

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.mccoywalden.org

Volume Two: Issue Seven

July 2017

Botanical Walk Scheduled

McCoy Farm & Gardens Midsummer Botanical Walk, Inventory and Assessment is scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2017, at 8AM and will be led by Richard K. Clements, Ph.D., Professor, Biology and Environmental Science at Chattanooga State Community College. Dr. Clements is a noted lecturer and naturalist whose tours are remarkable for their depth and breadth of information delivered in a clear and memorable style.



This tour continues the botanical arm, complementary to the wildlife walks, of our endeavor to develop a dossier of observations by experts that will inform the direction and planning for the natural spaces at MFG.

Observations on the inaugural tour in April included a large colony of white violet in the creek bed, a diverse population of sedges, two previously undiscovered fringe trees, blueberry bushes in bloom, and other flowering trees.

Please register by forwarding a check for \$25 made to McCoy Farm & Gardens (501C3) to E. Douglas Newton, 4305 Ivory Avenue, Walden TN 37377-3423. Questions: 412-915-5996 dougienevt@gmail.com The walk is limited to 12 attendees with no one under age 18, please. In the event of severe weather, the walk will be rescheduled by consensus.

Wildlife Walk to be July 23rd

Sunday, July 23, 2017, 8AM at McCoy Farm & Gardens, the quarterly Wildlife Walk, Inventory and Assessment will be led by Kevin Calhoun, Assistant Curator of Forests, Tennessee Aquarium. Attendees at previous walks led by Mr. Calhoun have been astounded by his wealth of information and remarkable skills in identification of birds by their calls, habits, shape and plumage. Over 50 avian species have been documented thus far. Mr. Calhoun is also expert in reptiles and other fauna, which will be discussed based on our encounters.



Attendance is limited to twelve persons. Register by forwarding a check for \$25 made to McCoy Farm & Gardens (a 501C3 corporation) to E. Douglas Newton 4305 Ivory Avenue, Walden, TN 37377-3423. Questions: 412-915-5996 (phone or text) or dougienevt@gmail.com Registration is on a first come, first served basis. No one under the age of 18, please. In case of severely inclement weather, we will reschedule based on the consensus of registrants and Mr. Calhoun.

Historian Jim Ogden to Speak Here October 6

The Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park is fortunate to have Jim Ogden as Staff Historian, and McCoy Farm & Gardens is fortunate to have him come here to speak at a special event this fall. Please watch for your personal invitation and save the date.

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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.

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On October 6th, Jim will tell about Walden's Ridge during the Civil War, including Wheeler's Raid and the Union supply trains coming over Anderson Pike and down Roger's Gap Road. He will describe the "V" (today's W) road and General Grant's trek across the mountain following the same path. He will also talk about the Union Storehouse at the McCoy place, and related items of interest.

Since beginning work with the National Park Service in 1982, Jim Ogden has been stationed at Russell Cave National Monument, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, and Chattanooga/Chickamauga.

Widely regarded as an expert in the Western Theater of the Civil War, Jim speaks regularly to historical organizations across the United States. He has taught several history courses for UTC Continuing Education Department.

Jim has articles in several publications and has appeared on Greystone Communications/Arts and Entertainment Network "Civil War Journal," the History Channel "Civil War Combat," PBS "History Detectives" and C-SPAN.

Since 1986, he has instructed more than four hundred groups of officers of the U. S. Army conducting Staff Rides (in-depth analyses of historical military events) at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. For a decade, his Staff Ride clients have included two to six hundred officers annually from the British Army's Joint Services Command and Staff College.

Jim Ogden is a Civil War historian of national standing, and we welcome you to come, enjoy refreshments, and get to know him as you continue to support McCoy Farm & Gardens.

Reestablishing the American Chestnut Trees

McCoy Farm & Gardens can now be counted among the sites where blight resistant chestnut trees are being planted in an effort to help restore the majestic trees to American forests. Before the species was devastated by a fungal disease, it was one of the most important forest trees.

Ben Fraker, working toward his Eagle Scout rank with Signal Mountain BSA Troop 60, planted 15 young American-Chinese hybrid chestnut trees here on June 25. He was aided by fellow Scouts with guidance from Andy Jones. Ben's project supports the goals of the Chattanooga Chestnut Tree Project.

For an Eagle Scout project, a Scout must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project to any religious institution, school, or community. As a demonstration of leadership, the Scout must plan the work, organize the personnel needed, and direct the project to its completion.

Dr. J. Hill Craddock, chestnut breeding expert with UTC Biological and Environmental Sciences Department, said, "We want to move genes for resistance to blight from the Japanese and Chinese chestnut into the American chestnut population. We're not trying to replace the American chestnut. Our hope is that by breeding for blight resistance, we can give the naturally-occurring populations of American chestnut the ability to survive and reproduce, on their own under forest conditions, in a way that will allow natural selection and evolution of the species to resume."

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.

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Support McCoy Farm & Gardens

McCoy Farm & Gardens is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit 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:

McCoy Farm & Gardens

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

www.mccoypwalden.org