Letter from the President

Dear Friends of the Conservancy,

Things are changing – fall is in the air, holidays await and our mission at the Conservancy is shifting as well. Reflecting on our initial mission as a land trust, which focused on saving open space, to now concentrating our efforts on becoming environmental stewards, I am excited about the year ahead. There is one constant that has not varied and that is the passion of all the people involved. Past and current board members have continued to work on advising, educating and creating projects toward making Radnor a fun, healthy and environmentally stable area to reside. Members of the Conservancy have also been incredible advocates and participants in our efforts.

I’ve found that with the shift in focus, we are collaborating more effectively with Radnor community organizations to develop a wider audience for our programming and our educational efforts. We have collaborated with the Wayne Art Center, Radnor Memorial Library, Chanticleer Garden, Main Line School Night, Audubon PA, Radnor Steps, Radnor Schools, Jefferson’s Brind-Marcus Integrative Medicine and Premier Orthopaedics. Within these organizations there is the same constant, passionate people giving their time, with the goal of making Radnor an even more wonderful place to live.

One of our primary goals this year is to play a pivotal role in the many proposed trail projects within Radnor Township. We are collaborating with the Radnor Trail Council – a group of six organizations working together to study, plan, and advise these projects. Collaborations provide for a diverse contribution of passion and expertise across an engaged group of residents. This social connection brings much in the way of joy and a sense of accomplishment.

This is why we do what we do.

Laura Luker
President

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Radnor Conservancy Fall Fundraiser

On Friday, September 16th, the Radnor Conservancy held its annual Fall Fundraiser at Overbrook Golf Club in Villanova. Over cocktails and hors d’oeuvres and set to the music of a live jazz quartet, nearly 165 Conservancy enthusiasts gathered to support the organization. Beautiful weather provided the opportunity to enjoy the view of Overbrook’s golf course from the terrace.

The event featured a robust silent auction featuring works from resident artists such as Dori Spector and Rachel Brown Sule, gift certificates to popular local establishments like Autograph and The Little House Shop in Eagle Village, and one-of-a-kind experiences including a private Night Skies Tour in the Franklin Institute’s Bloom Observatory.

The evening paid tribute to Bryn Mawr resident Peter Kingsbery and raised funds for the organization to help support its mission of trail development, environmental sustainability, healthy living, and open space and could not have enjoyed such success without the support of its sponsors, those on the planning committee and, of course, the Conservancy’s members and the event guests.

Meet Our 2016 “Trailblazer Award” Honoree... Peter Kingsbery

When Peter Kingsbery moved to Radnor Township with his family, he became interested in Ithan Valley Park. While researching the history of the area he engaged the Radnor Historical Society in his endeavors, and quickly became a local “expert” on the area. Throughout his research, Peter rallied the community by holding bi-annual cleanups, encouraging neighbors and friends to lend a hand in the park. His affiliation with local arborists from the Township and County helped to identify trees and invasive plants.

His work with the Boy Scout Council supporting Eagle Scout projects have helped forge trails, build stairways, erect trail signs, carve lookouts and benches. He is currently working with Marple Newtown and Haverford Township to see how they can work together with Radnor Township to extend a trail system that spans all three communities. Peter's dedication to Ithan Valley Park is nothing less than outstanding and we take this opportunity to honor his commitment and work.
Over the past year the Radnor Conservancy has been leading the coordination of the Radnor Trail Council. This Council is comprised of Radnor based organizations who are interested in the planning of the Township’s trail projects. We are working closely with the township’s Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), Parks & Recreation and the Board of Commissioners, each representing their designated wards where the trails are being planned.

In order to connect the trail systems internally within Radnor Township and with neighboring communities, four different trail projects being planned, each with different professional consultants and different Trail Council groups. Here is a summary of the projects:

1. **Extension of the current Radnor Trail from Radnor Chester Rd.** This trail will go under Radnor Chester Rd and extend a mile longer to the Blue Route. This extension is proposed in the future to link with the SEPTA 100 trail which is part of The Circuit. [www.circuittrails.org](http://www.circuittrails.org). The consultant, Campbell Thomas & Co, is working on this project and originally worked on the Radnor Trail. There have been meetings with neighbors near the trail and with the various Trail Council groups associated with this project.

2a. **West Wayne Connector,** will connect downtown Wayne to the Radnor Trail.

2b. **The Spur Trail on the north side of Rt.30** along the length of Villanova’s campus will connect to Ithan Ave then to Ithan Valley Park extending to Haverford Township. These spurs and connections are part the greater Greenways Open Space Plan designed by Simone Collins Landscape Architects. These are in grant funding stages.

3. **The connection of Radnor Memorial Park to Hartford Park** is being worked on by the Radnor Township engineers.

4. **The Ardrossan Park Trails** will connect the Willows Park through Skunk Hollow and continue to parallel along Darby Paoli Rd. Then in the future will connect to Bryn Mawr Ave. These trails are designed by Natural Lands Trust and the various Trail Council groups. Currently, iterations of the trail designs have been discussed with neighbors and two public meetings have been held to determine final design.

The Board of Commissioners passed the issuance of a bond that will cover approximately 50% match for some of the trails. There are also various grant applications in process and special funds dedicated to the trail projects.

The Radnor Conservancy is working hard to coordinate this comprehensive trail project with all involved groups, professional consultants and communities. We strive to do what is best for the future of our Township’s greener lifestyle by making this a collaborative process. We will continue to make headway and encourage your input and participation.

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**Volunteering with Radnor Conservancy**

By Tim Moran, Intern

This summer, I was fortunate enough to gain an invaluable experience in the non-profit sector through interning with the Radnor Conservancy. Some of what I did included helping create thank-you letters for donors, helping to grow a partnership with the LL Bean Outdoor Discovery School for hikes through the Willows, creating a youth outdoor education program, and researching grants to fund the programs that the Conservancy runs. Working closely with Gretchen Groebel, Executive Director, and three other interns, Spencer, Annika, and Willem, I gained insight into how much work and thought goes into making a small non-profit successful.

I was struck by the Conservancy and the people who make it up, including the board members, many of whom I had the chance to meet, was their dedication to the people of Radnor Township. It goes without saying that the Conservancy is dedicated to the environment of Radnor Township, but it became clear that the Conservancy is also dedicated to helping people enjoy the beautiful spaces in Radnor to the fullest. Working with the Radnor Conservancy and seeing all of the programs it puts on helped show me the value of the organization. Whether through a bird class at Chanticleer, a health-minded walk along the Radnor Trail, or providing the local library with a backpack of binoculars and field guides, it was clear that the Conservancy is focused on helping the township use the outdoors in the right way.
Highly recommended native plants for the Mid-Atlantic* Dr. Dan Duran, Drexel University

1. **Short-toothed mountainmint** (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)
2. **Butterfly weed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*) — *NOT the same as butterfly bush!*
3. **Swamp milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*)
4. **Asters** — New England (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*), smooth blue (*S. laeve*), and heartleaf (*S. cordifolium*) are some of the best choices
5. **Goldenrods** — showy (*Solidago speciosa*), downy (*S. puberula*), and gray (*S. nemoralis*) goldenrod are some of the best choices
6. **Yellow (or blue) wild indigo** (*Baptisia tinctoria*, *B. australis*)

**Groundcovers**
7. **Violets** — common blue (*Viola sororia*), creamy (*V. striata*)
8. **May-apple** (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

**Vines**
9. **Coral honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
10. **Virginia creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

**Shrubs / trees**
11. **Arrowwood viburnum** (*Viburnum dentatum*)
12. **Serviceberries** (*Amelanchier spp.*)
13. **Aronia (chokeberries)** (*Aronia spp.*)
14. **Oaks** — pin (*Quercus palustris*), white (*Q. alba*), scrub (*Q. ilicifolia*), and red (*Q. rubra*) oak are some of the best choices
15. **Wild cherries and wild plums** — black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), pin cherry (*P. pennsylvanica*), American plum (*P. americana*)

* Based on multiple criteria, including ecological value as a food source for beneficial pollinators, larval butterflies/moths, and/or birds and other wildlife
** Goldenrods do not cause hay fever. This common misconception is probably due to confusion with ragweed.

**Native Plant Nurseries**

North Creek Nurseries
Landenberg, PA
www.northcreeknurseries.com

New Moon Nurseries
Bridgeton, NJ
www.newmoonnursery.com

Redbud Native Plant Nursery
Media, PA
www.redbudnativeplantnursery.com

Prairie Moon Nursery
Winona, MN
www.prairiemoon.com

**Ecology In Your Backyard**

This Three Part Series was hosted by Chanticleer in collaboration with the Radnor Conservancy and Audubon PA

**Native Plants with Przemek Walczak** - This course introduced participants to the benefit and function of mid-Atlantic native plants and how they enhance biodiversity and backyard habitat.

**Insects with Daniel Duran** - Explore the immeasurably important ways that insects keep ecosystems functioning and ways in which we can conserve our much-needed insect diversity.

**Birds with Steven Saffier** - Highlight the dozens of migratory and resident birds and how to help those birds while creating a diverse, intriguing, and naturalistic landscape.
Nurturing Natural Bird Food in the Cold Seasons

Birdfeeding is enjoyed by millions of people across the country and by many in Radnor Township, an official Audubon Bird Town. Seeing a variety of birds close to our windows, especially in winter, provides hours of viewing pleasure. But there are ways to go beyond simple birdfeeding while providing natural food and protection during the winter.

Here are two:

1. Stop cleaning up: A landscape that contains leaf litter, spent perennials and other “dead” elements actually host countless overwintering insects (including pupating caterpillars!) that will eventually feed the birds. Entomologist Doug Tallamy writes, “The easiest way to preserve over-wintering insect populations is to relax our neatnik standards whenever possible.” That’s good news for many of us!

2. Plant native fruiting shrubs and seed producing trees which will provide cover and a food source into late fall and winter: Chokeberry, winterberry holly, dogwood, pines and birch are good choices.

Instead of being down time, fall and winter can be viewed as an integral part of nature’s yearly cycle and your backyard can play a part. Author Sara Stein may have put it best in Noah's Garden (© 1993):

By Thanksgiving it will seem as though the clock (has) wound down and stopped. But the pendulum has in fact reached the height of its swing, has stored more energy than at any other time of the year, and is poised to descend with all the gathered momentum of warm summer days downward through the cold to spring.

So despite a seemingly lifeless backyard, winter can be one of the most active times for birds looking for refuge in your private sanctuary.

Roughwood Seeds

During the Great Depression, when food was scarce, H. Ralph Weaver planted a one-acre kitchen garden in West Chester, PA with seeds he collected from relatives. His passion for rare seeds flourished as he inherited varieties from his Pennsylvania Dutch Cousins, while a friendship with folk painter Horace Pippin allowed him access to the many rare Caribbean and African-American peppers. His untimely death in 1956 almost ended the Roughwood Seed Collection, until his grandson, Dr. William Woyse Weaver, food historian and author, found the collection in cold storage. Over the course of the 1970s he revived the collection and transported it to its current home.

Today, just up the hill from the Devon train station, sits a horticultural oasis. Moved to the grounds of the historic Lamb Tavern in 1975, Dr. Weaver now cares for 4,500 different plant varieties. They have come into his hands through travel and exchange, by exhaustive searching through Dutch communities, and donated family or tribal heirlooms for safe perpetuation – too often the remaining strands of their culture. In this manner, many rare corns and beans from the Delaware Nation, seeds from Cypriot villages, and most recently a small collection of now endangered food plants from Syria, have entered the collection. Each variety comes with a story, a special taste, or a creative use.

These varieties are grown in rotation to preserve these heirlooms, with some seeds lasting over three years, while others are perennial. Carefully managed growing and processing is required to maintain the integrity of each strain. A century ago, hundreds of commercial seed houses offered thousands of varieties – a 1983 survey tells us that 93% of the food varieties grown in the U.S. are gone. This has been coupled, and exacerbated by, the new patenting of seeds by industrial biotech companies, whose patent forbid farmers from sharing, saving, and replanting seeds. Roughwood Seed Collection’s living archive tries to correct for this loss through workshops, training programs, seed sales, and preservation. Carefully selected for flavor, resilience, nutritional value, and often beauty, the Collection ensures that anyone can grow real food, now and into the future.
Emerald Ash Borer  
By Matthew Ward, Arborist

In September, my family took a familiar trip to visit my wife’s parents, who live in Warminster. We were about 10 miles from Rosemont when I started to see hundreds of half-dead and completely dead ash trees along Route 309. After having read about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), attending seminars and listening to warnings from university researchers, I was seeing EAB devastation first-hand.

Unfortunately, EAB will soon arrive in Radnor Township. The good news is that many township homeowners are already treating their ash trees, or have made an informed decision not to treat. More good news is that there is still time to learn about this tree pest and make an informed decision about your ash trees.

Since the EAB was first identified in southeast Michigan in the summer of 2002, the scientific community has made a concerted effort to understand the problem and test solutions. As a result of this research, licensed arborists have the means to safely inject ash trees to protect them from EAB. Even large property owners are taking action: In 2015, Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park treated 1200 ash trees with a two-year control method. They are planning to treat again in 2017.

The Radnor Township community has numerous International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists who can help you create an action plan. The steps are simple:

1. Identify ash trees on your property.
2. Determine if they are healthy and good candidates for tree preservation.
3. Obtain a treatment plan, including cost for each specific tree.
4. Make an informed decision.

Here are some helpful links:
- Find an ISA Certified Arborist: [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)
- Information about EAB: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)
- [http://ento.psu.edu/extension/trees-shrubs/emerald-ash-borer/factsheets](http://ento.psu.edu/extension/trees-shrubs/emerald-ash-borer/factsheets)

The tree canopy is a valuable asset of Radnor Township. EAB is a serious threat to thousands of Township ash trees. By planning now, you can help ensure that these beautiful ash trees will be preserved.
“Race For Open Space” Off-Road 5K Trail Run / Walk

The 6th Annual Race for Open Space was held on Sun. June 7, 2016. We had a new course this year which incorporated a loop through the Rye Field at the new Ardrossan Park. Participants ran or hiked the challenging 5K course through woods, meadows, and over streams at the Willows, Skunk Hollow, Ardrossan, and Sawmill Parks. We also offered a shorter 2 mile course option and activities for children. Pre-registrants received tee-shirts, and there were refreshments and prizes for age-group winning finishers.

Next year’s race will be on Sun. June 11, 2017. We welcome volunteers & corporate sponsors! Contact our office at (610) 688-8202 or email Gretchen Groebel at ggroebel@radnorconservancy.org for more information.

Thanks to 2016 Race Sponsors:

Roughwood

Check Out Our Explorer Packs

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 eight backpacks from L.L. Bean (King of Prussia), we have created Explorer Packs which are available for check out.

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 Explorer Packs are aimed at pre-school through elementary school age but we hope to create more bags as time goes on.

Ask for our Explorer Packs at Radnor, Ithan and Wayne Elementary Schools and Radnor Memorial Library!
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.

Please consider Radnor Conservancy in year-end giving plans. Your donation is fully tax deductible.