

Spring 2004

# The Castle CHRONICLES

www.yewdellgardens.org

## YEW DELL GARDENS

### *Much Anticipated Open House*

A weekend of festivities will mark Yew Dell Gardens' grand opening on June 11-13. The celebrations will be held at Yew Dell, the 33-acre horticultural wonderland created by the late Theodore Klein in Crestwood, Ky.

The grand opening gala will begin Friday, June 11, with an elegant garden party. This event, cosponsored by The Silver Spoon and the Bank of Oldham County, is our way of showing appreciation to Yew Dell's early supporters, members and major donors. Chairs Rosemary Kirkwood and Mary Anne Thornton, along with a committee of dedicated volunteers, are planning an exceptional event. The event will feature sumptuous samplings catered by The Silver Spoon, live and silent auctions, and romantic twilight tours of the garden.

The Silver Spoon will serve hors d'oeuvres at four stations located in various gardens. Guests will be guided through the pathways by lighted torches to each station, where they will experience one glorious taste sensation after another until the garden tour is complete.

Another gala highlight will be the unveiling of the conceptual plans for the Gheens Bank Barn. With a \$75,000 grant from the Gheens Foundation, the historic barn will be transformed into a state-of-the-art education center.

*continued, page six*

## EXCLUSIVE TRIP OPPORTUNITY TO FRANK CABOT'S LES QUATRE VENTS

Members of Yew Dell Gardens have an exclusive opportunity to take an exciting summer trip to the extraordinary setting of *Les Quatre Vents* in Quebec, Canada, and gain expert advice from its steward, internationally renowned horticulturist Frank Cabot.

Under Cabot's careful direction during the past two decades, *Les Quatre Vents* has been dubbed North America's most aesthetically satisfying and horticulturally exciting landscape experience. Many Yew Dell members previewed the beautiful *Les Quatre Vents* in October when Cabot visited Louisville for a Yew Dell-sponsored lecture and book signing. During his lecture and slideshow, Cabot discussed his book, "The Greater Perfection," which unveils the story and images

*continued, page seven*



*A view of the western vista at Les Quatre Vents.*



mission

#### THE MISSION OF YEW

DELL GARDENS IS TO  
CONTINUE THE  
HORTICULTURAL LEGACY  
OF THEODORE KLEIN;  
TO ENCOURAGE  
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AND ENJOYMENT.

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

What an exciting time this is at Yew Dell Gardens!



*The Cardinal Garden Club was hard at work with the first signs of spring in March planting early spring annuals. Yew Dell Gardens' Board Member June Ezman (c) joined her fellow garden club members, Paulette Gird (l) and Jean Olson (r).*

After almost four years of hard work fund-raising and planning, we are going to formally open our gates this spring. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find full details on our marvelous and romantic by-invitation-only "Evening in the Garden" on Friday, June 11th, and our Open House (open to the public with a suggested donation of \$5 for admission) on June 13th.

And many of you have also heard about our inaugural Yew Dell trip this July, to Frank Cabot's magnificent garden in Quebec (look for details on that in this newsletter, too).

We'll be a work in progress when we open, but we'll have a lot to showcase, too. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the James Graham Brown Foundation, the W. L. Lyons Brown Foundation, the Glenview Garden Club, the Principal Financial Group, and with special thanks to Bill Pace, the following buildings will be renovated by the time of the opening weekend:

- The ancient log cabin, brought to the property in 1971 from Brownsboro;
- The charming and whimsical castle, with its spiral staircase, herringbone hearth, stained glass windows, fabulous stone carvings and slate floors;
- The house, built by Martha Lee and Theodore in 1947 and full of Klein's own handiwork among the wood trim. It has leaded glass windows, pegged flooring, and a built-in music box;
- The red tobacco barn, a timber pole structure of great beauty and one of our vanishing old barns;
- The walled garden, with its pond and pump house, and its fabulous stone wall, wrought iron gates and some of the most exciting new plants available on the market.

The secret garden will be under construction and you'll be able to see schematic drawings of plans for Yew Dell's Gheens Education Center, located in our beautiful and historic tin-roofed bank barn. We'll have new walls and plantings and parking areas, too.

Don't forget to join Yew Dell as a charter member SOON - and don't forget to volunteer - and don't forget we're open the second Saturdays of each month! Please join us!

*Mary F. Rounsavall*  
PRESIDENT

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*A Message from the President*

*In a 1930 article in the Journal of the Arnold Arboretum, the venerable ornamental plant taxonomist Alfred Rehder wrote of Ernest "Chinese" Wilson: "He was a born plant collector; endowed with a strong physique, robust health, indomitable willpower and a deep love of plants, he succeeded in collecting and introducing into cultivation a greater number of plants than any other collector..." In just a few years of collecting in China, Wilson returned to the United States with more than 1,800 lots of seed, plants and cuttings, many of which have become mainstays in our American gardens.*

Wilson and his contemporaries fueled what became known as the Golden Age of American Horticulture, a spectacular stretch of time that saw wealthy, connected benefactors throw their combined energies and resources into the acquisition and cultivation of the greatest possible diversity of garden plants from every corner of the earth.

What is lost in translation to present-day gardening is that the early 20th century exploration and plant introduction activity, tremendous and important as it was, pales in comparison to the onslaught of new plants that face today's gardeners. For a thoroughly 21st century twist on the subject, a simple google.com search of "new garden plants" yielded more than 3.2 million hits. The second Golden Age of American Horticulture is here indeed.



Paul Cappiello, Executive Director

photo credit, Mary Rounsavall

*Travels with Executive Director*



*The Rock House at Yew Dell Gardens served as a loading dock for the nursery. Built in 1957 with fieldstone and Klein's signature millstone in the facade, it is flanked by two small book stacked stone walls. The stone walls are being rebuilt by Jody Edgerton, a fifth generation stone mason. The Edgerton Family's work can be traced back to 1851 at the Crestwood Baptist Church. Edgerton hopes his son will follow in his footsteps and make this family tradition six generations. Pictured (l-r) are Jody Edgerton, Bob Ash and Mark Handlon.*

So with this overflow of new plants hitting the market each year, what's a gardener to do? Fortunately, Yew Dell Gardens has set as one of its primary areas of concentration the development, collection and evaluation of new and superior garden plants for the region. This is a little tricky, operating on a piece of property that has such fabulous existing design and an intimate scale. The way we will meld this new plant work while retaining the existing design will be to retain the existing lines of the gardens but constantly update, redesign and replant the beds with new selections.

An example of such an effort now under way at Yew Dell is the walled garden that is located directly adjacent to the house. The garden is sur-

rounded by one of Theodore Klein's signature stone walls and a hedge of his selection, *Taxus* "Hicks Jr." The rectangular beds will be completely redesigned and replanted this spring with some of the most exciting new perennials on the market today. The plantings, repair of some of the infrastructure and relaying of the bluestone paths is being done thanks to a generous grant from the Glenview Garden Club.

The second project, sponsored by Louisville's Rambler Garden Club and the Principal Financial Group, will begin the process of rehabilitating the secret garden. This delightful shady garden space will soon offer a wide selection of Hellebores, ferns and perennial *Asarum* species and cultivars. Some of the unique Hellebores planned for the garden include *H. foetidus* "Frenchy," a cut-leaf green hellebore and *H. foetidus*. "Gold Bullion," a yellow leafed form. These are just two in what is guaranteed to be a long line of super new plants. Over the coming seasons, gardeners will be able to judge for themselves how all these wonderful new plants fare in our Kentucky climate.

*Dr. Paul Cappiello*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## YEW DELL GARDENS

*Much Anticipated Open House*

It will serve as a cultural and educational resource for people of all ages across the region by hosting workshops, symposia, special events, lectures, workshops and corporate retreats.

There will be evidence of countless hours of volunteer labor in the renovations to the grounds and buildings. Guests will be able to get a glimpse at the Walled Garden, adjacent to the house, which is expected to be completely restored before the open house thanks to a generous \$20,000 grant from the Glenview Garden Club. The castle, log cabin and red tobacco barn will also be on display in their newly renovated forms during the grand opening celebration.



*The Red Tobacco Barn at Yew Dell Gardens is under restoration. Join us for our open house on June 13 for the unveiling.*

The gala's auction will highlight an array of items donated by Louisville-area businesses and individuals. A preview of the live auction packages include a three-bedroom Renaissance house located in the south of France, a night of entertainment in The Castle, a garden tour day trip on a private plane with Executive Director Dr. Paul Cappiello, garden art, a box at the Kentucky Oaks complemented with brunch from Kentucky Museum of Arts + Design, a luxury suite at Churchill Downs, and a condo in beautiful Crested Butte, Mont. Bidders for the silent auction will be able to purchase beautiful artwork, gift certificates for landscaping services, and other wonderful items. Proceeds will benefit continued renovations and future programs at Yew Dell Gardens.

The grand opening celebration will continue on Sunday, June 13, with our first public open house. The open house will include tours of the renovated gardens and buildings, a plant sale, lectures, and numerous interactive experiences for children.

The Sunday open house will culminate with a culinary delight. A huge, beautiful cake - which will be the size of a dining room table - will feature a rendering of Yew Dell Gardens and be topped by a tiny replica of The Castle. The cake is the artistic creation from Cakes by Lida, and the creator, Lida Rowland-Snow, often played at Yew Dell as a child. Lida is donating the fantastic cake and will serve it at the June 13 public open house.

The open house will be from 1 to 5 p.m. If you want the chance to buy some unique, hearty plants for your yard and share some of the most creative gardens in the region with friends and neighbors, make sure to mark your calendar for June 13.

This momentous event in Yew Dell's history is due to the efforts of many volunteers and staff members, and to our institutional partners as well. The Bank of Oldham County partnered with Yew Dell Gardens in 2002 to provide the financial strength necessary to purchase the property and save Klein's legacy. Now just two years later, with their sponsorship of our gala and open house, we are opening our doors to share this exceptional estate with the community.

*Don't miss your chance to join the excitement of this much-anticipated opening celebration. For more information, call Yew Dell Gardens at (502) 241-4788.*



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7

**EXCLUSIVE TRIP OPPORTUNITY TO  
FRANK CABOT'S LES QUATRE VENTS**

*continued from cover*

of *Les Quatre Vents* and chronicles Cabot's efforts to create this world-class garden.

Cabot, the founder and chairman of The Garden Conservancy, is respected worldwide as a visionary gardener. He was profiled last fall in *The New York Times* and was dubbed one of the "Giants of Design" in *House Beautiful* magazine's May 2003 issue, joining such notables as Calvin Klein. Cabot has also won numerous awards from garden and horticulture groups.

"We're very excited about this offer because Frank Cabot will provide a personal tour of *Les Quatre Vents*," said Paul Cappiello, Yew Dell's executive director. "Anyone who has seen photos of Cabot's gardens realizes what a remarkable opportunity this is. *Les Quatre Vents* truly is an amazing place."

This once-in-a-lifetime horticultural pilgrimage, which departs July 15 and returns July 18, is being booked through International Tours & Travel. The approximate \$2,500 cost includes airfare, ground transportation, accommodations, some meals and a guided tour of *Les Quatre*. The trip is limited to 20, so call Yew Dell Gardens at (502) 241-4788 to reserve your spot now.

Special thanks to—

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*We are grateful for the continued support of United Mail, Inc.*

## 4 UPCOMING TOURS & EVENTS

### Tours of the Garden

*The second Saturday of every month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Yew Dell will host tours of the gardens, plants, and buildings. Here are the highlights:*

#### MAY 8 – THE POST-DERBY GARDEN WALK

*Stop counting all your Derby winnings and join the group at Yew Dell Gardens for a spin through the grounds. We will look at plants in bloom and give all a firsthand look at some of the upcoming garden rehabilitation projects planned for the immediate future. If the season is right, we'll even get to see the first results of one of Yew Dell's early plant breeding projects.*

#### JULY 10 – SUMMER COLOR IN THE GARDEN

*With the spring rush now long gone, summer is the time for form and foliage color in the garden. On this month's tour, we will visit plants that add intriguing form and texture to the garden.*

*Columnar and weeping trees. Variegated and brightly colored foliage.*

*Even the early fruiting shrubs add interest to the summer garden.*

*A real treat for July will be an early look at the newly replanted walled garden.*

*Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person, but free to members.*

### Events

#### JUNE 11 – EVENING IN THE GARDEN

*The grand opening gala co-sponsored by The Silver Spoon and the Bank of Oldham County, is our way of showing appreciation to Yew Dell's early supporters, members and major donors. The "Evening in the Garden" will feature sumptuous samplings catered by The Silver Spoon, live and silent auctions, and romantic twilight tours of the garden.*

#### JUNE 13 – OPEN HOUSE AND PLANT AUCTION

*Spend a day in the garden at Yew Dell and enjoy guided tours, a silent auction of rare and unusual plants and lectures.*



## The Castle CHRONICLES

YEW DELL, INC.  
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