

Friends

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MCCONNELL SPRINGS

McConnell
Springs
LEXINGTON 1775

Volume 24 Issue 3
December 2019

Join our Annual Friends Luncheon

Hilary J. Boone Center

January 15, 2020

11:30 a.m.

Lunch served at Noon.

Register: 859.229.5929

Come learn about the Park!



The Friends of McConnell Springs will host our Annual Friends Luncheon on January 15, 2020 at the Boone Center at the University of Kentucky beginning at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our park activities. We will briefly introduce our new Friends, give a park annual report, and review financial data. The cost of the lunch is \$30 per person with reservations being required. You can make your reservation by sending a check payable to The Friends of McConnell Springs, P.O. Box 12196, Lexington, KY 40518-2196, or call BJ Webb at 859.229.5929 by January 8, 2020. Please bring along a friend to learn more about a great city park.



The Friends of McConnell Springs Wishes You...

Happy
Holidays!



Inside: 2020 Calendar

Friends of



Dear Friends...

Joan Whitman, Chair

Happy Holidays!

This year is coming to a close we are greatly satisfied with the attendance and quality of all of our events. A special thanks to all the directors and committees for their work as well as to Steven Rogers and his staff at the Park. We are extremely grateful for our community support and our financial donors!

The Board of Directors is in process of planning another great year. We start the year with a new chairman Jacob “Jake” Karnes and our Annual Friends Luncheon to be held at the UK Boone Center. You are invited to attend. Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling BJ Webb at 859.229.5929 or email friends@mcconnellsprings.org. The cost is \$30.



Jacob Karnes

Information on our Wine Barrel Tasting event will be out soon and you can see our schedule of other events on page 4. We are completing work on our new website for a

New Program: Owl Prowl at McConnell Springs

In November McConnell Springs hosted an exciting program that we haven’t offered before, an Owl Prowl that was led by Dr. Tom Sproat with Critters in the Classroom. Owl prowls by themselves are a fairly common program at nature parks like the Springs, indeed countless other parks around the country host similar programs each year. Usually the program consists of a group of participants walking through an area in the evening and using some sort of device to play owl calls in hopes of getting an owl to call back. The program that Dr. Sproat provides does this as well but has an exciting twist of presenting live owls. Dr. Sproat brought three different species of owls to the parks as part of his program, an Eastern Screech Owl named Valentine, a Barred Owl named Luna, and a Great Horned Owl named Kentucky. Participants got the chance to see the birds up close,

“go to” place for all our events and other information.

The Park has had many updates this year thanks to LFUCG Division of Parks and Recreation. The trails are easier to hike and there are several benches along the way to take a break and enjoy nature. The observation deck at the final sink is proving to be a real hit.

Our end of the year event was a unique educational fun adventure with live owls. Dr. Tom Sproat is to be complimented with holding his audience young and old spellbound with his “up close and personal” presentation! He was assisted by Great Horned Owl, Kentucky; a Barred Owl, Luna; and the very small Screech Owl, Valentine. The Owl Prowl was complete with outside “fishing” for owls in the Park when we heard a response in the treetops.

Warm wishes to all for a joyous Christmas and an extremely happy and successful New Year!

learn about their distinct features, and take an owl selfie before going out into the park to listen for wild owls.

This program was a great success with nearly 70 people attending to see the birds and try to find their wild cousins in the park. The program was sponsored by the Friends of McConnell Springs. The staff at the park hope to bring more exciting programs like this to the public in 2020 so be sure to check our calendar of events for further details.



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Thank YOU for Giving to The Friends!

Many thanks are extended to the individuals, partners, and sponsors who contributed to The Friends of McConnell Springs during the recent donation period. McConnell Springs is a city park that is funded through LFUCG Park & Recreation's normal day to day operating budget. The Friends of McConnell Springs Inc., is a volunteer IRC 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose sole purpose is the preservation, restoration, and development at the park. We rely solely on membership, partnership, and sponsorship donations to better maintain the historical and educational experience for the community visiting the park. Your donations stay here to directly benefit McConnell Springs Park. Though we made every effort to include all donations for the year prior to November 15, 2019, we apologize if there are any errors or omissions in this list, and would appreciate hearing about them. Please contact Karen Higdon at friends@mcconnellsprings.org with your concerns.

Trailblazer (\$1,000+)

Kentucky American Water
Bluegrass Kiwanis Club

Founder (\$500+)

The Society of Colonial Wars in the Cmwth of KY
Usha and Rayudu Polisetty Charitable Fund
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Ms. Ruth Olive
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Homesteader (\$50+)

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Legacy

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mathy*
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In Honor of Annette Mathy

**Friends of McConnell Springs Board Member*

What?? No Return Donation Envelope??

In order to reduce expenses associated with this winter newsletter, we have eliminated the return envelope meant for a donation. Would you be surprised the envelope printing and handling adds another \$850 to the cost of the newsletter. That's \$10 of cost per donation normally received during this period. If you would like us to mail you a return envelope please call 859-225-4073 and we will be happy to do so. The envelopes are also available at the park. Our post office box is shown on the last page this newsletter should you choose to use your own personal envelope. Credit card donations are processed on our website at www.mcconnellsprings.org using the donation tab. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause and hope you appreciate why we made this decision. We hope you continue to support The Friends.



-- Dick Mathy, General Fundraising Chair

Mark Those Calendars for 2020 Events!

Friends Annual Luncheon January 15, 2020

The Friends of McConnell Springs will host our annual luncheon on January 15, 2020, at the Boone Center beginning at noon. Contact BJ Webb at 859.229.5929 for reservations or email friends@mcconnellsprings.org

2020 Author Speaker Series March 10 & April 14, 2020

Continuing our spring cultural series, meet and hear our wonderful Kentucky authors! Events will be on Tuesday, March 10 and April 14, 2020, starting at 6 p.m. at the Springs.

The authors will be available before and after to sign books and take questions. Refreshments will be provided.

Wine Barrel Tasting for the Springs March 28, 2020

Save the date for the 13th Annual Wine Barrel Tasting being held March 28, 2020, the last Saturday in March. This fundraiser provides a substantial benefit for our activities at the park. There will be more details in the spring newsletter. Find out about a new winery joining us this coming year.



Lexington's Founders' Day - May 16, 2020

Join us as we celebrate our frontier heritage as well as paying tribute to our men and women serving in the Armed Forces.

Founders' Day is a full day of frontier reenactment, traditional music, wildlife and exhibits as we celebrate our themes of nature, history and education. This is a free, entertaining event for all ages. Lunch will be sold on site as a fundraiser for The Friends of McConnell Springs.

History to Chew On Series June - October 2020

Thanks to everyone who attended our History To Chew On Series in 2019, both our repeat and new friends who attended the program.

We have an exciting program of talks for you in 2020 covering the history of events in Kentucky, and we look forward to seeing you.

The talks take place at 6 p.m. at the park on the following dates so bring a brown bag meal and enjoy them on: June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, and October 13.

Ice Cream Social August 30, 2020

The event is free and open to everyone who loves ice cream. The Friends of McConnell Springs are hosting this event to thank all our "Friends" for supporting us throughout the year. McConnell Springs' Ice Cream Social will be held August 30, 2020. Music will be provided by the Overtones.

A special thanks goes to Baskin Robbins on Tates Creek Road for supplying the ice cream.

Fall 2020 Events Little Goblins Galore

Youth ages 12 and under can enjoy Halloween fun without the fear of ghosts and ghouls at Little Goblins Galore at the park. This will take place in October so check back later in 2020 to learn the date.



Owl Prowl

McConnell Springs will host another Owl Prowl in November/December of 2020. Check The Friends website for more information.

For more McConnell Springs events, check out our calendar at www.McConnellSprings.org



Notes from the Naturalist...

by Steven Rogers

McConnell Springs was proud to be a participant in Tree Week 2019 this year, which was a great success not only at the park but around Lexington as well. Tree week is a collaborative effort by many groups and individuals but is largely planned through the Urban Forest Initiative at UK. Dozens of programs and projects were scheduled during that week in October that allowed hundreds of people the opportunity learn more about trees and their importance in our community. McConnell Springs was host to one project and one program, a tree planting around the Blue Hole and an education program focusing on caterpillars led by Tracy Wells. The tree planting brought in dozens

of volunteers into the park, including a class from the Redwood Cooperative School, who planted 52 trees in an area where invasive plant species have been removed. The species of trees planted were sycamore, sugar maple, black gum, and a bald cyprus. The caterpillar program focused on specific trees that can be planted in gardens that are host plants for different species of caterpillars. The staff at McConnell Springs would like to thank the Urban Forest Initiative, Tracy Wells, Heather Wilson, and several of her colleagues with LFUCG Division of Environmental Services for bringing these programs and events to the park.

Rita's Ride Helping Students to the Springs

Rita's Ride to the Springs Transportation Grant is a great opportunity for a school to receive reimbursement for the cost of buses when planning a field trip to McConnell Springs. This grant is open to all schools in Kentucky and the grant application is accepted year around. The program is funded by The Friends of McConnell Springs and each application is voted on by the Board of Directors. Since this program has been introduced, thousands of students have had the opportunity to visit McConnell Springs and experience a high quality field trip without the school having to worry about the burden of paying for the transportation. In 2019 two schools were recipients of the grants, Breckinridge Elementary and Lexington Traditional Magnet School. Each of these schools brought an entire grade level to the park for an educational experience. The staff



at the park hopes to continue to attract new schools to the program in 2020 and beyond. Applications for the grant can be found on the Friends website at www.mcconnellsprings.org, under the education tab. A BIG THANK YOU goes out the to Kiwanis Club for helping make Rita's Ride possible.

The perfect gift idea!

Help support educational programming at McConnell Springs with the purchase of an 8-inch by 8-inch brick paver. The permanently inscribed paver will be placed in the central plaza of the McConnell Springs Visitors' Center and because \$85 of each \$100 paver is a tax-deductible donation (IRC 501(c)3 not-for-profit) to The Friends of McConnell Springs it will greatly help support projects at the Springs.

Clip this form and return it with \$100 payment to: Friends of McConnell Springs, P.O. Box 12196, Lexington, KY 40581-2196.

Yes, I want to support McConnell Springs by purchasing a paver. I have enclosed \$100.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Complete boxes with message to be inscribed on paver. Please print carefully, with one letter per box. Each box presents one character.



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

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Friends Information

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/McConnellSprgs>

Facebook: Be our FRIEND: -
<https://www.facebook.com/McConnell-Springs-293733489824/>

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)

Founder (\$500+)

Preservationist (\$250+)

Builder (\$100+)

Homesteader (\$50+)

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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Contributors: Peter Andrew, Sherrell Brown, Jon Hagee, Dick Mathy, Steven Rogers, Laurie Thomas, Franklin Thompson, BJ Webb, and Joan Whitman

McConnell Springs is a natural and historic site at 416 Rebmann Lane in Lexington, Ky. The park has two miles of trails that lets you explore 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.mconnellsprings.org.