



“Getting the Lead Out” at Henry Horton State Park

We’ve all heard the phrase, “Get the lead out,” used to encourage someone’s increase in activity. However, this phrase has a dual meaning when describing the Friends of Henry Horton State Park, a nonprofit organization set up in 2006 to “support Henry Horton State Park by assisting with park programs, activities and the coordination of volunteers in order to protect the park’s natural and cultural resources and provide educational and recreational opportunities.” This active group has literally taken the phrase one step further by getting the lead out of the ground at the park’s award winning Trap and Skeet Range that has been in service since the 1960’s.

The Friend’s group partnered with Metal Treatment Technologies (MT2), a Colorado- based company able to mobilize across the country to provide environmentally friendly firing range cleaning services. Initially, MT2 sampled several areas of the range to find the densest areas of lead shot and to plan the harvesting strategy. The top six to eight inches of soil were harvested, dried and then separated from the lead shot. The Friends chose the “dry method” of lead harvesting to avoid toxic water run off from the lead shot leaching into ground water and local waterways. This process continued for about two weeks and yielded more than 100 tons

of lead shot which will be sent for recycling. The proceeds from its sale will be used to expand and improve the Trap and Skeet Range at Henry Horton State Park.

The lead removal yielded a second project after the soils were replaced and leveled. This project involved reseeding the area with Native grass seed, namely Indian Grass and Bluestem, that were prevalent in this area prior to its settlement. Purchasing the seeds to

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reclaim the land came from a grant given to the park by the Iris Fund. The Iris Fund contains monies raised from the sale of State Park license plates decorated with purple irises, the Tennessee State flower.

“This comprehensive reclamation project would not have been possible without the Friends of Henry Horton State Park,” said Park Manager Randy Whitworth. “Their hard work and their ability to deal directly with MT2 made it happen. Now we have improved environmental conditions at the park and generated revenues so we can further enhance our facilities.”

The Friends of Henry Horton State Park welcome volunteers and new members. If you have an interest in the park and in helping with future projects, please contact The Friends of HHSP at P.O. Box 282, Chapel Hill, TN 37034 or call the park office, 931-364-7724 for more information.



Soil at various parts of the range was harvested, dried and separated in order to reclaim the spent lead shot.



More than 100 tons of lead shot was reclaimed and sent away in drums for recycling.



(l-r) Friends of Henry Horton Stacey Cothron and Teresa Dugger join Park Manager Randy Whitworth at the entrance to Henry Horton State Park.