

# 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 Seven: Issue Nine

September 2022

## Emma Bell Miles Artwork

You are cordially invited to attend a showing of the artwork of Emma Bell Miles on Sunday, September 25, from 4-6 PM in the McCoy house. The collection of 18 pieces is a gift from Kay and Joe Gaston who acquired the works over many years.

It is a true honor for McCoy Farm & Gardens to be selected to receive these drawings and paintings. The Gastons have placed the works into our care and custody, and we are committed to preserving this treasure.

The works were created in different media, such as pencil, watercolor, pastel, and oil. They are on different substrates, depending upon what Miles had available. Since she had limited funds, and access to proper paper and canvas was limited on the mountain, many of the materials she used are fragile. The Gastons framed the art in an archival manner. An accredited member of International Society of Appraisers, Diane Mizell, appraised the collection.

For many years, Kay and Joe Gaston lived close to Martha McCoy's home. Kay Baker Gaston is an authority on Miles and authored *Emma Bell Miles*, a biography published in 1985 about the well-known poet and artist.

Joe Gaston was the first attorney for the Town of Walden when it was organized. Both Gastons were charter members of Walden's Ridge Historical Association. The couple have a deep affection for Walden and McCoy Farm & Gardens. They say they are very pleased that Emma's work has "come home."

Emma Bell Miles was a writer as well as an artist and contributed to national magazines. She wrote and illustrated *Our Southern Birds*, and her well-known book, *The Spirit of the Mountains*, was published in 1905.



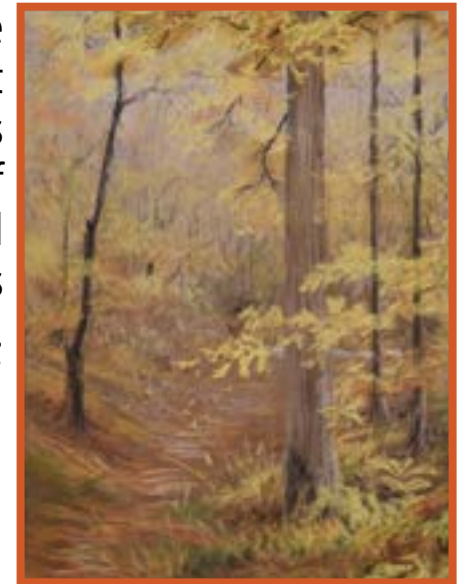
Looking over the Gaston collection are, seated, Anne Davis, Joe Gaston, and Joe Davis; standing, Kay Gaston, Eloise Robbins and Margha Davis. The photograph was taken at the Gaston home in Springfield, Tennessee by Mickey Robbins.

Art in the Gaston gift consists mainly of natural subjects as shown.

right: *The Road to Signal Point*

below left: *Mountain Creek Summer*

below right: *Mountain Creek Autumn*



**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.



## Welcome Structure Begins

Thanks to another generous matching grant from the Tucker Foundation, a new structure will soon welcome visitors. The north end of the parking lot is the location for a shelter which will allow visitors a safe and comfortable drop-off spot.

The space will house an interactive map, visitor log, donation box, and information about upcoming events. The pictures show excavation underway and pre-cut lumber being unloaded and stored until construction can begin. The timber-frame shelter will be built with Douglas fir and mountain stone.



Volunteer Terry Knox hauls some of the timbers for the new structure. Other parts are on the trailer in the background.

## Ash Tree Treatment

You may have noticed it is necessary to close the W Road temporarily so dead ash trees can be removed. The trees were killed by emerald ash tree borers. In our arboretum there are several ash trees that are at great risk, and on Saturday, August 13, a team met to treat them. We always need volunteers to help with projects such as this and others.



William Holland, Roman Zahrobsky, MFG board member Larry Mick, and volunteer Tom Voychegovski treat a mature ash tree for the borer.

To offer your particular talents, please contact Melissa Nimon at 423-598-1658, or e-mail [melissa@mccooywalden.org](mailto:melissa@mccooywalden.org)



Greet Kay and Joe Gaston  
and view their gift of artwork by  
Emma Bell Miles  
Sunday, September 25  
4-6 p.m. in the McCoy house

## 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  
Sallie Ford, Gardens  
Earl Hereford, Projects  
Andy Jones, Grounds  
Anne Leonard, House  
Susan Snow  
Karen Stone, Volunteers

**WALDEN OFFICIALS:**  
Mayor: Lee Davis  
Aldermen: Lizzy Schmidt  
Sarah McKenzie  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Melissa Nimon 598-1658  
[melissa@mccooywalden.org](mailto:melissa@mccooywalden.org)  
**EVENT DIRECTOR**  
Cynthia Pennington  
423-619-8959  
[cynthia@mccooywalden.org](mailto:cynthia@mccooywalden.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.mccooywalden.org](http://www.mccooywalden.org)

Shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0737667](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-0737667)  
AmazonSmile donates to McCoy Farm & Gardens