

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 22, 2019

When English teacher Tea McCaulla started at Pickaway-Ross four years ago, she brought with her a project her students in Florida had undertaken in which they interviewed and videotaped veterans to capture their stories and memories.



The Veterans History Project continued here and culminated one summer with the opportunity for Tea and several students to deliver the videos to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Tea connected with Michelle Schatzman at the Chillicothe VA and that led to a sister project at the Veterans Healing Garden at the Mace House, in which SkillsUSA chapter members were invited to help enhance the area.

On Monday, 27 students planted 246 perennials, mulched all the garden areas and cleaned up the garden beds, Tea said.



“The project at Mace House has been building little by little,” Tea said. “Last year students placed the pavers with help from Arselli’s Landscape, did a little planting and we planted the tree with the help of World War II veteran Chester Collins.

“And this year was the big deal; you can really see it coming together.”

Monday’s activity wouldn’t have been possible without the support of many, on and off campus. Planting had been scheduled to coincide with sophomore tours so that students wouldn’t miss school. But the cold temperatures forced a delay.

Tea commended the support that the garden has received from colleagues.

“That’s something we do very well here. I know students had to miss class Monday but we had to get the planting done. If we waited any longer, the ground would have been frozen.”

Tea also expressed appreciation for the work students did before planting.

“The kids worked really hard organizing the October golf scramble to earn the money to buy plants,” she said.

Roger Seely with Seely’s Landscape Nursery has been working with Tea’s students since this project started. Several weeks ago, students visited the nursery to pick out plants and shrubs for the garden. In addition to nearly \$2,500 raised from the golf scramble, Nourse Gives Back donated \$500. Other community support came from Agrosapes, South Central Electric and Tatman’s Mulch.

Tea said students have connected with veterans through this project.

“When you connect our students with the community, especially with veterans, they jump in with these service projects. This is something the students will never forget.”

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