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Harpeth Conservancy Celebrates Record Year at 21st Annual River Swing Fundraiser

FRANKLIN, TN, September 30, 2024 – The 21st annual River Swing, Harpeth Conservancy's signature fundraising event, raised a record-breaking amount this year, marking the most funds ever secured in the event's history. The contributions will continue to support the Conservancy's mission to protect clean water and rivers across Tennessee. "This year's River Swing exceeded all of our expectations, showcasing the power of community, conservation, and generosity," said Grace Stranch, CEO of Harpeth Conservancy.

Since its inception, River Swing has grown to become one of the most anticipated conservation fundraisers in the region. Over the past 21 years, the event has evolved alongside Harpeth Conservancy, contributing to major successes in restoring and protecting clean water and rivers in Tennessee. "As we celebrate Harpeth Conservancy's 25th anniversary this year, it is amazing to see how River Swing has grown into a symbol of our community's commitment to ensuring the health of the globally unique rivers of Tennessee," said Dorie Bolze, Founder and President of Harpeth Conservancy. Thanks to an overwhelming response from supporters, proceeds from table sales, corporate sponsorships, and the silent auction, the event raised nearly \$750,000, reflecting a growth of almost \$100,000 from last year's record-breaking results. This incredible support demonstrates the unwavering commitment to preserving our local waterways and protecting clean water across the state.

More than 50 companies came together to sponsor this year's event, led by FarmVet. Christian Currey, Harpeth Conservancy board member, once again chaired and hosted the event at his farm, marking his eighth year as chair. Currey shared, "Thanks to Leslie and Jimmy John whose major support enabled us to celebrate our 25th anniversary with the Revivalists and raise critical funds for the challenges facing clean water and our rivers."

This year's entertainment was headlined by an electrifying performance from The Revivalists. Known for their powerful blend of rock, soul, and jazz, The Revivalists have captivated audiences with hits like "Wish I Knew You" and "All My Friends." Their dynamic live performances and chart-topping songs have made them a favorite at festivals and concerts across the country. Guests also enjoyed soulful tunes from JB Strauss during the Cocktail Hour, proudly sponsored by PLA Media, and danced the night away with DJ Marissa Sardar at the Late-Night Party, sponsored by Emily Humphreys.

Additionally, VIP guests enjoyed an exclusive meet-and-greet, followed by a private performance by The Revivalists' lead singer, David Shaw, and lead guitarist, Zack Feinberg, thanks to sponsorship from Caymus Vineyards. In celebration of their 50th anniversary, Caymus showcased their 2022 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and 2023 Emmolo Sauvignon Blanc. Jacob Forth from Jack Daniel's was also on hand, crafting custom Old Fashioneds. The pre-event gathering featuring the premium wines from the vineyard, caviar, and other small bites were served at a custom-built 1920s Corn Crib bar.

The event's bars were generously stocked by Lipman Brothers, and this year featured a dedicated Jack Daniel's bar courtesy of Brown-Forman. Crafted especially for the event, the signature cocktail, 'The Mabon,' was inspired by the mid-harvest festival, celebrating the changing seasons and the second harvest. With a blend of pawpaw, lemon, ginger, and elderflower, 'The Mabon' invited guests to savor the season with a choice of Cielo Tequila, Kvell Vodka, Old Hickory Bourbon, or Jack Daniel's. Additionally, an array of refreshing beverages, including Melograno Cocktails, Hap & Harry's Beer, and a full wine selection were available, courtesy of Lipman Brothers. For those opting for non-alcoholic

SCIENCE-BASED CONSERVATION FOR THE RIVERS OF TENNESSEE

Harpeth Conservancy is a Tennessee non-profit corporation and a 501(c)(3) organization.

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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options, KillJoy was on hand to staff a zero-proof bar with its unique offerings of non-alcoholic liquor, wine, and beer, ensuring a delightful experience for all. To keep guests refreshed, Maypop Sparkling Water provided flavorful hydration alongside Culligan Water refilling stations were also available throughout the venue to ensure everyone stayed hydrated.

The silent auction tent at River Swing was buzzing with activity, featuring 200 packages containing approximately 400 total items. The auction raised an impressive total of just under \$80,000, with the highest bid of the night, at \$4,000, going to a Private Chef Experience and Cooking Class for four with Nanci Dahl of *Master Chef*, complete with a professional photographer to capture the evening. The second-highest bid, \$3,750, went to a sportsman's package featuring a Barrett Sovereign Shotgun from Outpost Armory, the final new model available, paired with an exclusive skeet shooting experience at Nashville Gun Club. A striking showstopper piece, *Fierce*, a 40x48 painting by renowned artist Lisa Moore (valued at \$4,500), garnered \$2,500. Other highlights included a Steamboat Springs vacation condo, which sold for \$1,900, and an exclusive Kentucky horse racing experience that brought in \$1,700. A signed Mötley Crüe guitar, autographed by the entire band, rounded out the top items, fetching \$1,500. In addition to these, there were numerous other popular packages, such as two private Corn Crib dinners at River Circle Farm donated by Christian Currey, a trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, tickets to Widespread Panic's sold-out Red Rocks shows, Nashville Predators tickets, and dining packages to local favorites like 55 South, Answer, Cork & Cow, Edley's, Red Pony, and Saffire. Outdoor enthusiasts had plenty to bid on, thanks to donors like Broken Paddle Outfitters, Patagonia, Columbia, Yeti, Buzz'd Fly Fishers, Hardy Rod & Reels, and more. Rare whiskey, bourbon, and cigar packages also drew attention, with contributions from Whiskey House Nashville, Buffalo Trace/Sazerac Company, Ozgener Family Cigars, Lipman Brothers, and others. The spirited bidding reflected the community's dedication to supporting clean water, making the night an overwhelming success.

The event also showcased local vendors such as Able, offering beautifully crafted leather goods and apparel; Huck Hats with their custom-designed headwear; and Barn Girl Jewelry, which featured handcrafted, equine-inspired pieces. Attendees, both young and old, were captivated by Jasper, a passionate young naturalist, who brought a fascinating collection of snakes, turtles, and frogs to engage guests in conversations about wildlife and clean water conservation.

Martin's BBQ Joint delighted attendees with a spread of passed appetizers and a buffet dinner, while the event's riverbank-themed table decorations—designed by Jennifer Carell and Traci Butts of Hearts of the Harpeth along with Mary Belle Grande—kept water and rivers at the heart of the celebration, using native flowers and logs to symbolize the connection between nature and conservation.

In keeping with its conservation mission, River Swing remained committed to reducing its environmental footprint. EcoProducts provided renewable, compostable sugarcane plates, while volunteers from Montgomery Bell Academy and SPEAR from Vanderbilt University managed recycling and composting stations, sponsored by WM and The Compost Company.

River Swing welcomed a diverse group nearly 1,000 of attendees, including Christian Currey, Brittainy Jones and Karl Sprules, Meghan and Owen Canavan, Mary and Hank Brockman, Margaret and Stevie Orthwein, Leigh and Brian Reames, Monty and John Steele, Emily Humphreys, Carina Marin and Fernando Silva, DeeDee and Mary Wade, Layton Meng, Paul Allen, Heather and Glenn Beckwith, Michelle and Stephen Frohsin, Louise and Chris Walker, Ford Tomlin, Heidi Hartman, Josie and Park Ball, Christine Setzer and many more.

This year's sponsors played a crucial role in the success of the event, generating more than \$267,000. Sponsors included Advance Financial Foundation; Alliance Bernstein; Amazon; Aquaeter; Baker Donelson; Bank of America; Berry Farms; Boyle Investment Company; Bradley; Brown & Brown; Brown-Forman; Carmichael Creel Investments; Catalyst Design Group; Cat Financial; Cielo Tequila; Civil Constructors; Consecro Group; Cumberland Kayak & Adventure Company; Cumberland Trust; Culligan Water; Darrell Waltrip Automotive Group; Davey Resource Group; Deep Bay Spirits; Dobson Property Tax Consulting; EcoProducts; Emily Humphreys; Equitable Trust; Fancy Forest Farm; FarmVet; First Bank/Franklin Synergy Bank; First Horizon Foundation; Freeman Webb; GBT Realty Corporation; Glenn

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ABOUT HARPETH CONSERVANCY

Founded in 1999, Harpeth Conservancy is a science-based non-profit conservation organization. Harpeth Conservancy's mission is to restore and protect clean water and healthy ecosystems for rivers in Tennessee by employing scientific expertise and collaborative relationships to develop, promote, and support broad community stewardship and action. Harpeth Conservancy's success is driven by working with landowners, businesses, community, local, state, and federal decision-makers and members to foster solutions that reduce pollution and maintain healthy areas.

To learn more about Harpeth Conservancy, its mission, and its upcoming events, please visit its website at www.harpethconservancy.org.

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