

McCoy Farm & Gardens NEWSLETTER

Main entrance: 1604 Taft Highway • Front gate: 1715 Anderson Pike • Mailing address: P.O. Box 443, Signal Mountain, TN 37377 • Website: www.mccoywalden.org

Volume Four: Issue four

April 2019

Bird Walk April 27, 8:00 AM

Kevin Calhoun, Assistant Curator of Forests at the TN Aquarium, will lead a bird inventory on April 27 at 8:00 AM at McCoy Farm & Gardens, 1604 Taft Highway. Meet the group in the gravel parking lot. A census will be taken of all birds seen and heard during the height of spring migration. The last report from September 2018 identified 33 bird species.

The bird walk is free and all are welcome. For information collins105@comcast.net



Kevin Calhoun leads an earlier bird census walk at McCoy Farm & Gardens.

Signal Mountain Centennial

On April 4, 1919, the charter to incorporate the Town of Signal Mountain was granted, and on April 4, 2019, that date will be celebrated with a program in the lobby of the Old Signal Mountain Inn in Alexian Village. The event is a kick-off of the year-long Centennial celebrations. It starts at 4:00 PM and includes a history pageant by 5th graders of Thrasher Elementary School, under the direction of Betty Julian. Everyone is invited to attend, see exhibits of memorabilia, and hear special remarks.

Founders week is April 4-13. A play, *Deeper Roots* by Peggy Douglas on the life of Walden's Ridge Emma Bell Miles, will be held at Bachman Community Center. Performances are April 5 & 6 and April 12 & 13 at 7:00 PM. Admission \$15 adults, \$12 kids, + group discounts.

On April 7, a Centennial Stroll through Old Town Signal Mountain to explore its history and natural beauty will be led by a local historian. The stroll will start from Alexian Inn at 2:00 PM. A "bigger and better" parade will take place on July 4th, with a "bigger and better" fireworks display that evening. For more info: <http://signalmountain100.com/>

Emma Bell Miles Homesite

Who was Emma Bell Miles and why is she mentioned so often in connection with McCoy Farm & Gardens?

Emma Bell Miles (1879 - 1919) was a poet, writer, painter and naturalist who lived on Walden's Ridge. She is widely recognized as a pioneering ethnographer of Southern Appalachian culture. She published



Artist's concept of Emma sketching with a bird perched upon her shoulder.

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The Mission of McCoy Farm & Gardens is to restore, enhance and preserve the historic McCoy homeplace so that it may serve the community as an arboretum, natural area, and venue for public and private events.

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dozens of short stories and poems and sold a variety of drawings and watercolors. Her books, which she also illustrated, include *The Spirit of the Mountains*, *Strains from a Dulcimore* and *Our Southern Birds*. Her painting of the Bachman home is displayed in the Walden Town Hall.

Her childhood home was on Anderson Pike at the road's current intersection with Taft Highway. The Bell house and lot were later purchased by Senator Bachman and incorporated into his property. All that remains of the home is the foundation. The site has been evaluated, worked and documented by students in the Archaeology Department of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Dr. Andy Jones has spent countless hours heading a crew of volunteers caring for the grounds. Until recently they have devoted most of their attention to the areas immediately surrounding the main buildings and the drives. Now they have created a new loop on the perimeter trail making the Bell site accessible, and you can see the home's foundation.

Scratchmore Again

A reader of last month's newsletter found the story and picture of the apple barrel stencil for "Scratchmore Apples" interesting. She asked about the woodcut mentioned in the article. If you look carefully at the photograph above, you will see the name "Scratchmore Signal Mountain Tennessee" in the lower left corner. The artist who dated the work [19]'36 was Burnley Weaver of Asheville, NC. The Bachman home appears to be pictured with snow on the ground and on the roof.



Woodcut from 1936 showing the name "Scratchmore" at the lower left. Do you wonder about the meaning of the name?

Easy Way to Contribute

Shop at www.smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0737667
AmazonSmile will donate a portion of your purchase price to McCoy Farm & Gardens.

Photographer's Kind Words

We received a nice note that we would like to share with you. A professional photographer wrote, "Good morning! I recently shot a wedding at your gorgeous venue.... I wanted to let you all know I so enjoyed my time there on your property ... I have already told my engagement couples about your venue!"

Upcoming Events

- April 27- Spring Bird Walk 8:00 AM
Information collins105@comcast.net
- May 27 - Memorial Day picnic on grounds
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Food for purchase.

To schedule your own special event
go to www.mccoypwalden.org

Hours, Access & Information

The 1.1 mile long walking and running trail is open during daylight hours, seven days per week. Access the trail at the 1604 Taft Highway entrance and park in the first gravel lot located outside the gate.

The McCoy grounds are open to the public Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Please enter through the Taft Highway entrance and park in the main gravel lot. A handicapped accessible portable toilet is located at the orchard end of the gravel lot.

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[Editor McCoy Farm & Gardens](mailto:Editor@McCoyFarm&Gardens)

Support McCoy Farm & Gardens

McCoy Farm & Gardens is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are charitable and tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

The 33 acre parcel, with the Bachman-McCoy home, pavilion, carriage house, barn, blacksmith workshop, apple house, various other structures and gardens, is leased from the Town of Walden. Volunteers are very important to the organization in all areas. Your donations are welcome and will be used to improve the structures and gardens.

Please send your check to:

McCoy Farm & Gardens
P.O. Box 443, Signal Mt., TN 37377
www.mccoypwalden.org

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