, Friends of Radnor Lake has honored one of our many heroes with the Radnor Lake Environmental Award. This year the unanimous choice of our Board of Directors is Governor Phil Bredesen.

Governor Bredesen really appreciates and enjoys Tennessee's natural beauty. For many years, he has tried to save Tennessee's unique landscapes and biological diversity from destruction.

As mayor of Nashville, Phil Bredesen created a new "Greenway" program, searching out the best of the few remaining undeveloped tracts in Davidson County for preservation and passive public enjoyment. By the end of his two terms as mayor, and as a result of his energetic leadership, decisive actions, and ability to inspire private donations, the amount of park land in Davidson County had doubled.

Then, as a private citizen, Bredesen founded and guided as Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Land Trust for Tennessee, a not-for-profit group that has preserved over 17,000 acres by conservation easements on privately owned land.

After he was elected governor, Phil Bredesen opened all the state parks that had been closed to the public. He managed to eliminate the Access Fee program ensuring better access for all our citizens and visitors. Instead of political appointments, our governor recruited Jim Fyke, Nashville's top



Ann Tidwell  
*President*  
*FORL*

notch park director, and Paul Sloan, brilliant businessman and environmental leader, as Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. This decision to let park people and environmental experts guide the Department of Environment and Conservation has paid tremendous dividends in efficiency and excellence in our state parks and environmental agencies.

Unfortunately, threats to Tennessee's beautiful landscapes, spectacular natural formations, and open countryside are increasing. People from other states are moving here in record

numbers. Second home developments are carving up the Cumberland Plateau and the Smokies Foothills. Subdivisions and strip malls are eating up our farmlands. Timber companies, who for decades have owned hundreds of thousands of acres of our best forests, streams, and water falls, are selling out to the highest bidder.

Governor Bredesen recognizes these unprecedented threats and is trying to seize opportunities that will never come again. We honor and applaud his achievements, vision, and leadership. All of us who love Radnor Lake and other special places across the state must show our support. We must let our other elected officials know that we favor the hard work, the bond issues, and the numerous and often difficult steps taken to save the best of our Tennessee—for us and future generations. Thank you Phil Bredesen.

Sincerely, Ann



# Moograss Jam 2007

Join your neighbors for an afternoon of great music,  
food and fun to benefit Radnor Lake!

**Saturday, May 5th from 3:30 til the cows come home!**

The Granny White Market sure knows how to have a good time. For the past three years, they have been hosting the Moograss Jam to celebrate community, family, and Radnor Lake. Come join us as the front parking lot is transformed into a wonderful outdoor venue for music and fun. Sponsored by many of Radnor's friends and neighbors, last year's event raised over \$8500 for Radnor Lake. Help us make this year's MooGrass Jam a great success!

*Granny White  
Market*



*"The Purple Cow Lives"*

**Ticket/Sponsorship Information:  
Granny White Market 373-1495**

**Icees, Face Painting, Dunking Tank, T-shirts, BarBQue**



## RADNOR LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA

**Steve Ward**  
*Park Manager*

**Brian Becker**  
*Park Ranger*

**Leslie Anne Rawlings**  
*Park Ranger*

**Emily Hogue**  
*Park Ranger*

**Randy Hedgepath**  
*Interpretive Specialist*

**Joshua Kirby**  
*Interpretive Specialist*

**Lyndy Maness**  
*Secretary*

**Angelina Clarke**  
*Receptionist*

### **Radnor Lake State Natural Area**

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

**Park Hours:**  
6 a.m. until dark

**Visitor Center Hours:**  
Open daily: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Closed: noon -1 p.m.

**Park Visitor Center:**  
(615) 373-3467

Radnor Lake State  
Natural Area Schedule  
of Events is available at  
the Visitor Center or  
online at:

[www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org)

### **TOS Announcement**

The Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society sponsors Wednesday morning bird walks at Radnor Lake State Natural Area during spring migration. The walks will begin Wednesday, April 11 and continue through Wednesday, May 16. Meet at the Radnor Lake Visitor Center at 7:30 A.M. Don't forget to bring your binoculars.

## **MTSU and Radnor Lake- an educational opportunity for all.**

By Dr. Doug Heffington, Professor of Geography, MTSU

Spring 2007 marks our fourth year at Radnor Lake State Natural Area for the MTSU "Oral Geography Project." From our first interviews in 2003 to the present, MTSU geography classes have interviewed or transcribed existing tapes for over 25 individuals who have a direct connection to Radnor. These connections have many forms—from historical to environmental to preservationist—and we have learned much. This year's interviews have included Victoria Jackson and her insights and connections to Radnor, especially those facilitated by John Netherton; Barbara Baydoun and her youthful years spent horseback riding in what was to become the natural area; and Ben Davis and his historical insights into the natural area proper and the region around Radnor. Students are currently transcribing their interviews and writing papers on how they provide information concerning Radnor's "sense of place."

In February, Steve Ward and I co-authored a paper that was presented to the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Region III at Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center in Alabama. The paper was entitled, "Sense of Place, Sense of Time: Radnor Lake State Natural Area and Oral Geographies." This paper was based upon our oral

geography research at the natural area since 2003. We are currently working on developing a panel session at the national meeting of the NAI to be held in Wichita, Kansas in November of this year. The panel will involve the same oral geographies but on an expanded scale. The national meeting is attended by over a thousand people involved in interpretation in local, state and federal facilities, so it is a good way to get the word out about our work here at Radnor

In addition to the Oral Geography Project, this semester will see MTSU geography students involved in our Radnor "Geohistorical Archeology Project." Some of you may recall our work last year that involved a surface mapping and collection of site 40DV175, the remains of a historic cabin not far from the east parking lot. Artifacts indicated the structure was occupied at least seasonally, and probably by males, since

no clearly defined feminine items were recovered. The artifacts were largely nails, window pane glass, and utilitarian ceramics, possibly indicating the structure was occupied by a watchman, guard, etc. This leads us to this year's site, which is just a short way from DV175. It is DV177 and is recorded as a munition shed or magazine. The cabin possibly housed the watchman whose charge was to guard the dynamite used in construction of the lake. Much of this has been pieced together based upon the oral geography of the late Al Ganier and the above ground archeology project.

In summary, it has been a very productive year for MTSU at Radnor, but this productivity is largely a result of the support the Friends Group has extended to the geography classes and, for this, I offer a heart felt "thank you."



# Junior Ranger Program 2007



Bridge constructed in July 2005 by junior rangers and volunteers.



Tires and Debris Removed from the Harpeth River

This summer, we will begin our 5th year of the Junior Ranger Program at Radnor Lake. This internship program will consist of two, 10-day periods of trail work and environmental education programs at Radnor Lake. The Junior Ranger

Program is always a highlight of the summer at the natural area. More information will be available regarding the program, registration, requirements and dates. Contact Steve Ward beginning April 15 at [steve.ward@state.tn.us](mailto:steve.ward@state.tn.us)

## Wildfire Training at Radnor Lake

Friends of Radnor Lake hosted wildfire training for State Park Rangers from several parks across the state. The 3 days of classroom instruction were conducted by the Tennessee Division of Forestry at the Radnor Lake Visitor Center.

This is just another example of the type of training our Ranger Staff at Radnor Lake prepare for to better protect our natural area and other Tennessee State Parks. Whether it is assisting with prescribed burning of a natural area or being prepared for a wildfire at Radnor Lake and/or any state park, this type of training is priceless when the need arises.

Special thanks to the following:

Robin Bible, Tennessee Division of Forestry  
Dan Smith, Granny White Market  
Steve Pardue, Regional Manager for Tennessee State Parks Ranger Staff at Radnor Lake S.N.A.  
Emmie Thomas & Victoria Jackson, Friends of Radnor Lake  
Radnor Lake Staff, Angelina Clarke and Lyndy Maness  
Shane Petty & Lori Jett, TN State Parks Training Office



Park Ranger, Randy Hedgepath supervising a prescribed burn at Henry Horton State Park.

# Natural Areas Week April 15 -21

## Celebrate Natural Areas Week by enjoying Tennessee's first state natural area, Radnor Lake!

**Ganier Ridge Walk:** Sunday, April 15 at 9 AM. An unusual habitat, scenic and strenuous is the venue for our Sunday morning walk. Meet in the East Parking Lot. Ranger: Hedgepath. Reservations open April 14th.

**Turtles:** Sunday, April 15 at 1 PM. View through a scope Radnor's sunbathing Sliders and other native turtles. A scope will be set up on the Lake Trail near the Spillway Bridge. Ranger: Becker. No reservations necessary.

**Tax Break Hike:** Sunday, April 15 at 7:30 PM. Stressed out about tomorrow's deadline. Join us for a relaxing evening stroll around the lake. All ages. Meet at the East Parking Lot. Ranger: Rawlings. Reservations open April 14th.

**Flowers:** Monday, April 16 at 9 AM. Take a walk with a ranger and learn some of the native flowers at Radnor. Meet in the East lot. Ranger: Becker. Reservations open April 14th.

**Wonderful Wildflowers:** Monday, April 16 at 11:30 AM. We will take a stroll along the Lake Trail observing some of the spring wildflowers. Ranger: Hogue. Reservations open April 14th.

**The Aliens Have Landed!:** Monday, April 16 at 1 PM. No, not extraterrestrials...but non-native animals and plants. Find out how they came to Middle Tennessee and learn how they invade and impact Natural Areas like Radnor Lake. All Ages. Meet at the Visitor Center. Ranger: Rawlings. Reservations open April 14th.

**Owl Prowl:** Monday, April 16 at 7:30 PM. Meet at the East parking lot and we will look and listen for owls. Ranger: Kirby. Reservations open April 14th.

**Wildflower Walk:** Tuesday, April 17 at 5 PM. Meet at the Visitor Center and join us for a walk among the flowers. Ranger: Hedgepath. Reservations open April 14th.

**Dam Hike:** Thursday, April 19 at 3 PM. Take a short walk with a ranger along the lake and learn about the dam and what's behind it. Meet at the Visitor Center. Ranger: Becker. Reservations open April 14th.

**Wildflower Hike for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** Friday, April 20 at 2 PM. Join Park Ranger Steve Ward for a wildflower hike along the South Lake & South Cove Trails. Limit is 12 participants and is considered a mild-strenuous hike. Meet at the Visitor's Center. Hike is for the deaf and hard of hearing visitors only. Contact Visitor Center for more information or contact Ranger Steve Ward at Steve.Ward@state.tn.us Reservations open April 14th.

**Environmental Award Presentation and Reception:** Friday, April 20 at 5 PM. Meet at the Visitor Center and take a short hike to Netherton Point to honor Governor Phil Bredesen our 7th Annual Environmental Award recipient and celebrate Tennessee's Natural Areas Week. Ranger staff will conduct birds of prey, reptile and other programs before and after presentation. No reservation necessary.

**Earth Day Youth Volunteer Day:** Saturday, April 21 at 9 AM. Children up to the age of 12 can help the ranger with some small projects around Radnor Lake to help save it for the future. We'll do some plantings to celebrate Arbor Day too! Ranger: Rawlings. Reservations open April 14th.

**Wildflower Hike:** Saturday, April 21 at 1 PM. We will take a hike around the Lake to look at some of Radnor's abundant wildflowers. Ranger: Kirby. Reservations open April 14th.

**Saturday Evening Canoe Float:** Saturday, April 21 at 6 PM. The first evening canoe float of the season! Ranger: Hedgepath. Reservations open April 14th.

**Ganier Ridge Walk:** Sunday, April 22 at 9 AM. An unusual habitat, scenic and strenuous is the venue for our Sunday morning walk. Meet in the East Parking Lot. Ranger: Hedgepath. Reservations open April 21st.

**Snakes of Radnor:** Sunday, April 22 at 3 PM. Take a break from your hike to and stop by the Spillway Bridge to view some of the amazing reptiles native to Middle Tennessee. Ranger Hogue. No reservations necessary.

**Please call 377-1281 to sign up for these great programs!**

**You can find the rest of the April Program Schedule on line at [www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org).**

## Monthly Meetings

Radnor Lake State Natural Area hosts environmental organizations' monthly meetings at the Walter L. Criley Visitor Center. These educational meetings are open to the public. Please call the contacts listed for agendas and other information.

### Cumberland-Harpeth Audubon Society

First Thursday at 7 p.m.  
Contact: Sheila Shay  
(615) 298-5154

### Middle Tennessee Group of the Sierra Club

Second Thursday at 7 p.m.  
Contact: Adelle Wood  
(615) 665-1010

### Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Third Thursday at 7 p.m.  
Contact: Jan Shaw  
(615) 331-2231

### TSRA Board Meeting;

Fourth Thursday.  
Contact:  
[Griswold/bgriz@comcast.net](mailto:Griswold/bgriz@comcast.net)



# IF you really want to help.....



**Twin Fawns at Radnor Lake** photo by Steve Ward

As with every changing season at Radnor Lake, there are different natural events that each visitor looks forward to each year. Whether it is the emergence of a specific wildflower or the arrival of a specific type of bird, spring means something different to us all. The protection of this ecosystem was part of the vision behind creating the states first natural area, Radnor Lake.

In contrast, it is also a time of year that the ranger staff spends an enormous amount of time enforcing the rules and regulations. Issues such as dogs off leash, off-trail hiking, picnicking and feeding wildlife on the natural area are reminders that we have a long way to go in educating all of our visitors and neighbors about the cumulative effect upon the natural area, our wildlife, and the visitors who come to Radnor Lake.

Disobeying leash laws is a common offense with potentially serious outcomes. For example, each year the ranger staff discovers 3-4 whitetail deer fawns killed by domestic dogs on the natural area during the spring and early summer months. Some are killed by neighborhood dogs allowed to roam free, others by pets of visitors who choose to ignore leash laws or choose to walk their pets on trails. When stopped or cited by rangers, offenders have a variety of explanations and excuses, all of which come to a simple answer. They do not understand the long term implications for the natural area, its inhabitants, and the visitors of tomorrow. Only by being responsible pet owners and abiding by Natural Area Rules and Regulations can the overall health of the natural area be preserved.

For our visitors and their pets please...

1. Keep your dog on a leash at all times.
2. Do not allow dogs in the lake or on trails at any time.
3. Pick-up after your dog and dispose of your bag in either of the two parking area trash receptacles.
4. Do not leave dog bags on the road at any time. This is considered littering, regardless of the original intent of "picking it up later".
5. Control your dog at all times.
6. Be conscious of bicyclists, joggers, park vehicles, birders, etc.....

Fortunately, the majority of our visitors who walk their dogs at Radnor Lake are responsible pet owners who not only keep their dog on a leash at all times, but pick up after their dog and properly dispose of their pet's waste in trash receptacles in the parking areas.

Thank you in advance for your help!



**Keeping an Eye on Things** photo by Steve Ward

# — RADNOR REPORT —

## Canoe Floats at Radnor Lake

by Randy Hedgepath, Interpretive Specialist

**R**adnor Lake is most beautiful when viewed from its surface. The striking backdrop of forested hills; the sightings of a great blue heron, a wood duck, beaver, raccoon, deer, or perhaps even an osprey, adds to the sense of privilege as we paddle across the rippling water.

Canoe floats are particularly wonderful opportunities to educate folks about the serious business of managing a class II Natural Area (scientific), which mandates that we focus on the protection of the integrity of the natural environment. Human impact on the wildlife is of great concern, so strict policies must be observed during the float. A ranger or naturalist supervises the group noting the wildlife, the history, geology, and other points of interest. Leaders have the obligation to look after the wildlife, and participants are encouraged to share in this commitment as they enjoy an exceptional experience on the lake.

Canoe float dates are noted in our program schedule which is posted at the Visitor Center, in information kiosks at the park, and on the Friends of Radnor Lake website. We sometimes have age restrictions, so please be sure to ask if you are intending to bring a child. To be fair to everyone, reservations will be taken in the following manner: On the Saturday before the desired trip or as listed on the program description, reservations will be taken by phone call only starting at 9 a.m. Reservations will be accepted until the announced limit is reached. Please have the courtesy to call the Visitor Center at 373-3467 to cancel if you cannot come.

This program is extremely popular for very good reasons. It is an unforgettable experience and it is a privilege. Come join us and see!



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A Big Thank You to Councilwoman Lynn Williams and the Metro Council for giving Friends of Radnor Lake a \$10,000 grant. We'll be using the funds for the spring newsletter, water quality study, park support and the production of informational panels for the new park kiosks.

If you know Lynn or would like to thank her yourself, here is her email address:

lynn.wms@comcast.net

# DONATIONS, GIFTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMORIALS

We would like to thank you who have contributed to the efforts of Friends of Radnor Lake. Natural area preservation, educational programming and land acquisition continue to be our highest priorities. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated. This list reflects donations, gifts, grants, and memorials made from August 1, 2006—February 28, 2007.

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## **From the Chestnut Group Plein Air Event—**

### **Artists who donated their painting sales:**

Beth Affolter  
Cindy Baran  
Kim Barrick  
Walter Benneyworth  
Anne Blair Brown  
Debbie Holly Bryan  
Jane Burrus  
Sue Catchings  
Cynthia Crook  
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Lynne Thompson  
Gail Thorson  
Cynthia Vowell  
Julia Wilkswo  
Gary Young



## FRIENDS OF RADNOR LAKE

Friends of Radnor Lake was born in 1973 when the lake and surrounding hills were threatened with residential development.

As the Tennessee State Park system's oldest and most successful nonprofit support group, FORL has purchased critical properties and supported protection efforts in many other ways.

**Friends of Radnor Lake**  
P.O. Box 40324  
Nashville, TN 37204  
(615) 251-1471

e-mail: [friendsofradnorlake@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofradnorlake@yahoo.com)

### **We're on the Web**

Check out our Website for up to date events, photos and other important information.  
[www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org)



*Volunteers from Vandy help to clear exotic plants and pick up trash. Thank You!*

## Park Program Schedule

A full schedule of events will be available at the Visitor Center. Some activities require reservations.

For the current Park Program Schedule, please stop by the Visitor Center or check online at [www.radnorlake.org](http://www.radnorlake.org)

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## Celebrate Earth Day at Radnor

### **Youth Volunteer Day:**

Saturday, April 21 at 9 AM.  
Children up to the age of 12 can help the rangers with some small projects around Radnor Lake to help save it for the future. We'll do some plantings to celebrate Arbor Day too! Ranger Rawlings. Reservations open April 14th. 377-1281

### **Volunteer Day:**

Saturday, April 28 at 8 AM until noon. Celebrate Earth Day by giving back to the community. Come and help the rangers with projects that will protect Radnor Lake for future generations. Bring work gloves and meet at the visitor center. No reservations necessary. Thank you!



**Friends of Radnor Lake**  
**P.O. Box 40324**  
**Nashville, TN 37204**

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