

# 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.mccoypwalden.org](http://www.mccoypwalden.org)

Volume Three: Issue Nine

September 2018

## Many Gifts Appreciated

*Second part in a series on contributors to our success*

Many people have worked together “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.”

You may recognize this statement as *The Mission* expressed in the box on the lower right of this page. Through this newsletter, we are happy to recognize some of those who have helped in fulfilling our mission.

Two precious items that had belonged to the Bachman-McCoy family were returned. (See *McCoy Farm & Gardens Newsletter*, Vol. 3, #8 - Aug. 2018.) Other beautiful and useful objects have been donated to revitalize the house.

One of the aesthetic challenges was in the living room. Mrs. McCoy had stipulated that, upon her death, the fireplace surround was to be removed and returned to the family. A reproduction was to take its place.

However, such a reproduction would take a long time for a craftsman to make, and the work would be very expensive. Former mayor Elizabeth Akins had an answer to this prob-



*The fireplace surround in the living room was provided by Elizabeth Akins. Photo by Joe Davis.*

lem. She offered an antique mantle from her family home to use in its place. It fit beautifully. She also gave the vintage wool hooked rug that graces Sally Garland's bedroom, now used as the bride's dressing room upstairs.

Some practical things were needed as much as lovely furniture. The Walden's Ridge Guild had outfitted the kitchen in the Walden Town Hall when it opened and realized the importance of modern kitchen appliances and fixtures. They researched the needs of caterers who would use the McCoy kitchen and purchased a modern refrigerator with good ice making /storage capability. The Guild also had a work island designed and built. Tennessee



*Walden's Ridge Guild members Carolyn Nardo, Annette Wildman and Jeannie Siegel, cut tomatoes for a Memorial Day picnic using the kitchen island topped with Tennessee marble, a gift from Bob Corker. Photo by Charlie Stone.*

marble, a gift from Senator Bob Corker and formerly used in the Volunteer Building, was repurposed as tops for the island and another work table. Microwaves, small appliances, modern plumbing and electrical service make the kitchen a real asset today.

*This series will continue in future editions.*

**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.

## Picnic on the Grounds

Union Chapel, familiarly known as the Little Brown Church in the Wildwood, picnicked at McCoy Farm & Gardens, Sunday, August 5th.



Over 100 enjoyed a picnic on the east lawn near the Pavilion and the beautiful new gardens. Photo by Charlie Stone.

## Caterpillars to Butterflies

The restoration of the grounds at McCoy Farm & Gardens has been a constant commitment. Intense work has gone toward clearing and rehabilitation, much of it under the direction and untiring efforts of Andy Jones. Taking special interest in the area around what is known as the "serpentine wall" has been Larson (Larry) Mick, a member of Andy's committee.



Larson "Larry" Mick

Larry said, "There were very few legacy plants or flowers already in the serpentine garden, so everything else I bought and planted. I have come across quite a few old plastic plant labels, revealing that Mrs. McCoy had flowering plants in this area in years past. It has been fun creating something pretty out of what had been a weedy extension of the yard above a damaged rock wall."

Joe Davis and friends had planted daffodils



Bob Robbins checks the rain gauge at the garden along the restored serpentine wall. Photo by Joe Davis.

there years before. Bob Robbins helped clear the wall of vines. Larry purchased bedding plants, brought seedlings from his home, and put in common and swamp milkweed to attract and sustain monarch butterflies. In mid August, monarch caterpillars were feasting on these plants. Butterflies are emerging now!



Can you spot at least 4 brightly colored monarch caterpillars enjoying the milkweed plants by the wall? Photo Susan Snow. Watch this video for more about the life cycle of the monarch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-soWcQFB56I>

## Upcoming Events

- Monarch butterfly talk Sept. 15, 2 PM
- Walden's Ridge Guild Sept. 20, 10 AM
- Doug Newton memorial wildlife walk & 3rd bird inventory Sept. 22, 8 AM

To schedule your own special event go to [www.mccoypwalden.org](http://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 lot 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.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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### 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:**

**McCoy Farm & Gardens**

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

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