

# 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)

Volume Six: Issue Five

May 2021

## Measuring History

Students from an Introduction to Historic Preservation class at UTC visited McCoy Farm & Gardens on April 5th for a study project with their instructor, Cullon Hooks. They measured the remaining buildings near the barn. The next step in the process is to make scaled drawings of the structures known as the "farm sheds." Thank you for your helpful work.



From left to right are Ty Hobbs, Nate Songer, Cade Hoppe, Cullon Hooks, Mel Honeycutt, Rachael Simms, and Jacqueline Hood. At the far left behind them is the old smokehouse. The purpose of the stone-walled building has not been determined.

## Memorial Day Picnic

We regret that we will not be able to open the grounds for our traditional Memorial Day Picnic. With COVID-19 not completely banished, large gatherings are still not safe.

The Walden's Ridge Civic League has a solution for your own smaller picnic with family and friends. Let them do the cooking. As a fund raiser, WRCL is providing Bar-B-Que pork from Shuford's. A whole Boston butt will be slow-cooked and individually wrapped for pick-up on Saturday, May 29, in time for you to enjoy pulled-pork on Memorial Day weekend. Order at [www.waldensridgecivicleague.org](http://www.waldensridgecivicleague.org)

## Events Starting Again

McCoy Farm & Gardens is reopening for some small private events effective May 15 with priority on outdoor activities. Please find more information at [www.mccoypwalden.org](http://www.mccoypwalden.org)

**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.

## Heirloom Daffodils Found

Joe Davis, who is knowledgeable about daffodils, has identified some delightful heirlooms among the many varieties found around the property. They are 'Twin Sisters,' easy to recognize with creamy white perianths (petals) and small, clear yellow



*'Twin Sisters' daffodils*

cups on blossoms that almost always occur in pairs, one behind the other on one stem. Other names by which they are known are 'Loving Couples' and 'Cemetery Ladies' because they frequently appear in historic cemeteries.

This is a variety first documented in 1597. It is often found in old southern gardens and around abandoned homesites. Twin Sisters are almost always the last daffodils to bloom in a season, and can now be seen blooming in various locations around Walden. These bulbs must have been planted by Pearl Bachman as early as the 1920s or later by her daughter, Martha McCoy.



*MFG apple orchard with trees in bloom, April 22, 2021*

## Houses Benefit Flowers

As part of her Eagle Scout project, Lottie Miller installed a set of pollinator houses in the Horseshoe Gardens on April 17th. The little "houses" are to shelter beneficial bees and insects and encourage them to stay near home and work among the flowers. This is one of three installations on Signal Mountain. Lottie is a junior at SMMHS and the daughter of Rebecca and Coy Miller.



## New Survey of Interests

It has been quite a while since we have asked you to respond to a formal McCoy Farm & Gardens Volunteer Survey. Soon we will send you a Survey by e-mail. Please watch for it and complete it, or use this QR code, to let us know your special interests.



## Dark Skies Initiative

As good neighbors, MFG is participating in the Dark Skies Initiative introduced by Walden mayor, Lee Davis. We have changed the angle of the lights at the parking lot, directing them downward to help control light spread.

**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.**

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## 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**  
**423-598-8121**

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

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