Friends



Volume 31 Issue1 March 2025

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MCCONNELL SPRINGS



A Day of Fun While Supporting the Springs

This year our 18th wine barrel tasting event celebrates Lexington's 250th year! 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 and try as many as you can from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 29th.

Tickets are \$25 and available on Eventbrite. Scan the QR code above or visit https://mcconnellsprings.org/ and click the purchase tickets here link from the homepage. See the map insert to choose your starting point and plan your route from there. At your first winery, show the on-site McConnell Springs volunteer your Eventbrite proof of purchase, receive a McConnell Springs wine glass, and be directed to the winery tasting. Keep the glass to use at your next wineries!

We have 14 wineries to choose from, including a new participant: Pike Street Wine House in Cynthiana! 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!

We would like to thank our wineries because without them this annual fundraiser wouldn't be possible.

1922 House Vineyards & Winery • Chenault Vineyards

- Equus Run Vineyards First Vineyard Winery Ghost Fox Winery Grimes Mill Winery Hamon Haven Winery
- Harkness Edwards Vineyards Lovers Leap Vineyards
- & Winery Pike Street Wine House Prodigy Vineyards and Winery Rising Sons Winery •

Talon Winery & Vineyards • Wildside Winery

Honoring and Remembering at the Springs

Support McConnell Springs' educational programs and enhance the park's tree diversity! By purchasing a tree for \$100 donation, one will be planted in a Roots for Remembrance plot during the planting season.



Inside:



BOARD OF DIRECTORS Executive Committee Isabel Yates,

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Doug McLaren
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Becci Ray
Laurie Thomas
Samuel Thomas
Franklin D. Thompson
Renee' Williams

Parks Representative and Park Naturalist Jennifer Meunier





Happy 250th Anniversary to Lexington! As

we enter 2025, a year-long celebration is underway through the work of the 250Lex Commission, and as the founding site of Lexington, McConnell Springs Park and the Friends group is excited to be a part of the party! Congratulations to the 250Lex Commission, led by co-chairs Eunice Beatty and Kip Cornett along with a host of other great commission members, on putting together a great year-long celebration. Please go to the official 250Lex website at https://250lex.com/ to find out more, and while you are there, check out the fabulous tribute song some of my musical friends put together to help kick things off - "We're Gonna Start the Party" a fun trip down Lexington's memory lane that will keep your toes tapping and bring an all-out grin to your face!

Thanks to Becci Ray and the Barrel Tasting Committee for their great work in producing the upcoming Barrel Tasting event. Information and a registration link can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. This is a key annual fundraiser for the Friends group and so important to our board's mission to support the park. Here's hoping for a good weather day and a great turn-

out for the wine aficionados among us!

In addition to the above we are planning many other activities throughout the year that you won't want to miss. Please check out the other events going on at McConnell Springs on the Friends website at https://mcconnellsprings.org/ and also the LFUCG Parks website at https://www.lexingtonky.gov/playing/ parks-natural-areas/natural-areas/mcco-<u>nnell-springs-park</u>. The awesome parks staff produces so many great programs and events, and as we begin to exit what has been a fairly harsh winter, we invite you to come on out to the park to enjoy all this beautiful place has to offer. While you are here, check out the newly installed 'Roots for Remembrance' tree next to the entrance of the Kentucky American Nature Education Center.

One final note - Friends, thanks so much to all of you who have volunteered your time or dollars to sustain our efforts. We could not do it without you!

Stay in Touch

The Friends of McConnell Springs are thrilled to announce our newest communication outlet: Instagram. Give us a follow at the same handle as Facebook, and tell your friends (or see back page for URL's)! Stay in touch with the latest on events and fundraisers for McConnell Springs on either social media channel. You can also find us on our website at https://mcconnellsprings.org/!



@McConnellSpringsPark



@McConnellSpringsPark







4. 1922 House Vineyards & Winery 3155 Keene Rd., Nicholasville, KY www.1922housewinery.com 859.321.3533

Monterey

HARVAN SEDIM

Harkness Edwards

H.

5199 Combs Ferry Rd.,

Vinevards

Winchester, KY

859.644.5140

WEYARD

Lovers Leap Vineyards & Winery

1180 Lanes Mill Rd.,

Lawrenceburg, KY

502.839.1299

www.harknessedwardsvineyards.com

B. Chenault Winery

2284 Barnes Mill Rd., Richmond, KY www.chenaultvineyards.com



(E)

Equus Run Vineyards

1280 Moores Mill Rd., Midway, KY www.equusrunvineyards.com 859.846.9463



eport

Frankfort

D. First Vineyard Winery

859.948.4208 | www.firstvineyard.net 5800 Sugar Creek Pk, Nicholasville, KY

awrenceburg (62)

E. Ghost Fox Winery

GHÖST FOX 502.553.8378 | https://ghostfoxwinery.com/ 2385 Chrisman Mill Rd., Nicholasville, KY

F. Grimes Mill Winery

www.grimesmillwinery.com 6707 Grimes Mill Rd. Lexington, KY 859.368.7148



Hamon Haven Winery G

www.hamonhavenwinery.com/ 859.745.4161



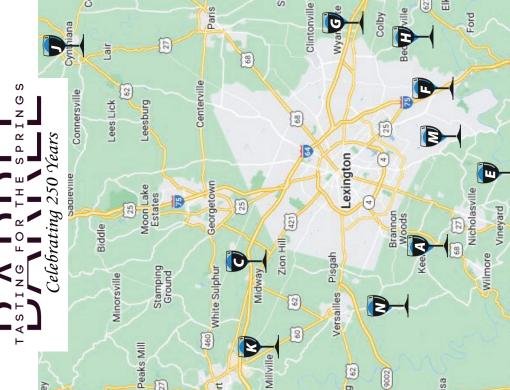


Salvisa

7041 Rockwell Rd., Winchester, KY

facebookhamonhavenwinery





PIKE STREET WINE HOUSE

J. Pike Street Wine House

132 E. Pike Street,

www.loversleapwine.com

https://www.pikestreetwinehouse.com/

859.569.3204

Cynthia, KY

Prodigy Vineyard and Winery

M.

4626 Versailles Rd.

www.prodigyvineyards.com

502.352.9400

Frankfort, KY

Talon Winery & Vineyards 7086 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington, KY Z. B Stringtown

High Bridge

68

www.talonwine.com 859.971.3214

www.risingsonswinery.com

Lawrenceburg, KY

502.600.0224

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975 Frankfort Rd.,

Rising Sons



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Richmond 52

www.wildsidewinery.com 5500 Troy Pk., 859.879.3982 Versailles, KY



firm your receipt. You will receive a McConnell Springs commemorative glass and be directed to the winery tasting area.



Purchase your pass through our EventBrite QR code on the left. On March 29 a McConnell Springs volunteer will be at each of the wineries to con-

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

Buckeye

White Oak Bryantsville

Harrodsburg Burgin



Notes from the Naturalist...

by Jennifer Meunier

I am pleased to report that the Park sustained minimal damage with the

winter storms, the tree crutches did their job, and the Bur Oak continues to stand sentinel along the trail as a point of interest to visitors. Speaking of visitors, we welcomed 82,778 visitors to the Park in 2024, and with the 250th anniversary of the naming of Lexington, we expect to exceed that number in 2025.

The Park's team and some members of the Friends of McConnell Springs Board recently participated in a workshop to learn more about history of the land and people prior to 1775. We are incredibly grateful for the Friends

financial and community support for this training. The team and I are looking forward to sharing information learned through passive and active programming throughout the year. One such temporary passive installation will be "a walk through time," which will be comprised of interpretive signage along the ADA accessible loop in the park for visitors to enjoy as a self-guided experience – Founders' Day 2025 will be the first installation of this new experience. As always, we welcome you into the Education Center to stop and say hello and to check out our established and seasonal exhibits.



Events to Mark Your Calendars...

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

Barrel Tasting for the Springs

March 29, 2025 - See front page for details.

Founders' Day -

May 31, 2025

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

Roots for Remembrance

A 7-foot metal tree sculpture has been purchased and assembled in the nature center (photo on page 1) and will feature the names of each honored individual engraved on a leaf as a tribute.

Mary Jane "Jamie" Wagoner Applications can be found on our website, at the nature center, or by calling the park at 859-225-4073. The Friends of

McConnell Springs will be happy to mail or email you a Roots for Remembrance form.

History to Chew On Series

We have a great selection of History To Chew On for 2025. The program starts at 6 p.m. is free and lasts about one hour. Mark these dates on your calendars!

June 10

Eric Brooks with Black History At Ashland

July 8

Lou Anna Red Corn with Osage Tribe in Kentucky

August 12

Wesley Francis with Governor Shelby House and Family

September 9

Mel Hankla with History of the Kentucky Long Rifle

October 14

Jessica Whitehead with The life of Harland Hubbard Artist and shanty boater on Ohio and Kentucky River



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

Be Our Friend...

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/mcconnell-springspark/?hl=en or @McConnellSpringsPark

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/McConnell-Springs-293733489824/ or @McConnellSpringsPark

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 Sp P.O. Box 12196 Lexington, KY 40581-2196	orings	
Trailblazer (\$1,000) Founder (\$500+)		(\$100+) teader (\$50+)

Friend (\$49 - under)

Preservationist (\$250+)

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, dedi-

cated 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.