

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

June 2023

Events

- June 26—Master Gardener monthly meeting
- Spring—Lunch & Learn Series
<https://mastergardener.osu.edu/HHHLNL22-23> All programs and links are on our County Calendar

Humane Society Garden Tour — Molly, Ceil, Marcia

“Many gifts come from working with the Earth.” That sentiment was evident in the 8 gardens that were featured this year in the “Plant Some Love” Garden Tour.

Wistendahl Native Plant Garden has over 100 native American species from the Midwestern US. This garden was created as a living museum of our native plants and to encourage visitors and residents to use native plants, which are beneficial to pollinators and native animals, in their landscapes.

Marlene L’Abbe and her fairies are having a garden party on Avon Place. Follow a miniature woodland path and you will enter a magical and welcoming garden with an ‘Infinitree’, wildflowers, ferns, vegetables, koi pond and whimsical creations. Marlene’s art studio opens into the garden, providing a beautiful spot to create and to display her art.

Master Gardener **Ann Brown** and Ken Holyard shared their garden at the May MG meeting and on the garden tour. Their front area includes a stunning goldfish mural by Keith Wilde and perennials a-plenty. The path leads to a fenced area for veggies as well as a trail to the ‘secret garden’—a wooded area full of native plants. Designed by our friend Mason Chambers of Five Springs Nursery, both sides of the house that used to be nothing are now full of interesting colors, textures and whimsical garden art. Neighbors on both sides also welcomed visitors to their yards to admire raised beds containing every vegetable you can imagine as well as tower after tower of strawberries and more varieties of canna than you can imagine. It hardly felt like we were in town, surrounded by beauty and privacy.

Cindy and Keith Boger have five pocket gardens in an intimate backyard space with a collection of 16 varieties of fern, water features, and a floral container garden which is contained in a bed of

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Humane Society Garden Tour — *Continued*

garlic. The garlic, a variety special to Cindy's family, was started by her grandfather.

Gardener extraordinaire, **Angela Cross** is always a favorite on the ACHS tour, with her small corner lot on Morris Ave. The space is divided into five garden rooms and provides micro-climates for plants to enjoy in flower, leaf or structure 365 days a year. Visitors were welcomed with an eclectic flowering English garden and model train.

A walk through the shady woodland garden leads to the back patio, container garden, and then on to the vegetable/fruit garden, with raspberry bushes and tented greenhouse. A shrub and tree garden divided from the street by a tall hedge winds back around to the front of the house.

Community Food Initiatives Community Garden, at the top of Carriage Hill Drive, rents out plots for folks to grow food for themselves, their neighbors, and the CFI Donation Station. Their mission is to ensure access to healthy/local food and to help make gardening equitable and accessible. Visitors were allowed to add a handprint to their garden mural.

MG member **Debi Daniels** is always expanding her garden so returning visitors can now enjoy a small woodland path and larger bog garden. You first see her raised bed gardens where she grows fruits and vegetables and then you can follow a staired path down into her woodland garden where you can sit and enjoy the cool quiet. Debi has a large collection of epimediums and hostas, a Japanese rain garden, fruits, vegetables and herbs, stone landscapes installed by Five Springs Farm and many native and non-native perennials.

Every year, **Mary Jo Stark-ey** invites children to place fairy gardens throughout her yard. They are tucked in with the two koi ponds and two frog ponds, succulents, perennials and annuals. Many of her plants are tropicals which she over winters in her garage each year. Each spring she brings them out and plants them, pot and all, into the garden.





Dear Flora,



Dear Flora,

Help! I transplanted a couple of peonies from my previous yard when I bought my house 15 years ago. They bloomed beautifully for years but now I only get a couple of blooms on each plant, if that. What can I do and when should I do it?

Paeonia

Dear Paeonia,

While peonies can live and bloom for many years, the surrounding conditions of your peonies have probably changed since you planted them. It is possible that nearby trees have matured and are depriving your peonies of the sun they crave. While some of the sources I consulted warn that peonies can be difficult to transplant, you obviously were successful 15 years ago, and other sources say it can be done, with attention to timing and location, as well as care in digging up as much of the roots as possible and replanting at the prescribed depth.

The best time to transplant peonies is in the fall, after the leaves have died back. You will want to trim the stems close to the ground and, because peonies are susceptible to fungal infections, dispose of the trimmings in the trash rather than in your compost pile.

Dig carefully, to retain as much of the root system as possible. Large clumps should be divided, leaving three to five buds (eyes) per division. Select a site that offers well-drained soil and at least six hours of sunlight each day. Dig a large enough hole for the roots, but be sure that the buds are not covered with more than one to two inches of soil. Provide a mulch in late fall.

Best of luck!

Here are some helpful resources:

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/transplanting-and-dividing-peonies>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/peony/moving-established-peonies-2.htm>

Digging Deeper – Molly Gassaway

Last month, Master Gardeners had the opportunity to meet at Ann Brown's home, located just off East State St in Athens. If you missed the opportunity, I highly suggest you find a time to visit, it is a lovely setting indeed! The front area includes a stunning goldfish mural by Keith Wilde and perennials a-plenty. Follow the path around the back, and you will find a fenced area for veggies as well as a trail to lead you through the "secret garden," a wooded area full of native plants. Designed by our friend Mason Chambers of Five Springs Landscape, both sides of

the house that used to be nothing are now full of interesting colors, textures, and whimsical garden art.

We were also able to visit both neighbors' yards—on one side we saw a newly installed patio hardscape by Trimble Brick, and on the other side we toured several raised beds containing every vegetable you can imagine as well as tower after tower of healthy strawberries and more varieties of canna than I even knew existed. It hardly felt like we were in town being surrounded by such beauty and privacy. Thanks so much for hosting, Ann!

