

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

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*Susan Snow, left, and Elizabeth Akins, right, set up tables for the picnic preceding the square dance.*



*Promenading as couples at the square dance were, left to right, Harriett Hereford & Mickey Robbins, Linda Andrews & Earl Hereford, and Jessie & Bruce Hutchinson.*



*Children and adults had fun circling the floor together.*



*These ladies came dressed in traditional square dance attire and danced all night. Left to right, Rosy, Susannah, and Alice Alcott with their mother Mary Jo Alcott.*

## Square Dance A Success

Among the many activities taking place at McCoy Farm & Gardens was a square dance in the Pavilion on July 22nd. Over 50 people came to enjoy picnicking on the grounds and to join in the dances called by **David Worland**. No one was left out as David taught both kids and adults to form a circle, take partners, promenade, dosido, right hand swing, left hand star and so much more. Participation was wholehearted and great fun for all!

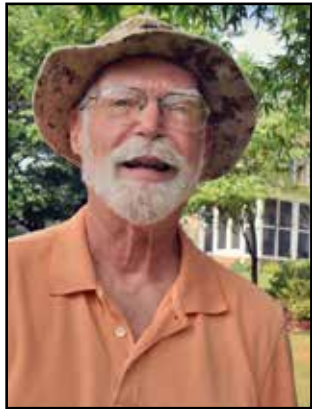


*Ladies form a star; gents to the outside.*

**The Mission** of the McCoy Farm & Gardens is to restore, maintain, improve, and manage the property as an arboretum, park, and recreational area for the benefit of the community as a green space, educational and learning laboratory, and venue for public and private events.

## Super Volunteer, Larry Mick *Creator of the mysterious deer topiary*

I first became involved with the McCoy property in about 2011. I had retired earlier, and wanted to do something to make the estate look less forlorn. The chain link fence along Anderson Pike had long since been abandoned to weeds, privet hedge, bitter-sweet, poison ivy, wild roses and you name it. I decided to start at the main gate and methodically work towards Taft Highway. Every time I went, I would cut out as much of the growth as it took to fill my pickup truck. Each day I would clear only about 8 to 10 feet of fence.



Larry Mick, Volunteer

Sometime in late 2012 I also worked on the fence to the east of the main gate. There was a pretty big clump of privet, and all I could accomplish with it was to cut the four large stems down to about 4 feet high. The next time I paid attention to this clump, the tops of all four trunks had sprouted and had created a ball of growth. I looked at that and decided there was a deer in that clump, and I started to train and clip the new growth until the deer formed a head and tail, and finally antlers. The community has adopted the deer and dresses it for various holidays. This all started with a red ball on his nose for Christmas.

The fence clearing was completed in 2013, and 2014 was basically a year of maintenance. Finally in 2015 the Town of Walden took an interest, starting with the three months of hard work by many people in preparation for the Memorial Day picnic.

Work by many volunteers has continued ever since, and it is great fun to work with all these volunteers to help restore the McCoy Farm & Gardens to some semblance of its original state as the home of a prominent citizen and to create a park for all to enjoy.

## Before and After *What a difference VOLUNTEERS make!*



Volunteer clearing overgrown honeysuckle, April 9, 2015



Walking down the same driveway, May 25, 2015

## 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.

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

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Shannon Handy, Strategic Planning

Jody Hunter, Gardening

Susan Snow, Private Events

Karen Stone, Newsletter

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### Support McCoy Farm & Gardens

The McCoy Farm & Gardens is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All contributions are charitable and tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law, as determined by your tax advisor.

The 32 acre parcel with the Bachman-McCoy home, a pavilion, a carriage house, a barn, unimproved blacksmith shop, apple house and various other smaller structures, and gardens are 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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