

# 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)

Volume Five: Issue Six

June 2020

## Search for Excellence Award

McCoy Farm & Gardens has won the state-wide "Search for Excellence" Award from Tennessee Extension Master Gardeners. The Butterfly Waystation and Cottage Gardens earned First Place in the Projects division.

At least 15 Hamilton County Master Gardeners (HCMG) participated in the winning project, said Sallie Ford, MFG board member and current Garden Committee chair. The team was initially led by Jody Hunter and includes Kit Hanley and Marty Roberts, current co-chairs of the group. Among others working on the five-year project are Mary O'Neil, Charlene Nash, Hilda Horton, Linda Andrews, Clare Hetzler, Elaine Monteiro, Pam O'Connell, Tom Stebbins, Jeremy Logan, Larry Roberts and Terry Miles.

This award is the culmination of a vision to restore the historic Horseshoe gardens with an array of native plants to support pollinators



Can you find the three butterflies on the Butterfly Weed identified by a plant label?

and using conservation techniques. Following detailed plans, volunteers reclaimed the old, bramble covered gardens. They used renewable, non-chemical methods to restore and cultivate the soil.

Over 100 species of primarily native plants were inventoried by a Master Gardener and mapped. Professional labels with scientific and common names identify the plants. With the gardens substantially established, sightings of monarch caterpillars, chrysalis, and butterflies have increased greatly. Thank you HCMG.

## Special Acknowledgments

*Attractive new fences with long-lasting latex stain complement the restored entry stonework and gate on Anderson Pike. These and many other recent improvements are a credit to the Tucker Foundation and the special attention of President, Andy Cope. Their support has been essential to our progress.*



## Progress During the Pandemic

For those in trades where the work necessarily must be done out in the fresh air, the stay at home order has not prevented some from sustaining their livelihoods. The work of the Electric Power Board is an essential service, and linemen are working. Plumbing is always essential, as everyone knows. Delivery of ma-



*Though the trench had to cut through the newly hand-laid brick border, watering will be improved by new spigots in each garden area. The water comes from the main line that first supplies a fire plug near the house. Photo by Larry Mick.*

**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.

materials and supplies, construction work, and operation of heavy earth-moving equipment is in the same significant category. Fence installers set poles more than 6 feet apart and each assembly task is performed by an individual.

Since nature does not wait, volunteers have continued to work solo in the Serpentine and Horseshoe gardens, to remove danger-



*Mark Turner, owner of Middle Valley Fence Company, cuts the tops of the fence posts at an angle so that rain and snow will not pool on top. This method also assures that all fence posts are of equal height. Photo by Charlie Stone.*



*Malcolm Turner, Paul Patterson and Chad Smith each perform separate steps while affixing fence rails and decorative face boards. Photo by Charlie Stone.*



*At the Carriage House, craftsman David Clark is pulling out the old window sashes, repairing, and replacing them. He has also repaired and painted siding, soffits, and woodwork on the exterior and on the balcony. Photo by Charlie Stone.*

ous trees, and to cut the grass. McCoy Farm & Gardens has been fortunate that these volunteers and tradesmen could continue their tasks while the property was not open to the public. We are sorry you have not been able to see the work in progress, and we hope you will enjoy these pictures that illustrate our continuing efforts to improve.



*New water lines are going into the Pavilion. This will not only improve water pressure but also allow for easier winterizing of the lines. Photo by Charlie Stone.*



*Board Projects Chairman, Charles Adams, watches from a safe distance as a lineman for EPB installs and directs new LED lighting fixtures for the parking lots. The new lights will be closer to the ground and directed downward to provide needed security while making as little impact as possible on the night skies and the neighbors. Photo by Charlie Stone.*

Please follow published guidelines for physical distancing, masks, cleanliness and group size. Use open air facilities at your own risk. McCoy Farm & Gardens assumes no responsibility for violations.

## 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 gate. Dog waste pick-up bags are at the trailhead.

The MFG buildings are temporarily closed. Observe guidelines for physical distancing, masks, cleanliness and group size. McCoy Farm & Gardens assumes no responsibility for violations.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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[Editor McCoy Farm & Gardens](#)

## 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 Mt., TN 37377**

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

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