

McCoy Farm and 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

Volume Two: Issue Five

May 2017

Memorial Day Picnic

Be on time... for the 11:00 AM opening ceremonies at the Memorial Day picnic, Monday, May 29, at McCoy Farm and Gardens. Following the Invocation by Father Frank Brett of Alexian Village, will be the salute to the flag and the national anthem. Scouts will be on hand to help. A raptor or other great bird will be released, thanks to Happinest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue.

From 11:30-1:30, or until tickets and food are sold out, delicious hamburgers and hot dogs will be prepared by members of the Signal Mt. Lions Club. Also available for purchase will be pulled pork barbecue and slaw, a gracious contribution by Darren Thompson, who will be doing the cooking and serving it himself. Pizzas, chips and drinks complete the menu items for sale.

McKee Foods and Chattanooga Bakery are again donating their wonderful Little Debbies and Moon Pies. These goodies will be free of charge for only a hearty "Thank you!" for their generosity.



A sign-post to the varied activities at the 2016 Memorial Day Picnic. This year's picnic is May 29. Photo by Charlie Stone.

In a large children's area will be old-fashioned games, face painting, and supervised fun. There are gate prizes for children too. From 12:00 - 2:00, a very special balloon artist will be creating his many designs.

The newly refurbished Pavilion will feature a cake walk, cotton candy, ice cream, and Dippin' Dots. In another area, the popular Silent Auction returns, featuring gift baskets, works by local artists, cabin get-away weekends, wine, massage and facial gift certificates, items for Father's Day gift giving, and more.

Entertainment throughout the day includes Mountain Cove Bluegrass Band, The Tin Cup

Rattlers, and singers from Chattanooga State. WRES will offer inspections of their equipment while they provide safety and security.

The Walden's Ridge Guild will serve as hostesses in the McCoy House and are ready to show you the beautiful Brides' Room and the refurbished Sleeping Porch - a feature from days gone by. The Guild will have items of historical interest for sale on the screened porch.

The Master Gardeners and other volunteers headed by Jody Hunter have been hard at work on the gardens, rescuing and rebuilding beds begun long ago by Mrs. Martha McCoy.

Members of the Lions Club, headed by Paul Jensen and Charles Adams, are enlarging and rebuilding the Blacksmith's Workshop. They hope to have it operational for the picnic.

Come and see the fine progress accomplished by all of these folks, enjoy good food,

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The Mission of McCoy Farm and 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.

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visit with your neighbors, and maybe even win a gate prize!

Sponsorships are still available. Join these fine community-minded businesses supporting McCoy Farm and Gardens Memorial Day picnic: Patten and Patten, Elder's Ace Hardware, SunTrust Bank, Walden Self-Storage, Powell and Associates, and Jeremy Logan Plumbing.

Helpers are still needed for all aspects of the picnic. **Please contact Clare Hetzler to volunteer.** CLICK HERE cs0918@aol.com

Memorial Day is a very special opportunity to honor and remember members of our armed forces. At the McCoy Farm and Gardens celebration, we are well aware of the meaning of the day. The picnic is open to all.

Botanical Assessment Report

*Excerpts from a report 4/23/2017 by Dr. Richard Clements
Professor, Biology and Environmental Science
Coordinator for Environmental Science
Chattanooga State Community College*

The McCoy Farm [and Gardens] property has great potential for preservation/restoration of native forest areas that are accessible to the public. In reaching this goal, the area can also provide educational opportunities for the public to learn about the issues and impacts of invasive exotic pest plants, control methods, and hands-on volunteering in removal and restoration efforts...

Dealing with the removal of invasive plants on the property will be an on-going project for many years. Priority should probably be given to the Western Boundary/Intermittent Creek area, Northern Upland and Border area, and Eastern Border areas...



Participating in a Botanical Assessment at McCoy Farm and Gardens, April 22, 2017, are Joe Davis, Andy Jones, Harriette Hereford, Doug Newton, Linda Collins, Dr. Richard Clements, Eloise Robbins, and Earl Hereford. Photo by Mickey Robbins.

Invasive Plant Removal Workshop Offered May 13

Attend a hands-on learning session on proper and effective removal of invasive vines and plants 10 AM-2 PM, Saturday, May 13, at the McCoy Farm and Gardens. Rain date is Sunday, May 21, 1-5PM. Enter by the 1604 Taft Highway gate. For information phone 423-886-5647 or inquire through the McCoy Farm and Gardens website www.mccoywalden.org.

The Town of Walden and McCoy Farm and Gardens have been partnering with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, to address the problem of **woolly adelgid** pests infesting the hemlock trees. All nearby hemlocks are in danger of being destroyed by the adelgid within only a few years, as has happened in the Smoky Mountains and many of the states to the north and east of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.

Invasive vines are often found around the base of hemlock trees, and their removal is a priority in hemlock treatment. Volunteers are needed to help in this endeavor.

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.

OFFICERS:

Mickey Robbins, President
Bob Franklin, Vice President; Corporate Secretary
Gene Adams, Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Charles Adams
Linda Collins
Joe Davis
Andy Jones
Anne Leonard
Jeremy Logan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Shannon Handy, Strategic Planning
Jody Hunter, Gardening
Susan Snow, Private Events
Karen Stone, Newsletter

WALDEN OFFICIALS:

Mayor: Bill Trohanis
Aldermen: Lee Davis, Thom Petersen

Support McCoy Farm and Gardens

McCoy Farm and Gardens is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All contributions are charitable and tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

The 38 acre parcel with the Bachman-McCoy home, pavilion, carriage house, barn, blacksmith workshop, apple house, various other smaller structures, and gardens are 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 and Gardens

P.O. Box 443, Signal Mt., TN 37377

www.mccoywalden.org