

Friends

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MCCONNELL SPRINGS

McConnell
Springs
LEXINGTON 1775

Volume 31 Issue 2
May 2025

Founders' Day...A Time of Celebration

by Charlie Boland, Chair

From frontier life to woodcarvers, to tomahawk throwing and traditional music, Founders' Day has something for all. Celebrated on May 31 at the park from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Founders' Day will feature a variety of educational exhibits, traditional music, wildlife, and much more from our frontier and native American heritage (see insert for more activities).

Starting off the day will be the presentation of colors by the local chapter of Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). We will be welcomed by local dignitaries and have a special introductory welcome from Wallace McConnell, a direct descendant of the McConnell family. In addition, we will recognize a generous donation by Sons of the American Revolution, honor our 2024 Volunteers of the Year Dry Stone Conservancy and Steve Beckelheimer, hear from the local 250 LEX celebration planning team, and announce an exciting new event for Fall 2025. Concluding a day full of activities will be a processional featuring the traditional music of WSR Pipes and Drums.

Throughout the day you can participate in a variety of hands-on activities, enjoy musical performances, see interesting exhibits, and speak with reenactors about life in the late 1700's. A special thank you to C&R Asphalt and other businesses who help us with overflow parking. See you at the Springs!





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 and Park Naturalist**
 Jennifer Meunier



Dear Friends...

by Charlie Boland, Chair

Thanks to all our wonderful donors, those honoring Isabel Yates' legacy and those supporting the park in general- you make such a difference and we could not do it without you! All contributions benefit McConnell Springs Park directly. If there are any errors or omissions, please let us know by contacting Dick Mathy at treasurer@mcconnellsprings.org.

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FOUNDERS' DAY MCCONNELL SPRINGS

LEXINGTON, KY



**MAY 31
2025**

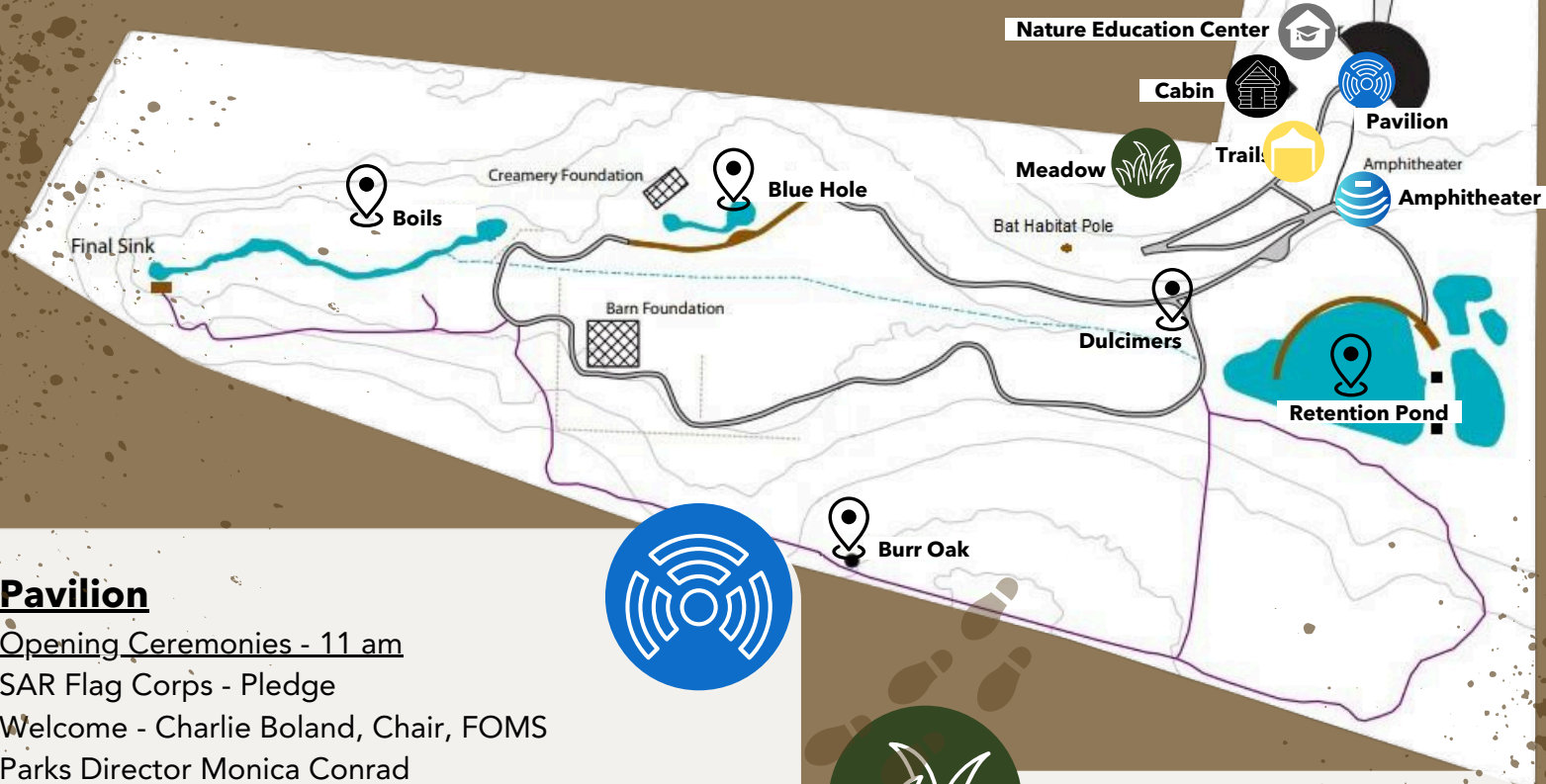
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**McConnell Springs Park
416 Rebmann Lane**

MCCONNELLSPRINGS.ORG



Friends of
**McConnell
Springs**
LEXINGTON 1775



Pavilion

Opening Ceremonies - 11 am

SAR Flag Corps - Pledge

Welcome - Charlie Boland, Chair, FOMS

Parks Director Monica Conrad

Councilmember Jennifer Reynolds

Mayor Linda Gorton

Welcome - William McConnell Descendants

250LEX - Kip Cornett

2024 Volunteers of the Year - Dry Stone Conservancy &
Steve Beckelheimer

2025 New Fall Event Announcement

SAR Bench Dedication

12:00 pm

Children's Activities

Pop-up Interpretation

2:45 pm

WSR Pipes and Drums

Closing Remarks



Meadow

Butter Churning

Cloth Dyeing

Flintlock Demonstrations

Traditional Native Flutes

Atlatl & Tomahawk Throw & Archery



Map Stations

Blue Hole

Boils

Burr Oak

Dulcimers

Retention Pond

Tents/Pavilion

Woodcarvers

LFUCG Environmental Quality

Dulcimer Group

Kentucky American Water

Lexington Chapter NSDAR



Amphitheater

Scottish Irish Balladeer - Music

Appalachian Music / Dancing

Traditional Folk Dance

Bluegrass Band



Nature Education Center

Longrifle Demo

Cpt. John Waller Chapter NSDAR

Hammer Dulcimer, Bowed Psaltery



Cabin/Trails

Cabin Crew

Settlers Way of Life

Settlers Cooking

Blacksmith / Forge

Critters in the Classroom BIOSE

Lexington the Owl

Dulcimer



***C&R Asphalt and other businesses
who help us with overflow parking!***



Notes from the Naturalist...

by Jennifer Meunier

Spring has sprung at McConnell Springs Park and the magic of the season is on full display with wildflowers, flowering trees and an abundance of wildlife. Bird-watching enthusiasts have been visiting the park in greater numbers with the hope of catching a glimpse of some of our migrating feathered friends. Wild Birds Unlimited – Lexington held their annual Bluegrass Birding Festival event with success and helped us to upgrade our bird feeders at the park as well. We also just hosted Parks May the 4th Be With You program, an annual Star Wars themed event, despite the weather the patio and Education Center were bustling

with characters of all ages. To round out big events at the Park this Spring, the celebration of Lexington's founding 250 years ago will be on full display with the Friends annual Founders Day celebration. We are excited for the expanded programming this year throughout the park, which includes historical information prior to the naming of Lexington in 1775. We hope you will visit during the numerous events and programs that are hosted at the park throughout the year – and please take time to stop in and view the displays and content in the Education Center and let us know what you think!

History to Chew On Series Starts Again in June

History to Chew On, will be held again this year on the following dates: June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, and October 14. Talks start at 6 p.m. and last about an hour, depending on questions. See below for this free lineup of speakers.

June 10

Telling the Whole Story:

Black History at Ashland

Speaker: Eric Brooks

This presentation will provide some perspective of the people of color, enslaved and employed, who lived and worked at Ashland from 1808-1948. This is a story of resistance and resilience. Black people at Ashland had rich and interesting lives and created agency for themselves even though they faced injustice and racism on a constant basis. Black people at Ashland were rarely able to record their stories or preserve evidence of their lives. We have to tease that information from a range of sources, and it often comes in fragments that we must assemble into stories.



July 8

The Journey of the Osage

Speaker: Lou Anna Red Corn

The presentation will be about the movement of the Osage people from the Ohio Valley to Indian Territory- present day Oklahoma.



August 12

Governor Shelby House and Family

Speaker: Wesley Francis

September 9

History of the Kentucky Long Rifle

Speaker: Mel Hankla

October 14

The life of Harland Hubbard Artist and shanty boater on Ohio and Kentucky rivers.

Speaker: Jessica Whitehead

Learn more on our website at
www.McConnellSprings.org



Barrel Tasting

Our eighteenth Barrel Tasting for the Springs was a success with over 340 people attending. Thank you to all who came, to our volunteers, and to the fourteen wineries who participated!



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

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Website: <https://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

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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, Becci Ray, Jennifer Meunier, 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.