

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

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Welcome Executive Director

The Board of Directors of McCoy Farm & Gardens is very pleased to introduce and welcome Melissa Nimon as Executive Director. She assumes her roll on February first.

A lifelong plant-lover, Melissa earned an undergraduate degree in Natural Resources at the University of the South at Sewanee and a masters degree in Landscape Architecture from North Carolina State University.

Melissa's early years growing up on a small farm in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, inspired her to study plants, as well as the utility of them in design. After her studies, Melissa worked in Raleigh, North Carolina, particularly enjoying designing municipal projects such as memorials and parks, and in Washington, DC, on master planning and large scale, multi-use developments.

Once her young family began to grow and she and her husband, Wesley, made their home in Tennessee, Melissa's landscaping focus moved to her own backyard, as well as those of her neighbors and friends. During her time at home raising children, Melissa served on various boards and committees, using

her knowledge to benefit the community.

According to Melissa, "Eleven years ago, we had the opportunity to return to Signal Mountain, where my husband grew

up and where we have loved rearing Thomas, Mary Claire, and Oliver." The Nimons have become an integral part of the Signal Mountain and the Walden communities. Melissa has volunteered for their church and schools and enjoys part-time landscape design projects.

Melissa says, "The leadership and volunteers of McCoy Farm & Gardens have made phenomenal strides in preservation and development over the last several years, and I want to be a catalyst to further accelerate their progress. I will be coordinating with the Town of Walden, seeking out sources of funding, and making sure that the entire MFG team has the resources they need to accomplish their projects even more effectively and efficiently."



Executive Director, Melissa Nimon

We are proud to welcome Melissa and look forward to her leadership as she seeks to incorporate McCoy Farms & Gardens further into the lives of many more Signal Mountain residents and the community beyond.

A Desk for Melissa

Now that Melissa is ready to start work, we find she has no desk! Could you possibly donate or help find a good wooden desk that will look nice with the other furnishings in the main house? If so, please e-mail a photo and contact information to Anne Leonard of the House Committee leonardtfgc2003@comcast.net

Watch Our Winter Video

We hope you will enjoy the video of winter scenes at McCoy Farm & Gardens, where it is never dull, and the grounds are open to visitors all throughout the year <https://youtu.be/AbAC-jelFlc>

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.

W Cleanup Starting Point

When newly elected Walden Mayor, Lee Davis, suggested the community work together to pick up litter along the W Road, what better place could he choose for volunteers to assemble than the parking lot at McCoy Farm & Gardens?



Mickey Robbins of the MFG board is always cheerful, even while driving a "garbage truck" for the W Road cleanup.

With key organizational help from neighbor Daly Turnbull, the whole length of the W Road was divided into sections, and teams chose sections to police. In the morning hours of December 20, over 100 big bags of trash were collected and hauled away!

Master Plan Implementation

For those interested in the Master Plan, you may see it at Walden Town Hall and at the main house at MFG once COVID restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, an important part of the Plan is being implemented as illustrated by this photo showing the allée of large sweet



The allée along the front drive has three large trees missing.

gum trees lining the front drive. Trees on the left in the picture are evident, while large trees are missing on the right. Weak and undesirable "volunteer" trees are being removed, and new sweet gums are being planted to reclaim the original symmetry of the allée.

Newest Garden Photos

As promised, here are pictures of progress in the new garden. Look for a comprehensive story by volunteer, Elizabeth Hamilton, in the March issue of the *Signal Mt. Mirror*. That article provides many details about the project.



A domed playhouse made of willow will be covered with vines



Lines drawn indicate a tunnel leading into a "hide hole."

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 and by the Anderson entrance.

The MFG buildings are temporarily closed.

We encourage our MFG visitors to practice healthy COVID measures at all times.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Melissa Nimon

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.mccoypwalden.org

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