

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

Volume Seven: Issue Five

May 2022

Memorial Day Picnic May 30

The 6th community-wide Memorial Day picnic at McCoy Farm & Gardens is a great tradition bringing friends together to appreciate and remember our armed forces. Gates open at 11:00. Vehicles may enter at 1604 Taft Highway. Additional parking is at St. Augustine Catholic Church on Anderson Pike. Also look for volunteers directing parking in the fields fronting Anderson Pike.

At 11:30 the celebration honoring our military begins with an invocation followed by an opening ceremony, and the release of a rehabilitated red-tailed hawk. A blanket and chairs are always handy. Walden's Ridge Guild is coordinating the event, with Anne Leonard serving as Chairwoman. There is no admis-



Signal Mtn. Lions Club members cooking at the 2017 picnic



sion charge. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome, but please no alcoholic beverages and no bicycles. Bring your own picnic, or purchase hot dogs and hamburgers cooked by members of the Signal Mt. Lions Club. Also available are Pizza Place pizza, Bar-B-Que by King's Pig BBQ, Cokes, and freshly made funnel cakes and cotton candy.

Children can play freely on the grounds and in the orchard area under adult supervision. Everyone will want to explore the new Children's Sensory Garden and watch Pastor Caleb Pitkin's blacksmith demonstration.

Music is a part of the Picnic tradition. The lineup includes: The Jay Brooks Band, John Harper, Tin Cup Rattlers and Paul Hendricks.

New this year will be the addition of craft and plant booths featuring pottery, jewelry,

Our Generous Picnic Sponsors

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textiles, chair making, photography, herbal and essential oil products, kiln formed glass, painting, and other assorted crafts. Chocolatier Robert Davis and farmers Tom & Louisa Rose O'Neal will offer their products. Reflection Riding, Wild Ones, and the Orchid Gallery will have plants for sale. Walden's Ridge Civic League will display a mountain history exhibit.

You will not have to carry your purchases with you while you tour the property, experience the gardens, or participate in activities.

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.

The Walden's Ridge Guild is providing a "Park Your Purchase" tent where you can check various items and retrieve them later.

MFG is very grateful to Signal Mt. businesses who sponsor the picnic by donating funds and goods. Please thank them with your patronage.

Barn Clean Out & Progress



Kay Hardesty, Terry Knox, Fred and Annette Wildman with ever-faithful Andy Jones and Larry Mick in the background.

Volunteers removed objects obstructing evaluation of the barn. The next step is to improve the foundation and stabilize the structure. A generous contribution of \$50,000 from Town of Walden made this progress possible.

Volunteer needed for help in the office. Please contact Melissa 598-1658 melissa@mccoywalden.org Thanks!

Oral History and Apple Trees Complete A Story

As a generous gesture of friendship, Mrs. McCoy assigned a tree of their own for families to pick the apples. In telling his stories for the Oral History Project, Peter Rawlings revealed the trauma he suffered as a young boy when he mistakenly picked apples from the "wrong" tree instead of his family's special one.

The grand old apple trees have profited by their pruning last January, and already they are looking healthier. The pruning regimen will continue in the next dormant season. In the fall, six young trees will be planted in the empty spaces among the remaining specimens. The choice of heritage varieties is important to the value of the orchard.

Fortunately, we have historic resources to aid in selections: a 1956 letter from well-known apple expert Fred Colby, and a 1976 manual for a mechanical sprayer found with a Schedule from the UT Agricultural Extension Service. Some varieties are listed in an apple sales record book kept by Neavon Hatfield.

We value your input and help with planting and maintaining the orchard. Contact Karen Stone to join the team 423-886-4568. You don't need to wait till fall planting or winter pruning.



Peter Rawlings can still identify "his" apple tree.

**Surprise Coming
Watch for a special announcement
about Emma Bell Miles in the
June newsletter.**

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.

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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

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