

Friends

McConnell
Springs
LEXINGTON 1775

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MCCONNELL SPRINGS

Founders' Day...A Special Day to Reflect

With spring comes our 25th annual Founders' Day celebration at Lexington's McConnell Springs on Saturday May 18, 2019.

Two hundred forty three years ago Lexington and the surrounding Bluegrass was a woodland paradise for pioneers seeking freedom and land of their own. William McConnell and a group of explorers were camping down by the Springs when word came of the Battle of Lexington and the start of the Revolutionary War. In honor of that event, the explorers decided to name our community Lexington, and did so in 1779 when the town was founded.

Experience frontier life of 1775 for yourself! Founders' Day is held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be traditional live music and dance; guided tours of the park's 27 acres of woodland trails; colonial crafts such as woodworking, quilt making, weaving & gun-smithing. Exhibits of colonial tools & Indian artifacts and demonstrations of



pioneer cooking and blacksmithing. And a special frontier living history area around our primitive log cabin. Children's activities include bow and arrow, tomahawk throw, pioneer kids toys and games.

This is a FREE family event, come spend the day! Lunch cooked on-site by the Friends of McConnell Springs as a special fundraiser for park events.

This is a rain or shine event; sunscreen, rain gear and insect repellent may be needed. Visitors taking guided tours are encouraged to wear hiking shoes.

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Inside: History to Chew On Dates Set

Friends of



Dear Friends...

Joan Whitman, Chair

Spring has arrived and Mc-

Connell Springs is responding! The Park offers many programs for all ages. The nature trail is great for a walk and the nature center offers educational information for our area. Enjoy bird watching? Take time and enjoy many species as well as a few squirrels and sometimes a raccoon at the birdwatching window inside the nature center.

I am anxious for the completion of the new observation deck being constructed at the springs at the bottom of the trail. The bench will provide a special spot to relax and enjoy nature!

We had a great Wine Barrel Tasting fundraising event thanks to Annette Mathy and many volunteers. Hamon Winery in Clark County had the most people starting their adventure. Thank you to all the wineries who participated as well to



all those who enjoyed their day tasting.

Preparations are underway for the start of the History to Chew On Series and Founders' Day. And don't forget to mark your calendar for the Birding festival.

So much to see! So much to do! Come enjoy! See you there!

-- Joan

P. S. Friends of McConnell Springs is a 501c3 (non-profit) corporation. All donations are sincerely appreciated!

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Bluegrass Birding Festival at McConnell Springs

The Bluegrass Birding Festival will be held at McConnell Springs on May 11, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and May 12 from 1 - 5 p.m. This event is a great opportunity to learn

more about the activity of birding and just birds in general. On May 11, we will be having different presentations from a variety of speakers in our education center that will provide great insight to birders, nature photographers, animal enthusiasts, or anyone that is interested in learning more. Also throughout the day on Saturday we will have vendors and exhibitors around the education center that will have a variety of exhibits and items for sale. Another returning fan favorite of this event will be Critters in the Classroom and their live birds of prey on both days. Whether you're an experienced birder or just have never picked up binoculars this festival has a lot to offer for everyone.



Last years Bluegrass Birding Festival & Craft Fair held at McConnell Springs Park.

Photos courtesy: Keith Harding

Founders' Day Stage is Set!

Main Stage Events

- Bagpipe & Drum Corps
- Kentucky Frontier Folk parade / Opening
- Moira Levant – Traditional Irish Fiddler
- Folk Songs of Early Kentucky – Robert Tincher
- Jennifer Rose & Family –
Traditional Appalachian Songs
- Berea Festival Dancers
- Si Bheag, Si Mhor – Scots-Irish Ballads & Love Songs
Jonathan Hagee – Colonial Balladeer
Moira Levant – Traditional Irish Fiddler
- Fred Keams – Native American Indian Flute

Amphitheater & Concurrent Programs

- Cultural / History Exhibits & Demonstrations –
Education Center
- Various Frontier Life demonstrations
(log cabin & meadow)
- Tomahawk, Bow & Arrow, Settler & Native Cooking,
Blacksmith
- Winchester Dulcimer Group – Strings of Friendship
Tent - by pond
- Traditional Music in the Education Center
(Hammered Dulcimer)
- Moira Levant - Roving Fiddler
- Frontier Folk talk – Pioneer Gear (Clothing, Gear &
Weapons)
- John Kiefer – Geology Tour
- Jerry McClure – Cherokee/Shawnee storyteller
- Building of the Log Cabin at McConnell Springs
(by cabin)
- Tom Sproat / Kentucky the Owl - "A Pioneer's
Perspective of the Environment"
- Kentucky Wildlife Center animal presentation
- Frontier Life at the Founding of Lexington
(at the log cabin)

Preliminary schedule, subject to change

Photos above courtesy: Jim Rebmann, below: Keith Harding



History To Chew On Series Begins in June

Once again we have an exciting and diverse History To Chew On for you in 2019.

We start our program on

June 11 - "Shaker Songs and Stories"

Speaker: Holly Wood

July 9 - "The Suffragettes in Kentucky"

Speaker: Sallie Lanham

Aug. 13 - "Robert O'Hara Benjamin' His Lexington and his times (1890-1900)"

Speaker: Joe Anthony

Sept. 10 - "Solomon Lee Van Meter Jr. inventor of the Backpack Parachute"

Speaker: Jill Roseberry

Oct. 8 - "The History of Hemp in Kentucky"

Speaker: Kirsten Bohnert

As you can see we have a full list of free talks and look forward to seeing you for our History To Chew On at McConnell Springs in 2019 at 6 p.m.

I would also like to thank all who supported us in 2018
-- Peter Andrew, Chair

Friends' Fundraiser – A Success!!

What a great day for the "12th Annual Wine Barrel Tasting for the Springs"! Mother Nature was kind to us with no rain and warmer weather. Everyone had a good time including the wineries who saw an average of 150 visits to their wineries for the barrel tasting. Kudos to Hamon Haven Winery for being the top winery for bringing in the most revenue (where people started) for the Springs. A huge thank you to ALL our wineries for their sponsorship: 1922 House, Chrisman Mills, Equus Run, First Vineyard, Grimes Mill, Harkness Edwards, Jean Farris, Lovers Leap, Prodigy, Rising Sons, Talon, and Wildside. Many went the extra mile with food and music.

Not enough is said about our awesome volunteers! Over 80% have volunteered for many years. There is no way we would be successful without them! A big thank you to B.J. Webb, David & Libby Wachtel, Anne & Dale Wilson, Pete & Sue Andrew, Ray & Mary Ann Szeluga, Becci Ray, Les & Gloria Burd, Megan McGee, Cindy Vough, Jane Hellman, Becky Kemper, Joan Whitman, Xana Plum, Eunice Cate, Buzz Carmichael, Frank Thompson, Mike Seiler, Jake Karnes, Bob

Don't miss our first presentation on June 11 entitled Shaker Songs and Stories

Presenter – **Holly Wood**, Music Program Specialist at Pleasant Hill B.S. Music Education & Masters of Divinity

For more than 100 years, the Shakers of Pleasant Hill

had an indelible impact on the development of Kentucky. Many people are familiar with their furniture, but there is so much more to their story.



Beginning in 1805, Shaker missionaries arrived in Kentucky working to establish a religious communal village and creating the Shaker standard of excellence and innovation. Beautiful architecture, progressive farm and livestock breeding practices, an early water system, and beautiful music were just a few of the contributions the Shakers made to not only Kentucky but our nation. This presentation will provide background on the development of the Shaker movement, the Shaker faith, and highlight songs and stories from the Pleasant Hill Shaker Society.

Wilson, Dick Mathy, Marcia Taylor, Amanda Ruggles, John and Melanie McCloud, Carolyn McKeegan, Barbara Young, Rose Yeley, Susan Harbor, Jean Saharwal, Christine Hall, Gwen Fife, Kent and Dale Barker, Nate and Audrey Merkle, Renee' Williams, Doug McLaren, and John and Marty Kiefer. Hope to see you next year!!

-- Annette Mathy, chair



Participants at 1922 House winery at this year's Wine Barrel Tasting.



The Friends of McConnell Springs
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Friends Information

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Friends – Memberships

The Friends of McConnell Springs is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Your tax-deductible donation supports the preservation of McConnell Springs and educational programs at the site. Can we count on your support in being a Friend? If so, please mail this form to the address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Donation amount:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25

other: _____

Check this box to make my donation to The Friends of McConnell Springs Endowed Fund #0527 at the BGCF.

Complete the form above and mail it with your membership donation to:

The Friends of McConnell Springs
P.O. Box 12196
Lexington, KY 40581-2196

Trailblazer (\$1,000)
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Friend (\$49 - under)

No matter what membership level you give, your generosity is greatly appreciated! Thank you for your support!

Our mission

The Friends of McConnell Springs, an independent not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, works in a partnership with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Parks and Recreation, dedicated to the restoration and preservation of McConnell Springs as:



- a national historic site, recognized as the pioneer encampment in the naming of Lexington, Kentucky;
- an environmental and educational resource; and
- a passive recreational park.

FRIENDS is published by the Friends of McConnell Springs

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McConnell Springs is a natural and historic site at 416 Rebmann Lane in Lexington, Ky. The park has two miles of trails that wander around the sinking springs, vegetation, stone fences and vestiges of historic buildings. McConnell Springs boasts more than 130 species of plants and numerous species of urban wildlife that reside at or visit the park. The unique geologic, natural and historic features are protected, providing environmental, cultural and historical education opportunities for the residents of Fayette County and elsewhere.

To learn more about McConnell Springs, call 859.225.4073 or visit www.mcconnellsprings.org.