

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

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## Floral Displays & Wine

Pictures could hardly capture the magic of the Fashion Flowers displays and the Wine and More event that followed on May 19th, but here are a few taken by Joe Davis.



Flower show chairman, Jean Faircloth, shows some of the flowers and the fashions that inspired the arrangements.



Mayor Bill Trohanis and Jean with Virginia Hixson and Caden Thomas enjoy the festivities.



David and Ian Dolan are faithful and appreciated volunteers.

## The Family Tree

by Joe Davis

The next time you visit McCoy Farm & Gardens, you might want to walk down to the Pavilion and admire the stately willow oak that stands about 30 feet outside the double doors. This willow oak has an interesting history which was recently recounted by Sally McCoy Garland (the daughter of Martha McCoy) who now lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The history requires a brief review of another tree: the Bachman-McCoy family tree. Jonathan Waverly Bachman was the father of Nathan Bachman and Evalina Bachman (along with four other children). Nathan, of course,

was the father of Martha McCoy. Evalina was known by the family as Aunt DeDe.

Jonathan had a willow oak at his Chattanooga home on McCallie Avenue. Aunt DeDe took an acorn from Jonathan's tree and started her own willow oak at her home on Missionary Ridge. Later, Aunt DeDe took an acorn from her tree and started a willow oak for Martha. That tree is the one by the Pavilion.

Years later, Martha took an acorn from her tree and started a willow oak for Sally. Around 1990, when the young willow oak was about 2 feet tall, Martha gave the little tree to Sally, and that willow oak is now growing at Sally's home in Charlottesville.

When Martha transferred the McCoy Farm to the Town of Walden, she specified that the property would be used, in part, as an arboretum. Sally was pleased to learn that the stately willow oak by the Pavilion will serve as an important step toward that arboretum goal.

**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.

## Wildlife Reports Informative

Two recent scientific evaluations of birds and plants at McCoy Farm & Gardens are informative. Kevin A. Calhoun noted 24 bird species in his extensive report. A highlight for his study group was hearing hooded warblers in five different locations, each announcing and defending his own territory.

Dr. Richard Clements reported, "My primary impression from this trip was a surprising lack of spring ephemeral diversity in all areas of the property.... I suspect that past land-use practices, combined with an overwhelming density of invasive exotic species, has served to significantly reduce the springtime floral diversity of the area.... It may be some time before native species are able to reestablish from either remnants [of] vegetative structures, the natural seed bank (if it still exists), or natural seed dispersal from outside areas."



*Blue eggs in new bluebird house #3k near the Pavilion and walking trail. Photo by Linda Kelley.*

## Memorial Day Celebration

Memorial Day was celebrated May 28th with picnicin' & singin' in the rain. A big THANK YOU to our sponsors and to Johanne Albright and her team coordinating children's activities and games, music by at least five talented groups, hawk release by Happinest Wildlife Rehabilitation, and blacksmith demonstrations by Caleb Pitkin and friends. Decorations, parking, traffic, tickets, and house tours were excellent. Door prizes collected by

Donna Collier and the Cake Walk organized by the Drumm family were especially popular. A SPECIAL THANKS to the Signal Mt. Lions Club for their continued support in cooking much appreciated hamburgers and hot dogs. We are looking forward to next year's picnic.



*Smithy Caleb Pitkin at forge and anvil while Bruce Bishop looks on.*



*"Tin Cup Rattlers" Jeff and Marcie Paulson entertain from the front porch on Memorial Day.*



*Alix Parks releases a rehabilitated hawk.*



*John Stone shows off his cake-walk prize.*

### NEEDED – AUDIO EQUIPMENT Large or Small

McCoy Farm & Gardens is in need of public address systems for many types of events. If you are upgrading your system and have equipment to donate, please contact any Board Member or [SamSnow@tjsnow.com](mailto:SamSnow@tjsnow.com)

## 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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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**

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