

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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The beginning of a new year often calls to mind interesting things of the past. Shown above are Martha McCoy and her dear friend and grounds-keeper, Neavon Hatfield, who is helping to make the apple cider for which the Bachmans and McCoys were known. The picture was contributed by Sally McCoy Garland and was probably taken around 1960.

In the earlier days, a wide variety of apple trees covered much of the acreage. A substantial part of the land was used to grow corn which was stored dry on the cob in the corn crib near the barn and shown at right.



Active House Committee

No one entering the Bachman-McCoy home during the winter can fail to notice the decorations and seasonal greens hung by the House Committee. This year the house was even more beautifully accented than ever before. The Committee made up of Gene Adams, Linda Davenport, Susan Jensen, Clare Hetzler, Mary Beth McClure and Anne Leonard has worked together for 5 years. They are responsible for the house furnishings and seasonal decorations, plus overseeing housecleaning.

In the future they would like to have a sub-committee that would decorate the grounds and outbuildings for special holiday events such as Memorial Day Picnic, Halloween and Christmas. Please take time to thank members of the House Committee for their lovely work.

Annual Fund Progress

Thank you very much for responding so generously to our annual fund requests. Your contributions continue to support improvements to the house and other structures, maintenance of the grounds, and programs. It is not too late to mail your donation to P.O. Box 443. We certainly do appreciate your help.



Banister decked with greens by the House Committee. Photo by Linda Davenport.

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.

Targeting English Ivy

by Elizabeth Hamilton

Start the New Year by helping rid McCoy Farm & Gardens of English Ivy! Winter is the perfect time to attack this invasive exotic evergreen that covers much of the forest floor. It's one of the few that can thrive in deep shade, and while most other plants are dormant, the bright green leaves are easy to spot.

As weather permits throughout the winter, my team will be working on clearing ivy. We're currently working on the section of the trail by the orchard and pavilion. A workday is planned 1 – 3 p.m., Sunday, January 12. Additional dates may be added based on the weather. If you're interested in helping with this project, please contact Elizabeth Hamilton ehamiltontn@outlook.com to receive notifications.

Introduced from Europe as a landscape plant, English Ivy escaped into the wild and is now found all over the Eastern US. It grows in thick carpets on the forest floor, displacing native evergreen groundcovers such as Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) and Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*). A monoculture forest floor of English Ivy doesn't provide the food that wildlife needs, and it suppresses growth of the plants that animals would normally feed on.

The ivy also grows up tree trunks and blocks light from the trees and the forest floor. It will eventually kill the trees it has climbed.



English Ivy strangling a tree near the boxwood garden

I've tried different methods, and my preferred system for removing English Ivy from the forest floor is mechanical removal, aka. pulling it up by hand. The wax coating on its leaves reduce the effectiveness of chemical solutions. Though it's physical work, it's quite rewarding to pull up a long stretch of vine and see your progress and good results!

Fifth Year For Newsletter

Thanks to your continuing interest and support, the McCoy Farm & Gardens Newsletter is entering its fifth year of publication. We are very pleased to acknowledge you, the Readers, and the talented people who contribute interesting stories and facts to keep everyone informed about activities at the "Jewel of Walden." If you have a story to tell or a topic you would like to see addressed, please contact us at Editor McCoy Farm & Gardens

New 2020 Projects Beginning

The new year is looking bright for McCoy Farm & Gardens. Thanks to a generous grant, we will soon be enlarging the parking area and upgrading drives and access/drop-off points. New white board fences will replace the decayed old fencing along the back drive and new white fences will define the Anderson Pike border. Improvements to the Taft Highway entrance will follow after the heavy equipment work is completed.

Upcoming Events

- English ivy removal Sunday, Jan. 12, 1-3 pm
- Trail & Grounds ongoing projects
- Gardening 2nd Saturday; 4th Friday 8-11 am

To schedule an event www.mccoypwalden.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.

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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 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.mccoypwalden.org

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