

Summer 2003

The Castle CHRONICLES

www.yewdellgardens.org

Yew Dell Gardens

RECEIVES MORE EXPERT ADVICE



One of the nation's leading historians visited us March 28 to lend her expertise in reviewing records at Yew Dell as part of efforts to document its history as one of the nation's most unique private gardens.

Catha Grace Rambusch, who has earned numerous national awards for her efforts to help preserve historic documents, helped facilitate the transfer of extensive family and business archives at Yew Dell.

Catha Grace Rambusch visited Yew Dell Gardens in late March. She was confident Yew Dell Gardens would soon "be a place of national destination."

Yew Dell is "a rare jewel with many facets, each of which can and will be burnished," said Rambusch, who is director of the CATALOG of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill, an internationally-acclaimed public garden and cultural center that overlooks the Hudson River in the Bronx. "Because of its many and diverse interpretations and possibilities, Yew Dell unquestionably will become a place of national destination. In a few years, it will become an international destination because of its distinctive American character."

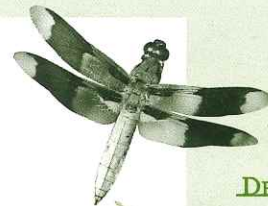
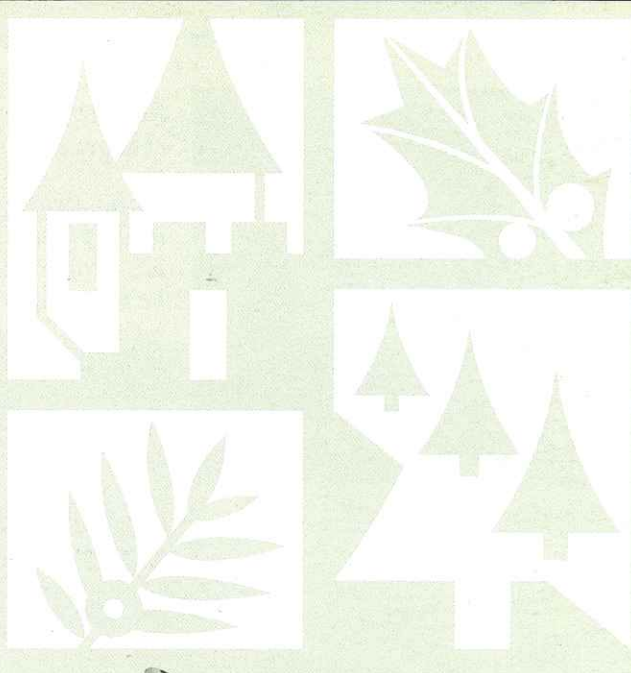
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**2.2 MILLION RAISED TOWARD TOTAL \$4.8 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
\$500,000 JAMES GRAHAM BROWN FOUNDATION AND
\$75,000 GHEENS FOUNDATION GRANTS RECEIVED**

As the recent recipient of several sizable grants, Yew Dell continues to gain momentum in its \$4.8 million capital campaign - with an impressive \$2.2 million already raised. With each dollar donated, we move another step closer to turning renowned horticulturist Theodore Klein's 33-acre Crestwood estate into an educational, public garden and arboretum.

In January, the James Graham Brown Foundation awarded Yew Dell a \$500,000 grant. The funds are earmarked for renovation and capital improvements to the gardens and arboretum, and to several existing structures, including the main house, castle and Yew Dell's historic bank barn. Some of the funds will also be used for site development.

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mission

THE MISSION OF YEW
DELL GARDENS IS TO
CONTINUE THE
HORTICULTURAL LEGACY
OF THEODORE KLEIN;
TO ENCOURAGE
EXPLORATION OF
THE ARBORETUM,
GARDENS AND
THE EXTRAORDINARY
ARCHITECTURAL SETTING;
AND TO PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
EDUCATION, ENRICHMENT
AND ENJOYMENT.

YEW DELL, INC.
P.O. Box 1334
Crestwood, KY 40014
(502) 241-4788
www.yewdellgardens.org

As we press forward with plans to open Yew Dell to the public by 2004, many, many changes are underway.

Hiring Paul Cappiello as executive director has proven to be beneficial beyond our wildest dreams. His drive and tireless dedication to our mission are wonderful to behold. His people skills are superb, and his quiet sense of humor has been most welcome. And he knows more about trees than any person I've ever met. In addition, his alliances and relationships with other horticulturists are bringing new expertise and support to Yew Dell. With his leadership, we are gaining ground at a remarkable pace.

Along with our very first Open House set for June 14, we are gearing up for a busy summer and looking forward to fall, when Theodore Klein will be honored by the Oldham County Historical Society as a Champion of Oldham County at its Second Annual Gala on Friday, October 17 at The Olmsted on Frankfort Avenue in Louisville. The following day Yew Dell will host a visit from Frank Cabot, the founder of the Garden Conservancy and author of "The Greater Perfections: The Story of the Gardens at Les Quatre Vents," his magnificent garden in Charlevoix County, Quebec.

In addition to upcoming special events, we're very proud of the numerous grants we have been awarded, which have helped bring our total raised to an amazing \$2.2 million. The entire Yew Dell Family is thankful for the assistance we received in applying for those grants from the late Jenan Dorman, a devout Friend of Yew Dell whose memorial service was held here in May.

Along with the great financial strides being made in our \$4.8 million capital campaign, we have increased our staff.

Office administrator Windi Burdette, who has done a remarkable job on a part-time basis, has shifted to full-time. Although Windi first joined Yew Dell as a bookkeeper, letter writer, donation tracker and meeting planner, she has come to be known best as the smile in the doorway or on the other end of the telephone. She has brought many talents and a wonderful attitude to Yew Dell.

Yew Dell's staff has also gained two new part-time gardeners - Don Hightchew, an outstanding gardener with varied talents from carpentry to plumbing, and Eric Doran, who recently completed his horticultural training at Western Kentucky University.

Don is originally from Louisville and currently resides in Mt. Washington. Eric spent 5 years in the U.S. Marines and lives in Oldham County with his wife, Kate, who works at Wallitsch Garden Center in Louisville. We are lucky to have them both at Yew Dell.

Yew Dell also proudly announces the appointments of four new board members: Bob Kulp, Rob Nunnelley, Phil Payne and Mary Ann Thornton, who bring with them a considerable amount of experience and enthusiasm.

Yew Dell's relationship with other horticultural and historical groups continues to grow. We're still working very closely with The Garden Conservancy, a national organization that works to preserve exceptional American gardens. The Conservancy selected Yew Dell last fall as one of nine gardens in the prestigious Preservation Projects program, and through the generosity of the Garden Conservancy, we welcome Irene Mews, a historic preservation specialist, to Yew Dell this Summer as an intern. Irene will be here for June and July and will be helping us with treatment of our historic resources. We're also anxiously awaiting word on Yew Dell's application to the National Register of Historic Places.

We're also very honored by the recent introduction of a new daylily to the trade which was named in Theodore Klein's honor by John Rice of Thoroughbred Daylilies in Paris, Ky.

It has been an exciting and productive first half of 2003 at Yew Dell Gardens, and we look forward to a very busy summer and fall, thanks to the kindness of the many dedicated Friends of Yew Dell.

Mary F. Rounsavall
PRESIDENT



A Message from the President

Meet Our Board and Advisors

YEW DELL, INC. COMMITTEE MEMBERS—

Paul Clinton	Rowland Miller
Mark Dennen	Bill Pace
Albert H. Klein	Barbara Paradis
Marian Klein Koehler	W. Plumer Wiseman
Bill Lammlein	



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Matt Gardiner	Maureen Stites
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Charles Birnbaum	Carolyn Neustadt
Leslie H. Buddeke	Bill Noble
Jim Hannah	Catha Grace Rambusch
Donna Neary	Debbie Skaggs

YEW DELL GARDENS—

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paul Cappiello

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Windi Burdette

HORTICULTURAL STAFF—

Eric Doran
Don Hightchew



YEW DELL, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

The board of directors wishes to convey its deep gratitude to all the members of the Klein family. Their cooperation and generous support have made this a successful and joyous transition. The future is bright and we will all share in it.

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Mary Broecker
Sue Brown
Holly Cooper
June Ezman- Secretary
Mike Hayman
Louise Hickox
Rosemary Kirkwood- Vice President
Robert E. Kulp, Jr.
Rob Nunnelley
Philip Payne
Mary Rounsavall- President
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David Whitty- Treasurer
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Mr. and Mrs. John Rice- Thoroughbred Daylilies
Mr. Don Shadow-Shadow Nursery
All workday volunteers

One of the very best aspects of the horticulture world is the seemingly endless cadre of unique and delightful characters one encounters along the garden path. We can be an odd and intriguing lot indeed. This past winter, while at a neighbor's party, I wandered into the kitchen and found myself immersed in an engaging conversation with a middle-aged and very enthusiastic Bosnian architect. The topic . . . Picea omorika, the tree I learned as Serbian Spruce (or as I was corrected, Bosnian Spruce!). I don't know which was worse, my Bosnian or his English, yet we had a wonderful, if somewhat bizarre and over animated hour-long conversation in a smoke filled room. I'm not sure what he learned from the conversation, but I think I learned of the original introduction to cultivation of the particular species in question by, you guessed it, a Bosnian botanist. And so I had a brief and somewhat fuzzy chance to look through a different cultural lens at one of my favorite subjects; trees.

This spring I had another chance to spend a little time with one of horticulture's great characters. I ventured, along with Matt Gardiner and John Wachter of Boone Gardiner Garden Center, to Winchester, Tennessee to visit the incomparable Don Shadow. The list of plants we saw that day is a who's who of superb new woody plants. Dogwoods. Don and his crew budded more than 60 varieties last year alone. Cornus florida Red Pygmy, a dwarf, pink-bracted form. Cornus kousa var. angustata 'Empress of China', John Elsley's selection of an evergreen kousa dogwood (sorry, not reliably cold hardy here in the Louisville area!). Liriodendron 'Glen Gold', a brilliant gold-foliaged tuliptree that fades to green later in summer. We even got to see one of Dr. Elwin Orton's new dogwood hybrids that combines in one plant, blood from Cornus florida, C. kousa and C. nuttallii!



Under Paul Cappiello's leadership, Yew Dell Gardens hosted its first open house on June 14. With his leadership, Yew Dell is gaining ground at a remarkable pace.

But any trip to Shadow Nursery is incomplete without a visit to the animals. Don is as famous for his extensive collection of rare and wonderful animals as he is for his plant collection. For most, the red pandas would have been the big hit of the day. But for me, the real hit was seeing Matt Gardiner

being pursued by a massive male dromedary in heat and feeling quite frisky (the dromedary, that is!).

All the wonderful plants and animals notwithstanding, I could not help but think that Theodore Klein, the craftsman and gentleman who fashioned Yew Dell, would have felt right at home walking the nursery with Don Shadow. To feel Don's passion for his creation is to have a bit of a window to the past when Yew Dell was in its formative years. Yew Dell grew into a place to develop and evaluate new plants and share knowledge and experience with anyone who showed an interest. Nursery fields, trial beds, cutting lots and the like were all designed to get new and better plants into the hands of those who could best use and enjoy them. What is most exciting of all is that we have now been given the chance to bring this effort back to Yew Dell. To share with all, the horticulture, the history and the magic that is Yew Dell. I invite you all to join us in this truly unique effort.

Paul Cappiello
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Travels with Executive Director Paul Cappiello



Volunteers

Thanks to a diverse group of volunteers, Yew Dell Gardens has come a long way from where it was a few years ago when weeds threatened to overtake Theodore Klein's treasured gardens. By donating hours of weeding, mulching and pruning, the volunteers are helping to get the gardens into spectacular condition.

The quality and quantity of volunteers has been impressive in recent months. Volunteers have included an array of people - from garden club members to South Oldham High School football players.

"A lot of people have put a lot of hard work into this, and it's paying off because we are preserving this beautiful piece of history for everyone to enjoy," said Mary Rounsavall, president of Yew Dell, Inc. "We've had so many different people pitch in to help. It's truly amazing."

In the coming seasons, we look forward to working with even more volunteers. If you'd like to help tend the grounds, Volunteer Days are on the second Saturday of each month or join our new group of Wednesday Weekly Weeders, who pitch in each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon.

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Yew Dell Gardens
RECEIVES MORE EXPERT ADVICE

Rambusch said she was impressed with the volunteer commitment and originality of thinking, the excellence of staff, quality and quantity (and in some cases rarity) of horticultural collections, the originality of the buildings and interiors, and the range and diversity of archival materials.

"When one becomes actively involved (even from afar) in a vibrant project such as Yew Dell, certain manifestations form in the mind's eye," she said. "When I came to Louisville and actually visited Yew Dell for the first time, my high expectations were exceeded, far exceeded in every category."

Since 1986, Rambusch has focused on documenting our nation's landscape. She has dedicated her professional career to increasing public awareness about special places from our nation's past. Many of her efforts have been focused on improving the accessibility of documents from certain segments of our nation's past.

Over the decades, Rambusch has designed and implemented improved research tools and encouraged national and international cooperation in the exchange of research sources and information. She's the recipient of two national awards -- the Silver Medal from the American Institute of Architects and the Public Service Award from the Department of the Interior, which is the highest non-Presidential award conferred on a private citizen.

For her work with the municipal records in New York City, Rambusch received the Paul O'Dwyer Award from the New York City Department of Records and Information Services and the New York Archival Society.

Rambusch, who also has extensive expertise in records regarding architecture, and decorative arts and crafts, is a Winterthur Fellow and a graduate of New York University and Smith College in Northhampton, Massachusetts.

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2.2 MILLION RAISED TOWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

"We are very thankful to the Brown Foundation for this generous support and for helping to save and secure one of Kentucky's very special treasures," said Dr. Paul Cappiello, Yew Dell's executive director. "This grant will go a long way toward development of a strong and stable physical infrastructure on which to build future programming at Yew Dell."

Mary Rounsavall, president of Yew Dell, Inc., said that receiving the Brown Foundation grant is "an incredibly exciting milestone for Yew Dell Gardens."

"To have the stamp of approval from the James Graham Brown Foundation is very heartening, and we are deeply grateful for the Foundation's interest and support," Rounsavall said. "This allows us to move forward in addressing many of Yew Dell's physical needs, both structural and horticultural. We are continuing with our strategic and long-range planning, which will help us make

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On a recent workday in May at Yew Dell Gardens, volunteers tackled the sunken garden overlooking the vista at Yew Dell Gardens. (l-r) Eric Doran, Joe Kunkel, John and Wanda Burkhardt were hard at work removing weeds to discover much of the hidden sunken garden that Theodore Klein created.



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decisions about our immediate priorities in order to spend these funds in the wisest possible manner."

Yew Dell is also the proud recipient of a \$75,000 grant from the Gheens Foundation, Inc. which will be used to transform Klein's unique bank barn into an education and meeting center. The barn is a rare example of a Kentucky bank barn which has historical and cultural significance. The few bank barns remaining in the state have been placed on the watch list by Preservation Kentucky.

Once the barn is transformed, it will provide a place where visitors can learn about horticulture and art through interactive, hands-on experience. The overall plan calls for integrating Yew Dell's horticultural collection into curricula for area schools, and for classes, demonstrations and conference sites for gardeners, conservationists, horticulturists and arborists.

Yew Dell is also very appreciative of grants received for \$20,000 from the Pettus Foundation, \$20,000 from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, \$20,000 from the Ky. Division of Forestry, \$5,000 from an anonymous donor and the countless other contributions from businesses and individuals who support Yew Dell's mission.

If you would also like to help save Yew Dell Gardens, tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to Yew Dell, Inc., P.O. Box 1334, Crestwood, Ky. 40014.



Special thanks to—

United Mail, Inc.

We are grateful for the continued generous support of United Mail, Inc. for providing the production and cost of mailings for Yew Dell Gardens.



The Castle
CHRONICLES

YEW DELL, INC.

P.O. Box 1334

Crestwood, KY 40014

OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Wed 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tues - Thur 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(502) 241-4788

Marian Klein Koehler, **photography**

Theodore Klein, **photography**

Richard Trigg, **photography**

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In loving memory...

A memorial service was held at Yew Dell this spring to honor Jenan Dorman, a marketing and public relations professional who died May 5 at her home in Crescent Hill. She was 52.

For two years, from the very beginnings of Yew Dell, Jenan worked with us to write grants and provide counsel from her vast experience with non-profit organizations. For us it was a tremendous boon to have such an experienced, committed and dedicated (and successful) grant writer and friend. Her love of gardening and green spaces helped make the relationship an excellent fit. To say she will be missed is an understatement. Jenan was also well known for her work with many of Louisville's prominent art groups, including Stage One and Actors Theatre. The board and staff of Yew Dell extends its deepest sympathies to her husband, Jay Ferguson, and to her parents.

Y E W D E L L G A R D E N S