



# THE CASTLE CHRONICLES



## Yew Dell Works with Kentucky Native Plants of Distinction

Sometimes the best treasures can be found right in your own backyard and that's as true in Kentucky as anywhere else. While we toil away on our daily activities, sometimes, many times in fact, we forget that just a short piece down the road there is an amazing natural landscape that most Louisvillians never see.

For the last several years, Yew Dell staff have worked with a number of other Kentucky plant pros and some from across the US, to better understand some of the very special plants found in the southeast corner of the state. The primary focus of this work has been the Cumberland Falls area, McCreary and surrounding counties. The reason for such a unique collection of plant species in this area is that it sits on the transition from the alkaline limestone we're used to at home, to the acidic soils of the Appalachian region. Here's a few of the stars we've worked with over the last few years:

*Magnolia macrophylla* – The aptly named Bigleaf Magnolia is a wonder of the Kentucky woods. Its 3' long leaves resemble those of a banana plant and offer a tropical rainforest feel to both woods and gardens. The late spring flowers are absolutely enormous - creamy white display stretching up to a foot in diameter! This species is found only in the southeastern US with particularly broad distribution in southeast Kentucky. It makes a first rate garden plant anywhere in our region as long as it is given reasonable soil moisture through the summer.



*Magnolia macrophylla* (bigleaf magnolia) offers the largest simple leaf of any tree in the US. It is a first-rate garden plant with enormous creamy white flowers in late May.



The typical green-leaved form of *Heuchera parviflora* in McCreary County, Kentucky. Yew Dell staff are working on developing new forms for the garden market.

*Heuchera parviflora* – Here's one even we never heard of before this work! This relative of the common garden coral bells is almost completely absent from cultivation. It grows in extremely dry and darkly shaded areas, is highly tolerant of high heat and humidity (unlike so many of the modern cultivars!) and offers rounded bright green leaves and tiny white flowers over a long period in late summer/fall. The exciting bit is that we've found a few populations that have brilliant purple leaves even in dark shade!

*Stewartia ovata* – The Mountain Camellia or Mountain Stewartia is one of the most delightful small trees of Kentucky woods and is found in a very narrow range in our target area. Growing to 15' tall or so, it is best known for its white summer flowers with red to purple centers. It is also known to be a bit of a bear to grow in the garden – we're working on that! This is an understory species, found on north sloping open wooded sites. We've found many formerly undocumented populations and have collected and distributed seed far and wide for research and conservation purposes.

Stay tuned . . . We hope that one day soon we'll have some new garden introductions to share from this exciting seed collecting work!



*Stewartia ovata* (Mountain Camellia) – a relative to tea and garden camellias that is native in southeastern Kentucky.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Winter Comes to the Garden...

As both an avid gardener and cyclist, you can bet that I pay close attention to the winter weather. January pruning and garden clean-up projects are so much nicer when it's 50 degrees out rather than 15 – and riding 35 mph down a steep hill on a road bike, nose to the wind, doesn't feel so good at 15 degrees either! And so far this winter it has proven to be nothing like last year's almost Caribbean winter.

But during colder winters, the gardener in me does appreciate the break it provides (short as it may be) to get through my catalogs and address a few home repairs and other tasks that accumulate during the gardening (and riding!) season. When I moved to Kentucky from Maine, many people asked me how I dealt with the long cold Maine winters. I usually responded that I couldn't imagine how Kentucky gardeners could deal with such a short winter – so little time to catch up and plan!

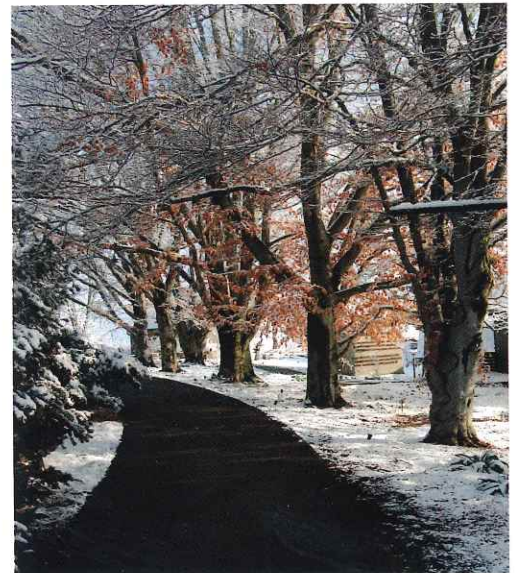
Well, since we're having an actual winter this year, you should have plenty of time to plan – plan your veggie garden; plan new tree plantings; plan to finally get that compost pile working properly. But I hope you will also take time to plan to take advantage of all Yew Dell will offer this year. We'll be completing the new greenhouse and horticulture center – so many opportunities there. We'll be offering a

long and diverse slate of classes and programs. And we always offer a beautiful and inspiring respite from everyday bustle.

And as an added benefit this year we're planning to open one evening a week (Thursdays) for cooler summer visits and evening picnics. We're even planning an HerbFest! (No, not that kind of herb. It isn't legal yet!) But whatever the reason, come and take advantage of what this community has come together to create.

At a local public lecture I offered earlier this year, a woman came up to me and asked me to thank all those involved with Yew Dell for creating such a spectacular community jewel. I asked her if she was a member and she nodded that she is. So I thanked her, on behalf of her . . . Like all our donors, members, volunteers and visitors, it has been a true group effort, so come and enjoy it!

Happy Gardening!  
*Paul Cappiello*  
Executive Director



## 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)
- Weeping Katsura \$150-\$499
- Golden-Berried Holly \$500-\$999
- The Dell Society \$1000 and above

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Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email

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Card Number: ---

Expiry Date: - (MM-YY) Security Code:

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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

# Spectacular additions to this year's Jurassic Garden!



*Basella alba* 'Rubra', Malabar Spinach. A showstopper in the garden!



*Atriplex hortensis*, Red Orach or Mountain Spinach. Lingering rain drops make the gorgeous foliage pop.



*Amaranthus tricolor* 'Perfecta' or Callaloo. The colorful variegated leaves stand out in any garden.

I am up to my elbows in plant catalogs and that's just fine by me! In my opinion, one can never have too many and I'm enjoying the chance to pour through the pages from some of my favorite vegetable seed companies. As I flip from one catalog to the next, I am reminded of some very cool plants that I grew in the past and that would be absolutely spectacular additions to this year's Jurassic Garden.

The first one is *Basella alba* 'Rubra', otherwise known as Malabar Spinach...and Ceylon Spinach...and Indian Spinach...and... There are as many reasons to grow this lovely plant as there are common names for it! First and foremost, it is a showstopper in the garden: A beautiful vine with succulent heart-shaped foliage, burgundy stems, and spikes of pink to violet flowers that give way to clusters of deep purple berries. It stands on its own merit as an ornamental but Malabar Spinach is also used for culinary purposes. This leafy vegetable has a mild flavor and is most commonly used to thicken soups and stir-fries. It is also an excellent source of Vitamin A, C, iron, and soluble fiber. But... look up any description of *Basella alba* as it pertains to a vegetable and you will also see the word mucilaginous – a.k.a., slimy. Slimy is not enough of a word to describe this plant and if your palate is sensitive to textures like mine is, you may not find this a pleasing experience. But who cares – she is a beauty that will add style and grace to your garden.

Another exquisite edible that will have a starring role in our Jurassic Garden this season is *Atriplex hortensis*, Red Orach or Mountain Spinach. In some climates Red Orach can reach 10 feet in height (although I have seldom seen it taller than 4 feet) and has stunning deep reddish purple foliage that comes alive when rain or dew drops linger on its leaves. This beauty makes a colorful and mild addition to any salad. The leaves can also be cooked but I have no personal experience with eating it this way. I had to laugh the first time I saw it go to seed. It looked very familiar to me and with a sneaking suspicion I headed inside to do a little research. As I suspected, I had just planted a close relative to Lamb's Quarters, a common garden weed! But a weed is only a plant growing somewhere you don't want it and to be perfectly honest I enjoy Lamb's Quarters too. An edible weed that is easy to pull up isn't all that bad in my book.

*Amaranthus tricolor* 'Perfecta' or Callaloo will complete this colorful entourage. Baker Creek Heirloom Seed catalog best describes the bright orange and red variegated foliage as 'reminiscent of lava spouting from a volcano'. Like the two described already, Callaloo amaranth can be eaten in a salad or cooked. And like the two selections above, 'Perfecta' will make a perfect addition to the Jurassic Garden. Stop by this summer and see for yourself!

Ann Mattingly, Garden Manager



# 2013 Winter Programs

See the Yew Dell Website for Complete Descriptions and Program Updates

## Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

The dates for this year's major events are set and we have the stickers to prove it and remind you! So get sticking (see attached) – We look forward to seeing you and your friends at Yew Dell this year!

### February is FREE!

Let all of your curious friends know! It's a great opportunity to encourage Yew Dell newbies to come out and see what you've been telling them about!

**Time Change**  
**Spring Forward**  
**The Garden is Calling!**  
**Sunday, March 10**

### Winter Tree Identification Workshop

with Robert Rollins and Paul Cappelletto

Saturday, March 23; 2-3:30pm

\$10/\$20 - Members/Non-members

If you can ID a tree without leaves, you can ID it any time of the year. One of Louisville's top tree professionals will provide all the tricks and tools you'll need to become a top tree-ID-geek yourself. As one of the owners of Greenhaven Tree Care, Robert has become famous for his creative presentations and his enthusiastic love of trees. We promise you'll never look at trees the same again!

### Transplanting Trees and Shrubs with Robert Rollins

Wednesday, April 10; 6 - 7:30pm

\$20/\$30 Members/Non-members

If gardeners never changed their minds, they'd never have to transplant a tree or shrub. But for those of us who treat plants like living room furniture, transplanting is an essential part of gardening. Robert is one of the best in the business and he will get you up close and personal with a few plants as he teaches transplanting in his inimitable style. This is a hands-on great time!

### Pruning Workshop

Saturday, March 30; 2:00-3:30pm

\$20/\$30 - Members/Non-members

One of Yew Dell's most popular workshops of the year, this offering will take participants through the basics of woody plant pruning. Whether your interest is trees, shrubs or everything green, Yew Dell executive director Paul Cappelletto will take you through the process of making sure your landscape plants are pruned to perfection! Bring work gloves and any pruning tools you have for both pruning and for discussion of tool types and maintenance.



### Hellebore Day – A Celebration and Sale!

Saturday, April 6; 10am - Noon

Regular Admission

If there was ever a near-perfect perennial for Kentucky, the hellebore is it! Evergreen foliage, winter and spring flowering, good looking foliage all summer . . . what's not to love!? And Yew Dell just happens to have one of the best collections in the land. Come learn about culture, biology, new varieties and more. And we'll have plenty of great plants to buy as well so you can start (or augment!) your own collection. Come early . . . plants sell out quickly.

### Plant Sale & Garden Market

Saturday, April 27; 10 - 4pm (members in at 9am!)

Sunday, April 28; Noon - 3pm

### Sculpture Show Opening Reception

Friday, May 17; 5-8pm

### Farm to Table Dinner

Sunday, June 23; 6-9pm

### HerbFest

Saturday, August 3; 9-1pm

### Hummingbird Festival

Saturday, August 24; 3- 6pm

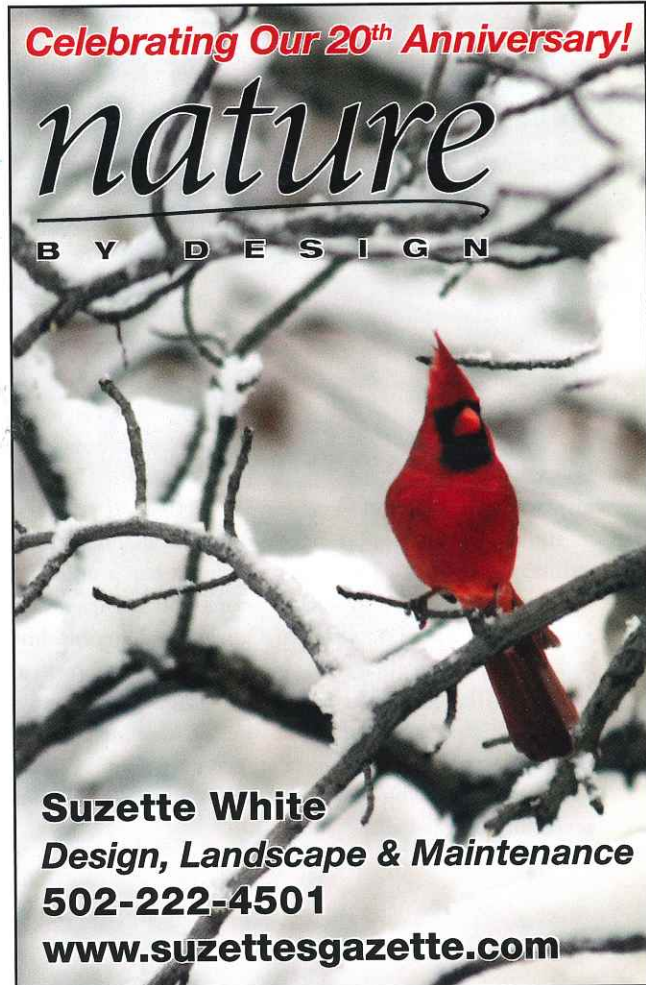
### Twilight

Friday, October 4; 6pm

Celebrating Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

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# YEW DELL HEADS TO FRANCE



Gardens of the Villa Ephrussi Rothschild. The Villa is surrounded by nine magnificent gardens offering patios, waterfalls, ponds, herbaceous borders, shady paths and rare trees.



The Princess Grace Rose Garden exhibits over 150 types of roses from all over the world.

Yew Dell's fourth international garden tour will set a new standard! Based out of the 5 star, Palais de la Mediterranee Hotel in Nice on the Southern coast of France, we will tour spectacular gardens of Nice, Grasse, Monaco, Monte Carlo, and Northern Italy from June 10 – 18, 2013. Travel by luxury coach with Yew Dell's executive director Dr. Paul Cappiello to some of the loveliest gardens in the world, many of which are not open to the public. If you have gone on Yew Dell's prior international trips or know someone who has, you'll know what fun we have – along with the wealth of information that is shared by all. For complete itinerary/cost information, and to reserve your spot, **call Yew Dell at 502-241-4788 or contact Karla Drover at [karlad@yewdellgardens.org](mailto:karlad@yewdellgardens.org).**



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# HONORARY AND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

## HONORARY GIFTS

*In honor of Suzette White*  
Oldham County Master Gardener's Assoc.

*In honor of Dr. Paul Cappiello*  
Dr. Joe F. Arterberry

*In honor of Holly Cooper*  
Ms. Joan H. Mayhugh

*In honor of Mary Rounsavall, Mary Broecker,  
and Julie Ballard*  
Mr. and Mrs. William Lomicka

*In honor of Mary Rounsavall*  
Ms. Paula Harshaw  
Ms. Judith Smith  
Mr. Robert W. Rounsavall III

*In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W.  
Rounsavall III*  
Mr. and Mrs. William Street

*In honor of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Collins,  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Rounsavall III and  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Hunt Rounsavall*  
Mr. and Mrs. John Clark IV

*In honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Clark IV*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Rounsavall III

*In honor of The Yew Dell Staff*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Rounsavall III

*In honor of the marriage of Embry Rucker and Joan MacLean*  
Mr. and Mrs. David G. Lotspeich  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Rounsavall III

*In honor of Louise Hickox*  
Mr. and Mrs. George Vieth

*In honor of The Yew Dell Board*  
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Cappiello

*In honor of Phil Payne, Jr.*  
Linker Capital Management

*In honor of Margie Schubert*  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Chapman

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*In Memory of Paul Tedesco*  
Ms. Mary Anne Thornton

*In Memory of John C. Ellis*  
Ms. Cheryl Leifer

*In Memory of Bernard Heitz*  
Ms. Liz Hubbard and Mr. Ryan Schmidt

*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.*



*Gifts received between  
11/5/12 - 1/14/13.  
We apologize for any errors or  
omissions in this list of gifts.*

## Donor Profile – Mary Myers



Mary Myers (second from the left) digging into the ground at last fall's official groundbreaking for Yew Dell's greenhouse and horticulture center.

One of the great joys of the Yew Dell experience is the constant parade of daily surprises that sprout from the ground, call on the phone and walk in the front door. And one of those great surprises came recently in the form of a delightful new donor; our subject of this Donor Profile.

Mary Myers is a life-long lover of plants and gardens. She's been a faithful Yew Dell member since 2006. And out of the blue, she stepped forward recently and asked why Yew Dell didn't have a greenhouse. How could she possibly have known then that YD staff had just a month before begun the process of planning a new horticulture facility including a state-of-the-art greenhouse! Following a discussion of Theodore Klein's old original greenhouse having been torn down for safety reasons and the plans for a new greenhouse, Mrs. Myers did something she'd never done before – she offered up a \$100,000 donation to kick off the greenhouse fundraising. When we finally scraped all the staff jaws off the floor, we thanked her!

The ensuing conversations revealed an enthusiastic and generous soul who has been captivated by Yew Dell's growth and success. Asked what lead her to the decision to make this donation Mrs. Myers responded, "I love Yew Dell. I love what you do. And I love that you don't just talk . . . you get things done." She continued, "several people have encouraged me to leave the gift as part of my will but Yew Dell needs this greenhouse NOW and I'd be so excited to see it built." We couldn't agree more!

When we complete the greenhouse construction later this year, we'll be delighted to welcome Mary Myers through the front door . . . and to thank her once again!

***If you'd like to donate to the greenhouse project, there's still time! Contact one of our staff. We'd be more than happy to talk with you. And we can assure you that Mrs. Myers will be happy too!***

# YEW DELL BOTANICAL GARDENS

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## THE CASTLE CHRONICLES

Winter 2013



### OPEN HOURS

**TIMES ARE CHANGING!**

#### LATE DECEMBER THROUGH APRIL

Monday through Friday Only  
10am - 4pm

#### APRIL THROUGH MID-DECEMBER

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Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10am - 4pm  
Sunday Noon - 4pm



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