

McCoy Farm & Gardens NEWSLETTER

Main entrance: 1604 Taft Highway • Front gate: 1715 Anderson Pike • Mail: P.O. Box 443, Signal Mountain, TN 37377 • 423-598-1658 • www.mccoypwalden.org

Volume Seven: Issue Eight

August 2022

Barn Renovation Progress

As you can see by these photos, restoration of the barn is proceeding at a steady pace. The captions tell the fascinating tale.



Slim works on the north side of the barn with roof decking and siding removed in June. Two interior spaces are visible.



On the south side in July, the new tin roof is apparent. Over 12,000 pounds of cedar shake and asphalt shingles were removed from this side – in addition to 6,800 pounds from the north side. It's no wonder the old roof was sagging.



Supervised by volunteer Terry Knox, center, Brooks Barber and Aidan Shakespeare prepare to set a new sill beam.



Volunteer Fred Wildman works with Aidan assisting. Original wood is reclaimed and used when possible.



Structural engineer, the late Tom Retseck, discussed the barn with renovation committee members, Paul Jensen, Charles Adams, and board project committee chairman Earl Hereford, who has spent hundreds of hours on the site.



Are MFG's Trees Dying?

Some visitors and trail walkers have expressed concern over apparently dying trees. The good news is, "No, the trees are not dying." The brown leaves indicate bittersweet and kudzu are dying because they have been severed from their roots. Special thanks to Dan Reynolds for investing much time in this effort.

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.

Evidence of Tree Rescue

It is a continuing battle to save valuable trees from encroachment of under-story plants including choking vines that can grow up into the crowns. These before and after views of the same giant tree tell their own tale.



BEFORE: On the left, this giant poplar was smothered by climbing vines and underbrush. AFTER: On the right is the tree after rescue by interns Brooks, Ella, Vito and Sophia.

Ash Trees ARE Dying

An emerald ash borer treatment work day led by Tom Voychekovski and Larry Mick will be at McCoy Farm & Gardens at 9 AM, August 13. Come and learn about these destructive insects and help treat MFG's trees.

Intern Program Big Success

The local foundation sponsoring the summer interns considers the program such a success that they plan to continue it next summer. The pictures throughout this and the previous newsletters demonstrate the valuable work the students have done at McCoy Farm & Gardens. Thank you, Brooks Barber (UTK), Sophia Gibby (UVA), Vito Knoop (UAH), Ella Saunders (UTK), and Aidan Shakespeare (Sewanee).



Forester Maria Holder, right, teaches the interns the process of taking cuttings from the old apple trees and grafting them to root stock. Aidan and Vito are hands on, while Brooks and others watch the technique carefully. The interns report that working with professionals like Holder has been very rewarding and educational.



Our summer interns reached the heights of success as Ella climbed a ladder to seal and stain the ceiling in the pavilion, and Vito scaled a tree to free it from invasive vines.

Emerald Ash Borer Work Day
9 AM, Saturday, August 13
See story column one this page

Hours, Access & Information

The 1.1 mile long walking and running trail is open during daylight hours, seven days per week. Access the trail by the 1604 Taft Highway entrance and park in the trail parking spaces or the gravel lot. Dog waste pickup bags are at the trailhead and by the Anderson entrance.

We encourage our MFG visitors to practice healthy COVID measures at all times.

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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 MFG 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 Mtn., TN 37377
423-598-1658

www.mccoywalden.org

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