

# 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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## Tree Worx Super Volunteer

Hannes DeWet sent a text to Joe Davis, "We can be there Monday." He was volunteering the professional services of his company **Tree Worx** to McCoy Farm & Gardens free of charge.



*Hannes DeWet points out to Melissa Nimon some problems that his professional crew was able to resolve.*

The TreeWorx crew tackled some challenging areas that required professionals with specialized equipment. They took down a dead pine by the fence between the parking lot and driveway without damaging the fence and surrounding trees. Nearby at the trailhead,



*Equipment used to reach and remove an overhanging limb.* they removed an unsightly dead black cherry without injuring other trees. Along the trail, the TreeWorx crew carefully took down, piece by piece, a large, dead shortleaf pine in a hemlock grove. This removal created space for a new trail bench.

Near the barn is a large hackberry which is one of the arboretum specimen trees. A big branch was overhanging the roof, and significant pruning was required to improve the health of the tree. Finally, near the back of the house, a specimen red maple benefited from clearing a large dead branch.

Be sure to thank Tree Worx, and it won't hurt to have them care for your trees too. McCoy Farm & Gardens has received a tremendous gift from Hannes DeWet and his company.

## Weed Wrangle March 5

Come fight invasives at the traditional Weed Wrangle at McCoy Farm & Gardens on Saturday, March 5, from 1-3 PM. Bring your work gloves, pruners, loppers, and water and help clear invasive plants such as English ivy, privet and bittersweet from the property. We will meet in the main parking lot and divide into groups from there. No registration is required.

## Apple Orchard Reclamation

The Orchard Restoration Committee has completed the first season of their three-year program to prune and reclaim the apple trees near the apple house.

Though the Bachmans planted apples in several places, the 60 trees nurtured by the McCoy's in this orchard provided a cash crop. Today only 20 are still standing, and the orchard is close to disappearing entirely.

Pruning removed the dead, diseased, crossing and wayward limbs. Since most of the

**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.



*Bob Gray and Beth Meyers pruning in 18° January weather* trees are very old, only about 20% of the off-ending wood can be removed in one season. This explains why the pruning plan extends over three years. Pruning makes trees healthier.

Several experts have evaluated the orchard over the years. The consensus is that there are few “heritage” apple varieties left, since these particular trees were probably planted after World War II, and the object was to produce marketable eating apples and to make cider.

Now we have the opportunity to replace the missing trees with an exciting array of old varieties and revive Senator Bachman’s concept. These varieties will be selected for their value for cooking, eating, cider, “keeping” (storage), fruiting seasons, etc. The rejuvenated orchard



*The McCoy Farm & Gardens apple trees in bloom, April 2013*

will not only fulfill an important educational goal of McCoy Farm & Gardens, but also will provide enjoyment in every season.

## Prepping for Barn Renovation

### *An exciting volunteer opportunity*

The Barn is on the agenda – at last! One of the most important features of McCoy Farm & Gardens is unquestionably the barn. Thanks to help from friends and the Town of Walden, the barn is finally receiving the long-awaited attention it deserves.

We are starting by cleaning out things that must be moved so foundation work can begin. Come and help the next two Saturdays, March 5 and March 12, both 9 AM-noon.



*New volunteers Travis and Annette join “old-timers” Larry Mick, Terry Knox, and Earl Hereford in cleaning out a garage where items from the barn will be stored while the barn is undergoing repair. Working inside the garage and not pictured are Andy Jones and Mickey Robbins. Next work day March 5.*

## Website Redesign

MFG’s website is redesigned and refreshed. See the beautiful results; schedule a special event; learn about our history; enjoy the great pictures, and review our progress.

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

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