

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 Two: Issue Eight

August 2017

Photos From Long Ago

Sincere thanks go to Sally McCoy Garland for these great pictures of her home. Notes from backs of the photos are used as captions:



"Original homeplace. On the back of my picture is the date 1912 or 1916. Can see a little of the barn," Sally Garland



"View looking toward Anderson Pike. You can barely see newly planted gum trees [along right of the drive]. Gates to the left of ours went to the Hedges home - now the Catholic Church," Sally Garland.



"Barn. Structure near barn roof peak was Ellis Smith's house on James Blvd. He worked for Grandpappy Bachman for years before he retired. He walked every day down from his house to work. There was no Taft Highway between his house and ours. Lots of purple martin bird houses," Sally Garland. [Also note the bountiful garden and the cold-cellar mound.]

In a 1963 recorded conversation with local historian, Karen Stone, Martha McCoy talked about the original house. She explained that her father felt their house was not fitting for the entertaining he needed to do as Judge and US Senator. He therefore removed the front porch roof, elevated the ceiling to cover the upper windows, and supported the new roof with white columns. Senator Bachman was a close friend of Jack Garner, former Senator and Vice President under Franklin Roosevelt, and Harry Truman, future President, who visited Chattanooga for Bachman's funeral.

More photos on page 2

Botanical Discoveries

On the Botanical Walk July 22nd, led by Dr. Richard Clements, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science at Chattanooga State, the "most interesting find of the day" was the Lily-leaved Twayblade Orchid (*Liparis liliifolia*). According to the University of Tennessee Herbarium, this represents another county record for McCoy Farm & Gardens. The plants were observed in a vulnerable location.

Dr. Clements observed, "Although not listed as a rare species, it is not found in any of the counties contiguous to Hamilton County. I would recommend searching for more plants to get an idea of the population size; I would not collect a voucher specimen before establishing that a healthy population exists. This species blooms in late spring, but the specimen we observed and photographed had a seed capsule which confirmed the identification."

Continued on page 2

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.



LEFT:
"Pump house and apple orchards. Top line of trees is James Blvd. Taft Highway wasn't built. Open field below blooming apple trees was our cow, Mrs. Murphy's, pasture. House in upper right is the old Martin place [former Emma Bell (Miles) home]. We bought it years later," Sally Garland.

RIGHT:
"View from near James Blvd. You can see old water tower. Don't ever remember the two structures on the upper left. I don't think the structure in front of the water tower is the woodshed. It was always behind the water tower. Garage is seen over barn roof line. The pool not built yet," Sally Garland.



Botanical Discoveries continued

During a previous assessment, the first county record was recorded as the discovery of the Primrose-leaved Violet (*Viola primulifolia*). Along the creek drainage, that population was observed to be doing well after the flooding associated with heavy rains last spring.

Two woody species not previously seen but of concern are invasive White Poplar (*Populus alba*) and Autumn Olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*). These should be removed whenever encountered. Volunteers are always needed for help in controlling undesirable vegetation.

Wonderful Wildlife Walks

Kevin Calhoun, Assistant Curator of Forests, Tennessee Aquarium, led another informative bird and wildlife walk on July 23. Important points noted by participants include:

1. The large number of young bluebirds (double digits) indicate plenty of natural nesting sites in hollow limbs and snags which should be preserved where practical.
2. Brush piles by pool are "habitat!" Keeping brush piles as habitat would be a good policy. Watch for more Wildlife Walks in the future.

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 inner 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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Support McCoy Farm & Gardens

McCoy Farm & Gardens is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All contributions are charitable and tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

The 38 acre parcel with the Bachman-McCoy home, pavilion, carriage house, barn, blacksmith workshop, apple house, various other smaller structures, and gardens are 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:

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P.O. Box 443, Signal Mt., TN 37377

www.mccoypwalden.org