

McCoy Farm & Gardens NEWSLETTER

Main entrance: 1604 Taft Highway • Front gate: 1715 Anderson Pike • Mail: P.O. Box 443, Signal Mountain, TN 37377 • 423-598-1658 • www.mccoywalden.org

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Have a Prosperous New Year

The Board of Directors of McCoy Farm & Gardens wishes you a happy and prosperous year in 2022. We look forward to continuing progress at "Walden's jewel" and hope you will continue to enjoy it.

Events Director, Cynthia Pennington, is always happy to help you schedule a wedding, birthday party, important meeting, or any special event on the grounds or in any or all of our buildings. Reach her by calling 423-619-8959 or emailing cynthia@mccoywalden.org

Thank You for Your Gifts

We appreciate your generous response to our year-end request for donations which will go toward continued improvements to the buildings and grounds. If you missed the opportunity to send a gift before the end of the year, it is not too late. Your donation will still count toward success of the campaign.

Sponsor a Bench on the Trail

A friend suggested that benches placed along the trail would be very convenient, not only for those who need to rest a bit, but also for those who would simply like to pause and



Maggie Lanphier uses a belt sander to finish a bench.



Matt Bernard helps daughter Lily drill pilot holes.



Maggie and Lily help Andy Jones install a bench on the trail.

contemplate the beauty of their surroundings. Enclosed with her request was a check to finance the purchase of a bench.

Following her suggestion, a committee set out to study the trail and determine some

good sites. They identified and marked over a dozen potential locations. The ground was cleared, leveled, and prepared for installation.

Board member Dr. Andy Jones is enthusiastic about the seating idea. He volunteered to fashion a series of benches using wood from one big white pine harvested from the edge of the parking lot. Each single slab takes hours to cut, shape, sand, and apply 4-5 coats of varnish. Andy is an Eagle Scout and handy with chain saw, axe, knife, and finishing tools. He also likes encouraging young people to learn new things, as have Lily and Maggie, pictured at left. Handcrafting and installing a bench is a slow, difficult process, and Andy needs and welcomes volunteer help at any skill level.

Would you like to sponsor a bench in honor or memory of someone? The details of our sponsor-a-bench program will be published in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, if you'd like to add your name to the list of

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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.

those interested, feel free to email Melissa at melissa@mccoywalden.org or call 423-598-1658.

Connecting Trails

The Town of Walden is blessed with several small parks, and connecting them with pedestrian or bike trails is a significant part of the *Town of Walden Plan* which is under final consideration.

McCoy Farm & Gardens is set to be the first key link connecting the Pumpkin Patch/Town Hall to pathways leading all the way to Signal Point through the Town of Signal Mountain. This first footpath is expected to lead from the east side of the Pumpkin Patch, along Laurel Avenue, across Anderson Pike, and connect to the MFG walking trail.

The Walden Parks and Recreation Committee is studying ways to connect Falling Water Park, Mabbitt Spring, Walden's Ridge Civic League, Bachman Community Center and Pumpkin Patch Playground. Also included is the new Walden's Ridge Park being constructed below the W Road along the slopes of the mountain.

To learn more, visit Town of Walden website www.waldentn.gov/ Click the "Community" tab and then choose Walden's Ridge Park, or go to <https://www.waldensridgepark.com/> To review the *Walden Plan*, go to the "Government" tab; drop down to "Noteworthy" and a link will appear to the right *Final Draft Town of Walden Plan*, or go to <https://www.waldentn.gov/noteworthy/files/final-draft-town-walden-plan>



Christmas Photos at the McCoy Home



Pictured are some members of families who posed for informal portraits in the McCoy home decorated for Christmas. Top left, the Andersons; above, the Browns; and left, the Shultz family.

We appreciate the House Committee members who use their talents to make the house and entranceways festive and inviting every year. Thank you.

Photos courtesy of Tara Randolph
RandolfRetreatPhotography.com

Apple Orchard & Tree Care

If you are interested in helping with winter pruning of the APPLE TREES, please join us on Saturday, January 22 at 9:00 AM in the orchard for an organizational, planning, and possible work session. Call Karen Stone 423-886-4568 or email karenstone@waldenhouse.com. If you have no experience, but would like to learn about caring for very old apple trees, you are welcome. Please wear work gloves and come dressed appropriately for the weather.

Share your memories about the McCoy family and place through the Oral History project. Call 423-598-1658 to participate.

Hours, Access & Information

The 1.1 mile long walking and running trail is open during daylight hours, seven days per week. Access the trail by the 1604 Taft Highway entrance and park in the trail parking spaces or the gravel lot. Dog waste pickup bags are at the trailhead and by the Anderson entrance.

We encourage our MFG visitors to practice healthy COVID measures at all times.

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NEWSLETTER [Karen Stone](#)

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 Mtn., TN 37377
423-598-1658
www.mccoywalden.org

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