Mossy is an eastern box turtle, *Terrapene carolina* - The eastern box turtle is terrestrial which means it lives primarily on land. A male eastern box turtle usually has red eyes. A female most often has golden eyes and a rounder carapace. This kind of turtle can live to be 100 years old. The turtles do not grow gardens on their backs.

We created a turtle pond next to our house where we have a spring. We located the pond in a sunny spot because turtles, even the aquatic ones, need to sun themselves. We constructed the pond with built-in caves under water where a turtle could hide from predators like raccoons and fisher cats. It is 3 1/2’ deep, lower than the frost line, allowing a turtle to hibernate in the bottom mud in winter. We planted strawberries and lingonberries, foods that turtles love. There is an area filled with soft sand to entice a female to lay her eggs.

A naturalist and turtle specialist and author David Carroll explained to us that rather than stocking our pond we should create a good environment and turtles would wander in from surrounding wetlands.