



Swan Conservation Trust is a 501(c)3 land trust established in 1992.

Our Mission

To preserve, protect, and restore native hardwood forests and scenic natural areas, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and water quality on the Western Highland Rim of Tennessee

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Call of the Swan *

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FALL 2025

Fall Hikes Showcase Nashville's Highland Rim Forest

As an on-the-ground means of raising awareness about the astonishing beauty and ecological importance of Nashville's Highland Rim Forest (NHRF), Swan Trust partnered with the four anchor parks in the Western Highland Rim corridor of Davidson County to provide a series of educational hikes for the public.

On November 1st at Metro's Beaman Park, 16 attendees were treated to a 4.5-mile hike during peak Fall colors on the Highland Trail, led by park manager, Heather Gallagher. Red dogwoods and sourwoods, orange maples, and yellow hickories and beech put on a breathtaking show! While Heather covered many topics, including the importance of land conservation and how individuals can make a real difference, she also educated us about tree I.D. in winter from a twig!

The second hike of the series took place on November 22nd in Warner Parks' Hill Forest, a 300+acre tract very near the busy intersection of Old Hickory Blvd and Hwy 70S. The twelve attendees were awed by the silence and remoteness of the forest and the magnificence of the oldest trees. Park Manager, Vera Roberts, provided interesting history of the former owners as well as fascinating ecological information for the group's educational benefit. Cynthia Rohrbach and Brenda Stein spoke about Swan Trust's role in the NHRF project – working with private landowners interested in conservation easements and educating the public about NHRF.



Above - Fall at Beaman Park Below - Big Trees of Hill Forest



Representatives from the core team of the Alliance for Nashville's Highland Rim Forest – Anne Choquette and John Norris – attended the first two hikes, as did members of each park's Friends group. The third hike will take place on December 6th at Bells Bend Park at 1:00 pm, and the fourth will be at Radnor Lake State Park and Natural Area on December 13th at 1:00 pm. Go to www.swantrust.org for more information about these hikes and to RSVP!

Welcome New Board Member!



The Board of Trustees welcomes Glenn Rohrbach, youngest son of Cynthia and Steve Rohrbach, as our newest member. Glenn was born and raised in The Farm Community, outside Summertown TN, where he was often found walking the creeks and trails with friends. Growing up in that environment led to an appreciation of nature and community that continues today.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Middle Tennessee State University in 2005, Glenn started his professional career as an aquatic biologist. He completed internships with TN Department of Environment and Conservation, TN Wildlife Resources Agency, and worked for 10 years at the Nashville Zoo, where he helped lead conservation efforts for native species, including population monitoring of the endangered Nashville crayfish. Currently, Glenn lives in Nashville and is employed at Davey Resource Group as an Associate Consultant, providing a variety of environmental consulting services from stream and wetland restoration to permitting and regulatory compliance.

The most important things in life exist outside of a career. Beyond work, Glenn likes gardening with his lovely wife, Stacey, being with his 3 kids, Milo, Kaia, and Salix, and playing bass guitar. He and his family enjoy exploring all corners of Tennessee, either by canoe or by cozy cabin at a state park. Spending quality time with family and friends is a cornerstone of Glenn's life perspective, along with fostering a sense of wonder for the natural world. He is thrilled to bring his skills and enthusiasm to Swan Conservation Trust, and we are excited to have him!

Fond Farewell to Two Board Members

Earlier this year, Ellen Cook retired from the Swan Trust Board after 5 years of dedicated service as a Trustee. She actually began volunteering for us as our bookkeeper/office manager the previous year, bringing a much-needed skill set to our all-volunteer organization. With her paralegal background, Ellen assisted with land transactions, kept our funds invested wisely, managed the donor database, updated our record-keeping, and much more!

Theresa Brown also joined our Board in December 2019, the same year as Ellen Cook. She has been efficiently serving as our Recording Secretary at Board meetings, is a loyal attendee with husband Carl at many of our outings, and has also given her time and valuable energy at fundraising events. We hope to continue seeing Theresa and Carl on the trail!

We will miss both of these generous women and their remarkable strengths!

New Hires!

Long-time friend, Bonnie Holsinger, assumed the role of bookkeeper this year. Her experience as a tax preparer with H&R Block and bookkeeper for several other non-profits is already proving invaluable to Swan Trust.

Another friend, Susan Kohn, has taken over the database manager role. We really appreciate her stepping up to learn our antiquated database program, which is soon to be transitioned!

We are very excited that Stacey Rohrbach has moved our website to a new platform that will interface with Donorbox and other applications to improve recordkeeping and communications!

2024 Income and Expenses

<u>2024 Revenue</u>		<u>2024 Expenses</u>	
NHRF Grants	37,000	Program Exp.	11,394
Contributions	32,100	Fundraising Exp.	4,942
Special Events	12,461	Management/	
Hunting Lease	5,300	General Exp.	16,033
Interest	8,780		
Total Revenue	\$ 95,641	Total Expenses	\$ 32,369
Net Revenue	\$ 63,272		

Board Embarks on Strategic Planning

On November 15, Swan Conservation Trust Board of Trustees gathered at Henry Horton State Park for an energized strategic planning session led by Jim Garges (TennGreen Land Conservancy). The goal was to design a clear three-year plan that will strengthen the Trust's mission and expand its impact from north to south on the Western Highland Rim. With the entire 11-member board in attendance, the passion and energy was high! Big thanks to Jim Garges for his assistance and expertise!



Front left-right: Carol Nelson, Michael Lee, Cynthia Rohrbach, Rose Crockett, Kristina Kehn
Back left-right: Kenny Breckenridge, Nathan Lafferty, Cindy Thomas, Theresa Brown, Glenn Rohrbach, James Moore



Facilitator Jim Garges led the Board in its strategic planning session Nov 15, 2025

Over the course of the session, the group outlined priorities across eight key areas that will guide the Trust's work from 2026–2028. The plan calls for strengthening administrative systems, enhancing land stewardship, and accelerating preservation efforts, as the Trust moves toward its long-term goal of protecting 10,000 acres on the Western Highland Rim of Tennessee — a goal becoming more real with landowner interest in conservation easements as part of the Nashville Highland Rim Forest project!

The plan also emphasizes expanding volunteer engagement, particularly to assist with our growing conservation easement program; increasing visibility through marketing and storytelling; and escalating environmental education initiatives with youth and adults alike. Strengthening neighbor relations will help build cooperative partnerships with landowners near Trust-managed properties, while a revitalized focus on fundraising will enable hiring staff by creating a more sustainable base of grants, donors, and corporate sponsorships.

With clear goals and unified direction, Swan Trust enters the next three years with momentum, collaboration, and a shared commitment to conservation.

Please reach out to one of us and ask how YOU might play a part in our mission!

Grateful Thanks To Our 2024 Supporters

Philanthropist (\$5,000-\$12,000)

Henry Coffey & Susan Castle
Sue McClure
Radnor to River grant
Sierra Club – Middle TN Chapter grant
Southern Conservation Partners grants

Patron (\$2,000-\$4,999)

Anonymous - grant
Gary Bowers
West Meade Neighborhood Association

Benefactor (\$1,000-\$1,999)

Mary Lynn Dobson
Susan & Richard Herring
Steve & Carla Johnson

Leaders (\$500—\$999)

Theresa & Carl Brown
Ellen Clark & Lou Laratta
Davey Tree Experts
Susan & Will Fischer
Brook & Nathan Lafferty
Rubian & Aimee Moss
Ben & Jean Rohrbach
Donald & Teresa Scharf
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James Taft
Clark & Ann Tidwell
Sam Whitson

Guardians (\$250—\$499)

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Warner & Madge Bass
Nora Beck
Doug & Jan Darby
Bob & Cynthia Holzapfel
Levi & Julie Hunt
Luke & Cindy Kanies
LexisNexis Risk Solutions
James McAdams
James and Autumn Moore
Steve Pardo
Steve & Cynthia Rohrbach
Irene Stone & Saul Gleser
James Webster
Carl & Phyllis Yaglowksi

Protectors (\$100 —\$249)

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Harvey & Dorie Baker
Daniel & Gayle Boone
Basil & Sky Campbell
Rebecca Cannon
Jack B & Dorothy Carman

Bill & Jane Coble
Rose Crockett
Beth Dachowski
Doug & Esther Davenport
Betsy DeJong
David Friedlander & Susan Skinner
Eli Gifford
Robert & Virginia Gleser
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Susan Rizzo
John & Holly Rohrbach
Jan Sharlet
Meredith Shelton
Naomi VanTol & Larry Smith
Irwin Venick
Marcus Whisman

2024 In-Kind Gifts

Ellen Cook, Office Management
James B. Hughes, Accounting
Michael Tankersley, Appraisal

Conservation Easement (CE) Monitoring

Kenny Breckenridge & Rose Crockett
Cynthia Rohrbach- reporting
Cindy Thomas

CE Assistance and Training

Kristen Hanratty
Alice Hudson-Pell

Fundraising Events

Lisa Firestone & Sonya Lee, musicians
Susan and Will Fischer
Whole Foods

Silent Auction Donations

Rose Crockett, Coordinator
Renee Crowley
Michael Lee
Bill and Judy Meeker

The Farm Store

The Farm Welcome Center

Scientific Data Collections

Bob English & Pandy Upchurch
Cynthia Rohrbach
Southeastern Grasslands Institute
TSU grad student, Taina McLeod

Hike Leaders

Cooper Breeden
Bob English & Pandy Upchurch
Bart Jones
Cynthia Rohrbach
Allan Trently

Trail Maintenance & Mapping

Kenny Breckenridge
Glenn Rohrbach

***Don't see your name? We apologize for any names that may have been omitted.**

Please contact us so we can update our database and include a thanks to you in a future newsletter.

Memorials

Memorial gifts to Swan Conservation Trust are a great way to honor loved ones and friends while supporting our conservation work. Below is a listing of all Memorials. **Donors are listed when donations were made between 12/27/2024—12/4/2025.**

John Anderson
Dorothy Bates
Craig Blaker
David Brown
Michael Dana Blevins

Mary Bowers
Annie Boyer
Caran Breckenridge
By Kenny Breckenridge

Stuart Butler
Bradley Butters

Joe Cannon
By Rebecca Cannon
Bill Cannon

By Rebecca Cannon
Anita Franklin Carson

Fred Chappell
By Sue McClure

Robert Scot Cherry
Michael Copeland
Patti Davidson
Arlene Davis
Jerry De Capp
Pieter de Jong

William DeVoursney
Thomas Dixon
Herbert W. Edwards
Thomas Elliott
Carol Feeney

Karen Flaherty
Frank Fly
Kopi Ford
Marilyn Friedlander
Jake Frohman
Dr. Deena Sue Fuller

Michael Gavin
Daniel Geygan
Bob Glass

Anne Gleser
Joel Goldstein
Lilian Graf
Larry Grissom
Strider Hammer
Karen Heikkala
Barbara Heilman

Sizwe Herring
By Deborah Hill
Dawn Huddleston
Wayne & Sue Humphrey

Kathryn Hutchens
Christopher Hutchins
Bill Jones
Teresa Kanies

Summer Rose Kavara
Jeffrey Keating
Joseph Kim Kelly
Michael Kercheval
Barbara B. Lee

Jeremy Lee
Richard Liberman
Robert Lord
Arnold and Marjory Luce
Barbara MacQueen

Claire Marx
Ron Maxen
By Elizabeth Maxen
and James Taft

Margaret Mayes
Sean McCarthy
By Cynthia Rohrbach
Ned McWherter

Frank Michael
Robert Moore
Eli Moran
Thomas Nash
Ann Nitzburg
Nicholas Noviello & Helen Weisz
Kathleen O'Connor

Cassie O'Sullivan
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Charles Poag
Frank M. Pointer, Jr.
Mack Prichard
Cyril Psenki
Bill Pulliam

Bill Reagan Sr.
Gary Rhine
JR Roman
Jedidiah Shapiro
Joyce Sickel

Elizabeth Sierra
By Janet & Dan McIntyre
Michael Smith
Betty Jean Stevenson
Bernard "Steve" Stevenson
Julian Thomas Stevenson

Carol Taft
By James Taft
and Elizabeth Maxen

Clark Tidwell
By Mary Lynn Dobson
Hazel and Paul Tidwell

Hope Tidwell
Kim Trainor
Thomas Wartinger

Linda Watson
Bob Whipple
Ellen White
Carlton Whitwell

Remembering Sean McCarthy

Sean McCarthy was born and raised in San Francisco. He was a true child of the 60's. Always a peacenik, ironically, he served in the US Army in Viet Nam. He served under duress, and after he was discharged, he became a peace advocate, serving jail time for his participation in street theater and demonstrations.

Looking for community, he was introduced to Rowland Huddleston, who led him to The Farm in 1972. In the community he became a farmer, a roofer, a plumber, an A/C technician, and a sailor on Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior – he was truly a jack of all trades and loved the outdoors. In his later years, he developed a passion for youth soccer. He refereed games throughout the U.S. as well as in Cuba, Mexico, Norway, Denmark, and Peru.

Sean and his wife Pat were happily married for 45 years. To quote Pat, "We had many adventures together – tree-planting, apple-picking, camping, and sailing, to name a few. He was a wonderful person and is missed every day." Sean and Pat have been loyal Swan Trust supporters for many years.



Are you planning for end-of-life and creating your personal will? Join other members who have included Swan Conservation Trust, and leave a lasting legacy for wildlife and future generations!

Educational Outings 2025—Were you there?



Upper left: Hikers enjoyed the waterfalls and a spectacular wildflower show with Margie Hunter (second from left), who shared her botanical knowledge at Fall Hollow Falls on the Natchez Trace Parkway.
April 27, 2025

Upper right: Vera Vollbrecht guided hikers on a strenuous journey through the Hill Forest, part of Warner Parks (article p.1), featuring magnificent old trees.
November 22, 2025

Middle left: Fall hike at Beaman Park (article p.1), led by Heather Gallagher.
November 1, 2025

Below: Joint hike with TennGreen and Swan Trust, led by Randy Hedgepath (right). Attendees traversed the ridges, slopes, and creeks of Big Swan Headwaters Preserve. The rare plant Broadleaf Barbara's Buttons was in bloom.
June 8, 2025



Events and Hikes 2025



Above right: Swan Creek Kids Committee and Kristina Kehn took a field trip to “The Experience Lab by Charity Water” in Franklin TN. They learned about water all over the world, or lack thereof, water purification, and all things WATER!

Above left: Second annual *SnakeTail 50 Trail Run*. Half-marathon runners prepare to take off with Race Director, Becka Jones coaching (right). Other groups ran 5K, 10K, and Marathon distances. Thirteen miles of trails started in the forest of The Farm Community and traversed the ridges, slopes, and creeks of *Big Swan Headwaters Preserve*.

Right: Annual fundraiser dinner, networking, and musical entertainment with The Homegrown Band. Will and Susan Fischer’s home with outdoor patio and pool was the perfect place for a warm Fall evening. Attendees heard a presentation about the history, accomplishments, and current projects of Swan Trust.
September 27, 2025



Below: Wild Ones - Middle TN Chapter joined Swan Trust for a tour of Prairie Barrens Preserve. Attendees expressed their total surprise and admiration of the diverse display of prairie wildflowers, native grasses, butterflies, and bees! Marna McKinney dyed wool with sumac and goldenrod. She and Rose Crockett made food and drinks with prairie plants. Then everyone went to Marna’s house to watch “The Prairie Preacher” - the award-winning film about Dwayne Estes and the birth of Southeastern Grasslands Institute. Thanks to Richard Hitt, President of Wild Ones, for his botanical expertise and helping lead the hike.
August 2, 2025



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Cheeks Bend Bluff Hike, September 20, 2025

Maury County, TN

Leader Luke Mahrenholz, right Photo by Clyde Gensert