

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

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Recap of the Year's Activities

When Walden citizens' resolve to purchase the Bachman-McCoy home and property became a reality in 2004, there was concern and talk about the cost and practicality of the enterprise. Some said the property would be too expensive to maintain. Others answered that the house would be good for weddings and receptions, and income would come from rentals. More ideas were put forward in public meetings and discussions. Still, some asked what practical use could be made of the place. Many replied we could have gardens, walking trails and space to gather and play. They maintained that Walden's rough jewel would become a valuable asset with some polishing.

Since doubters doubted and dreamers dreamed then, let's take a look now and see how we stand. Activities at McCoy Farm & Gardens in 2018 alone were: 2 rehearsal dinners; 5 weddings; 10 wedding receptions; 5 service group meetings; 5 birthday parties; 5 wildlife study events; 3 church luncheons, picnics or dinners; 3 reunions; 3 business meetings; 2 educational workshops; 2 fundraising events; 1 service project; 1 movie filming; 1 music



Martha McCoy in the 1980's with her grandsons, John, Tom and Shank, enjoyed the company of her dog at the stone bench near the gardens west of the house.

concert; 1 retreat; 1 flower show; 1 garden tour; 1 baby shower; 1 political campaign kick-off; 1 celebration of life; and 1 history presentation. The parking area for the walking trail is filled continually; volunteers are everywhere; the gardens and buildings are improving, and we are still proudly polishing our jewel.

Donations Acknowledged

Fifth part in a series on contributors to our success

We certainly appreciate donations of items which have made the refurbished McCoy home so inviting. An antique wicker love seat and wicker chair with ottoman gracing the second floor sleeping porch were donated by Marion Huffaker. The three-piece white wicker furniture on the screened side porch was



The airy porch upstairs was used for sleeping on hot nights.

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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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given by Sugar Wheeler from the estate of her parents, Mary and Pope Holliday. Also on the side porch is a wicker chaise lounge, a gift of Jean and Bill Trohanis. Bettie and the late Sam Chester supplied the antique cider press that is currently displayed there as well. Hopefully in the future it will be put to the service for which it was designed. When the apple orchards are rejuvenated, plans are to hold a fall apple festival with apples pressed on site.

Wild Ones Annual Meeting

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones held its annual meeting in the Pavilion on Saturday, November 3, with about 50 members attending. After the business meeting and election of officers for 2019, McCoy volunteer and chapter member, Sallie Ford, explained the ongoing garden restoration work. Some members then took their box lunches outside to enjoy the beautiful fall day. Many were visiting for the first time and were quite impressed with the grounds, and several



The native plant and seed swap offers an opportunity for Wild Ones chapter members to take home something new to try in their landscapes. Photo by Lyn Rutherford.

enjoyed the walking trail. Wild Ones is a national non-profit. Visit the chapter website at www.tnvalleywildones.org to learn more.

Amazing Living History

The Third Annual Living History Museum presented by the fifth grade students at Thrasher Elementary School offered amazing insights into the lives of people who lived through the Civil War. Among the characters portrayed by the young actors were generals and foot soldiers, nurses and wounded, slaves and masters, women posing as male soldiers, abolitionists, lawyers and judges, sharecroppers, artists, historians, authors and reporters, photographers, presidents and first ladies, Southern belles, carpetbaggers, and even spies and an assassin!



Playing the part of female spies were Emie Bahar, Henley Robertson and Julia Stone. Bailee Waye plays an author.

Warm Holiday Greetings

Your Board of Directors, Committee Members and Volunteers all wish you the very best holiday season and thank you for your continued support.

To see the latest posts or to schedule a special event go to www.mccoywalden.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 graveled area 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 next to the orchard. A handicapped accessible portable toilet is located in that parking lot.

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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 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:

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

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