

Friends

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MCCONNELL SPRINGS

McConnell
Springs
LEXINGTON 1775

Volume 29 Issue 1
March 2023

Barrel Tasting *for the Springs*



Mark your calendars for our 2023 Wine Barrel Tasting fundraiser on March 25th from 11 am to 5 pm. Follow us on Facebook for updates or look for info on our website, <https://mcconnellsprings.org/>. The wineries have both indoor and outdoor areas, so this is a "rain or shine event".

If you have not participated in the fundraiser before, make 2023 the year you do! Call your friends and tell them how much fun they could have, driving through the Bluegrass, visiting wineries, and sampling Kentucky wines this spring. We have 13 wineries participating this year and each one will be a unique experience. If you are really in the mood to party, get a group large enough to hire a party bus or fill a car and have a designated driver friend!

All tickets sold will be through Eventbrite. (Our volunteers are not handling charge cards or cash transactions.) You will show your proof of ticket purchase at the first winery you choose to visit. You will then be given our commemorative wine glass, before participating in the tasting. At the next winery you will just need to show the volunteer your new glass.

The cost is \$22 and goes towards the many free programs we have at McConnell Springs Park.

Tickets went on sale March 1st at noon. You can access Eventbrite through the QR code or use this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/barrel-tasting-for-the-springs-tickets-538226438767>.



Barrel Tasting
for the Springs

2023

March 25
11 am – 5 pm

begin at one of
13 KY Wineries
See website for locations.

Friends of
McConnell
Springs
LEXINGTON 1775

Purchase your ticket at our
EventBrite QR code or by visiting
McConnellSprings.org

Inside: Notes from the Naturalist



Dear Friends...

Charlie Boland, Chair

By the time you read this, we will have already surpassed the 40,000 visitor mark at the park for the fiscal year – I hope that includes you, but if not, come on out and join in with those who enjoy McConnell Springs on a regular basis!

We have a lot going on at the park. The annual Wine Barrel Tasting is March 25, Founders’ Day is May 20, and our History to Chew On series starts in June. We are considering a new expansion of our existing trails that will provide fully ADA compliant options, regularly hosting school groups / field trips, working in partnership with the city on future options for the William McConnell house, and brainstorming ideas for the celebration of Lexington’s 250th anniversary in 2025, which all started right here at McConnell Springs.

The board is working hard on behalf of the community to preserve and use McConnell Springs in accordance with its three-prong mission: preserving history, protecting the natural environment, and providing a multitude of educational opportunities for our guests. Read more about the above events elsewhere in the newsletter and sign up to participate, or just make your way to the park!

This place would not exist but for the visionary efforts of several key people in the community. Many of them have served on the board over the years, and we want to spotlight their contributions in our upcoming newsletters. Please enjoy the first installment of the ‘Spotlight’ series in our next newsletter.

Finally, please visit us anytime you can, and support us financially or as a volunteer if possible. There are several ways to do this, including pavers, tree-planting memorial, or general donations that help sustain our efforts to provide events, keep everyone abreast of activities, events, and future plans, and support our overall mission and purpose. Find information about this elsewhere in the newsletter, and thanks so much to all of you who have volunteered your time or made financial contributions to sustain our efforts. We could not do it without you!

Sincerely and on behalf of
The Friends board,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Executive Committee**
 Isabel Yates,
 Chair Emeritus
 Charlie Boland, Chair
 Dick Mathy, Treasurer
 Don Powell, Secretary
 Jim Rebmann,
 Vice Chair Emeritus
 Joan Whitman, Chair Elect
 Jake Karnes, Past Chair

Standing Committees

- Steven Rogers, Education
 Richard A. Mathy,
 Fundraising
 Renee’ Williams,
 Promotions &
 Newsletter Editor
 Renee’ Williams and
 Jon Hagee, Website

At-Large Board Members

- Peter Andrew
 David Baird
 Josh Fain
 Jon Hagee
 Karen Higdon
 Elizabeth McGee Lewis
 John Kiefer, Board
 Member Emeritus
 Alyssa Luckett
 Richard A. Mathy
 Doug McLaren
 Don Powell
 Becci Ray
 Laurie Thomas
 Franklin D. Thompson
 Renee’ Williams

**Parks Representative
and Park Naturalist**

- Steven Rogers

Thank YOU for Giving!

Many thanks are extended to the individuals, partners, and sponsors who contributed to The Friends of McConnell Springs. We would like to recognize three trailblazing sponsors (\$+1,000) from 2022: Vulcan Materials Company to enhance the educational experience at the park, Jerry Brown for Rita’s Ride (educational grants) in memory of Sherrill Brown, and the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the historical and educational experience for the community. In addition, we wish to thank the 119 new and renewing members in 2022 for their support.



Notes from the Naturalist...

by Steven Rogers

Water, water everywhere, but not a drop that you should drink! Most people would correctly guess that McConnell Springs is known for the water that flows up out of the ground helping give the park its name. If you've visited the park after heavy rain then it is easy to see the impact of the water draining through the karst spring system. Some days you can hear the Boils before you see the water because it is flowing with such extreme pressure after a significant down-pour. Spring showers mean more rain flowing into the park from all directions which creates unique issues for park staff. The park is a low point from all directions and naturally, the site where gravity will pull water. When planning for trails or any other installation at the park we have always had to consider how water would impact

that project. Rain gardens have been installed near the front of the Kentucky American Water Education Center to control runoff from surrounding areas. These gardens catch water and slow it down before it exits the park and, hopefully, helping to clean it as well. New installations in the rain garden that were constructed by Geomancer Permaculture in 2022, help to catch more runoff and slow the flow of rain-water. Geomancer's owner and operator, Leandro Braga, designed the pools to catch sediment and to slowly filter water flow. The pools also create habitat space for animals and native plants. The park also focused heavily on new drainage installations along the entirety of the trail system to lessen the impact of water flow on the ground. The work will be ongoing to keep water moving across the trails towards the springs, but it is an effort that the staff enjoys and values.

Bluegrass Birding Festival Held April 29

Lexington Parks and Recreation, The Friends of McConnell Springs, and our partners at Wild Birds Unlimited are excited to announce the return of the Bluegrass Birding Festival! The event will take place at McConnell Springs on April 29, and will consist of activities for bird lovers of all experience levels.

This free event will have guided bird walks for beginners and experienced birders, vendors and exhibitors, crafts for children, regular presentations throughout the day, food trucks, music, and more. A full list of activities will be available closer to the event and will be shared by The Friends of McConnell Springs on their social media accounts. If you have questions about the event please feel free to call the park at 859-225-4073 to speak to the staff. We can't wait to see you at the Bluegrass Birding Festival!



Upcoming Dates Never Looked so Good...

McConnell Springs is in full swing with our annual events finally being held once again at the park, so don't forget to add these dates to your calendars!

Lexington's Founders' Day - May 20, 2023

Join us as we celebrate our frontier heritage and walk back through time. Our annual Founders' Day is a full day of frontier reenactment, traditional mu-

sic, wildlife and exhibits as we celebrate our themes of nature, history and education. This is a free, entertaining event for all ages.

History to Chew On Series -

Tuesday, June 13 - Murder on a Steam Boat

Tuesday, July 11 - First successful Powered Flight in KY

Tuesday, August 8 - Governor Thomas E. Bramlette

Tuesday, September 12 - Kentucky Politics in the 1800's

Tuesday, October 10 - Camp Nelson

16th Annual Barrel Tasting for the Springs



March
25

2023

begin at one of
13 KY Wineries



Purchase your pass through our EventBrite QR code on the left. Then on March 25 a McConnell Springs volunteer will be at each of the wineries to confirm your receipt. Once this has been done, you will receive a McConnell Springs commemorative glass and be directed to the winery tasting area.

These directions are from Lexington to the



G. Rising Sons
975 Frankfort Rd., | Lawrenceburg, KY 40342
502.600.0224 | www.risingsonswinery.com
Enter Lawrenceburg on US 127 S from Frankfort, turn left at the first McDonald's (Intersection of US 127 business/ HWY 151) onto Frankfort Rd. which is US 127 business. We are 1/2 mile on the right.



H. 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.



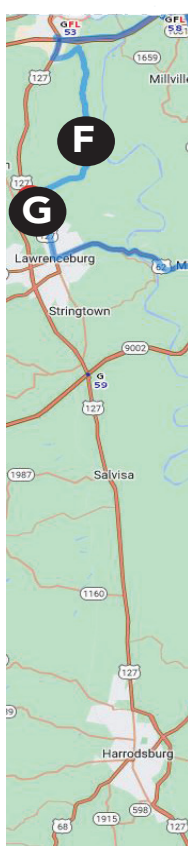
L. 1922 House Vineyards & Winery
3155 Keene Rd., | Nicholasville, KY 40356
859.321.3533 | www.1922housewinery.com
From Lexington, south on Harrodsburg Rd. In 7.8 miles from New Circle Rd. turn right onto KY169 (Keene Rd.). Winery is about 1/2 mile on the left. From the lane, follow signs to winery.



J. 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 275 through Nicholasville by the bypass; 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.



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



F. Lov
11:
50:
Tak
(US
Aft
an
Lar

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

Lovers Leap Vineyards & Winery

180 Lanes Mill Rd., Lawrenceburg, KY 40342

859.2839.1299 | www.loveleapwine.com

Take Bluegrass Pkwy. to Lawrenceburg exit #59

(US 127). Follow US 127 Bypass north toward L-burg.

At 6 miles, turn right on Frankfort Rd. (Bus 127 South). Proceed 1 mile

and turn left on Route 326 (Ninevah Rd.). In about 3.2 miles, turn left on Lanes Mill Rd. and winery is one mile on right.



E. Prodigy Vineyard and Winery

4626 Versailles Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601

502.352.9400 | www.prodigyvineyards.com

Prodigy Vineyards is located in Versailles, KY. From

the west head East on US60 two miles past the I-64 exit.

The vineyard will be on the left. When traveling from Lexington or Versailles, travel West on US60 and the vineyard will be on your 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. Jean Farris Winery & Bistro

6825 Old Richmond Rd.,

Lexington, KY 40515 | 859.263.9463

www.jeanfarris.com

From Lexington, Richmond Road at Jacobson Park. Turn

right on Old Richmond Rd. Go 5 miles. Winery is on the

left.



M. Grimes Mill Winery

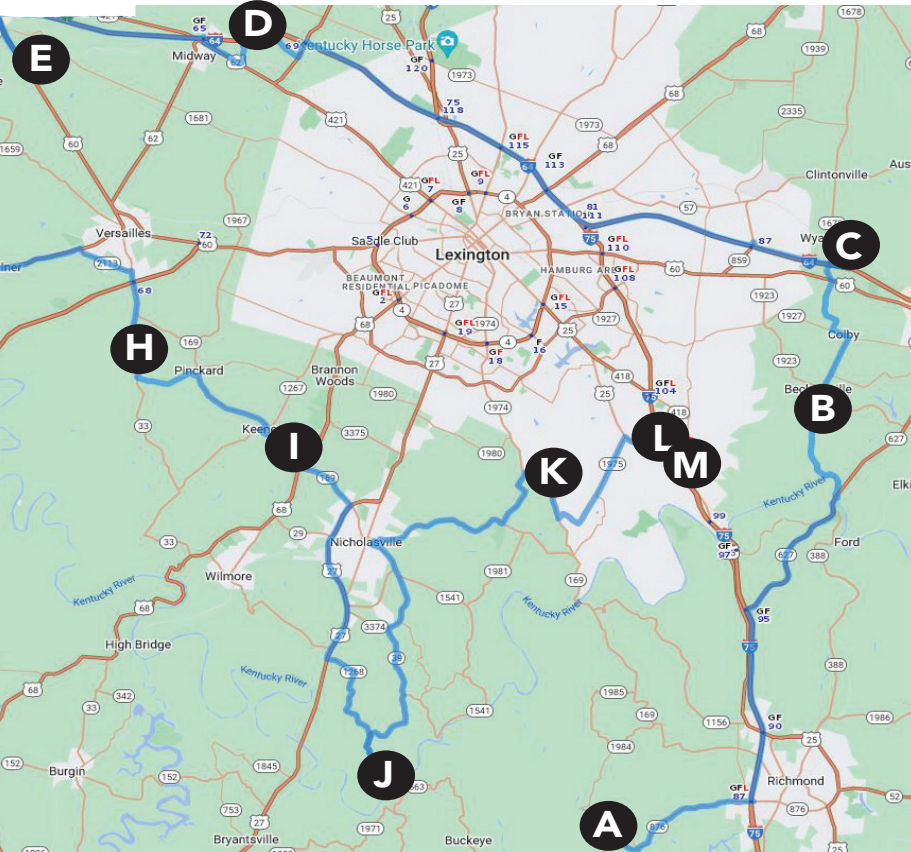
6707 Grimes Mill Rd. | Lexington, KY 40515

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.





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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lexington, Ky
Permit No. 224

Friends Information

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

Facebook: Be our FRIEND: -

<https://www.facebook.com/McConnell-Springs-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.

Please email my newsletter to: _____

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: Peter Andrew, Charlie Boland, Steven Rogers, and Becci Ray

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.