

# 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](http://www.mccoypark.org)

Volume Three: Issue Two

February 2018

### New Video Announced

A new and exciting 360 degree video of the Bachman/McCoy home interior is being completed and will soon be available for viewing on our website. Anyone who is thinking about renting the space for a corporate event, wedding, or other occasion will then be able to take a virtual tour and see our great facility.



Screenshot showing the newly refurbished upstairs room.

### Building the Walking Trail and the Wetland Bridge

*Adapted from a report by Carol Lannon*

For many years, a dream for the the park envisioned at the McCoy homeplace was an accessible trail for walkers and joggers around the 38 acres. A succession of mayors favored the idea, and in 2014, Elizabeth Akins enlisted

the help of the perfect person, avid outdoorsman Sam Powell, to research and design a trail.

To the uninitiated, building a trail may seem simple enough, but that is most certainly not the case. Sam and his friend Earl Herford, both retired TVA engineers, described the project. It began with a “walk-around” to get the lay of the land. Trails need to follow the land’s natural contours, and even a property as seemingly flat as McCoy’s has its share of ups and downs. Also, a wetland was discovered and needed to be protected.

Invasive plants were everywhere. Volunteers like Doug Newton identified them, insisted on minimal use of herbicides, and clearing began. The first to help were a group of women. “On Thursdays, real regular, Che Carico and her hiking club came out to clear it all away. They were the originals,” Sam declared. Walden’s Ridge Utility District loaned a backhoe and bull hog to remove large brush and dead limbs and trees. Grading leveled the trail, allowed for drainage, and removed stobs and roots.

Next Sam and his crew began building a walking bridge across the wetland, the design chosen because it wouldn’t harm the area and



Sam Powell on the wetland bridge, April 17, 2016

would be easier to repair. “That bridge is strong enough to handle tree falls,” Sam said.

Terry Knox was the primary builder, aided by Sam, Earl, Larry Chapman, Clyde Womack, Ian Duff, Bill Fronk, Caroline Woerner, and

Mark Dwyer. They dug post holes and pits, constructed ramps, sank poles, poured concrete, installed rebar, attached individual boards, and stretched cables through eye bolts.

The bridge was anchored in concrete blocks nine feet long, three feet wide, and three feet deep. Sam worked with Fern Lockhart, from *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.

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the Town of Walden, who coordinated the traffic so the concrete was poured from Taft Hwy without bringing the trucks through the property. At the same time, another volunteer, Kim Fookes, helped raise contributions from EPB and individual donors, then obtained and mounted plaques of acknowledgment.

Complementing the trail are three sturdy wooden benches built by Taylor Bowling for his Eagle Scout service project and installed December 5, 2015. The perimeter trail opened in 2015, and the bridge completion was celebrated in April, 2016.



A bench built by Taylor Bowling

## Volunteer Tasks Listed

The work at McCoy Farm & Gardens is done by volunteers, and there is a great need for help. "When?" and "What?" is the question.

As **Grounds Chairman**, Andy Jones works most Fridays and welcomes help then, **AND** there are many tasks that can be done anytime by anyone. Here is a list: **Rake** sweetgum balls around pavilion, front drive, etc. Basically, any raking is appreciated. **Smooth** irregular areas of lawn disrupted by trenching for pipes or conduit. **Pick up** sticks anywhere and stack in piles. **Remove** English Ivy from the ground or trees anywhere. **Clean up** old apples fallen from or still on the trees. **Pull** weeds from plantings around the house. **Rescue** the hemlock trees by removing vines. **Maintain** the trail.

For guidance on the tasks listed, or if you are part of a group or a class who would like

to take on a project, please text Andy Jones 802-6025 or email [andyjonesobgyn@gmail.com](mailto:andyjonesobgyn@gmail.com)

As **Events Chairman**, Susan Snow asks you to volunteer as a **Representative** of McCoy Farm & Gardens. This task involves attending various events and serving as **Hosts**. Contact Susan 886-5637 [susansnow@laurel-point.net](mailto:susansnow@laurel-point.net)

## Walking With Your Dogs

Please be sure that your dog is under your control at all times while you enjoy McCoy Farm & Gardens together. There soon will be a NEW pet service station at the parking lot near the entrance to the walking trail. The station, funded in part by a thoughtful donation from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Boone, is being provided for your help in managing dog waste. Look for the sign identifying the bag dispenser. Used bags should be carried out or placed in the dumpster located in the parking lot.



## A Note from The Garlands

January 23, 2018 at 10:36 pm

"Thanking everyone from the McCoy-Garland side of this project for keeping our grandmother's farm growing back into the beautiful place it used to be! Y'all are bringing her back into fruition, and we are so grateful for your progress!

"We only hope that we can come spend some time with you all and help with anything to preserve this property and make people, all around, enjoy and appreciate this special property that our grandmother left for Walden's Ridge. There are some good stories to be told."

*Sally McCoy Garland, John V. Garland Jr., Thomas Jerome Garland and Elliott Shanklin Garland.*

## Hours, Access & Information

The 1.1 mile long walking and running trail is open during daylight hours, seven days a 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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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. Your donations are welcome and will be used to improve structures and gardens.

Volunteers are very important. To help, please contact any officer or chairman.

**Please send your check to:**

**McCoy Farm & Gardens**

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

[www.mccoywalden.org](http://www.mccoywalden.org)