

Friends

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MCCONNELL SPRINGS

McConnell
Springs
LEXINGTON 1775

Volume 30 Issue 3
December 2024

2025 - Year of Celebration

by Kip Cornett

In September of 2023, Mayor Linda Gorton created a 250LEX Commission to help with the acknowledgment and celebration of Lexington's 250th anniversary. A group of civic-minded volunteers then set out to create a yearlong calendar of "Interesting, inclusive and memorable events" for the residents and our visitors to enjoy.

Now, over a year later, 250LEX is coming to life with over 100 events and a month-by-month platform that showcases key elements of the city's makeup - such as Wellness, Equine and the Culinary communities. The 250LEX commission has created several new events as well as enhancing existing events in 2025, many with the hope of becoming legacy events for years to follow the celebratory year.

Within the 250LEX website, you will find everything from information on events to purchasing official gear and important facts and figures about Lexington's past, present and future. 250LEX is a public/private partnership with numerous businesses and individuals contributing to support activities in 2025.

<https://250lex.com/>

From the Friends of McConnell Springs

Happy Holidays



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Parks Representative
and Park Naturalist**

Jennifer Meunier



Dear Friends...

Charlie Boland, Chair

I'm not sure how many would agree, but this has been the most beautiful fall season in central Kentucky that I can ever remember. For those of us who love being outdoors it has been a true gift! We hope you have been able to visit the park at some point along the way to see for yourself – the current visitor count for this year is already over 76,000 and counting...

If you have been here since late September, you may have seen the new wall addition completed by the Dry Stone Conservancy – it is a work of art. The craftsmanship they possess and equip others with through these training and demonstration sessions is remarkable. Thank you, Dry Stone Conservancy, for taking the lead in keeping this skill alive and well, and for your ongoing contributions to beautify our park!

This is a time of year we focus on things to be grateful for, and while every day has its challenges, there are plenty of things that bring gratitude. It is one thing to be thankful; it is something else to outwardly express it. A principle I have tried to live by is as follows: "If you have something good to say about someone, don't just think it – say it." I encourage you to spend some time recalling who has encouraged or helped you in some way, big or small, and find a way to thank them directly. Maybe this season you need to write a letter to someone or take them out for a meal or just have them over – you make the first move and create the opportunity. Maybe it is a parent or sibling, or a close friend, a teacher, a mentor, and work associate, or you fill in the blank. Whose day can you brighten by bringing an unexpected message of thanks for what they have done? Create an opportunity for yourself this season – you – and someone else - will be glad you did!

I am thankful always to our marvelous board members, including two great new additions this year with Samuel Thomas and Tandy Meng, and to the gifted and enthusiastic staff of McConnell Springs Park. Working with these people is a true privilege. When you visit the park, please let the staff know what you love about the park and give them a word of thanks if you have a chance to do so.



A blonde squirrel at McConnell Springs.

In this newsletter you will see many exciting things being planned for 2025. With that in mind, I ask that you please consider the Friends of McConnell Springs in your end-of-year giving. We are so appreciative of your generosity in helping us preserve, promote, and grow the park as one of the most special and unique places in Lexington. Your financial and volunteer support means so much!

On behalf of the board, best wishes to you and your friends and families for a joyful holiday season!



Notes from the Naturalist...

by Jennifer Meunier

As we head into the winter months, I am pleased to share that we have introduced a self-guided experience to the park which is a geology podcast that the Friends of McConnell Springs helped bring to my attention. When visitors come to the park there are rack cards with QR codes to scan and listen to the podcast as you walk the trail, it is a neat immersive experience to add to your visit. The McConnell Springs staff planted 25 trees in the Roots for Remembrance Plot #1 this Fall, thanks to generous donations through the program, and to the volunteer efforts of Dr. Peter Fosl's Environmental Philosophy class at Transylvania University.

The Transy students have been spending part of their class time removing Winter Creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) from Plot #1 of the Roots for Remembrance program, and have started to work on Plot #2. The team and I have some winter projects planned, which includes continued invasive species removal efforts, specific scheduled volunteer days to help with park feature enhancements and more. Please stop in the Education Center during your visit with any questions and the team will be glad to share any updates with you at that time. Thank you for your support of this wonderful park and part of our community, it is a gift to be an ambassador for this special place.

History to Chew On Series in 2025

2024 was another good year for History To Chew On with interesting free talks on the second Tuesday of each month. 2025 will again bring you interesting topics around the history in Kentucky. Our talks will start at 6 p.m. and last about one hour.

Mark those calendars now: June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14

We look forward to seeing you next year on the 250th year of the founding of McConnell Springs and Lexington.

Let Us Help Fullfill Your Christmas Lists

Looking for that unique gift for that special someone? We have gift ideas for you! Visit McConnellSprings.org for more informaiton.



Paver - \$100



Roots for
Remembrance - \$100



McConnell Springs
T-shirt - \$15



Make a Donation
of Any Amount





Put March 29th on your 2025 calendars for our annual Wine Barrel Tasting. We will have new glasses to celebrate Lexington's 250th year and we welcome Pike Street Wine House in Cynthiana to our list of wineries for you to visit! If you would like to volunteer, contact us at Friends@McConnellSprings.org!

Roots for Remembrance

In May 2022, the Roots for Remembrance program was launched to commemorate or honor individuals who have made a significant impact on someone's life. Various tree species are purchased and planted in the park to enhance its biodiversity. So far, 14 trees have been planted, and another 17 were added during the week of November 11th. Applications to join the program are available at the park or on the Friends' website at www.mcconnellsprings.org, and a \$100 donation to the Friends is required to participate. We would like to honor the following:

Sherrell Brown	Odin Kopitzke
Nancy Chesser	Nikita Miroshnickenko
Ava Cohen	Paul Rebmann
Marnie Cohen	Jean Sabharwal
Dean Geronimi	Kennedy Sabharwal
Charles David Greene	Spencer Sabharwal
Dillard Griffin	Sue & Steve Senft
William Gentry Harpole II	Dr. Gregory & Teresa
Sue & John Hicks	Stahr
John Kiefer	Marian Soule
Elizabeth Kopitzke	Robert Dale Thompson



To remember those, you honor and love . . .

Grow Roots of Remembrance with a newly planted tree. Help support educational programming at McConnell Springs with the purchase of a tree to help improve the diversity of trees in the park. After your donation has been received, a tree will be planted within one of the Roots for Remembrance plots at McConnell Springs. The Honoree or donor will be notified of the species of the tree and the plot where it was planted.

Check the Occasion: In Honor of _____, In Memory of _____, Gift _____, or Other _____.

Name of the person being honored with this planting: _____

Name of the person purchasing the tree: _____

Purchaser's email address and/or cell number: _____

How many trees would you like planted: _____ times \$100, total cost \$ _____, check # _____

Name and address of the person that will receive the letter of confirmation:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip: _____

Mail this form with your payment to: Friends, PO Box 12196, Lexington, KY 40581-2196

Buy a Commemorative tree

Roots for Remembrance



Thank YOU for Giving!

Many thanks are extended to the organizations and individuals who contributed to The Friends of McConnell Springs in 2024. Your contributions directly benefit McConnell Springs Park. Though we made every effort to include all donations received in 2024, we apologize if there are any errors or omissions in this list and would appreciate hearing about them. Please contact Dick Mathy at treasurer@mcconnellsprings.org about your concerns.

TRAILBLAZERS (\$1,000+)

Mr. Dillard Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mathy*
The Society of Colonial Wars in
the Commonwealth of KY
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wilson
Vulcan Materials Company

FOUNDER (\$500+)

Usha and Rayudu Polisetty
Charitable Fund

PRESERVATIONIST (\$250+)

Ms. Patricia Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Caudill
Mr. Hal Headley
Ms. Karen Higdon*
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Hillenmeyer
Ms. Jean Sabharwal
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Seiler
Ms. Hanna Smith
Ms. Barbara Sterrett
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Wohlstein

BUILDER (\$100+)

Blue Grass Community
Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Andrew*
Ms. Patricia Anderson
Mr. James Currens
Mr. Jeff Darnall
Mr. Gregory Davis
Mr. & Mrs. James Drye
Ms. Beverly Fortune
Gardenside Green Thumb
Garden Club

Ms. Amy Gilland
Mr. and Mrs. H. Goodman
Ms. Deborah Hallock
Ms. Elizabeth Hampton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hewett
Mr. Kirk Kopitzke
Ms. Rebecca Lesch
Lexington Chapter NS
DAR

Ms. Rebecca Lewis
Ms. Judith Miller
Robert E. Milward Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Cherish Park
Ms. Sandra Senft
Mr. & Mrs. Bernie
Skeeters
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Stephan
Mr. Franklin Thompson*
Ms. Leah Umberg
Mr. & Mrs. George
Voorhees III
Ms. Joan Whitman*
Ms. Isabel Yates*

HOMESTEADER (\$50+)

American Online Giving
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Bloxsom
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Broudy
The Lexington Woman's
Club, Inc.
Ms. Margaret Johnson
Ms. Janet Marshall
Mr. W. Mathews
Ms. Jean Moore

Dr. Ouida Patton
Mr. Charles Sither
Mrs. Alice Taylor
Mr. Albin Whitworth

*Friends of McConnell Springs
Board Member

*To donate scan
the QR code...*





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/>

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
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thy, Tandy Meng, Jennifer Meunier, Becci Ray 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.