

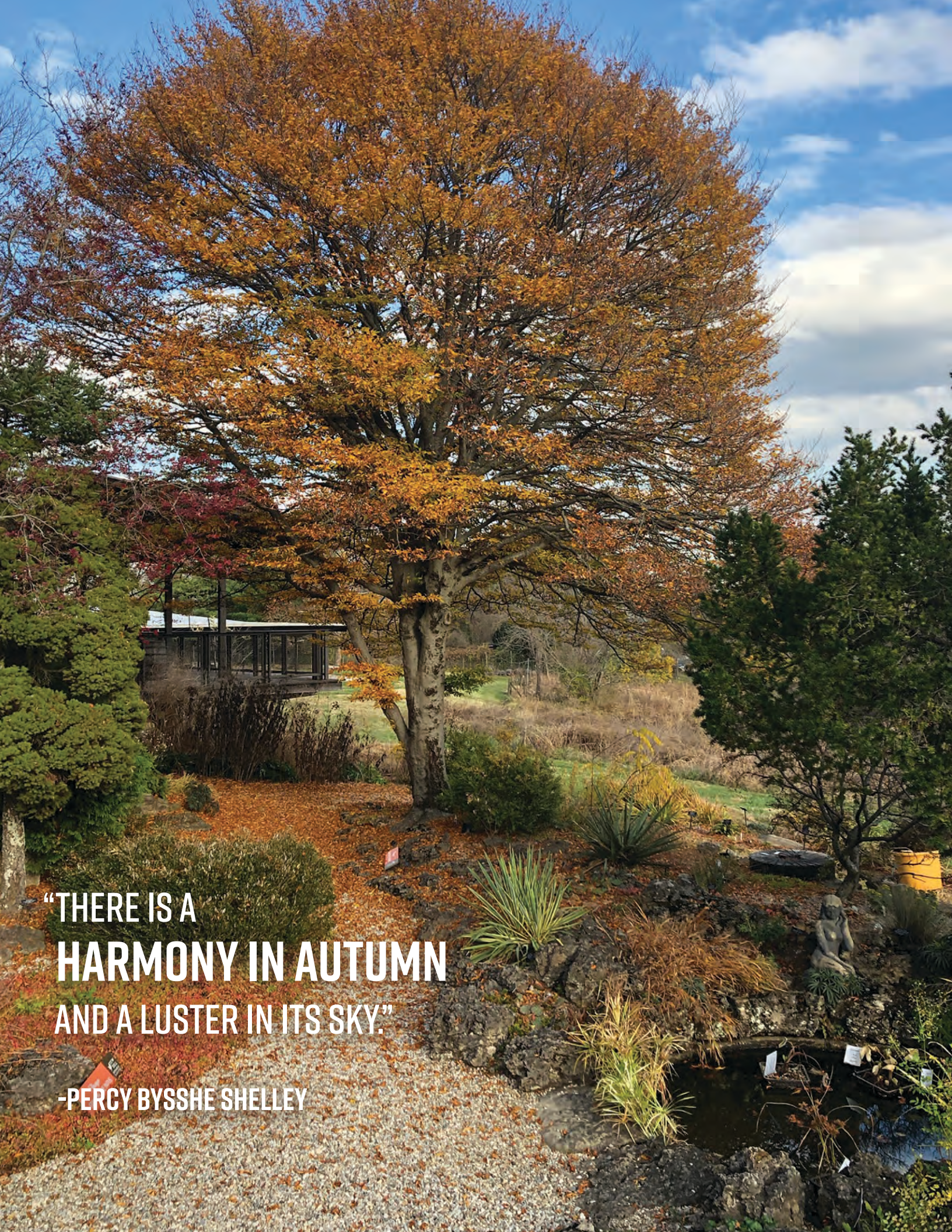
FALL

2021



Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*)

 YEW
DELL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS™



**“THERE IS A
HARMONY IN AUTUMN
AND A LUSTER IN ITS SKY.”**

-PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Forty-thousand years ago, some enterprising individual had a rather brilliant idea. Rather than wander around the plains of Mesopotamia looking for seeds to gather, maybe it would be better to intentionally plant some grain in a convenient place. That way, everyone would know where to go at harvest time. And in one fell swoop, agriculture was born.

Faith in Seed . . . Thoreau enshrined the notion in his seminal work of the same name (and it's still a favorite read!). Imagine the faith of that Fertile Crescent farmer—the first of his/her kind.

For some, fall is the time when everything dies. But for me, fall is a magical time in woods, field and garden. I'll turn 60 during this fall, and for most of those 60 years I have collected seed, sown seed, cultivated the resulting plants and then collected seed again—often times after work, during gathering twilight, on too-short days.

I was reminded of this simple cycle this spring when I went out and bought a few packets of zinnia seed for our home garden. Zinnias are as common as the dirt they grow in and tough to beat as a cut flower. They're bright, cheerful and easy to grow. Well, I popped open those zinnia packets to find a grand total of 9 seeds per packet! What a bust. I had to go out and buy a few more packets . . . and no better luck there.

But then I thought, "what am I doing buying zinnia seed?" I guess it's time to remember my gardener's roots, get some new batteries for the flashlight and plan a seed harvest evening one day this fall.

Connecting to the land and plants that we craft into our gardens is a process . . . a lifelong process.

As the saying goes, the longer I garden, the more I realize there is to learn. So we offer you in this edition of the Yew Dell newsletter a long list of ways to connect. Take a class to learn how to collect and save seed. Hop on your bike and take a mobile tree tour of Louisville. How about learning how to make dogwood jam?

But whatever you choose, why not find a new way to celebrate your own faith in a seed.

Happy Gardening,

Paul Cappiello



CLASSES AND EVENTS

PLANNING A DEER-RESISTANT GARDEN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
MEMBERS \$20 / NON-MEMBERS \$30

Shelly Nold, owner of The Plant Kingdom, shares strategies on making your garden a little less attractive to deer. Shelly will discuss plants, barriers, and repellents, which will help steer our furry friends away from our precious plantings.

SHADE TREE WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13 • 9:30 AM-3:00 PM
MEMBERS \$75 / NON-MEMBERS \$85

Spend a glorious fall day in the garden when the focus will be all about the trees. Plant walks covering tree ID and variety selection and mini workshops on planting techniques, root system assessment and new tree aftercare will be led by Yew Dell's horticulture staff. Includes coffee and box lunch.



PLANT WALK SERIES: FALL COLOR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 9:00 AM-10:00 AM
MEMBERS \$10 / NON-MEMBERS \$20

Explore the gorgeous fall colors throughout the gardens with Horticulture Apprentice, Allison Morgan.



DOGWOOD JAM-MAKING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 • 12:30 PM-2:00 PM
MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBERS \$35

Whitney Powers, owner of Garden Girl Foods in Old Louisville, will lead you through this hands-on jam-making workshop using a much under-appreciated fruit source . . . Cornelian Cherry Dogwood! Leave the workshop with a fresh jar of jam you made yourself and the confidence to preserve the fruits from your own garden.

SEED HARVESTING AND PROCESSING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBERS \$35

Join Margaret Shea, owner of Dropseed Native Plant Nursery in Goshen, KY, for this hands-on workshop where you'll learn when and how to collect, process and store seeds for next year. From grasses to wildflowers, you'll go home with some seeds to try out in your own garden and the knowledge to do more on your own.





For more class/event information and to register go to: www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events/

All classes and events listed are in-person unless otherwise indicated.

ANNUAL MEMBER'S PLANT SALE . . . WITH A TWIST!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21 • 5:00 PM–9:00 PM

FREE REGISTRATION – FOR MEMBERS ONLY

(SO MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS UP TO DATE!)

Join us at 5:00 PM for this annual coming together of all the horticultural glitterati of the region to talk plants, buy plants and share refreshments. At 7:30 PM, meet with some of the best plant pros in the region for a no-holds-barred, informal discussion/debate/food fight over some of the best and not so great plants in the area. For more information and to make reservations, go to www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS LG&E & KU



Foundation

BUILDING BETTER GARDEN SOIL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28 • 6:00 PM–7:30 PM

MEMBERS \$15 / NON-MEMBERS \$25

Oldham County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent, Traci Missun will help you better understand your own soil and help you create a soil improvement plan so you can get the most out of next year's garden. Learn about soil testing and a host of area resources that will help you optimize next year's bounty.

LOUISVILLE TREE TOUR BY BIKE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 • 1:00 PM–3:00 PM

MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBERS \$35

You've never done a plant walk like this! Yew Dell executive director, uber tree geek and avid cyclist Paul Cappiello will lead this bike ride around Louisville with stops at some magnificent tree specimens. You don't have to be a Lycra-wearing bike racer but please don't make this the first time you've been on a bike in 20 years. All riders are required to wear a helmet, carry at least one spare tube and have at least one working rear flashing light.



Boo Dell!

at Yew Dell

BOO DELL!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 • 12:00 PM–4:00 PM

ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED

MEMBERS – FREE

NON-MEMBERS – ADULTS \$9 / SENIORS & CHILDREN 6-17 \$5 /

CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE

In-person Boo Dell returns! Our famous Trail of Treats is back, along with roaming magicians, a performance by School of Rock Louisville, and other surprises. This year, we have three timeslots to spread out the crowds.

All tickets are advance sale. No ticket sales at the door.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR SHIRAZ MEDITERRANEAN GRILL





To register and for more class information, go to www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events

CLASSES AND EVENTS CONT'D

YULETIDE 2021

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS · 11/26-11/28, 12/3-12/5 & 12/10-12/12
TWO TIME SLOTS PER NIGHT - 4:30 PM-6:00 PM & 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED

MEMBERS - ADULTS \$7 / SENIORS & CHILDREN 6-17 \$5 / CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE

NON-MEMBERS - ADULTS \$10 / SENIORS & CHILDREN 6-17 \$5 / CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE

Yuletide at Yew Dell is back, and we've added a third weekend due to popular demand! Get in the holiday spirit with the dazzling light and décor displays and enjoy the model train village. Say hello to Santa and hear a story, enjoy snacks, beverages (of both the kid and adult varieties) and other surprises that all combine to make a wonderful family outing.

All tickets are advance sale, no ticket sales at the door.



THANK YOU TO OUR YULETIDE SPONSOR



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HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27 · 10:00 AM-12:00 PM & 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 · 10:00 AM-12:00 PM & 2:00 PM-4:00 PM
MEMBERS \$55 / NON-MEMBERS \$65

Yew Dell's holiday classic! Spend a morning or afternoon in the gardens making your own holiday wreath with fresh greens collected from the gardens. These workshops fill up in a flash so register early. No experience needed.



THE BOTANY OF CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7 · 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBERS \$35

Aaron Sexton, University of Louisville PhD Candidate, will explore the stories and traditions of the plants that make the holidays. From cedars to poinsettias and the yews and hollies that serve as the foundation for Yew Dell's gardens, plan to see the holidays in a whole new way. Following the lecture with Aaron, stick around to stroll our Yuletide holiday light display.

GARDEN GIFT SHOP

The holidays will be here in the blink of an eye, or since we are in a garden, the fall of a leaf. Lots of holiday treats to make your home ready to welcome friends and family. Lots of gift ideas to make anyone on your gift list smile!

REMEMBER, every time you shop our shop you grow our garden!

Last day to shop is Sunday, December 12



YEW DELL in Autumn

After a long, hot summer, fall is the perfect time for a return visit to Yew Dell. The cooler weather, changing foliage and emerging fruit give the whole place a different look and a fresh feel. If you're planning a visit this fall, here are a few suggestions.

HIKE THE TRAILS



A beautiful fall hiking day overlooking the Kingfisher Pond on Yew Dell's trails

Yew Dell's trails wind through meadows and woods and offer a great opportunity for a quiet walk or a detailed investigation of all the happenings of natural lands. Whether hunting for animal tracks, studying the wide diversity of trees and other plant life or a bit of quiet bird watching, there's plenty to see and enjoy on a nice autumn day.

Yew Dell has more than 1.5 miles of wooded hiking trails and we're adding more mowed trails in the pollinator meadow as well.

LOOK FOR FALL GARDEN INSPIRATION

While many of us simply let our gardens go this time of year, fall can be the garden's great third act. Look for these fall standouts for some inspiration for your own garden.



Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*) – An unusual bulb that blooms in fall, this one takes no special care. It sends up big, bold sprays of green foliage in early summer that then dies down before the brilliant pink flowers emerge in fall. It's a great shot of cheerful color for fall. And if you're up for something different, try the double flowered cultivar 'Waterlily'.



Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) – This living fossil is a species that dates back to the time of T. rex! Its unmistakable, fan-shaped leaves are bright green all summer long. But in autumn they turn brilliant yellow/gold all at once and then fall in one great big "leaf-mageddon" event. It's tough to time but worth checking back frequently for this annual fall happening. Our biggest ginkgo is located in the south half of the arboretum.



Hollies (*Ilex species*) – There are both evergreen and deciduous holly species planted throughout the grounds, and as the weather turns colder, they start to hit their stride. Brilliant red, orange or yellow fruits color up to usher in the holiday season. Check out the arboretum, castle area or the holley allee for some excellent displays.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

YEW DELL'S FORMER HORTICULTURE APPRENTICES AND INTERNS



DR. MICAH E. STEVENS, PH.D.
Horticulture Intern 2008

CURRENT ROLE
Research Lab Manager,
Sierra Gold Nurseries, CA

After Micah's time at Yew Dell, he headed to Purdue where he earned MS and PhD degrees in forestry. Currently he works for Sierra Gold Nurseries (CA) that produces millions of fruit and nut trees that are shipped across the US.

"I believe my journey was started by my time at Yew Dell. I had the freedom to learn about Kentucky native plants and their importance in the garden, gain valuable hands-on experience with cutting propagation (Thanks, Paul, for letting me stick cuttings of about everything I could get my hands on!) and learn plant taxonomy—a gateway for my love of plant genetics. I am truly appreciative of my time at Yew Dell."



2008 Horticulture Intern, Micah Stevens, testing out a sculpture show installation



EVAN WARE
Horticulture Apprentice 2013-2014

CURRENT ROLE
Extension Agent,
Mississippi State University

Evan finished her apprenticeship at Yew Dell and then moved on to earn a Master of Science in Horticulture from Auburn University where she also worked with the Auburn extension service.

"Due to my love of connecting people with plants that was inspired by my apprenticeship at Yew Dell, I took advantage of the opportunity to work as a graduate assistant for Alabama Extension."

Evan now works as an extension agent in Mississippi where she works with the general public and 4H groups.

"The opportunities provided for me as a Yew Dell horticulture apprentice gave me a head start to my career. The skills I developed at Yew Dell helped me get to where I am today."



Evan Ware teaching hands on gardening



ALICE CLARK (KIMBRELL)
Horticulture Apprentice 2016-2017

CURRENT ROLE
Volunteer Coordinator
and Horticulturist,
University of Tennessee Gardens

At UT Gardens, Alice oversees over 150 volunteers while also helping to manage the 10-acre public garden.

During her apprenticeship at Yew Dell, Alice had a chance to work with volunteers and visitors, helped to offer classes, created videos for social media and worked in the gardens and the nursery. Her most rewarding takeaway from Yew Dell was hands-on experience working in the Kitchen Garden and making life-long friends. Alice says that working at Yew Dell kick started her career, and she wouldn't be where she is today without her apprenticeship!



ISABEL BRANSTROM
Horticulture Apprentice 2018-2019

CURRENT ROLE
Consumer Horticulture Educator,
Michigan State University
Extension

Isabel develops programs and workshops, creates educational content on environmental and plant health care topics and coordinates the Master Gardener program in mid-Michigan.

“Yew Dell gave me a great template for the kind of environment I want to work in. Every day I was surrounded by people who are passionate about plants and educating others. I am forever grateful for my time at Yew Dell—for the friends I made and the things I learned that I continue to share with others.”



ISSAC LECHNER
Horticulture Apprentice 2018-2019

CURRENT ROLE
Landscape Crew Leader,
Medxcel, Evansville, IN

Issac applied for Yew Dell's apprenticeship program in 2018 after graduating from Vincennes University in Indiana with an associates degree in horticulture science. To this day, he says it is the best decision he made for his career.

“At Yew Dell, I was fully immersed in the industry. The staff was extremely friendly and more than helpful in fostering my passion for plants and horticulture. We assisted in numerous projects, led multiple educational tours and workshops, and were sent out to participate in as many professional development opportunities as we could.

Since my time at Yew Dell, I was also able to work at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina maintaining the historic Olmsted gardens, a job I would not have gotten without the apprenticeship and recommendation from Dr. Capiello.”



JEFFREY FOX
Horticulture Apprentice 2019-2020

CURRENT ROLE
Horticulturist, Tulsa Botanic Garden, Tulsa, OK

“I work with a great team at Tulsa Botanic Garden. Yew Dell began as my happy escape while I went to school in Louisville. As a volunteer and later an apprentice, I learned to love the cooperative atmosphere of the public garden world. My fellow apprentice Lori and I just reunited during a trip to the New York Botanical Garden—it's amazing how much we've grown. Thanks to Yew Dell, I'm still learning about horticulture every day!”

NOTES FROM THE NURSERY

DIVIDE, CONQUER, AND SHARE

by Jacob Stidham, Nursery and Greenhouse Manager

DIVIDE

It's the time of the year to double, triple, or more than quadruple the investment you have in your garden. Most herbaceous perennials do better with a good division every few years. What we see above ground is a plant that gets larger year to year but what we don't see is the growth of root systems that get bigger as well. Many times, each flower stalk on a herbaceous perennial is actually its own plant that can be divided from the main plant clump. That's right, the clump of Hosta in your garden that had 20 flower stalks this year could be divided into as many as 20 separate plants!

CONQUER

Get over the fear. One of the struggles of dividing perennials is worrying that you will damage or kill the plant. You won't. It's easy. It's fun. And you get a lot more plants! The only time you will kill a plant is if you cut through the middle of one of the divisions, but most plants will have several divisions each so if you kill one in the dividing process, no worry. To gain a little more knowledge into what is going on underground, wash all the soil off a perennial clump so you can see the entire underground structure. Usually the individual divisions are easy to identify, making it easy to decide where to divide the clump into smaller divisions or individual plants.

SHARE

One of the greatest parts of gardening is sharing plants with family and friends. With all of your new plants you will have plenty to plant back in the original location, add some to a new garden bed and more than enough to put in a pile with a "Free Plants" sign. The only thing gardeners like more than plants is free plants!

“ONE OF THE GREATEST PARTS OF
GARDENING IS
SHARING
PLANTS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.”

A hosta clump ready for division



New hosta divisions ready for sharing



GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN

SEASONAL DÉCOR FROM THE GARDEN

by Sayde Heckman, Gardens and Arboretum Manager

Yew Dell's shiny new mission statement is to spark a passion for plants and gardening through accessible science and inspiring beauty. As the Garden and Arboretum Manager, this is my mission too. I simply want to use our gardens to help people find their spark.

One of my favorite spark garden activities is collecting seasonal décor materials right from the garden—grasses, dried flowers and foliage—rather than dousing things with metallic floral spray or, gasp, using plastic plants. For the last few years we've focused on growing some of our summer annuals with the intention of harvesting and drying them for our fall and holiday displays.

When you come out to the gardens this fall, look for wreaths, garlands and other seasonal specialties adorned with three of my favorites for drying.



Globe Amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*) – A fantastic cut flower with globe-like blooms that comes in shades of pink, purple, and white. These were started from seed and have quickly produced robust plants with endless blooms in both raised and ground beds.



White Statice (*Limonium sinuatum*) – We've all seen these in floral arrangements at the grocery store but it's an easy one to grow yourself. This plant has brilliant white flower clusters and neat, winged stems which add a fun bit of texture to the décor.



Yellow Strawflower (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*) – These blooms are bright buttery yellow and have a crunchy texture, very similar to straw! They have heavy flower production and hold their vibrant color well after drying. But beware, rabbits will eat this plant to nubs, so be sure to plant them in a protected area.



Horticulture Apprentice Allison Morgan drying cut flowers for fall wreaths

COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

FALL FRUIT IN THE GARDEN

While foliage color usually gets top fall billing, fruit in the fall garden plays no second fiddle. Whether it is the sometimes-stunning color displays, the wildlife benefit or your own culinary traditions, fall fruit is a mainstay of the autumn garden. And here are a few to look out for this season whether at Yew Dell or around town:



Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

If you've never been goaded into tasting a not-yet-ripe persimmon fruit, you just haven't lived. But if you know the joy of eating a fresh persimmon pudding (with homemade whipped cream, of course!) you know how to live well!

The golf ball sized fruit start out green before ripening through a golden yellow to a red/orange blush, make a nice show in the garden but don't last long as they're eaten by opossums, raccoons, deer and others.

MARTHA LEE KLEIN'S Persimmon Pudding Recipe

A Klein family favorite that's been adopted by many of our staff, now there's no excuse not to make your own.

INGREDIENTS

2 cups persimmon pulp	2 cups sifted flour
3 eggs beaten	½ tsp cinnamon
1 ¾ cups milk	½ tsp nutmeg
1 tsp melted butter	½ tsp baking soda
	1 tsp salt
	1 ½ cup sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Mix pulp, eggs and milk.
2. Sift dry ingredients together and pour liquid mix into dry
3. Stir in melted butter then pour in shallow, greased pan to 2" depth
4. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees, cool and cut into squares
5. Serve with fresh whipped cream

Hollies (*Ilex species*)

Whether the deciduous types or the evergreens, the fall and winter seasons are all about the hollies. The best of the deciduous types are cultivars and hybrids of **Winterberry Holly** (*Ilex verticillata*) that range from red to orange and even yellow fruited forms.



Winterberry Holly in Yew Dell's arboretum



'Winter Gold'
Winterberry Holly

Likewise, while the **American Holly** (*Ilex americana*) typically bears red fruit, there are also orange and yellow forms. Just remember, to get good fruit set on your female hollies, you need a male in the vicinity as well.



Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

Not known for its fruit display, this one is often

overlooked but can put on quite a show. The bright pink/red fruiting structures gradually dry and open to show off the bright orange/red seeds.



Southern Magnolia
(*Magnolia grandiflora*)

Hardy Orange (*Citrus trifoliata*)

That's right . . . a true citrus that will survive a Kentucky winter! This fabulously-thorned shrub has smooth, olive green stems, brilliant and fragrant white spring flowers and 2" diameter yellow/orange fruit in fall. It's incredibly tart but equally showy as leaves drop in fall. Just picking a few for fragrance in the house makes this one worth a try.



THE BUDDING GARDENER

A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES

CELEBRATE FALL BY MAKING A NATURE MANDALA

At Yew Dell, we're famous for our mandalas, but you can make one on your own.

1. When visiting Yew Dell, a park, or even when out in your back yard, look for fallen leaves and fruit, bits of bark and even small branches and arrange them on the ground to create a mandala. An immense variety of color, texture, size, and form can be found in nature. Just remember to pick up items from the ground rather than picking off live plants.
2. Share your creations with us by tagging us on social media @YewDellGardens (Twitter) or @yewdellgardens (Instagram) #YewMakeArt



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YEW DELL HAS **GROWN** FROM A NEARLY LOST TREASURE TO A **SPARKLING GEM** THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS, DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND MEMBERS. IT IS WITH **YOUR SUPPORT** THAT WE CAN **CONTINUE OUR MISSION TO SPARK A PASSION** FOR PLANTS AND GARDENING THROUGH ACCESSIBLE SCIENCE AND **INSPIRING BEAUTY**.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

THANK YOU, YOUTHWORKS!

This summer, we continued our partnership with Youthworks Louisville, which is part of a national organization that organizes volunteer opportunities for church youth groups from across the country. These groups stay in Louisville for a week and volunteer at a variety of organizations in the area. We had a different group out each week this summer and they tackled a variety of projects from the woodland trails to arboretum vine removal to sprucing up the trial gardens.



In these pictures a Youthworks group from Georgia did an amazing job removing around eight tractor-loads-worth of vines from the arboretum. Their leader shared that when he asked them to rate the experience on a scale from 1-10, one student responded with “15!” Thank you Youthworks and thank you to our horticulture staff who worked with them to cultivate such amazing relationships!

... and the nursery continues to expand!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

This summer, Yew Dell staff and a group of intrepid volunteers built yet another hoop house to allow us to grow even more plants. From surveying the ground to screwing together hoops and installing them in place, we couldn't have done it without our fantastic volunteers!



**YEW
DELL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS**

**GIVE THE
GIFT OF
MEMBERSHIP
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS**

A Yew Dell membership is the perfect gift for all, from garden guru to budding beginner. Membership is an important part of the support that helps us grow this magical garden.

From garden concerts to plant sales, classes and workshops to a year of visits to a wonderland of gardens, architecture, forest and field—a year of Yew Dell is the gift that keeps on giving.

yewdellgardens.org/membership/



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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.

Yew Dell is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Yuletide, 2021!

Join us for three full weekends of holiday fun and cheer including lights around the gardens, model train village, visits with Santa, kid's crafts, refreshments and more.

STARTS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Advance purchase, timed tickets only. See page 5 and the Yew Dell website for details.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: UNITED MAIL, INC.

