

Friends

THE LETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MCCONNELL SPRINGS

McConnell
Springs
LEXINGTON 1775

Volume 27 Issue 1
March 2022

15th Annual

Wine Barrel Tasting for the Springs

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

26
March

Bluegrass
Wineries

Wine Barrel Tasting Returns

by Becci Ray, Chair

Did you know that America's first commercial wine industry started in Kentucky? How fitting that our fundraiser will take you through the Bluegrass area wineries, including the actual site of that first vineyard that began in 1798, not that long after the McConnell brothers and their fellow frontiersmen were exploring in what would become the state of Kentucky!

You can support McConnell Springs with just \$20 and enjoy a beautiful drive to as many as twelve wineries. The first 300 people attending will receive our commemorative wine glass. At wineries that produce their wine on site, you will be able to have a tasting of their latest from the barrel. At wineries that produce off site you will be sampling from bottles. Each winery has its own way of being part of our event so you will want to plan your route (see inside for a map) and try as many as you can from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 26th.

You can use the QR Code in the newsletter to purchase tickets through Eventbrite, or you can find the code on our website and Facebook pages. Scroll through our Facebook site for more information on the participating wineries. Show proof of purchase receipt to one of our volunteers at the first winery you choose. They will give you a glass and direct you to the winery representative.

Find a designated driver and enjoy your day of wine and touring! Your help adds to the upkeep of the park, including many free events throughout the year. We appreciate our supporters!

Inside: Wine Barrel Tasting Map!



Dear Friends...

Charlie Boland, Chair

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 David Baird, Treasurer
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 Jim Rebmann,
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 Fundraising
 Renee Williams,
 Promotions &
 Newsletter Editor
 Renee Williams and
 Jon Hagee, Website

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 Becci Ray
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Parks Representative and Park Naturalist

Steven Rogers

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How great it is to see the return of Spring and everything coming back to life after winter! The same

will be true for McConnell Springs as we see the return of so many great activities at the park. You will find out more about this elsewhere in the newsletter, but let me say right at the outset, "It will be great to see you at the park!"

When I first joined the FOMS board in 2012, one of the first people I met was Sherrell Brown. Sherrell was a bundle of positive energy and tenacity, always involved and helpful with so many of the activities at the park. She served several years as board secretary, faithfully documenting meetings and decisions and helping us to keep things straight. She cared about both the big picture and the details, and when there was sleeve rolling up to be done, hers stayed rolled up consistently. When she encountered health issues, Sherrell may have been small in stature but she fought like a champion with courage, a sincere faith, and abiding hope. Borrowing the words of a friend from days gone by, I want to thank Sherrell for being the kind of person who always chose to light a can-



dle, instead of cursing the darkness. Sherrell Brown passed after a courageous battle with cancer in late December. On behalf of the entire board, I want to thank her for her service and thank her husband, Jerry, for sharing her with us over the years. The FOMS board will miss her greatly.

I want to also thank our board members for their diligent engagement and support for the park. We are fortunate to have such an active and involved board and it's a privilege to serve alongside them. Thanks also to Steven Rogers for his able leadership of the park, and to the strong team that keeps things going.

Please come see us at the park soon, and we would be so grateful for your support as you consider your charitable giving. See how you can partner with us elsewhere in the newsletter. So many great events and activities are packed into this special place – we are looking ahead to a great 2022! Our sincere thanks for being there for us.

Legacy Donations

In 2014 The Friends board entered into an agreement with the Blue Grass Community Foundation (BGCF) to create and manage an endowed fund (EF) for the benefit of McConnell Springs Park. The Friends transferred \$20,000 of its existing endowed fund to the BGCF as part of the agreement. These funds became actively managed. This agreement also gave our donors an opportunity to add to the EF by checking the box on The Friends – Membership form found in our newsletter to indicate their contribution is to go to the EF. We consider these donors as Legacy members. These members have donated an additional \$6,120 over the years. Our EF has grown to \$43,839. Each year the BGCF authorizes money to be withdrawn for grants, in our case, to the Friends for the benefit of McConnell Springs Park. That authorization currently stands at \$4,989. We have not exercised this withdrawal privilege to date. No matter what level of donation you wish to make, whether it is to the current general fund or the endowed fund, The Friends greatly appreciated your support.

Here are the Legacy members to date:

Patricia A. Anderson
 Alice L. Bradshaw
 Bruce and Elizabeth Broudy
 Nelson and Marie Copeland, Jr.
 Linda Sue Gill
 Robert Kelley and Maryann McCauley
 Stuart L. Lowenthal
 Richard and Annette P. Mathy
 Margaret Carroll Orr
 Peter Perry
 Jane E. Phillips
 Jesse E. and Betty Sisken
 Dr. Vivien M. Smith
 Douglas and Melissa Stephan
 Carl Wardle
 Dale and Anne Rice Wilson
 Darreldean Winkler
 Ballard Wright

Barrel Tasting **WINERIES** ... We Thank

These directions

F. Wildside Winery & Vineyard
 5500 Troy Pk., | Versailles, KY 40383
 859.879.3982
www.wildsidewinery.com



Take the Blue Grass Parkway to the Versailles exit then turn left (away from Versailles) for 3.5 miles.

G. 1922 House Vineyards & Winery
 3155 Keene Rd., | Nicholasville, KY 40356
 859.321.3533 | www.1922housewinery.com
 From Lexington, south on Harrodsburg Rd. In 7.8 miles from New Circle Rd. turn right onto KY169 (Keene Rd.). Winery is about 1/2 mile on the left. From the lane, follow signs to winery.



H. First Vineyard Winery
 5800 Sugar Creek Pk. | Nicholasville, KY 40356
 859.948.4208 | www.firstvineyard.net
 (Man o' War to Rt. 1268 - 13 miles) US 27S through Nicholasville by the by-pass; turn LEFT (1268) at Sugar Creek Resort sign; after 4.3 miles continue straight on Sugar Creek Pk. for 2 miles; turn right onto gravel road to winery.



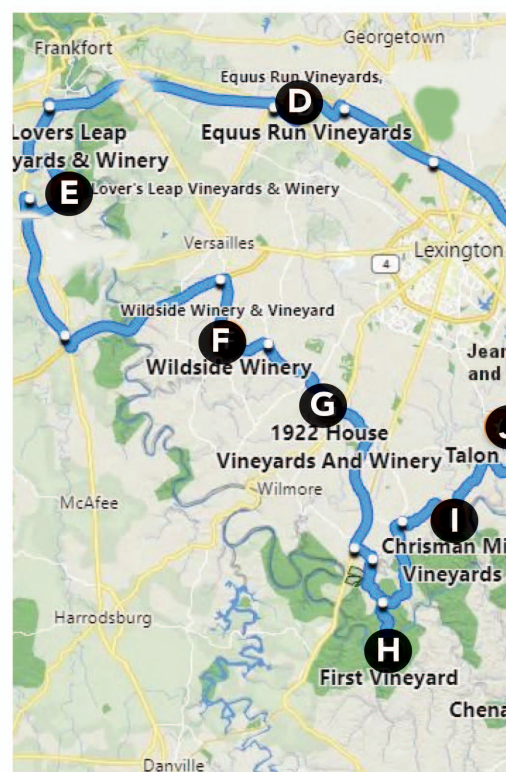
I. Chrisman Mill Vineyards
 2385 Chrisman Mill Rd.,
 Nicholasville, KY 40346
 859.881.5007 | www.chrismanmill.com
 Take Nicholasville Rd. (US 27) to slight right at Lexington Rd./US-27 S. Turn left at US-27-BR, then left at KY-39. Turn left at Chrisman Mill Rd./KY-1541



J. Talon Winery & Vineyards
 7086 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington, KY 40515
 859.971.3214 | www.talonwine.com
 From Lexington take Tates Creek Road 5 miles past the intersection at Man O War Blvd. The winery is on the left.



E. Lovers Leap Vineyards & Winery
 1180 Lanes Mill Rd., Lawrenceburg, KY
 502.839.1299 | www.loversleapwine.com
 Take Bluegrass Pkwy. to Lawrenceburg (US 127). Follow US 127 Bypass north to Frankfort. After @6 miles, turn right on Frankfort Bypass. Proceed 1 mile and turn left on Route 303. 3.2 miles, turn left on Lanes Mill Rd. and follow to winery.



K. Jean Farris Winery & Bistro
 6825 Old Richmond Rd.,
 Lexington, KY 40515 | 859.263.9400
www.jeanfarris.com
 From Lexington, Richmond Road to Park. Turn right on Old Richmond Road. 1.5 miles. Winery is on the left.



Purchase your pass through our EventBrite QR code on the left. Then on March 26 a McConnell Springs commemorative glass and be directed to the wineries.

nk YOU!

are from Lexington to the winery. Use your smart phone mapping app for better directions from your current location.

40342
om
exit #59
oward L-burg.
Rd. (Bus 127 South).
26 (Ninevah Rd.). In about
d winery is one mile on right.



D. *Equus Run Vineyards*

1280 Moores Mill Rd., Midway, KY 40347
859.846.9463 | www.equusrunvineyards.com
Travel US 421/Leestown Road West toward
Midway and Frankfort. Continue 7.8 miles past
New Circle Road. Turn right onto US 62 and travel
1.3 miles. Turn left onto Moores Mill Rd. & travel
1.9 miles. The vineyard is on the left.



C. *Hamon Haven Winery*

7041 Rockwell Rd. | Winchester,
KY 40391 | 859.745.4161
www.hamonhavenwinery.com/
[facebookhamonhavenwinery](https://www.facebook.com/hamonhavenwinery)



From Lexington take Rt 60 toward Winchester. Turn left
on Clintonville Rd. (KY 1678). Cross over I64. Turn right onto
Rockwell Rd. (KY 2888). Winery on the left.

B. *Harkness Edwards Vineyards*

5199 Combs Ferry Rd., | Winchester, KY 40391
859.644.5140 | www.harknessedwardsvineyards.com

From Lexington: Get on Richmond Rd. until it turns
into Athens Boonesboro Rd. Continue on
Athens Boonesboro Rd. for about 9.5 miles
until stop sign at a fork in the road. Take a sharp left
(almost making a U-turn) onto Combs Ferry Rd. Drive
1.4 miles on Combs Ferry to 5199 Combs Ferry Rd. on
your left.



A. *Chenault Winery*

2285 Barnes Mill Rd. | Richmond, KY. 40475
859.328.7773 | www.chenaultvineyards.com

Get on I-75 S and travel south towards Richmond.
Take exit 87 from I-75 S to KY-876 W/Barnes Mill Rd. in
Richmond. Turn right onto KY-876 W/Barnes Mill Rd.
& travel West for 6 miles. Winery on the right.



L. *Grimes Mill Winery*

6707 Grimes Mill Rd. | Lexington, KY 40515
859.543.9691 | www.grimesmillwinery.com

From Lexington, Richmond Road at Jacobson Park. Turn right
on Old Richmond Rd. go 5.5 miles. Turn left on Grimes Mill Rd.
to winery immediately on left.



Springs volunteer will be at each of the wineries to confirm your receipt.
ed to the winery tasting area.



Notes from the Naturalist...

by Steven Rogers

Spring is here! After a brutal winter with record snowfall, freezing rain, bitter temperatures and wind it is finally time to get out and enjoy the warm weather. If you

have cabin fever and need to get out into nature then there is no better place than McConnell Springs. The trail system at the park is a great distance and difficulty level for just about everyone to enjoy together. If you do visit the park, please be sure to remember some of our guidance for ensuring the wildlife in the park is protected: no pets (unless they are an ADA compliant Service Animal) and please stay on established trails only. The staff at the park love dogs but we ask people not to bring their pets to reduce the stress and impacts on wildlife that would come with having them here regularly. There are many other great dog walking options in Lexington Parks just not at the Springs. Staying on the established trails

reduces impacts on native plants that can be found at McConnell Springs. Low growing spring wildflowers are beautiful to see but may be easily missed prior to blooming so if you're going off trail you could destroy these flowers before they have a chance to show off. At this time there are no visitation or mask restrictions, but please be mindful that those restrictions could be put back into place if deemed necessary by local leaders. The Friends of McConnell Springs and Lexington Parks invites everyone to come to McConnell Springs and enjoy the park, but be sure to help us protect this valuable resource during your visit.

Welcome John Fitch

The Friends of McConnell Springs would like to welcome John Fitch to the Springs...

Hello! I'm John Fitch, and I work for Americorps. What I do, shortened, is environmental education for Fayette County. What I specifically do, however, is more diverse than that statement would let on. I go around to schools and parks to introduce people to animals they know. I teach them about how they work and what they do, valuable elements of the animals' ecology, and their interactions with the environment. I do this in hopes of inspiring people in the same way I was inspired when I was younger. The wild world is fascinating, yet so many people are unaware of its wonders.

History To Chew On

To all our fans of History To Chew On we have missed you and not forgotten you during this difficult Covid time. We will not have the program in 2022 for the protection of our presenter's and our audience but will return with a full program in 2023. Please keep a date in your calendar for the second Tuesday of each month from June to October in 2023. Stay safe and we look forward to see you next year.

Memorial Tree Program

The Friends of McConnell Springs and Lexington Parks and Recreation are excited to announce the start of a Memorial Tree Program at McConnell Springs. This program will allow visitors to have a tree planted in memory of a loved one that has passed or in honor of someone they want to celebrate. The trees will be planted at McConnell Springs as a lasting legacy that will help to replenish the urban forest that we work to maintain at the park. More details about the program will be available soon on www.mcconnellsprings.org, which will include donation cost, the application process, and the kick off date. Anyone that is interested in getting on our initial list of participants can contact Steven Rogers, Park Manager, at srogers@lexingtonky.gov.

• 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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Friends Information

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

Facebook: Be our FRIEND:

<https://www.facebook.com/McConnellSprings-293733489824/>

Website: www.McConnellSprings.org

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

Editor: Reneé Williams

Contributors: Charlie Boland, Jon Hagee, Karen Higdon, Dick Mathy, Don Powell, Steven Rogers, and Laurie Thomas

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.McConnellSprings.org.