

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

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Executive Director's Office

Melissa Nimon, Executive Director, has been quite busy, and establishing an office on the upper floor in the house has been a priority. Now MFG has a phone number, 423-598-1658, computer, printer and WIFI for every room.

The lovely rug pictured below was found by Anne Leonard, House Committee Chairman. We are still seeking a wooden desk so Melissa does not have to work at a folding table. If you have a desk you would consider donating, please send a note and a photo to Anne at leonardtfgc2003@comcast.net



Melissa at her makeshift "desk" in her new office space.



Selecting a site for the new information structure are, left to right, Andy Jones, Karen Stone, architect Bob Franklin, Earl Hereford, Joe Davis, Anne Leonard, Linda Collins, Larry Mick, Sallie Ford and Mickey Robbins. The photo was taken by Melissa Nimon.

New Information Structure

To help you navigate the trails and find the way to other sites, we are planning an information structure. It will feature a bulletin board with map, interactive arboretum QR code, trail sign-in log, notices, and donation box.

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.



Bud Alley, Linda Collins, Mickey Robbins and Dr. Van West look on as Earl Hereford, Projects Committee Chairman, indicates old stone walls of one of the original farm sheds.

From the Mists of Time

In foggy January, Dr. Van West, Director of the Center for Historic Preservation, and his assistant, Savannah Grandey, toured the area described in the MFG Master Plan as the "Education Lawn." They offered evaluations of the old structures and their uses so historically appropriate replacements can be built. The farm sheds will play a part in learning about the workings of a small farm in the early 1900s.

McCoy Farm & Gardens is being considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Status as a family farm may be important. Dr. West noted the significance of recreation in that same era. The Bachmans and McCoys enjoyed croquet, swimming, badminton, horseback riding, dancing, gardening and other such activities at their home.

Also significant are the parts the women, Pearl Bachman and Martha McCoy, played in the community. Mrs. McCoy, for example, volunteered at the mental health hospital and served on several boards, including GPS, Little Miss Mag, Red Cross and Family Service Agency.

Thanks to Bud Alley, a former student of Dr. West, who initiated the contacts and visit.

Boxwoods Rejuvenation

The boxwood "māze" is a favorite with brides and kids who enjoy playing in it. Over time, the boxwoods have grown so large that the original design has become very crowded. Now the bushes are being pruned annually to restore their health and shapeliness.



Karen Stone and Larry Mick prune annually in late February.

Archaeological Studies

Dr. Brooke Persons, UTC professor and director of Jeffrey L. Brown Institute of Archaeology, is researching previous "digs" at MFG and looking for evidence of a Civil War storehouse that is said to have been on the property.



Dr. Brooke Persons discussing history with Earl Hereford, Mickey Robbins, and Linda Collins. Photo by Melissa Nimon.

We encourage our visitors to practice healthy COVID measures at all times.

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.

The MFG buildings are temporarily closed.

We encourage our MFG visitors to practice healthy COVID measures at all times.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Andy Jones, Grounds
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Aldermen:
Sarah McKenzie
Lizzy Schmidt

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Melissa Nimon
melissa@mccoywalden.org
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
[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 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.mccoywalden.org

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