



# THE CASTLE CHRONICLES

## Construction Underway on Yew Dell's New Horticulture Facilities Here's your chance to be part of a historic project



*Kiel Thomson Company workers and Yew Dell volunteers literally picked up and carried away the old hoop house to make room for greenhouse construction.*

You've been hearing about it and we're now delighted to announce that we are officially under construction! The new horticulture facilities that have been planned and talked about for more than a year are beginning to materialize. When completed, they will create a one-of-a-kind facility that will greatly enhance our research, education, production and outreach work. And if you want to be part of this historic effort, now's the time to get involved.

By now you likely know that the planned facility is headlined by a new solar/geothermal greenhouse that will give our staff a **state-of-the-art greenhouse** for plant propagation, production, testing and hands-on workshops as well. It will provide fabulous space for plant shows, art exhibits and classes and will serve as an exhibit itself – of low-energy-requiring greenhouse design.

The nerve center of Yew Dell's horticulture operations – connected to the greenhouse - will be the **Preston T. Ormsby Horticulture Center**. A complete rehabilitation of Theodore Klein's original potting shed, the Center is being made possible by an anonymous gift in memory of Mr. Ormsby, an accomplished painter who was connected to Yew Dell in many ways. This new facility will take



*Architect's rendering of the new greenhouse interior.*

Yew Dell's horticulture staff out of the dark – literally – as they look forward to wonderful new (and well lit!) space for their important work.

The full facility will be rounded out with **a terrace garden, high-tunnel structure** (for fall/winter vegetable production/research), **new nursery and production space, expanded overwintering capacity and additional support facilities.**

So back to the point . . . how can you be part of this project? You can volunteer to help plant the greenhouse's green roof next spring. You can sign up to be a greenhouse/nursery volunteer. And not to put too fine a point on it, you can help us hit our fundraising goal. We've raised a touch over \$1.1 million with the help of some tremendously generous donors but we need to close the gap. All gifts will be recognized in the **Castle Chronicles** at the completion of the project and gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a plaque in the greenhouse terrace garden space – and we'd love to include your name on our list! Then look for our announcement for the dedication next summer!

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## To Seek and To Share – a motto to garden by . . .

Back in the 1980s, my graduate advisor Dr. Gary Kling, at the University of Illinois introduced me to an organization named the International Plant Propagators' Society – a professional society dedicated to serving the nursery industry and academics in horticulture and forestry. He told me the only thing I really needed to know about the group was their motto – To Seek and To Share. They seemed like a sharing breed . . .

Nearly 30 years later, I can look back on a long IPPS membership that has been one of my greatest sources of professional development. The organization's motto is also a tight parallel to the gardening ethic embraced at Yew Dell and by gardeners everywhere. It's one thing for a gardener to share a tip or a division with a neighboring gardener, however it's another thing altogether for a nursery professional to throw open his or her nursery doors to share production secrets with interested competitors. Both by vocation and avocation - they are indeed a unique and sharing breed.

At this year's IPPS conference I was honored to be elected president of the organization and to also announce, as the IPPS Foundation's director, creation of a research endowment fund in the name of one of my horticultural mentors, Dr. Elwin Orton of Rutgers University, plant breeder *par excellence* and developer of the so-called Rutgers

Hybrid dogwoods. On announcement of the fund, Dr. Orton stood up and told the group that the only way he'd allow the fund to be created in his honor is if he was allowed to make the first – and very generous – donation to the fund. That was followed up by several members almost battling to be first to make additional pledges to the fund. How's that for a sharing breed?!

Well, to round out the story and bring it full circle, I was pleased to attend that conference with Yew Dell's assistant director Karla Drover (who has a growing passion for plant propagation), Garden Manager Ann Mattingly (who oversees all our plant prop. and nursery operations) and Ronnie Kylo. Ronnie is our first Horticulture Apprentice who got to visit some of the best public gardens in the land, meet and learn from some of the best folks in the business, and he even got a chance to try his hand at grafting! Ronnie, who has become passionate about plants, has shared a couple of his favorite plant picks on Page 3. How's that for continuing the sharing breed! And when you come out to Yew Dell next time to check out our "seeking" work, you can be sure that we'll be happy to share all we've learned!

Happy Gardening!  
*Paul Cappiello*  
Executive Director



Yew Dell horticulture apprentice Ronnie Kylo standing with an espaliered *Ginkgo biloba* 'Princeton Sentry' at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College

## JOIN US!

Yew Dell membership offers a wealth of benefits including admission all year long, discounts on Yew Dell classes, lectures and workshops, invitation to member-only events and early admission to the annual Plant Sale and Garden Market.

Members also receive discounts at area nurseries and garden centers and coupons and gift certificates for plants and garden supplies—membership pays for itself several times over!

And all of our \$150 and above members will receive a special plant dividend available only at our annual plant sale. For Silver Cloud and above memberships we're even offering guest passes for your friends and family members.

### Help us Keep in Touch!

If you have recently changed your email address, mailing address or don't receive any email from us- please let us know!  
Contact Cheryl at [CherylL@yewdellgardens.org](mailto:CherylL@yewdellgardens.org) or call 241-4788.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

## LEVELS OF GIVING

- Virginia Bluebells **\$35 (single)**
- Silver Cloud **\$50-\$149 (family)**
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- Golden-Berried Holly **\$500-\$999**
- The Dell Society **\$1000 and above**

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For a list of membership benefits and more information about events and programs, visit our website at [www.yewdellgardens.org](http://www.yewdellgardens.org). Please return this form to:

**Yew Dell Botanical Gardens**  
**P.O. Box 1334**  
**Crestwood, KY 40014**

2002

February: 33 acre Yew Dell property purchased from the Klein family

December: Paul Cappiello begins as Executive Director

2004

2003

September: Garden Conservancy Stabilization Plan completed

October: First Membership Campaign launched

# Star Performers From the 2012 Garden

Each year at this time we like to take stock of the passing garden season to highlight a few of the best plant performers, most interesting new plants and those that we like to recommend for area gardens. So here you go . . .



*Muhlenbergia capillaris* and *M. 'Pink Flamingo'* – **Muhly Grass**  
The pink muhly grass has long been a favorite at Yew Dell. This 3'-tall, wispy fine-textured grass with tremendous sun and drought tolerance, turns into a fall show stopper with fluffy clouds of rosy pink seed heads September through November. It can be a little short lived but on well-drained sunny sites is well worth the effort. 'Pink Flamingo' is a rather new hybrid selection that is the giant of the family growing to 7' tall and 9' wide with tremendous pink seed displays all through the fall.



*Picea abies*  
'Inversa'/'Pendula' – **Weeping Norway Spruce**  
One of the favorites of our horticulture apprentice Ronnie Kylo, this is the living garden sculpture plant. Looping, weeping and twisting its way to 20' or 30' tall with deep green evergreen needles, it commands attention where ever it is used. Give it lots of sun and any average soil and it will delight for years to come. There are excellent specimens in Yew Dell's arboretum.



*Poncirus trifoliata*  
'Flying Dragon' – **Contorted Hardy Orange**

If you're a glutton for pruning punishment, this is your plant! A cold-hardy citrus relative, it is best described as a large mass of deep green contorted thorns worthy of a Mad Max movie. Delightfully fragrant white spring flowers are followed by golf ball sized yellow "oranges" that hang on into the fall. The sculptural quality of the bare winter stems is quite simply stupefying! This is another of Ronnie's favorites.



*Parrotia subaequalis* – **Chinese Iron Wood**

All but unavailable because it was only recently discovered in western China – you'll probably only find it for sale at Yew Dell's spring plant sale! We've been successful in rooting cuttings of this wonderful new plant – but it is so new, we're guessing at its ultimate height of about 30'. But what we've observed we simply love.

Probably a small to medium tree, the plant has proven to be just about bomb-proof in the garden – pest resistant and fast growing. The highlight is spectacular deep burgundy fall foliage color.



*Decumaria barbara* – **Woodvamp**

A relatively unknown Southeast native woodland climber, *Decumaria* is an excellent choice for the lightly shaded garden. It works well scrambling over rocks or climbing on a low wall or up a tree trunk. This hydrangea relative offers brilliant green glossy leaves all summer and muted off-white flower heads in late spring/early summer. It is adaptable to a wide range of soils and growing conditions and seems almost entirely pest free.

Harry Bounnell  
1st Volunteer of the Year

April: Renovation of the Log Cabin,  
the Tobacco Barn and the Castle

June: Open to public Saturday  
mornings only

2005

Karl Klein  
Volunteer of the Year

July: Celebration of 100th Anniversary  
of Theodore Klein's birth

September:  
First wedding at Yew Dell

# 2012 - Early 2013 Winter Programs

See the Yew Dell Website for Complete Descriptions and Program Updates



## The Yew Dell Express On Track Again!

Friday - November 23; 10-4pm

Saturday - November 24 & December 1, 8, 15; 10-4pm

Sunday - November 25 & December 2, 9, 16; Noon - 4pm

Free with Regular admission

If you missed the train last year - don't miss it this time around! Climb aboard and bring the kids (and grandkids too!) to Yew Dell this holiday season to see The Yew Dell Express - a fabulous snow village and model train display. This magical exhibit was created by master model builder Bob Irmscher with support from some of the most talented model train enthusiasts in the region. In addition to the trains, kids of all ages will enjoy scavenger hunts and free refreshments (check the website for details)! Visitors can also stop in our gift shop featuring unique train themed gifts and holiday items for the garden and nature lover. You are sure to find the perfect holiday gift or two!

## Christmas Wreath Workshop With Jules & Karl Klein

Saturday, December 1;

2 sessions - 10 & 12:30

\$30 members / \$35 non-members

Design and make a unique winter wreath made from fresh greens harvested at Yew Dell. Participants will be provided the necessary materials and tools to create a wreath but should bring their own gloves and pruners. Express your creativity by making a holiday wreath to take home--the finished wreath will measure 22-24 inches.

## Williamsburg Decorations Workshop With Tracey Williams

Saturday, December 1; 2:30 - 4pm

\$50 members/\$55 non-members

Learn how to make your own holiday decorations - Williamsburg style! This hands-on workshop will teach you the art of working with fresh materials and each participant will leave with their own festive decoration - either door decor, mantle swags, or a table centerpiece. Tracey will also demonstrate how to make a Williamsburg style wreath; wreath forms will be available for purchase.

## Louisville Free Public Library Program Science in the Garden - Special Short Course

Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30;

5:45 to 7:15 pm

Main Library, 301 York St.

Free

Paul Cappiello, executive director of Yew Dell, will teach a special short course at the Louisville Free Public Library called Science in the Garden - from plant biology to what's-this-stuff-we-call-dirt. The class outline will be posted on lfpl.org. To register for the free classes, call the library at 574-1635. This class is part of a new MyLibraryU initiative.

## Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

Saturday, February 9; 10 am-noon

Free

This is our chance to say "thank you" to you! Join us for this annual celebration of all those who make Yew Dell possible. Enjoy light refreshments and stay for presentation of Yew Dell's annual volunteer awards.

## Yew Dell Overseas 2013 - The Gardens of Southern France and Monaco

By now you've heard of Yew Dell's legendary overseas garden tours; Southern England, Northern Italy and this year to southern Ireland. What they all have in common is great plants, great gardens, great gardeners . . . and a fair sprinkling of great food and wine as well! We keep the group small (20 guests max) which makes for an outstanding experience . . . but one that fills up in a hurry. Trip dates are June 10-20, 2013 so mark your calendar now and call for information. You don't want to miss this one!

## And here's a few upcoming dates that you'll want to add to your calendar . . .

Hellebore Day

April 6

Plant Sale and Garden Market

April 27/28

Sculpture Show Opening Reception

May 17

## 5th Annual Boo Dell



More than 1,200 enjoyed the 5th Annual Boo Dell in late October. Trick or Treating and a magic show headlined the event that was sponsored by *Project Guild of LaGrange*.



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2006

Abi Rennekamp  
Volunteer of the Year

April: open hours expanded  
to Monday through Sat

September: Adrian Bloom installs  
garden below Castle wall

October: Gheens Barn and Peyton  
Samuel Head Trust Pavilion Opening

December (05):

350 tree peonies arrive from China

2007

Susan Wilburn  
Volunteer of the Year

# New Addition to Yew Dell's Staff

## Grants and Sponsorship Coordinator Gayle Kussoy Shoemaker



We're delighted to announce the addition of Yew Dell's newest staff member. Gayle Kussoy Shoemaker joined the staff in October to help grow our grant and sponsorship fundraising activity. Gayle and her husband, Chris, moved to Louisville this past summer, relocating from New York City. In New York, Gayle worked for five years for the Historic House Trust of New York City (a partner to the NYC Parks Department) and Safe Space, a children and family services agency that works with underserved groups in New York City. Gayle has extensive experience with foundation grants, government grants and membership development and has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Baruch College. The next time you're on the grounds, stop in to give Gayle a good Kentucky welcome!

# Yew Dell's Newest Board Member

## Julie Ballard

We are pleased to introduce Yew Dell friends and members to our newest board member. Mrs. William C. (Julie) Ballard has had a lifelong interest in gardening and flower arranging. She has completed abbreviated course work in England in both areas. She travels extensively with particular interest in gardens, architecture and art. Julie has served on the Boards of the Kentucky Opera, the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, St. Francis High School, and the Speed Art Museum. Currently, in addition to Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, she serves on the Board of the Mockingbird Valley Preservation Alliance and the Friends of Florence (a non profit organization supporting the restoration of art objects and buildings in Florence, Italy). Julie has particular interest in the greenhouse project at Yew Dell as well as the development of the Master Plan.

*nature*  
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2008

Carolyne Breeden  
Volunteer of the Year

April:  
Open 7 day a week

May:  
1st Garden Sculpture Show

August:  
Pond Reconstruction

April:  
1st Hellebore Day

October:  
1st Boo-Dell



## Changes in the Garden – Updating the Serpentine Garden

One of the challenges and joys of working within the framework of a historic garden is dealing with unintended changes. And during the 2012 gardening season it became obvious that what had been a minor annoyance in one of our gardens was erupting into an unavoidable new priority.

The **Serpentine Garden** is one of Theodore Klein's original and signature gardens at Yew Dell. An undulating *Taxus* (Yew) hedge set along the original entrance drive, for years formed the front row of Klein's varied conifer garden. Behind the hedge stand weeping spruce, dwarf pines and a whole host of unusual conifers in a range of textures and shades. It is a stunning planting 12 months of the year.

Unfortunately, a few years ago, several of the front row yews started to show signs of stress – gradual yellowing, occasional flagging of brown branches – all of which eventually combined to cause the plants' demise. Some of the Yews remained green but others succumbed, leaving behind a bit of a toothless grin of a hedge. By spring 2012 it was obvious that we needed to do something drastic. But given that the garden is a significant bit of Yew Dell's history, we wanted to take our time and be rather deliberate in reviewing options for a permanent replanting effort – or at least as permanent as plantings can be.

So we were left with a dilemma – how to accomplish removal of the dying Yew hedge but maintain the spirit and feel of the original garden – leaving us plenty of time to make a final decision on a replanting. Enter *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (Pink Muhly Grass) – a plant you may have read about on Page 3. Garden Manager Ann Mattingly ordered in a dozen or so trays of small plugs of the little grass and on a June volunteer work day, with a small group of our volunteers, the plugs were planted in the footprints of the removed *Taxus* hedge. A few waterings, a couple of weeding and a few months later, the 3' x 3' Muhlys exploded into their characteristic autumnal pink cloud. The result . . . an inexpensive and stunning display that will buy us a few years while we make our long term plans!



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2009

Stan Hanks  
Volunteer of the Year

April:  
New vegetable garden planted

2010

August:  
1st Hummingbird Festival

Debby Levine  
Volunteer of the Year

October:  
Plant collecting trip to Japan

April: AIA-Award-winning  
Visitor Center Opens

# HONORARY AND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

*Purchase of a memorial/ honorary bench has been and continues to be an excellent way to remember a loved one, mark a special occasion, or honor a valued friend.*

*Contact a staff member for details.*



## IN HONOR OF

*In Honor of Barbie Tafel*  
Garden Club of Lexington

*In honor of Debby Levine*  
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Alliman

*In honor of Mary & Bob Rounsavall*  
Dr. & Mrs. Lamien Gray

*In honor of Phil Payne*  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Sutherland

*Gifts received between*  
7/24/2102 - 11/5/2012.

*We apologize for any errors or omissions*  
*in this list of gifts.*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

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## Our Volunteers Keep Yew Dell Growing

Let us provide you a few excellent New Year's resolutions. For the coming year, we have a host of projects that need volunteers. We're happy to provide all the training needed. All you need to provide is the interest. Volunteers have a great time at Yew Dell and learn the whole time.

Here are a few of the many available opportunities:

**Garden Volunteer** – learn while helping our garden staff do their magic on the grounds;

**Event Volunteer** – assist with planning and managing classes, programs and special events, representing Yew Dell at off-site festivals and events;

**Trail Boss** – periodically walk the trails to inspect for needed maintenance;

**Volunteer Tour Guide** – help us tell the Yew Dell story to visiting groups;

**Hummingbird Feeder/Caretaker** – refresh the hummingbird food for our tiny feathered friends;

**Publicity Helper** – distribute event and Yew Dell literature to local businesses.

... and there's a whole lot more. Call Bonnie Heaton at (502) 241-4788 and she'll work with you to match your interests with Yew Dell's needs.

June:

1st International Garden Tour; England

2011

Wes Krupiczewicz  
Volunteer of the Year

April: Children in the Dell  
classes start

June:  
1st Farm to Table Dinner

October: Yew Dell on the National Register of  
Historic Places, 2nd International Garden Tour; Italy



# YEW DELL BOTANICAL GARDENS

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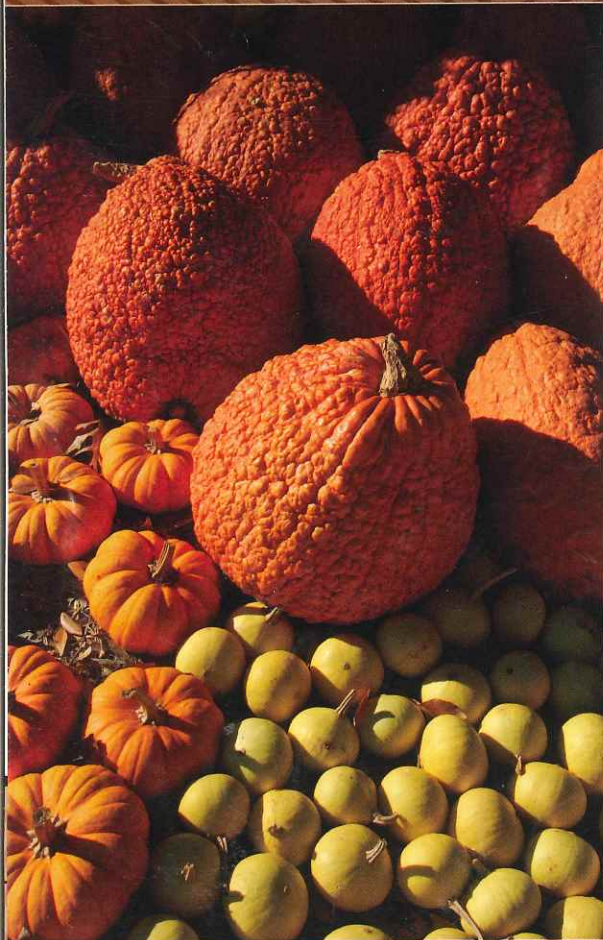
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Yew Dell Botanical Gardens is a partnership project of the Garden Conservancy, a national, non-profit organization founded to help preserve America's exceptional gardens.

## THE CASTLE CHRONICLES

*Fall & Early Winter 2012*



### OPEN HOURS

#### LATE DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH:

Monday through Friday: 10am to 4pm

#### APRIL THROUGH MID-DECEMBER:

Monday through Saturday: 10am to 4pm

Sunday: noon to 4pm

Holiday Reminders...

Don't Miss the Yew Dell Express and  
Yew Dell memberships make great gifts!

See inside for membership details...



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YEW DELL BOTANICAL GARDENS