

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.mccoypwalden.org

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December 2017



Complete ensemble of Thrasher Elementary School Fifth Grade Students on the lawn of the McCoy home, November 2017.

Living History

Thrasher School 5th Grade classes held a very successful Living History dramatization at McCoy Farm & Gardens in November. Role playing and costuming were even better than ever. Parents and guests enjoyed learning new things, and everyone is delighted to see this great venue fulfill the goal of providing meaningful educational opportunities. Thank you Thrasher teachers, students and friends.

Planning for the Future

As we enjoy our great facilities, we continue to look ahead at what is to come. Your Board is working toward developing a Master Plan

for McCoy Farm & Gardens so that we can proceed in a thoughtful way. Look for updates in later newsletters as the process unfolds.

Hanging of the Greens

A big thank you to the House Committee for decorating the McCoy home in such attractive ways for each holiday season. Anne Leonard, Gene Adams, Susan Jensen, Linda Davenport, and Mary Beth McClure have just packed away the fall decor and are hanging the greens for the winter season. The house is again ready for all to enjoy at Christmastime. We really appreciate you, ladies, for all you do.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with similar or other projects. www.mccoypwalden.org

Upcoming Events

- Signal Mt. Middle-High Girls Soccer Team Awards Banquet
- Red Bank Baptist Church Staff Christmas Party
- McCoy Farm & Gardens Board and Volunteer Christmas Celebration

To schedule your own event at McCoy Farm & Gardens, visit www.mccoypwalden.org

Giving Thanks

Though the leaves are off the trees, and the pace of big public activities has slowed at McCoy Farm & Gardens, popularity of the house and grounds has continued to be exceptional. Thanksgiving was a beautiful sunny 60° day, and many, many families came to enjoy walking the perimeter trail together.

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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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A large Logan family group celebrated with Thanksgiving dinner in the pavilion, even preparing their turkey in an outdoor cooker. We remember Mrs. Martha McCoy and her family with gratitude for allowing all of the Walden's Ridge community such a wonderful place to use and enjoy throughout the year.

Master Gardeners Create Beautiful Spaces

Volunteers under direction of the Master Gardeners spent the first year (2015) at McCoy Farm & Gardens cutting trees, removing invasives and reclaiming garden beds after years of neglect. The next two years were spent obtaining grant money, having a garden design created and then implementing and maintaining the gardens referred to as the "horseshoe gardens" near the pavilion, as well as a "heel-in" bed on the west side of the house.

The results are spectacular and add a beautiful backdrop to weddings, picnics and other events hosted on the property. The Garden Committee is currently in the process of creating a criteria for future gardens that would enhance and emulate those established.

They are also assisting the Board in finding potential businesses that create master plans for properties that are similar in size and usage to McCoy Farm & Gardens. This includes researching public gardens similar in size that are sustainable.

Please come by to see what progress has been made. For more information or to volunteer, contact Jody Hunter jodyhunter@icloud.com or Linda Andrews travelgardener@epbf.com



Photographs of the garden near the Pavilion by Jody Hunter

102 Years Old and Counting

Jean Dolan, recent author of *Walking With Friends: Some Signal Mt. Walks*, celebrated her 102nd birthday on November 10 at McCoy Farm & Gardens. Shown with her, in red below, are some members of her active hiking group.



Posing by the big tree west of the house. Photo by Uwe Zitzo.

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.

OFFICERS:

Mickey Robbins, President
Bob Franklin, Vice President; Corporate Secretary
Gene Adams, Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Charles Adams
Linda Collins
Joe Davis
Andy Jones
Anne Leonard
Jeremy Logan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Shannon Handy, Strategic Planning
Jody Hunter, Gardening
Susan Snow, Private Events
Karen Stone, Newsletter

WALDEN OFFICIALS:

Mayor: Bill Trohanis
Aldermen: Lee Davis, Sarah McKenzie

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 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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