

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.mccoypark.org

Volume Five: Issue Four

April 2020

Times They Are A-Changin'

Have you driven Anderson Pike lately and noticed that some of the old fences along the front of the property are missing? You might have seen Charles Adams and Paul Jensen cutting away the old wire from the posts by hand, or Andy Jones pulling the old poles out of the ground with a bobcat. Have you wondered what is going on?

The old chain link fencing is to be replaced by new white board fences, thanks to a very generous grant. We are looking forward to this exciting improvement that, along with the refurbished stone entryway and new gate, will provide the signature first impression of McCoy Farm & Gardens.



The old wire chain link fencing is being removed so new white board fences can be installed. Photo by Charlie Stone.

Near the Taft Highway entrance, things are changing too. The old fencing along the drive is being removed (and saved for artists or for other uses) and the treeline cleaned up. Soon white board fencing will define the drive.



This area is cleared for expanded parking adjacent to the current graveled parking lot. Photo by Charlie Stone

Another change is beside the graveled "horse ring" parking lot. In the newly cleared area, a parking space will soon take shape. Through careful planning and design, we expect to provide more efficient parking to meet growing needs.

Notice: Heavy equipment will be operating along the back drive, near the gravel parking lot, and along the front fence on Anderson Pike. Be especially vigilant in these areas. Also remember to maintain an appropriate and healthy physical distance from others when you visit.

Wranglin' Weeds at McCoy

Thank you to all who worked at the Weed Wrangle® Saturday, March 7. It was a chilly, sunny day, and fifteen volunteers gave over 40 hours of service and hauled away enough undesirable plants to fill several pickup truck beds. We particularly appreciate Clare Hetzler, Bob Gray and Janet Suber, the experts in non-native invasive species who acted as leaders of three teams of Wranglers.



Participants in Weed Wrangle® left to right: Karen Stone, Larry Mick, Ed Seseck, Lissa Martin Seseck, Clare Hetzler, Larry Roberts, Caroline Woerner, Robert Gray, and Janet Suber. Not pictured: Mickey and Winston Robbins, Marty Roberts, Susan Snow, Charles Adams and Tom Mills. Photo by Charlie Stone.

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.

A Tale of Two Orchids

by Elizabeth Hamilton

In late February, some volunteers set out to save a small colony of orchids. Board member Susan Snow recalled that Chattanooga State Biology and Environmental Science professor Dr. Richard Clements had noted a Lily-leaved Twayblade Orchid (*Liparis liliifolia*) along the drive near the gravel lot during a wildflower walk in 2017. The delicate native orchid, which Dr. Clement said was a singular sighting in Hamilton County, produces a lovely stem of translucent orchid blooms in late April to May.

Susan and I went hunting for the orchid and found instead a sister native, the Crane-fly



Crane-fly orchid

Orchid (*Tuipularia discolor*) with its sole green and purple leaf resting atop the fallen leaves. Crane-fly orchids have only a single leaf present

from fall until spring. The leaf then disappears, and an erect stem of flowers appears around late July. The flowers are pollinated by noctuid moths (commonly called owlet moths). We discovered there were half a dozen Crane-fly orchids in a cluster along the drive.

Fearing that heavy equipment would unknowingly smush our treasured find, Sallie Ford moved the orchids to the shade of the Kousa Dogwood tree in the southwestern corner of the Horseshoe Gardens. We are hoping for blooms in late July. In the meantime, the

Important Event News

Memorial Day Picnic planning suspended

Trail will remain open only AS LONG AS all maintain physical distance from others. Please follow health guidelines and be safe.

Watch for updates in the May newsletter or at www.mccoywalden.org

quest continues, and we will be on the lookout in April for the shiny twin leaves of the soon to emerge Lily-leaved Twayblade Orchid. We will keep everyone posted on the continued search for the Twayblades and are hoping for a reunion of the dear sister orchids.

Trees Honor Special Friends

In your rambles over the grounds, have you noticed some newly planted trees? They are all specimens native to the southeastern United States. Near the kitchen porch entrance is a Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*) given in memory of Neavon Hatfield. It will soon be covered in little white bell shaped flowers. Prominently in the horseshoe garden and replacing a fallen giant is a fragrant flowering Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) planted as a memorial to Doug Newton in recognition of his devotion to McCoy Farm & Gardens.

We are seeking sponsors for trees to replace the original sweet gums planted along the front drive. The Master Plan calls for recreating the Allée, and you can help with fulfilling this goal. If you would like to sponsor the planting of one of these trees, or a special tree as a memorial or in honor of someone, please contact Linda Collins lcollins105@comcast.net

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 in the gravel lot. Dog waste pickup bags are at trail head.

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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 38 acre parcel contains the Bachman-McCoy home, pavilion, carriage house, barn, blacksmith workshop, apple house, various other structures, and gardens. 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.mccoywalden.org

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