

# 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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October 2022

## Gastons Honored for Gift

Kay and Joe Gaston, long-time friends of Martha McCoy, were honored on September 25<sup>th</sup> at a reception and showing of artwork by Emma Bell Miles. The couple gave McCoy Farm & Gardens their collection of eighteen pieces, almost all of which feature scenes related to Walden's Ridge.

Many special guests enjoyed seeing the art and visiting with the Gastons who made the trip from Springfield, TN with their daughters Josephine Larson and Healan Gaston and grandson Joseph Jewett. The occasion was a happy one, and it was a pleasure to share these gifts from the Gastons.



Kay Gaston spoke to visitors from the front porch. She is shown with her husband Joe and board member Linda Collins.



Elizabeth Akins, former Walden mayor and friend of Martha McCoy, admires "Mountain Road - Late Summer" along with Linda and Joe Neuhoff, whose daughter, Alyssa, completed an oral history project featuring Emma Bell Miles.



Walden Alderman Sarah McKenzie, Margha Davis, artist Anne Davis, honoree and collection donor Joe Gaston, and Nancy Stagmaier are shown with a portrait of Emma Bell Miles painted posthumously by her admirer Anne Davis.



Emma Bell Miles expert Bob Fulcher and his wife Teresa admire "Rocky Dell", a watercolor of one of Emma's favorite spots and a site off Wilson Avenue that the Gastons could see from their Walden home.



Healan Gaston and Mark Miles, a relative of Emma Bell Miles, are pictured with board member Karen Stone and executive director Melissa Nimon in front. In the background to the left, Mariah Prescott points out details of the "W Road" painting to another guest.

**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.

## Bird Walk Sunday, Oct. 2

Kevin Calhoun, Assistant Director of Forests at the TN Aquarium, will lead a bird walk at McCoy Farm & Gardens, Sunday, October 2. Bring your binoculars and meet in the parking lot at 8:00 AM. This is a great opportunity to see and hear fall migrants in addition to more familiar species. There is no admission charge.

## Welcome Structure Progress

A small welcome pavilion is rising at the north end of the parking lot. Initially intended as a simple kiosk with a map and information boards, it has evolved into a place for guests to wait out of the weather, and it provides a visual focal point as visitors enter the grounds.

Timber frame, using mortise and tenon connections between the structural members, is a beautiful and traditional way of building. With the aid of Bob Franklin, a Douglas fir kit from Jeff Johnson Timber Frames in North Carolina is already stored on the property. It will be going up as soon as the foundation is completed.



John and Randall Hawkins

work on the bases for the posts, at left, while Jayson Hawkins shows off the floor textured with pebble aggregate.

## Joe W. Robbins Memorial

Joe Robbins, a good friend to all in our community, passed away unexpectedly on September 7, 2022. In his honor, the Joe W. Robbins Beautification Fund has been established to provide for restoration of the historic front driveway of the McCoy House at Anderson Pike. Plantings will reflect both the formality and mountain charm of the home's architecture. This significant contribution to McCoy Farm & Gardens will be marked with a plaque in Joe's memory. Donations can be made at <http://mccoywalden.org/support/> or sent to McCoy Farm & Gardens, P.O. Box 443, Signal Mtn, TN 37377.



Joe Robbins helping with the first Memorial Day picnic in 2015



Joe Robbins liked to help any time and any place he saw a need. Here he is shown hauling brush in his well-known red truck as he and others cleared the grounds in April 2015.

## Plan your EVENTS for 2023

We are booking now

Contact Event Director  
Cynthia Pennington  
423-619-8959

## 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.**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mickey Robbins, President  
Joe Davis, Vice President  
Larson Mick, Secretary  
Leanna Jones, Treasurer  
Linda Collins, Programs  
Earl Hereford, Projects  
Andy Jones, Grounds  
Anne Leonard, House  
Susan Snow  
Karen Stone, Volunteers  
Karen Stone, Volunteers

### WALDEN OFFICIALS:

Mayor: Lee Davis  
Aldermen: Lizzy Schmidt  
Sarah McKenzie

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Melissa Nimon 598-1658  
[melissa@mccoywalden.org](mailto:melissa@mccoywalden.org)

### EVENT DIRECTOR

Cynthia Pennington  
423-619-8959

[cynthia@mccoywalden.org](mailto:cynthia@mccoywalden.org)

**NEWSLETTER** [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 MFG 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.mccoywalden.org](http://www.mccoywalden.org)

Shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0737667](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0737667)

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