

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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Horses at the McCoy Farm

Conclusion of a three-part feature

Martha McCoy loved horses, and she would sometimes lead young Priscilla Clayton and her friend, Alexis Moore, on adventurous horseback rides when the girls were about 13 years old. Priscilla tells a story that reveals the strong personality of Mrs. McCoy. The three were riding from Skyline Drive down toward Middle Creek when they came upon two rough men arguing. The younger brandished a large rock as he threatened to kill his father.

"Mrs. McCoy called him by name and said, 'You put that rock down. You will do no such thing!' He knew who she was; she knew him and his father, and she meant what she said. He put the rock down. He minded her! She



Priscilla Watts Clayton on her Tennessee Walker, Blaze, in 1959.

had such influence with the mountain people. I was in awe. It left a lasting impression on me."

Karen Paul Stone remembers Donkey Grey and tells about seeing Mrs. McCoy riding by



Karen Paul Stone riding western on her white Arabian, Spec.

on East Brow. "Miss Martha was very generous to me and the other neighborhood kids. We were welcome to ride in her ring, as long as we behaved ourselves. I enjoyed it very much. "Michael Long had a pony," Karen continued, "and he was the envy of all the children in Summertown. Mike's father, Bob, told me that Miss Martha gave Mike her own pony's saddle and bridle. What was interesting about that saddle was that it originated at Southern Saddlery, the company founded by Michael's great-grandfather,

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Memorial Day, 11-3, May 28

The fourth annual Memorial Day celebration will take place at McCoy Farm & Gardens on Monday, May 28, from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. The Lions Club of Signal Mt. will again be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for sale; pizza is available, or bring your own lunch to enjoy on the grounds. Everyone is welcome.

On the agenda are: opening ceremony featuring salute to the flag at 11:00; release of a wild bird by Happinest Wildlife Rehabilitation; tour of the McCoy home; blacksmith demonstrations; children's play field; cake walk; WRES fire engines, musical entertainment and more.

Help is needed with the children's area, entertainment, tickets, shuttles, setup, cleanup, parking, and many other fun opportunities!

TO PARTICIPATE in one of these activities, please contact chairwoman Johanne Albright, 886-2395 or orchardcrest@epbf.com

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.

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Robert Scholze. Mike became a TN Wildlife Resource Officer and was an accomplished farmer, blacksmith, farrier and horseman."

Helen McDonald Exum, in her *Chattanooga News-Free Press* column, August 27, 1972, wrote, "Martha Bachman McCoy remembers the Summertown Crepe Myrtle Festival, the square dances on Saturday night at the top of the 'W', and the fun of riding horses through the rustic and unspoiled woods. Although the Bachman place was on Anderson Pike and not in Summertown, there was a community feeling in the whole area of Walden's Ridge."

Mrs. Exum was expressing the sentiment that still holds true today. We hope McCoy Farm & Gardens promotes a community feeling in the whole area of Walden's Ridge.

Bluebird Houses Installed

Tom Boone and Linda Kelley each built four bluebird houses as a gift to McCoy Farm & Gardens. Here they are shown installing one near the barn. The others are on both sides of the house and pavilion.



Boone and Kelley photo by Linda Collins

31st Annual Spring Garden Tour

The 31st Annual Spring Garden Tour benefiting the Master Gardeners of Hamilton Co. Scholarship Fund and the Chattanooga Area Food Bank will feature the McCoy Farm & Gardens MGHC pollinator garden project. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased the day of the

tour at any of the residential gardens open to the public Saturday, June 2nd, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sunday June 3rd, 1–6 p.m. Thanks go especially to Jody Hunter and her team for their hard work in preparation. For more information on the tour, visit MGHC.org

Plant Walk & Work April 21



Joe Davis, Doug Newton, Linda Collins, Andy Jones, Susan Snow and Eloise Robbins help Dr. Richard Clements mark valuable plants near the area known as "Sally's Orchard." Note the stone bench and planter on the left. Richard is a professor of environmental science at Chattanooga State. The Plant Walk was sponsored by Doug Newton. Photo by Mickey Robbins.

Sweet Briar College Annual

Anne Ford Melton Kimsey has given McCoy Farm & Gardens a Sweet Briar College yearbook, *The Briar Patch*, of 1923 when Martha Bachman was vice-president of the freshman class. She was highlighted as "An Ideal Freshman" with her "Sense of Humor" noted. The annual has been placed in the archives for future display along with other valuable items. Thank you, Anne, for your thoughtful gift.

Upcoming Events

- Memorial Day Celebration May 28
 - Garden Tour June 2-3
 - Volunteer work days – continuous
- To schedule your own event at McCoy Farm & Gardens, visit 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 area 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.

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Charles Adams
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Karen Stone, Newsletter

WALDEN OFFICIALS:

Mayor: Bill Trohanis
Aldermen: Lee Davis, Sarah McKenzie

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 33 acre parcel, with the Bachman-McCoy home, pavilion, carriage house, barn, blacksmith workshop, apple house, various other structures and gardens, is 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:

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

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