

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

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Events Coordinator Chosen

McCoy Farm & Gardens is pleased to introduce **Cynthia Pennington** as our new Events Coordinator. She is a Certified Event Planner with program and floral design experience and valuable leadership and organization skills. She served as Artistic Director at St. Andrew Center, and Community Service Coordinator at Hiwassee College and Signal Crest UMC. Skilled also as a communicator, Cynthia is a great asset for MFG. For your next event, reach out to her at cynthia@mccoypwalden.org.

Mystery Solved

As you walk the trail, have you noticed a mysterious little house in the woods? Peeking



in through a dilapidated side, you could see a little table, chairs, and evidence of children playing there. You might have speculated on who and what and when.

Some folks became alarmed at the poor condition of the little structure which is near collapse. When they volunteered to rebuild it, the suggestion prompted an investigation. Board member Joe Davis took photographs of the house and sent them to Sally McCoy Garland. Her son John then wrote, "We got some pictures of my old Huck Finn hut that Nevon [Hatfield] and I built, when I was about 7 or 8 years old, with only a hand saw and hand nails behind the big play house [Pavilion] in the woods."

John with his brothers, Shank and Tommy, played in their club when they spent summer



Pictured above and at left, the Garland boys' "Huck Finn" house in the woods.

days at their grandmother "Danny's" place. Danny is their affectionate name for Martha McCoy.

The mystery is solved. Now

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Everyone seems to enjoy the apple orchard, though the trees are showing their age. If you would like to help with restoring the orchard, contact Melissa or Karen Stone 423-886-4568. Helping will be a great chance to learn how to care for old apple trees if you do not already know proper techniques.

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.

we know who built it when, and we know what it is and why it was built. John, Shank and Tom dream of returning to the scene and rebuilding their clubhouse. Thank you, John, for your great contribution to the story of the Bachman/McCoy/Garland family and MFG!

Oral History Project

We would like to hear your stories about Martha McCoy, or anything related to MFG. If you, or a friend, have memories to share, please contact the Oral History Committee, 423-598-1658. We will meet with you at your convenience to record your contributions.



Oral History Committee members Karen Stone, Rita Smith Irvin, Mickey Robbins and Joe Davis plan for conducting interviews with anyone having knowledge of the McCoy family members, the property, or other subjects related to MFG.

Barn Restoration Vision

From the beginning, the barn has interested visitors to McCoy Farm & Gardens. It attracts attention by its size, location and eye-appeal. The barn played a significant role in the Bachman-McCoy family's self-sustaining farm. It sheltered cow Mrs. Murphy, pet Donkey Gray, and several horses through the years.

According to the Master Plan, "... the barn establishes the farm identity of the property and offers an architectural façade which is popular

with photographers. While the structural integrity of the building should be further studied, its location and size would be ideal for day-to-day use for educational purposes and storage. The barn should be given high priority in a schedule of planned rehabilitation."

Everyone is curious about the barn. However, it remains off limits because it is not yet in condition to allow visitors. We hope to change that situation soon by raising funds for its rehabilitation. Watch our newsletter and website for details and to learn how you can help.



Equipment Shed Progress

The equipment shed is part of the overall plan for the barn and educational barn-lot project. To keep the original space from being impacted by new structures, the much-needed storage building is placed in the barn area, but outside the footprint of the original farm lot. Plans are to reproduce a typical barn-lot so visitors can understand the purposes for various buildings on a family farm in the 1920s.

Carpenter David Clark is building the equipment shed in the timber-frame style used in the early 1900s. This photo was taken by Melissa Nimon, October 15, 2021.



Share your memories about the McCoy family and place through the Oral History project. Call 423-598-1658 to participate.

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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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 Mtn., TN 37377
423-598-1658

www.mccoypwalden.org

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