

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

Volume Four: Issue Twelve

December 2019

Merry Christmases Past

There once was a time ... when people traveled over dirt trails or tar-and-gravel roads to visit the Bachmans at Christmas time. Men brought Judge Nate little pieces of choice wood for him to whittle, as he was known for whittling while he presided over his bench on the court circuit. In turn, he would give away the little scissors and animals he had carved.

The women brought Miss Pearl blackberry preserves or raisin pies made from the summer grapes they had dried. Apples were retrieved from the Bachmans' root cellar and bright ribbon was tied on paper bags of walnuts for the visiting children. These treats were greatly appreciated, for there was no supermarket where fruit and nuts from Florida, California and Mexico could be found – for any price.

The most wonderful thing of all was the gigantic Christmas tree that grew near the front of the house. It was covered with bright colored lights and could be seen from Anderson Pike. In that time long ago, hardly anyone on Walden's Ridge had displays of lights, and the tree was dazzling and truly marvelous. Everyone came to gaze in delight upon the



Several years ago, John, Caroline and Julia Stone visited with Santa Claus in front of the fireplace in the living room of the Bachman - McCoy home.

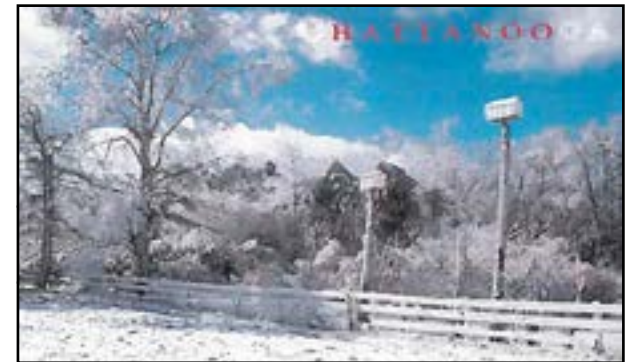


Santa Claus today sees more white lights on trees than in the past when rare colored lights mesmerized the children who came to see the big Bachman Christmas tree.

big beautiful Christmas tree the Bachmans so carefully prepared every year to share with all their neighbors. What a thrilling sight it was!



Snowy view from James Blvd. before Taft Highway was built.



This Chattanooga postcard was given to us by professional photographer Dan Reynolds. We believe it was made at the McCoy place before the fences fell into disrepair.

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.



Working to finalize the Master Plan are left to right, Linda Collins, Richie Jones, Karen Stone, Larry Mick, Anne Leonard, Charles Adams, Joe Davis (standing) and Sallie Ford. Photo by Mickey Robbins.

Master Plan Progress

After a great deal of thought and consultation with the staff of Hodgson Douglas, the Master Plan is beginning to take final shape. Your board has not been sitting idle waiting for the completed document but has been working steadily to pursue some defined goals.

Among accomplishments are: expanding a volunteer base, maintaining and improving structures, weatherproofing facilities, holding fund-raising events, increasing rental revenues, expanding media outreach, improving signage, adding parking, removing invasive species, adding native plants, clearing fence-rows and fallen trees, improving drives and trail, keeping careful records, and much more.

A Skilled Craftsman

by Charles Adams

Maintaining buildings, some over 100 years old, requires a skilled craftsman. The board of McCoy Farm & Gardens has called on the carpentry skills of David Clark to perform many

tasks. David works out of his shop close by on Wilson Road, making the location a perfect match for our needs.

He has made many repairs to bring the facilities back to original historical conditions, and he has performed upgrades to help preserve the buildings. Just a few of his tasks include exposing the original bead-board upstairs in the main house, painting, window repairs, glazing, and re-hanging doors. He has repaired doors and windows in the pavilion and built doors for the woodshed. He did the interior finishing of the new restrooms, and made structural upgrades in the barn.

David Clark has been coming to our rescue now for over a four year period. Thanks, David, for all your good work.

Winter Garden Activities

You may think winter is a dreary time in a garden, but our volunteers don't believe that. Recently they consulted with a native perennials expert from Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center. Accordingly, they have been able to work more native plants into the existing garden design. These efforts should result in healthier and more easily sustainable plantings that can thrive in the conditions found in the McCoy Gardens.

To volunteer to help, or for more information contact Sallie.Ford@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

- Private Christmas parties
- Trail & Grounds ongoing projects
- Gardening 2nd Saturday; 4th Friday 8-11 am

To schedule an event 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 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mickey Robbins, President
Joe Davis, Vice President
Anne Leonard, Secretary
Gene Adams, Treasurer
Charles Adams
Linda Collins
Andy Jones
Larson Mick
Susan Snow
Karen Stone

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Shannon Handy, Planning
Sallie Ford, Gardens

WALDEN OFFICIALS:

Mayor: Bill Trohanis
Aldermen: Lee Davis,
Sarah McKenzie

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

[Editor McCoy Farm & Gardens](mailto:Editor@McCoyFarm&Gardens.org)

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

Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0737667 and AmazonSmile donates to McCoy Farm & Gardens