

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

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## Impact of Student Interns

With the generous support of a local foundation, MFG has had five hardworking college students with majors in environmental science, forestry, and engineering working on the property since June 6th.

"The internship program has been a tremendous win-win for McCoy and the interns. Their hard work is visible all over the property from fresh paint to invasives removal. Meanwhile, the interns have worked and learned alongside more than 20 friends of McCoy and gained knowledge about topics of interest, from grafting (Bob Gray and Maria Holder), to treating for Emerald Ash borer (Hannes DeWet and Kevin McConnell), to watershed



Sophia Gibby and Ella Saunders clear the loft with the others.



Board president, Mickey Robbins, helps Vito, Aidan and Brooks uncover a wall at the Emma Bell Miles homesite.

health (Mary Beth Sutton) to name just a few. They are making professional connections in their fields of interest while McCoy is benefiting from a remarkable gift of labor," says executive director Melissa Nimon.



Terry Knox works with Brooks Barber and Ella on a bat box. Aidan Shakespeare and Vito Knoop paint a new fence.



The Pavilion is one of the buildings getting a new roof.

## New Roofs and Repairs

Though the roof of the House was replaced as one of the first steps the Town of Walden took to protect the buildings, several others were not included in the process. The Pavilion roof has been patched and repaired repeatedly through the years. Now replacement decking and roofing are on the Pavilion, the Apple House and the Well House, and the roofs of the Smokehouse and Carriage House have been repaired. They all look better too.

**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.



*The barn expert, affectionately known as Slim, points out the open rafters to Earl Hereford where 6,800 pounds of asphalt shingles were removed from the north side alone. With the shingles gone, the decking was evaluated and found so deteriorated that it must be replaced. As far as possible, original materials are salvaged and reused so the appearance of the barn is preserved.*

## Barn Renovation Underway

Everyone seems to love the barn. The fact that it is so old and looks so worn – and has been “off limits” for so long – makes it mysterious and attractive in many ways. As the Master Plan states, “The barn establishes the farm identity of the property.”

Now renovation has begun with the help of Slim, an old-barn expert, and his wife Nancy Williams. He has restored barns all over Tennessee, and he considers that God has sent him here to restore ours.

Several years ago, the building was studied by qualified consultants and structural engineers who made recommendations for

stabilizing it for safety. Early board member and engineer, Charles Adams, and his team of experts led those first critical steps.

Current Projects Chairman, board member Earl Hereford, continues the restoration work with his committee of Adams, Paul Jensen, Fred Wildman and Terry Knox, plus several other volunteers, including Alan Voss, Tom Voychekovski, Bob Franklin, and board member Larry Mick. Others helped with prep work.

Thank you for your interest and continued support. We are all going to be proud when the barn can be used once again.

*Stop by and see all our progress!*

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

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