

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

December 2022

Events

- January 23—Master Gardener monthly meeting—
- Fall—Lunch & Learn Series
<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/HHHLNL22-23> All programs and links are on our County Calendar

Plant Propagation—

Ed Brown



Just because it's winter doesn't mean you have to stop gardening. Take a chance and try a new method of plant propagation. Take some of those houseplants and see if you can make more. Start easy or jump in and try something challenging. One publication that I like is <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/publications/PDF/FSA-6024.pdf> If you want more suggestions, check with your local Extension Educator.

School Garden Update — *Molly Gassaway*

Students at East, Morrison Gordon, and Amesville Elementary schools have been having lots of fun in their school gardens. CFI's Sprouts program teaches engaging, hands-on lessons all 10 first grade classrooms, both outside during the growing season and inside during the winter months. Goals of the program include growing basic gardening knowledge, exploring the outdoors as a classroom, increasing physical activity, encouraging creativity, promoting healthy food choices, and learning where food comes from. CFI's mission focuses on healthy food for all, so this program was designed to grow the love of gardening at an early age, empowering even the youngest members of our community to grow their own food.



The garden spaces in the Athens City School District are brand new this year, and are designed to be ADA accessible, allowing students to participate in garden-related activities regardless of their physical limitations. While they are still in the works and we have plans for more "centers" to be installed, they flourished this first growing season. Amesville Elementary has newly installed pollinator and sensory gardens, loofah trellises, grape arbors and more. If you haven't seen these amazing spaces yet, please do visit!

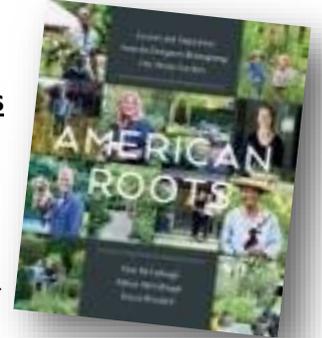
Examples of activities include digging to try to find worm friends, scavenger hunts, pumpkin science, and pollination simulation. A favorite lesson is the "Compost Kitchen," inspired by Master Gardener Volunteer Laura Bennett, where students cut up and mix together things like kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and newspaper buffet-style, making a compost stew to feed the worm friends in the compost bin. When lining up to go in after a recent lesson, students exclaimed "garden time is the best! More fun than PE... even more fun than recess!"



Book Worms — Marcia Burchby



The winter months are the time to snuggle into your chair with tea and your garden journal and make some notes for *next year*. **American Roots: Lessons and Inspiration from the Designers Reimagining Our Home Gardens** by Allison McCullough, Nick McCullough and Teresa Woodard is the perfect book to peruse as you do this. Published in 2022, this book is one of the positive outcomes of the pandemic lockdown. The McCulloughs retreated to their home garden at the start of COVID, along with much of the country, did some revamping and watched their friends' Instagram feeds. They then reached out to gardening friends across the country to explore the idea of sharing their many gardens in a book. They assembled a list of gardeners and professional designers and then proceeded to profile their home gardens; **American Roots** is the beautiful result of their effort.



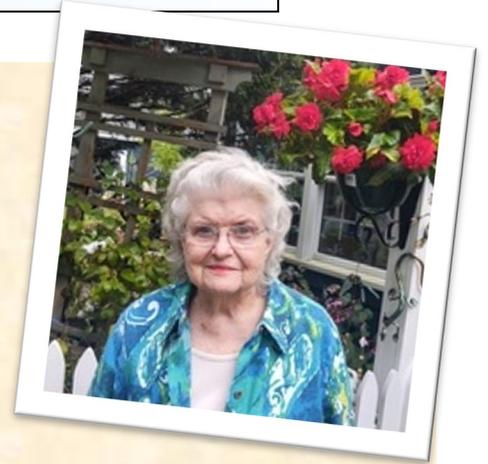
Starting in their own garden in Columbus, Ohio, the McCulloughs, along with friend Teresa Woodward, take us on a transcontinental tour of 20 modern home gardens. Each garden is beautifully photographed, the back story of each garden and owner is detailed, plants are highlighted and each section ends with a "Learn From" list with specific suggestions from that gardener. The book is divided into various regions of the country, but even if you can't grow the plants mentioned, you will find helpful suggestions and design tips. Here are a few of my favorites:

- **Use 'prescription planting' and shop with a spot in mind.
- **Design gardens using views from inside the house to better enjoy the view looking out.
- **Repeat plants throughout the garden (dividing your plants to do this is also economical)
- **Nasturtiums are problem-solver plants
- **Casa Blanca lilies planted next to an outdoor dining area provide fragrance
- **Rock hounding tricks and tips
- **How to plant a 'pocket prairie', starting with less than 100 square feet
- **Stage your pots and planters rather than just scattering them around
- **Embrace a regional ethos and find what is happy and meant to grow in your garden.
- **Plant for the 'betterment of the people, betterment of the space and of the greater landscape' advises Nick.

American Roots is available at the Athens Public Library (just as soon as I return it).

Remembering Mary Culp—Ceil Weldon and Lee Gregg

This year, we lost Mary Culp, a long-time member of the Athens Master Gardeners. Before moving to Athens, she had lived in Hawaii for several years and had developed an appreciation for the beauty and lushness the addition of plants and planting made to communities. One of her goals was to make Athens more attractive, which she did by being a member of the Athens Garden Club and a founding member of Project Plant. These two programs set the stage to make Athens an applicant for America in Bloom. Mary was also a member of the Athens Herb Guild for over 30 years. Mary was thus able to keep the various groups informed about what the others were doing.



When she arrived in Athens, she noticed that the campus had trees and shrubs but little else. Mary pushed the idea of actually designing planting areas around the OU campus.

Mary, being such a gardening enthusiast, was in the first Master Gardener training class in Athens County. She continued to be an active member in the program for over 20 years, until the COVID pandemic. When the Athens County Extension office did not have an assigned agent for a few years, Mary joined a committee of several Master Gardeners to run a training program to keep the Athens Master Gardeners a viable group. For many years Mary was part of the MG training program, teaching the section on house plants, sharing her extensive experience and knowledge on the subject, not to mention sharing many plants with the students! It was also common for Mary to arrive at MG meetings with a basket of cuttings for other Master Gardeners, the progeny of her plants no doubt live on in numerous households in Athens.

In her neighborhood Mary was a well known source of gardening knowledge, and her garden, a beauty spot, was on the annual garden tour more than once. Having lived in Hawaii, she loved tropical plants and had numerous ones which overwintered in her basement and emerged in the summer to the enjoyment of all. A memorable piece of advice on moving big potted plants was "Don't water them for a while or they will be too heavy".



We will miss seeing Mary bearing her plant gifts to meetings, and her neighbors will miss seeing her working in her garden. Mary's philosophy is best stated: "Every Flower is a Soul Blossoming in Nature".



MERRY CHRISTMAS
& Happy New Year