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Letter from the President

As a long time Radnor Conservancy member, board member and now president, I am proud to be part of an organization that continues to advocate, educate and engage our community to be good environmental stewards.

The Conservancy has been advocating the preservation of open space and for rejuvenating parks in Radnor for the past thirteen years. We believe there is a need to encourage residents to create a culture that embraces the outdoors and treasures these life long assets. Now, with the Township's purchase of seventy one acres of the Ardrossan estate, coupled with future trail projects in the Township, we are at the cusp of seeing and experiencing the benefits of this important work. Moving forward, we will continue to lead and partner with the many local organizations involved in the Radnor Trails Project. Once complete, this system will add immense value to our community and to our lives.

In being good stewards, the Conservancy has also continued to produce educational programming that reaches out to all ages in our community. We collaborate with many Radnor organizations and schools in developing and implementing workshops and programs. Specifically, we've spearheaded our Big Tree and Bird Town programs. Both programs work toward the replenishment of shade trees and the need for biodiversity in our backyards and parks. We hope to guide residents towards implementing these better and safer environmental practices.

An important part in being successful in our mission is to engage our residents young and old. We have created programs that encourage residents to participate in habitat clean up, planting trees and volunteering for fundraising events. Our volunteer participation helps our community come together and be more mindful of our common goal.

None of our success could have been achieved without the dedication of our past and current board members, executive directors and the many volunteers in this community. So, a warm round of thanks to those who have given their time and expertise to bettering our community. May you get outside, plant a tree, refrain from using pesticides and listen to the birds.

We thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued support.

Laura Luker
President



Photo by Simone Collins

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RADNOR CONSERVANCY

An Autumn Affair at Chanticleer

A little rain did not keep us from having a lovely evening at our fall fundraiser at Chanticleer Garden, *An Autumn Affair*, among friends and exquisite surroundings. The event was a success, raising just over \$35,000 – your generous support makes it possible for the Radnor Conservancy to continue its efforts in protecting and preserving Radnor’s open spaces and helping raise awareness for the next generation of environmental stewards. We are truly appreciative of your gift and we could not accomplish our work without your help. Your donations will go towards our environmental programming, trail development and our Big Tree Program.

We have strongly supported the Township’s acquisition of 71 acres (three important parcels) of the Ardrossan property along Darby Paoli and Newtown Road and the Darby Creek. We will support the Radnor Trail Council’s initiative to link open spaces in the town by a trail network; work with the Radnor Bird Town Steering Committee to develop programs to protect and improve our bird population and backyard habitats. In conjunction with Radnor Township and Chanticleer Garden, we participate in the project to plant hundreds of trees throughout the Township with our Big Tree Program and we continue to be alert to any conservation issues that may develop. Our education programs are developed in conjunction with our partners and are geared to multi-generational audiences, hoping to foster environmental stewardship.

Special thanks to Chanticleer Garden for supporting our mission and to event chairs Megan Hope and Jen McGowan, and their committee members for organizing another successful event.



L-R: Brian and Alainya Harper, Radnor Conservancy Executive Director Gretchen Groebel and her husband Robert, and Katie and Tony Schaeffer.



L-R: Erinn Wiley, Jennifer Unterberger from Brandywine Realty Trust, and Nicole Buggie.



L-R: Carrie Soroush, Linda Hubschmidt, Shari Noteware and Kim Wolitarsky.

Photos by Brenda Carpenter

Special Thanks to our Sponsors



William C. and Laura T. Buck

Kevin and Liz Duffy

Lynne and Bruce Hernandez

Wade and Wendy McDevitt

David and Virginia Toomey



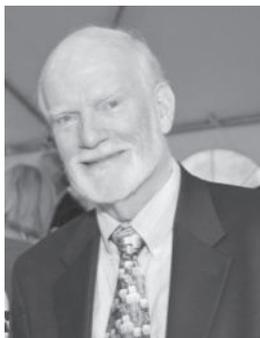


Photo by Brenda Carpenter

John Fischer receives Trailblazer Award

John has been deeply involved in the Radnor community over the years and has committed countless hours and expertise to The Friends of Radnor Trails, The Bicycle Coalition, Radnor Bird Town, and The Open Space Committee (to name a few). He served as President of the Radnor Conservancy, was a founding member of the Radnor Education Association and since 2013, has been President of the Board of Directors at the Jenkins Arboretum.

He has been instrumental in making Radnor an environmentally-conscious community and has helped to increase awareness of the importance of birds and native habitats. We thank and honor him for his spirit and environmental advocacy.

Ardrossan Construction Begins

Building permits for public improvements infrastructure and houses have been issued by Radnor Township to begin the multi-phase development of Ardrossan. It is anticipated that water lines, sewers and roads will be constructed as the residential development progresses from phase to phase of this multi-year project.

The Township purchased 71 acres of Ardrossan in 2014, a move applauded by environmental and open space advocacy groups, including the Radnor Conservancy. The purchase protected a substantial portion of land from development and preserved environmentally sensitive areas of the Farm. In an effort to defray some of the cost of purchase, the Township is presently negotiating with a local Boy Scout troop to sell a 2.2 acre parcel of the Wheeler Field, which is located between the Darby Creek and Darby Paoli Road. Sources close to the negotiations are optimistic that a deal will soon be struck.



The land acquired is in three separate parcels, including the Rye Field parcel at the corner of Newtown and Darby Paoli Roads. This parcel is especially significant because of its bucolic viewshed. As construction began, the developer of Ardrossan secured permission from the Township to increase the size of the berm at the ridgeline at the top of the Rye Field with excess soil from the initial construction. Once construction is completed, the berm will be planted and offer further protection to this viewshed. Trail development in the Ardrossan Open Space is now under consideration (see Trail article). Trails will enhance public access to and use of the newly acquired land for years to come.



Photo courtesy of Roy Diblik

An Inspirational Encounter...

I recently attended a fascinating symposium on October 1, "Cultivating Passion," at The Barnes Foundation, a daylong exploration of how plants inspire artists, writers, gardeners, and designers. Roy Diblik, a Northwest plantsman and co-owner of Northwinds Perennial Farm in Burlington, Wisconsin shared his unique relationship to growing and designing with perennials.

He specializes in highly aesthetic, sustainable plant communities for all seasons, while reducing maintenance through design. He believes that gardens should be thoughtful, ecologically directed and suggests that we get to know the types of plants we are selecting and know how they will share the garden space. A sustainable approach that takes into consideration the structure and texture of a plant and how it will perform in your specific ecological habitat.

No plants that thrived on the prairie or meadow lived in woodchips. Can we consider not dressing our gardens with mulch and woodchips? Create a beautiful garden of natives and non-native plants that are there for the long-term. His design methods are food for thought and are an ecologically friendly alternative to a manicured, high-maintenance lawn.

- by Gretchen Groebel, Executive Director



RADNOR CONSERVANCY

Storytime at Skunk Hollow

Radnor Conservancy and Radnor Memorial Library was on the go this fall in a new partnership. Kids ages 3-6 enjoyed a fun, garden-inspired storytime with Children's Librarian Carrie Sturgill and then toured the Skunk Hollow Community Garden located in the beautiful Willows Park. The children discovered connections between the garden and what they saw and heard in the books; like bees, butterflies, pumpkins, flowers and vegetables! This will be an ongoing program, so stay tuned for Spring 2016 dates. P.S. We did a little singing too!



Radnor Reflections Photography Exhibition

The Radnor Conservancy's 2015 photography exhibition **Radnor Reflections**, in partnership with the Wayne Art Center, was held from May 9 through June 27, 2015 in the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Gallery. Participation nearly doubled this year and 75 photographs were on display, capturing so many different scenes that make life in Radnor special. All of the images had to have been taken in Radnor, but residency of the photographer was not a requirement. Rob Cardillo, renowned local garden and nature photographer was the Juror.



Best in Show: Kitty Kono, *Duck Magic*

1st Place: John Guillaume, *Christmas in Wayne*

2nd Place: Jackie Kane, *Golden Lotus at Chanticleer*

3rd Place: Laura Ducceschi, *Echinacea Meadow*

Best in Show (Youth): Estelle Atkinson, *Skunk Hollow in Late Summer*

Juror's Awards: Ruth Parker, *Through the Gate*, Jim Conner, *Approaching Storm*

Call for Entries for May 2016 information: See wayneart.org

Arbor Day Celebration

Continuing a long tradition, the Radnor Conservancy was thrilled to help sponsor the 2015 Radnor Township Arbor Day Celebration on Tuesday, April 21st at Friends of Radnor Trail Park. Arbor Day was first observed in Nebraska on April 10, 1872 to raise awareness about the critical ecological necessity of planting trees. It received recognition as a Federal holiday at the beginning of the modern environmental movement in 1970.



Radnor Township celebrated being recognized for the past 23 years as a Tree City USA. Co sponsors included Radnor Township, the Recreation and Community Programming Department the Parks and Recreation Board as well as the Shade Tree Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Boy Scouts, and the Radnor Conservancy. The following speakers / guests were in attendance: Radnor Township Board of Commissioners - Former-President William Spingler, Radnor Township Manager - Robert Zienkowski, Radnor Recreation Director - Tammy Cohen, Radnor Township Shade Tree Commission: Howard Holden, Former Chair; Gus Feudale, Vice Chair, Radnor Township Parks Board Vice Chair Chris Campbell, Jessica Salter, Service Forester - PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, Boy Scout District Executive - David Bryan, Radnor Conservancy: Gretchen Groebel, Executive Director; Laura Luker, President

The Boy Scouts, neighbors, and other volunteers pitched in to help plant eight native trees on the Radnor Trail. Donated by the Radnor Conservancy, the trees join many others planted along the trail by the Conservancy to help restore this linear park. They demonstrate the vital importance of planting native trees and shrubs to support biodiversity, including essential habitat for local species. More volunteers are always needed - learn how you can get involved with greening Radnor at

<http://radnorbirdtown.org> <http://www.radnorconservancy.org> <http://www.radnor.com/233/Recreation-Community-Programming>

Special thanks to Mark Domenick from Radnor Township for his tireless attention to the care of our new trees



Check Out Our Explorer Packs at the Library

The Radnor Conservancy wants to encourage everyone in the community to spend time outside enjoying nature, and that includes children too. To that end, with the kind donation of two backpacks from L.L. Bean (King of Prussia), we have created two Radnor Conservancy Explorer Packs which will be available for check out from the Radnor Memorial Library.



Each pack contains everything you and your children might need for a day exploring one of our beautiful parks or even in your own back yard. We have provided magnifying glasses, binoculars, bug viewers, compasses and field guides to encourage children and their families to get out there, hike the local trails, look under rocks and up into the trees and discover the nature that is all around. A journal is also included in the packs so that children can share their thoughts and discoveries as the seasons pass by and we hope that this will become a unique record of the way our youngest residents see Radnor's open spaces.

The packs can be checked out by anyone with a library card, just like a book! This has been a collaborative effort between the Library and Conservancy. The RC Explorer Packs are aimed at pre-school through elementary school age but we hope to create more bags as time goes on.

Look and ask for our Explorer Packs at Radnor, Ithan and Wayne Elementary Schools - coming soon!

Protecting Trees in Radnor Township

There is no denying that we live in a beautiful part of the world. One component of this beauty is our tree canopy. A couple years ago, my father, John Ward and I visited the second graders at Radnor Elementary School on Arbor Day. We began with a question, "What are the benefits of trees?" Immediately, several hands were raised and answers easily flowed: Trees provide shade, They are fun to climb, Leaves turn beautiful colors in fall, Leaves filter the air we breathe, Trees block noise, Trees help absorb water run-off. Clearly, the importance of trees to our community is being taught both at home and school – the future of trees is bright in our community.

In Radnor Township, we enjoy a rich history of planting and caring for trees. From George Childs planting an oak tree for then President Ulysses S. Grant during a visit to Wootton (now St. Aloysius Academy) in 1876 to the Rosengarten family dedicating their magnificent estate as a spectacular public garden, Chanticleer, our community has been committed to protecting open space and preserving our tree canopy. Our tree canopy has been valued through time.

While there is much to celebrate regarding our existing trees, it is equally important to stay focused in protecting our aging tree canopy and also restoring this canopy through planting new trees. Radnor Township's tree planting program and the Radnor Conservancy's Big Tree Program are important steps in restoring our canopy. Radnor Township's Shade Tree Ordinance mandates protective regulations for trees and protects our tree canopy. Together, these are powerful steps in planning for our future tree canopy.

As homeowners, we are also property managers. We encourage everyone to begin or update their tree maintenance program. Through proper tree care and landscape planning - the life span of our valuable canopy can be extended and plans made to install new trees. Through these efforts, our tree canopy will thrive for the next hundred years and beyond.



Photo courtesy of John B. Ward & Co.

There are many resources available on the web to learn about caring for our tree canopy. A good place to start is www.treesaregood.com, a site managed by the International Society of Arboriculture.

- by Matthew Ward, ISA Certified Arborist



Trails Update

This Summer and Fall, members of the Conservancy worked to coordinate the many trail projects currently in progress in Radnor, including the proposed trails from the new Open Space and Greenways plan, the Ardrossan draft plan, the Ithan Valley Trail and the extension of the Rail Trail. Two Trail Summits were held to gather stakeholders within the Township who have been working on developing these trail projects. The intention was to come up with a comprehensive set of proposed systems and trails regardless of their stage of ideation. Emphasis was placed on connecting the systems internally within Radnor Township and with neighboring communities. As a result of these meetings, a comprehensive map was developed by Simone Collins, a Landscape Architecture firm out of Norristown. The map graphically portrays the different trails and their current state of being. All of the information about the different trails was quantified into matrixes which focused on timelines, phases and grant opportunities. With these organizational tools in hand, we are now ready to embark on a coordinated effort to pursue the many different trail projects in a collaborative, orderly manner.



Photo by Simone Collins

The Board of Commissioners has approved the issuance of a bond that will include funding to start turning this Trail Network into a reality. Specifically, the bond funding will cover a 50% match for several projects that the Trail Summit participants deemed as priorities. Those trails include (1) the West Wayne Connector, which will connect downtown Wayne to the Radnor Trail, (2) the extension of the current Radnor Trail from Radnor Chester Rd. (going under the road) a mile longer to the Blue Route, (3) the proposed trail on the north side of Rt. 30 along the length of Villanova's campus connecting VU to KoP Rd., (4) trails along and within Ithan Valley Park extending to Haverford Township, (5) a trail connecting Radnor Memorial Park to Harford Park, and (6) the development of a perimeter trail system and roadside trail at Ardrossan.

Volunteers are needed to help with grant writing and spear heading different segments. The map that Simone Collins developed is available on the Township website, and as each project progresses public input and participation will be encouraged. Contact the Conservancy with your interest!

Outside Lies Magic

Harvard University's Professor of Landscape History, John Stilgoe in his book ***Outside Lies Magic*** encourages us to "go outside, move deliberately, then relax, slow down look around" and that "exploration encourages creativity, serendipity, invention." This interesting book encourages us to look at our regional Landscape with a fresh set of eyes in exploring our cultural landscape. To be present and realize a place for what it is and what it can be requires us to slow down and disconnect from much of modernity. Yosemite's deep valley and sheer granite cliffs with plunging waterfalls might be an obvious place to come away with a visceral experience that overwhelms. New York City's High Line is a tour de force in garden design with its sexy finishes and bold planting compositions that leave garden enthusiasts star struck. I encourage all to go and see.



Photo courtesy of Donald Pell

Local trail and landscapes like Radnor's Skunk Hollow is as good a place as any to get outside and look. This place has provided many a photograph for talks I have given on design inspiration. A stately Sycamore pushing into the trail interrupts our daily life, forcing us to interact. Water cascades through the Little Darby Creek invigorating our senses, its massive granite boulders invite us to sit and monolithic masses of herbaceous plants help clarify the landscape. Gnarly groupings of trees bring sculptural beauty to our consciousness and heavenly serenity as light filters through arthritic branches. These places can inspire us to bring the power and beauty of the regional landscape with all its imperfect beauty and vigor into our own gardens and free us from the constraints of the perfect and impossible.

- by Don Pell, Donald Pell Gardens



More Shade Trees Go in the Ground in Radnor

The Big Tree Program is planting again! Radnor homeowners now have two ways to get free or low cost shade trees for their properties thanks to the Big Tree Project, a collaborative effort between the Radnor Conservancy, The Chanticleer Foundation and Radnor Township. Since the program began in 2008 over 500 shade trees have been planted throughout the Township, with more to come in April 2016. Be sure to look for the registration in March to sign up for yours!



Ali Fleming and Lauren Goldstein

In April over 200 oaks, maples and sycamores found new homes in Radnor during the 2nd annual Free-Tree Giveaway. The Giveaway is an easy way to get smaller, easy to plant shade trees to keep your yard and neighborhood green for years to come. Homeowners registered in advance and picked up their trees at the Township building where they learned the proper planting and care techniques from experts from Shreiner Tree Care.



In early November The Big Tree Program will be planting 40 new street trees throughout Radnor. Homeowners signed up to receive the trees that will be planted on their property near the street where space allows. These big, professionally installed trees are part of an on-going effort to replant shade trees that will keep Radnor green and healthy far into the future. Registration for the next round of street tree planting will begin in the early spring. Keep a lookout for this great opportunity to get on the list for an oak or maple for your street!

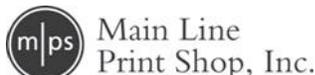


5th Annual Race For Open Space

Over 225 runners and walkers participated in the 5th Annual Race for Open Space on Sun. June 7th. Most participants ran or hiked the challenging 5K course through woods, meadows, and over streams between the Willows & Sawmill Park, but there was also a shorter 2 mile course option. We also had games and activities for children. Pre-registrants received tee-shirts, and there were refreshments and prizes for age-group winning finishers.

Save the date for next year's race: **Sun. June 5, 2016**—the same weekend as National Trails Day... Please let us know if you are interested in participating, volunteering, or being a sponsor... thank you!

Many thanks to our 2015 Race for Open Space sponsors:





Did You Know? Radnor Twp. Regulations on Tree Removal

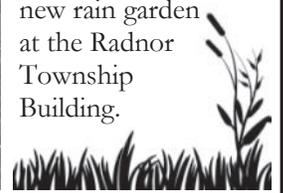
No more than five (5) trees can be removed during a year under 30" dbh (diameter at breast height) without a clearing permit and appearing before the Shade Tree Commission. No tree 30" or greater (**Heritage Tree**) can be removed without a clearing permit and appearing before the Shade Tree commission.

If any Heritage Tree is deemed *hazardous*, a Hazardous Tree Removal Form shall be submitted from a state licensed arborist with the proper documentation for determination and approval of its removal. Be safe... ask your tree company if they are licensed within Radnor Township.

RAIN GARDEN PLANTING



On April 24-25th, the Radnor Conservancy, Radnor Environmental Advisory Committee, Bird Town, and other local partners helped to install a new rain garden at the Radnor Township Building.



Our Mission is to engage the residents of Radnor Township in the preservation of natural, cultural, & historic assets through environmental stewardship.

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