

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

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### Gardens Status Update

After many years of neglect, the McCoy formal gardens had grown up with invasive plants and trees. Since 2009, volunteers have given over 2,500 working hours to restoring them, beginning with the first few years devoted to removing the many undesirables.

The McCoy Farm and Gardens Monarch Waystation/Cottage Garden has been four years in the making and is now complete under the able leadership of Linda Andrews, Hilda Horton and Jody Hunter.

In 2014, Lead Tennessee Aquarium horticulturist, Charlene Nash, designed a layout for the formal gardens. Jody Hunter obtained a grant from a local foundation. These funds were used to purchase necessary tools, trees, plants, shrubs, mountain stone, fencing mate-

rial, organic supplements for both plants and soil, mulch, and professional botanical labels.

Work included digging out old bricks and rubble, pruning trees properly, transplanting existing plants, installing new plants, shrubs and trees, edging the beds with mountain stone, making and installing fencing, pulling weeds, mulching, watering, and labeling.

During that time the horseshoe shaped gardens became an official Hamilton County Master Gardening project. The gardens are designed to provide butterflies and other pollinators with food and shelter among over 100 plant species, many of which are natives.

It has been suggested that the project should apply for an International Award for Excellence. The gardens are a living example of environmentally friendly practices that

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### An Expression of Thanks

The Directors of McCoy Farm & Gardens applaud the dedication and tireless efforts of Linda, Hilda, Jody, and their many volunteer gardeners who helped restore and improve the "Horseshoe" gardens. These gardens certainly enhance McCoy Farm & Gardens for community events, educational opportunities, private parties, as a special retreat, and as something as simple as a meditative moment.

### House Improvement Progress

Charles Adams, Projects Chair, reports that the attic insulation is finished and should save energy. Painting on the house is complete; windows have been glazed and cleaned and all the new gutters have been installed. Anne Leonard, House Committee, reports that the upstairs bathtub has been re-glazed and the toilet and sink installations are complete.

**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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include proper soil testing and amendment, nontoxic pest control, and use of plants that are site appropriate.

Andrews, Horton and Hunter would like to acknowledge participation of the Tennessee Wild Ones, Trail Head Nursery, Grow Wild, and Signal Mountain Nursery. Special thanks to horticulturists Celia Mattingly and Barbie Baldwin, former McCoy board member Jeremy Logan, and master arborist Jon Nettle. They and many others have donated their time and expertise to bring the gardens to where they are today.

The three early leaders of the project are stepping down, and Sallie Ford, Marty Roberts and Kit Hanley are new leaders for the next phase of the project. McCoy Farm & Gardens is now inviting interested volunteers to contact Larson Mick [mickrlarson@epbfi.com](mailto:mickrlarson@epbfi.com) about working with the various gardens and plantings.

## Apple Orchard Review

Spring apple blossoms, summer shade, and fall fruit crop are all anticipated with pleasure. We are committed to studying, caring for and supplementing the old apple trees. Recently Jane Mauldin, Wheeler's Orchard Manager, and Tom Stebbins, UT/TSU Extension Agent for Hamilton County, have given their time to offer evaluations and advice on the orchard. Thank you both for your valuable expertise.

## Request for Plants or Seeds

Volunteers are working on the plantings on the lawn side of the serpentine rock wall near the house. They need common milkweed and swamp milkweed plants that the monarch butterflies prefer. If anyone has plants or seeds to donate, please contact Larson Mick

## Hold Your Event Here

- Club – Sorority – Fraternity Meeting
- Music – Theatre Performance
- Cultural – Fundraising Affair
- Rehearsal Dinner – Wedding
- Corporate Retreat
- Birthday – Anniversary Party
- Family – Class Reunion
- Baby – Wedding Shower

To schedule your special event at McCoy Farm & Gardens, visit [www.mccoywalden.org](http://www.mccoywalden.org)

[mickrlarson@epbfi.com](mailto:mickrlarson@epbfi.com) Andy Jones or Joe Davis. Thanks!

## Bird Walk & Bluebird Trail

Highlights of the June 30 bird walk were a Louisiana Waterthrush in the ephemeral wetland and Scarlet Tanagers anting at the base of a tree near the house. Noted were 30 species of birds. The walk was dedicated to the memory of Doug Newton, who passed away June 28th. Doug was the inspiration for and benefactor of many bird and wildflower walks.

Eight new bluebird houses installed in May this year are numbered 1-4 B, built and placed by Tom Boone, and 1-4 K, made and placed by Linda Kelley. Look carefully at the photo at right. Both the bird-lovers are now, "Waiting to see what happens next."



The first fledglings from #4K near the driveway and corner of front porch

## 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  
Anne Leonard, Secretary  
Gene Adams, Treasurer

### DIRECTORS:

Charles Adams  
Linda Collins  
Joe Davis  
Andy Jones  
Susan Snow

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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 33 acre parcel, with the Bachman-McCoy home, pavilion, carriage house, barn, blacksmith workshop, apple house, various other structures and gardens, is 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**

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