

# 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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## Help "Wrangle" Weeds

The attack on kudzu, privet, bittersweet, honeysuckle, English ivy and other invasive plants continues at McCoy Farm & Gardens, Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Come and participate to receive a copy of an "Invasive Plant Primer for the Home Landscape." This publication can help you solve problems in your own yard.

At the Wrangle, learn how-to recognize and remove non-native invasive plant species and how to restore native plants. Non-native invasive plants are harmful to our natural ecosystems. They suppress native plants and wildlife dependent on them. These species destroy or replace native food sources, making the ecosystem less diverse and more susceptible to disturbances such as disease and fire.

Native plants have extensive root systems that control erosion, moderate floods, and filter water to improve water quality. Native plants are important for biodiversity and provide food and habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Native plants provide distinct advantages gained through their evolutionary development in association with the land, climate, fellow native plants and wildlife.

Invasive species will take advantage of disturbed empty space unless other plants are added to fill that space and provide sufficient competition. Removal of non-native species should be followed by the introduction of suitable native plant species. Without the overwhelming competition from invasives, native plants then will have the space, nutrients, water, and sunlight they need to germinate seeds and grow unimpeded.

For the Weed Wrangle, wear clothing appropriate for the work and weather, and bring gloves and hand clippers or loppers. Meet in the gravel parking lot at 9:00 a.m. To learn more, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Stone, 886-4568 [karenstone@waldenhouse.com](mailto:karenstone@waldenhouse.com) or Grounds Chairman, Andy Jones, 802-6025 [andyjonesobgyn@gmail.com](mailto:andyjonesobgyn@gmail.com)

## Recognizing & Remembering Emma Bell Miles

Emma Bell's parents brought her to live on Walden's Ridge because she was a sickly child, and they believed the mountain air and quiet lifestyle would help her. The



Cover and a page from "Souvenir" – a handmade book of poetry preserved in the McCoy Farm & Garden archives.

**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.

*Emma Bell Mile continued*

site they chose for their home was on Anderson Pike in what is now the northwest corner of McCoy Farm & Gardens. The foundation of the home can still be seen there today. Emma did prosper by the move, and she grew to love the mountain's flowers and trees, the birds and animals, and the young man she was to marry, Frank Miles.

Emma became a naturalist, artist, writer, and poet whose works are based primarily upon her relationship with Walden's Ridge. She is probably best known for *The Spirit of the Mountains*, a classic study of Southern Appalachia. Hanging in the Reading Room of the Signal Mt. Library is a fine exhibit featuring her works, and a UTC Special Library collection exhibit contains photographs of the Miles family as well samples of her art. To learn more about Emma's life, the definitive source is *Emma Bell Miles* by Walden's own Kay Baker Gaston.



Joe Davis notes alternatives with Paul Jensen, Charles Adams, Larry Mick, Anne Leonard, Gene Adams and Linda Collins.

## New Parking Area Planning

Have you noticed tape delineating areas adjacent to the current parking lot? It marks various proposed new parking lots so a good decision can be made regarding expansion.

**Notice: Heavy equipment will soon be operating along the back drive, near the gravel parking lot, and along the front fence on Anderson Pike. Please be especially vigilant in these areas!**



## Handrail Damage and Repair

A tree fell on a handrail of the walkway over the wetland recently and volunteers Andy Jones, above left, and Terry Knox, right, quickly cleared the tree and repaired the damage. Thank you to the repair crew and to the observant person who reported the problem.

## Upcoming Events

- Weed Wrangle® March 7, 9 am-12 pm
- Construction starting on new parking area and along the driveway from Taft

To schedule an event [www.mccoypwalden.org](http://www.mccoypwalden.org)

## 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.

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 in the gravel lot. Dog waste pickup bags are at trail head.

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[Editor McCoy Farm & Gardens](mailto:Editor@McCoyFarm&Gardens.org)

## 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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