

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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Walden Candidate Forum

The front porch of the McCoy house will be the site of a candidate forum on **Tuesday, October 6th, starting at 5:00 PM**. Seating on the lawn will be spaced according to social distancing guidelines, and COVID-19 protocols will be observed. In case of rain, the forum will be rescheduled to the following evening, October 7 at 5:00 PM.

All Town of Walden candidates will speak from the porch and will answer questions. Deborah Arfken will moderate. Candidates for mayor are Lee Davis and Bill Trohanis. Candidates for alderman are: Kristin Allen, Colin Johnson, and Elizabeth "Lizzy" Schmidt.

New Garden & Forest Videos

With **Sallie Ford**, videographer, volunteer and board member, see coneflowers, yarrow, blackberry lily, and other plants flowering in the Horseshoe Garden <https://youtu.be/oH8t-NMsseog> Next, join **Linda Collins** and **Andy Jones** to enjoy, see, listen, learn and laugh over their adventures as they helped McCoy Farm & Gardens to achieve state-certified Arboretum status. <https://youtu.be/myNMn5J23U>

Theatrical and Musical Production Begins Friday



Rehearsing on the lawn for the play, Southern Exposure

Southern Exposure, a two-act theatrical and musical production inspired by life in Chattanooga during the 1950s and 60s, will be presented on the MFG front porch stage October 2nd and 3rd, and again on the 9th and 10th. Performances start at 7:30 PM. The play is a series of dynamic monologues set to music of the two decades. The play was written by Peggy Douglas and is directed by Dennis Parker and assistant director, Mary Eliza Hendricks. Musical director is Gordon Inman.

Social distancing and COVID-19 protocols will be observed at the all-outdoor venue. All tickets will be sold online through Southern Exposure's event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/652959605644973/>

Arboretum Digital Map

Now that McCoy Farm & Gardens has earned certified Arboretum status, here is how you can learn more about the trees as you find them in your walks. Go to <https://igt-lab.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=61af3f2583904ed280d25490aecbbe93> for the MFG map. Click on a tree symbol to find genus, species, common name, family, and native range or origin. For more details about leaves, flowers, cones, fruits, bark, twigs, etc. click on the link displayed in the pop-up.

Children's Garden Planned

Expanding on their successes in the Horseshoe and Serpentine Garden areas, the gardeners are broadening their sights to include renovation and renewal of the old gardens to the west of the main house.

You may have noticed that a large spot near the barn and wellhouse has been cleared

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.

and marked with rope and little flags. This is in preparation for a new garden to be established there in the spring after all vegetation is completely removed. The Bachman and McCoy families planted flower gardens in this general area where the water from the well could be used for the plants.



Martha McCoy's garden is shown in a picture furnished by her daughter, Sally Garland.



Clearing and preparing ground for the Children's Garden.

A heritage bed at the entrance will feature old-fashioned varieties like those Mrs. McCoy planted. This legacy bed leads into a new garden specifically designed for children to enjoy. It will feature a maze-like arrangement with little cul-de-sacs for "hiding" and play. The plants will be chosen for their textures, sizes, colors, scents, and general appeal to the senses of everyone, large or small. The new garden will

be designated as the Martha Bachman McCoy Legacy Children's Garden.

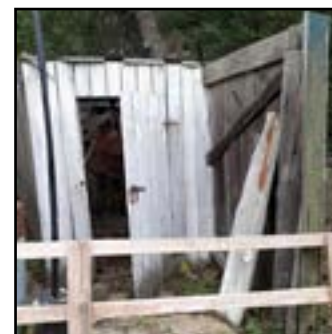
Smokehouse Reconstruction & Farm Shed Replacement

In 2005 when an assessment was made of the facilities, the old farm sheds near the barn were in serious decay. For safety reasons, most of them had to be torn down. These sheds are soon to be replaced, repaired, or re-created.

On the east end of the row still stands a wooden structure about 6 feet wide and 9 feet deep. According to Sally Garland, it is the "Smokehouse" where Martha McCoy smoked hams. The inside wooden walls are blackened and still smell of smoked wood.

Sally recalls that, inside the Smokehouse, a shelf ran along the left side wall, at about waist high, from the front to the back of the structure. Martha would place hams rubbed with a salt mix on the shelf before smoking the meat.

When the hams were ready, they would be wrapped in a paper material and hung from the ceiling to cure.



All that remains of Martha's Smokehouse. Photo taken by Charles Adams, August 15, 2020

A fire would then be built on the floor so the smoke would rise to smoke the hams.

The Smokehouse, when rebuilt, will be a part of the educational component of MFG.

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.

The MFG buildings are temporarily closed.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

[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 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

www.mccoymccoyfarm.org

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