

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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Leo Club Performs Service

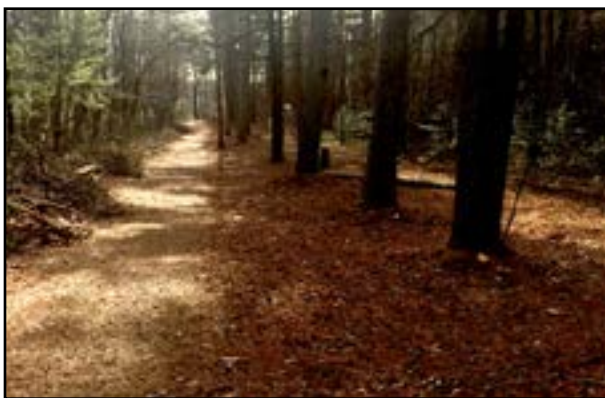
by Paul Jensen

The Lions Club of Signal Mountain supports a Leo Club at the McCallie School. Through the Leo Club program, young people serve as positive agents of change within their communities. The McCallie Leo Club wanted a community service project for Martin Luther King Day on January 15, 2018.

With the help of Alicia Michael, Lions Club Leo representative, Paul Jensen, and Andy Jones, a project was identified by the McCoy Farm & Garden team and approved by McCallie School staff. The project involved removing



Members of the McCallie Leo Club remove invasive vines and undergrowth along the trail. Photo by Paul Jensen.



Looking south along the trail through the cleared pines. Photo by Paul Jensen.

brush and debris along a portion of the trail behind the apple orchard. The objective was to expose a row of large pine trees [a pinetum] planted by the McCoy family years ago.

A team of McCoy volunteers prepared the site for the work, and on Martin Luther King Day, a group of 17 McCallie Leos with their advisors worked to clear a large section of the trail. Thanks for a job well done.

Town of Walden Funding

On December 13, 2017, the Town of Walden passed Resolution No 2017-510, specifying \$7,500 to go to McCoy Farm & Gardens for maintenance and improvements, as outlined

in the 2017-2018 annual budget. The McCoy Farm & Gardens Board subsequently approved use of the funds for deferred maintenance and upgrades for the Barn and other areas. These include power to the Apple House and installation of additional flood lights at the House. A budget will be set for 2018 with a list of priorities for maintenance.

Barn Upgrade Status

In the past, with four stables, a loft, a tack room, two covered bays, and secured storage areas, the Barn was indispensable to the Bachman and McCoy families who had horses and needed a place to store feed and equipment.

Today the barn is still a great asset. Work continues to provide electrical service and structural modifications for continued use until development of the site Master Plan is complete. This is part of our continuing effort to preserve this important property.

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.



Corey Irvin, great-grandson of Ellis Smith who managed the Bachman farm for over 20 years, is shown with his family on the front porch as it was decorated for Christmas 2017. Left to right are Amber, August, Corey, Waveny Ellis, and Maggie the dog. Photo by Rita Smith Irvin.

New Tree Varieties Planted

A redbud and three other trees representing varieties not previously found at McCoy Farm & Gardens were planted recently. A Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), known for its brilliant fall colors and sweet sap that is a source for maple syrup, is one of America's best-loved trees.

A Carolina Silverbell tree (*Halesia carolina*) was given by Sally McCoy Garland in memory of long-time caretaker and friend Neavon Hatfield. Often called Mountain Silverbell in the southern Appalachian Mountains, it has pendulous bell-shaped white flowers in the spring. The seeds are eaten by squirrels, and the flowers are favorites of honey bees. Silverbells often live to about 100 years of age.

Drs. Hill Craddock and Paola Zannini gave a Franklin tree (*Franklinia alatamaha*) that Hill's students grew from seed. The species has an interesting history. William Bartram, 18th century botanist, collected seeds on a trip to the Georgia coast and the Altamaha River. He named the tree in honor of his father's friend,

Benjamin Franklin. The trees are extinct in the wild, but thanks to Bartram's planting the seeds in Philadelphia, Franklin trees live on as cultivated ornamentals with lightly fragrant white flowers similar to camellia blossoms.

Master Gardener's Message

The following is from a letter by Master Gardener Lori Ashton

"I was lucky enough to be able to attend the wine and cheese reception on the McCoy Farm & Gardens property... and to tour the house and gardens ...

"There were existing gardens that had become miserably overgrown and are now a delight to the senses in every way. (If you have ever been presented with a giant mess and had to wade through it gradually before you could even know how to create a long-term plan, you will know what our Master Gardeners have done there for the past three years.)

"While our mission is certainly education above all, sometimes it requires educated experts to start with the dirty work and oversee the prudent maintenance of a project, especially when it comes to the restoration of historically significant properties. I am so proud that our group is involved with this one. I know that we live (thankfully) in every corner of Hamilton County, but if you live on or near Signal Mountain, this is a great place to earn hours. ...

"Please thank the following for their dedication to this important project and for forever entwining the history of our group with this historic property: Jody Hunter, Mary O'Neill, Hilda Horton, Sallie Ford, Charlene Nash, Pam O'Connell, Kit Hanley, Elaine Monteiro, Linda Andrews, Terry Miles, Marty Roberts, and Jeremy Logan."

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

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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