

FALL

2022



Celebrating
20
YEARS
YEW DELL
BOTANICAL GARDENS.



Photo of Klein Nursery & Farm taken in 1962 by Courier Journal's Billy Davis

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Two roads diverged in a wood and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.

The much-revered Frost piece seems to be appropriate in so many situations. 25 years ago, I left the relative security of academia for the bluegrass of Kentucky. 20 years ago, we embarked on the (in all honesty) wildly unlikely and far from certain road called Yew Dell. We've spent so much time since then, divining the best direction at each diverging path . . . It seems just so appropriate that in one of Theodore Klein's tomes he wrote that he always "loved to ramble in the woods." I'm guessing he encountered a few forks in the road along the way, too.

In this fourth installment of our 20th anniversary quarterly for 2022 - architecture then gardening, history and now, finally, our natural areas - it seems only right to recognize the many diverging roads this organization has encountered over the last 20 years.

Back in the early days, volunteer workdays consisted of pulling vines out of trees all morning and pulling cars out of the mud all afternoon – we had no parking lot back then! You could have opted out amidst all of the chaos . . . but you didn't. We launched our first membership campaign, having little to offer in return other than a promise, a plan, and warm, fuzzy feeling. You could have moved on to other things and nobody would have blamed you. . . but you didn't.

We said we wanted to build a glass greenhouse with a green roof . . . a crystal box of a visitor center inside an old, bent-over tobacco barn . . .

create an internationally recognized botanical garden with the best staff on the planet in . . . of all places . . . Crestwood, Kentucky. You could have waived your hand and said we all needed to have our heads examined (and maybe you would have been right!) But you didn't.

This fall, when you come for a hike on our trails to look for birds, enjoy the trees, or sit and enjoy the stunning new lake, pause for a few moments. Sit on a bench, an old log, or a boulder and ponder 20 years of diverging roads. Did we consistently take the road less traveled by? Absolutely. Has it made all the difference? You bet it has!

Paul Cappiello





MEMBERS' PLANT SALE AND HORTICULTURAL FOOD FIGHT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

MEMBERS ONLY

Join us for our annual Members-only event with some of the best plants available in the region, a few snacks, cash bar, and spend time rubbing elbows with some of the best gardeners around. And after all the buying is done, join our hort staff and some of the area's best plant pros for the annual Horticultural Food Fight - a no-holds-barred discussion of some of the best . . . and some of the worst performing plants from 2022.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR



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MUSHROOM HIKE AT YEW DELL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 • 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

MEMBER \$25 / NON-MEMBER \$35

Curious about the mushrooms growing on your land or in the woods? This is the hike for you! Our friends from the Bluegrass Mycological Society will lead a walk of our gardens and trails to identify what we have growing while giving an overview of the fungal kingdom. Learn the important role mushrooms have in our forests and fields to how they are used to improve our world.



1879: Kleins in Oldham County

SHADE TREE SELECTION FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MEMBER \$25 / NON-MEMBER \$35

In partnership with Louisville Tree Week, our executive director Dr. Paul Cappiello will guide a walk through Yew Dell's extensive tree collections and a talk about the best shade tree selections for increasing drought, storms, and other environmental stresses.



PLANTS FOR A DYE GARDEN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MEMBER \$50 / NON-MEMBER \$60

Claire McMahon, Operations Assistant at Anchal Project, will lead the discussion about what plants work locally for a dye garden, how to collect and process your flowers for dyeing, and what is involved with the dyeing process.

Each ticket includes a goldenrod plant from our nursery to get participants started on their dye gardening.



Did YEW Know?

Anchal Project is a nonprofit that uses design & collaboration to provide economic opportunities for marginalized women to empower themselves through the creation of sustainable products, holistic programs, and global market access.

Yew Dell has partnered with Anchal Project by providing marigolds collected from the Family Garden for dyes for their quilts, bags, and sustainable clothing.

1905: Theodore Roosevelt Klein was born



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

All listed programs are tentatively scheduled to be in-person unless otherwise indicated.

CLASSES AND EVENTS



GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY WITH MURPHY'S CAMERA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MEMBER \$30 / NON-MEMBER \$40

Join us for a Garden Photography Workshop with our friends from Murphy's Camera, Louisville's premiere camera and photography source for 60 years. We'll start with a guided tour around Yew Dell's beautiful gardens, then learn the basics of framing images and utilizing lighting from a Murphy's Camera Educator. You'll see the gardens in a whole new way while capturing amazing images!

YEW DELL'S MIGRATORY BIRD WALK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

In partnership with Louisville Tree Week, Brad Kessans, Yew Dell's own Facilities and Trail Guru, will lead a walk around our grounds to spot and identify migratory birds and the trees that support them. This walk is included with admission. Bring binoculars if available and wear sturdy walking shoes.

HARDY ORANGE MARMALADE WITH GARDEN GIRL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 • 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

MEMBER \$45 / NON MEMBER \$55

Garden Girl Whitney Powers returns with another hands-on (trust us on this!) workshop where participants leave with a jar of deliciousness tied to Yew Dell. This year, we'll make Hardy Orange Marmalade with fruit grown on site or very nearby.



PLANNING A PEST-RESISTANT GARDEN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 • 6:00 PM - 7:30PM

\$20 MEMBER / \$30 NON-MEMBER

Shelly Nold, Owner of The Plant Kingdom, expands on last fall's Deer-Resistant Gardens to include more pests, such as squirrels, rabbits, moles, and other creatures. Shelly will once again make suggestions on plants, barriers, and repellents to steer our furry friends away from our precious plantings.



Boo Dell! at Yew Dell

BOO DELL!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 • 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED

MEMBERS - FREE BUT REQUIRE A TICKET

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

CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE BUT REQUIRE A TICKET

Boo Dell returns! Our famous Trail of Treats is back, plus activities with our Horticulture Team, live music, and other surprises for the whole family in a non-scary environment. We have three timeslots to spread out the crowds.

All tickets are advance sale. No entries at the door.

1907: Martha Lee Sageser was born



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR



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CLASSES AND EVENTS CONT'D

APPRENTICE PLANT WALK & ARBORETUM RAMBLE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 • 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

Theodore Klein loved to "ramble" in the woods. For the October Apprentice Plant Walk, join in as we highlight some of our favorite things on this leisurely walk around the Arboretum.



YULETIDE 2022

FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS • 11/25 - 11/27, 12/2 - 12/4 & 12/9 - 12/11

TWO TIME SLOTS PER NIGHT - 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM & 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

MEMBERS- ADULTS \$9 / SENIORS & CHILDREN \$5 /

CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE BUT REQUIRE A TICKET

NON-MEMBERS- ADULTS \$12 / SENIORS & CHILDREN \$7 /

CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE BUT REQUIRE A TICKET

Yuletide at Yew Dell returns for another year of holiday memories. Guests can view the dazzling light and décor displays, capture family photos, be mesmerized by our model train village, say hello to Santa and hear a story, savor snacks & beverages, and enjoy other surprises in our annual celebration. This makes a great addition to your holiday traditions!

All tickets are advance sale. No entries at the door.



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1929: Theodore marries Martha Lee Sageser

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

MEMBER \$65 / NON MEMBER \$75

Our Yew Dell family classic returns for another holiday season! Select the morning or afternoon shift to make your holiday wreath with greens collected from the gardens. These workshops fill up quickly, so don't miss out!



HOLIDAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 • 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBERS \$35

Stacy Thomas, Floral Designer for Petal Power Cut Flowers, and presenter for spring's popular BYOB Flower Arranging workshop, demonstrates creative floral arrangements for the holidays, mixing greenery and other items found in her garden with items purchased from grocery stores or farmer's markets. Stacy will utilize a variety of containers of different shapes and sizes, and she will give you plenty of ideas to experiment with your own greenery and vessel resources. This workshop is virtual, so families and friends can watch together on one registration.



NOTES FROM THE NURSERY

BY JACOB STIDHAM

Sometimes great, unexpected things happen when you set off to do something. When I went off to study at Purdue, I was confident I would graduate with an engineering degree and go on to be at least a billionaire! By graduation, I was a horticulture major and engaged to another horticulture major, Emma! I consider that a win, win.

We have had something similar happen this year at Yew Dell. We set off to be less reliant on city water in our rapidly growing nursery, so we built a new lake to pump water from our woodland area. I'm happy to report we have the new lake finished and it is filled with water. Next year, we will not be reliant on city water! What we didn't expect was what an incredible addition to the garden this new lake would be.

The project began in early 2022 and has taken many forms from **clearing** to **digging** to **construction**.



At roughly 1.5 acres, the water is easily visible from the Castle Terrace but it's the view of the castle from the lake that is the best part! When you look across the lake and Pollinator Meadow, the castle is about 200 yards up the hill and when the lighting is right, a perfect reflection of it can be seen in the water.



Part of our irrigation project includes installing automatic irrigation in the back hoop houses.



As soon as our new lake filled with water, I began to see tadpoles swimming along the bank, dragon flies skimming the water, and one early morning in August, I walked down there and flushed a group of ducks. With plans to seed the back side of the dam with a pollinator mix, to expand trail system around the lake, and even more ideas brewing, an initial plan to reconfigure our irrigation in the nursery has grown into improving our regional water ways, adding even more natural beauty to Yew Dell, and much, much more!



Credit: Land Morphology

Castle Gardens Campaign Update

Along with celebrating 20 years of community impact, Yew Dell Botanical Gardens announced the launch of our Castle Gardens Capital Campaign earlier this year. From this project, the iconic castle will rise from newly designed gardens. The re-imagined arrival experience will orient visitors towards discovery and surprise while providing accessibility for all. It will plant the seeds to inspire and teach future generations. Yew Dell will emerge as a treasured crown jewel as we embark on this exciting, transformational project.

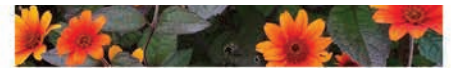
We're starting the fall with \$2.9 million and rolling toward our \$5 million goal. If you've not yet gotten on board, now is the time!



AUGUST DESIGN CHARRETTE - LOTS OF OPINIONS, SPIRITED DEBATE, AWESOME RESULTS!

We're working with one of the top landscape design firms, Land Morphology, for this project and occasionally have them at Yew Dell to discuss the next steps. Some highlights from their trip in August include:

- Stunning new direction for the Castle Terrace water feature (stay tuned . . .)
- Review & refinement of developing planting plan (oh, what a debate that was!)
- Engineering nuts & bolts make tremendous progress (the really cool stuff that makes everything else work in the end!)



Credit: Land Morphology

1996: Martha Lee passes away

1998: Theodore passes away

WHAT IS THE CASTLE GARDENS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

Our Project Goals:

- Create a completely re-imagined entrance experience that will allow Yew Dell's unique story to unfold as visitors first experience the grounds
- Transform the Castle Terrace space into a stunning horticultural display garden with extensive new plantings, demonstration rain gardens, and enhanced and shaded seating throughout
- Recreate the original Klein family swimming pool on the Castle Terrace as a dramatic water feature and display space for water plants
- Develop a dramatic transition from the upper Walled Garden, to the main Castle Terrace, and to the lower Overlook Garden and Pollinator Meadow spaces with a series of grand stair cases and fully accessible ramps
- Add significantly to the ability to accommodate increased visitation and expand the capacity for revenue-producing events
- Through endowment funds raised for this project, add a full time horticulturist position to ensure the highest level of horticultural management of Yew Dell's gardens

A FEW NAMING OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE...

Memorialize a loved one or honor someone special in your life. Naming opportunities not only give you the chance to do something important to you but will help us bring this magical project to life. There are a few ways to still be involved.

Castle Terrace and Event Space	\$250,000
Castle Terrace Arbor and Seating Space	\$200,000
Overlook Terrace	\$200,000
Kentucky Coffee Tree Bosque	\$75,000
Path Markers	\$35,000
Castle Terrace Benches	\$20,000

All Castle Gardens Campaign donations of \$2,500 and more will be acknowledged on our permanent donor recognition area in the new gardens.

Through the Castle Gardens Campaign, we are embracing our mission to:
spark a passion for plants and gardening with accessible science and inspiring beauty.



Scan the QR Code to learn more about how you can support the Castle Gardens Campaign!

NOTES FROM THE GARDENS

Yew Dell's garden and arboretum manager, Sayde Heckman, is our resident holiday décor wizard and her favorite materials are fresh greens harvested from the grounds. And since it's about impossible to get Sayde to sit down at a computer this time of year to write an actual article on her favorite (and least favorite) greens, we ran around after her one day and asked her for a few thoughts. So here are Sayde's thoughts to help you through the season.

OUR FAVORITE GREENS FOR HOLIDAY DÉCOR



Fir (*Abies*) – The gold standard in terms of texture, color, fragrance, and staying power. There are many species out there that work great in wreaths, sprays, garland, and centerpieces. They have flat, soft needles with bright white underside, for a two-toned effect.



Boxwood (*Buxus*) – For glossy foliage and fine texture, boxwood is hard to beat. It lasts a good long time after being cut and doesn't shed leaves until the very end of display season. But be warned, it takes way more cut stems than you might think to fill out a wreath!



False Cypress (*Chamaecyparis*) – These species offer stunning options for cut holiday décor. Foliage options range from tight, shell like sprays to the long and graceful shoots of the threadleaf types. Colors run from deep green to blues and of course, the golds of varieties like the gold mop types. Since they grow slower, Sayde suggests using them in small amounts, as color pops here and there.



Pine (*Pinus*) – While not always the first choice, many pines can add a touch of graceful texture to wreaths and garlands. They don't hold up as long as the firs, but generally perform quite well. The longer and softer needled species such as white pine (*P. strobus*) tend to work best.



Holly (*Ilex*) – From glossy, leathery leaves to bright berries in red, orange, or gold, holly is a no-brainer. The traditional English holly (*I. aquifolium*) is pretty uncommon around here but the American holly (*I. opaca*) works wonders for a little texture and color contrast.

GREENS TO AVOID IN HOLIDAY DÉCOR



Yew (*Taxus*) – Nice dark needle color but it dries out and sheds needles much faster than others.



Hemlock (*Tsuga*) – Great color and very fine texture (as well as the coolest little cones!) but dries, browns, and sheds pretty fast.

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!

Southern Magnolia (*M. grandiflora*) – Sayde loves it for the big, glossy leaves but adds that it's not the easiest thing to work with. Have at it!



2002: Original 33 acres of Klein property purchased

READING THE LAND ON A WALK IN THE WOODS

BY DR. PAUL CAPIELLO

As an obligate plant and nature geek, I have to admit that sometimes I can lose sight of the forest for the trees . . . or the wildflowers or the mosses, the lichens, the fossils, and birds. But if I make a conscious effort, one of my favorite things to do in the woods, especially in woods I've not hiked or studied before, is to divine the history of a parcel from the remnants of its past . . . reading the land.

The natural areas at Yew Dell are compact – about a mile and a half of hiking trails in total. But even in this 25-30 acre plot, putting down the botanist's hand lens and zooming out to the broader view can reveal a history that may otherwise be easily missed.

Here are a few items to look for along our woodland hiking trails and what they tell us about the history of this piece of the planet.



Old Shaggy – While most of the wooded areas along the trails are quite young, there's one gigantic, old Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) worth noting - not just for its fabulous, exfoliating gray bark, but also because it is so much bigger than everything around it! Normally a prized species like hickory would have been harvested for its wood and the space turned over to row crops. But if you're not planning corn or beans but rather cattle or sheep, it's nice to have a shady spot here and there. So this was likely a remnant of the original woodland left standing when the area was cleared for livestock grazing.



Mr. Spiny – Looking a bit further back in history, some plants can tell a completely different story. A few small stands of Common Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) stand along the trails. We might recognize honeylocust as a common street tree with lacy shade and a long, straight trunk. But the wild type growing here have massive sprays of the nastiest thorns you've ever seen growing all along the trunk. And while it might seem a little odd for a tree to put so much effort into growing such spines when there's nothing out there that eats the tree's seeds, a look through the deep lens of history reveals that those thorns were evolved to ward off prehistoric mega grazers like mastodons and woolly mammoths.



Sentinel Cedars – Heading down to the lower pond, you'll find a handful of great big, old red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) growing in a suspiciously straight line. Their formal arrangement seems a bit out of place but so does their location in the middle of the woods. Red cedars are full sun, early succession trees. What they tell us in this setting is that this piece of land was likely cultivated (grazed or farmed) in the recent past – recent enough that the woods now growing up around them have not yet completely crowded them out. On closer inspection, you can see the cedars are part of what was an old fence row.

Take a walk on the trails this fall/winter and see if you can find these and other clues to the history of this land.



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MEET YEW DELL'S NEW STAFF!



JILL TINIUS
EVENT ASSISTANT



AMANDA BROCKIE
EVENT STAFF



SHANNON STARK
EVENT STAFF



AIDEN JONES
CAFE & EVENT STAFF



STEPHANIE PARKER
GROUNDS ASSISTANT

We're introducing you to the newest additions to the Yew Dell family.



Thank you for supporting Twilight in the Garden

We could not do this event without the wonderful support of our corporate and community sponsors, the time and talents of our dedicated Board of Directors, our donors, our wonderful volunteers, and of course- our staff. Every single one of you has contributed to the success of Twilight in the Gardens and we deeply appreciate you for it! We look forward to Twilight 2023.

2008: Lower pond of Woodland Trail refurbished

2010: Visitors Center completed



We're proud to be here for all your tree care and plant health care needs.

Visit our website bobrayco.com or call us at 502-425-7654.



Have Lunch At Martha Lee's Kitchen!

We are excited to announce that we recently opened an on-site cafe, Martha Lee's Kitchen! While Theodore Klein is known for his artistry and horticulture prowess, it was the partnership with his wife, Martha Lee, of 67 years that was the secret to Yew Dell Farm's success. We celebrate Martha Lee's legacy with our own fresh, simple, and just right fare at Martha Lee's Kitchen.

Scan the QR Code to see what's on our menu!



THANK YOU!
 To our supporters, bands, and audience
 for a phenomenal year!

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VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTHWORKS

Youthworks is a national nonprofit that organizes youth mission trips across the country. Each year, thousands of participants travel to another city, stay for a week, and donate their time to improving that community.

The local Youthworks organizers have been working with Yew Dell since 2019 and this summer, we had nearly 70 volunteers from seven states come out to work with our Horticulture Staff to keep our gardens looking beautiful through scorching heat and unexpected rains. Thank YEW Youthworks!



SCOUTS

For his Eagle Scout project, Anthony Horn designed, researched, raised funds for, and coordinated the building of a 75-foot boardwalk in a particularly muddy area of our Woodland Trails. This area that was historically closed for the majority of spring due to the untraversable conditions can now be enjoyed safely year-round.



Carly Graves selected Yew Dell as the beneficiary for her Silver Award project in 2019 and again recently for her Gold Award project. This time she designed, raised funds for, built, and planted a four-level raised bed with the intent of educating and demonstrating accessibility. She also designed a rotating, two-year garden plan and presented her project to younger Girl Scouts to encourage them to explore opportunities with Yew Dell.

Both of these projects offer so much to the Yew Dell community in terms of accessibility, education, and strengthened community. Thank YEW Anthony and Carly!

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

We had a blast this year's at Oldham County Day in LaGrange! This event, sponsored by Project Guild, celebrates and supports the Oldham County community. With an expected attendance of 10,000 people, we were honored to introduce people to Yew Dell Botanical Gardens. We are thankful for the volunteers who took time out of their weekend to help with this event!

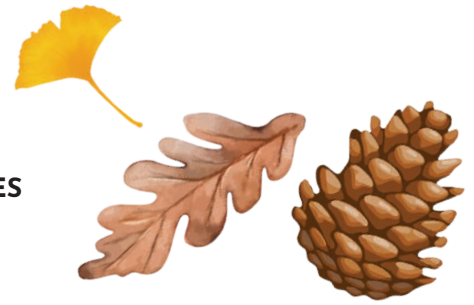


Sign up for our Volunteer eNews to receive more information!

2014: New Horticulture center and greenhouse completed

THE BUDDING GARDENER

A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES



PREPARING PLANTS FOR WINTER

As the daylight gets shorter in the fall season, some plants need to take a rest!

Perennial plants - or plants that return year after year - respond to the approaching chilly temperatures and fewer hours of sunlight in various ways. They are not dead; they are prepping to survive over the winter. This is called plant dormancy or overwintering.

Did **YEW** know you can help the plants overwinter?



- Rake the leaves in your yard – play in them first! – then tuck them inside your garden beds and around the bases of trees to insulate the roots and fertilize the soil.
- Remove any weeds so they don't grow into the next year.
- Take sensitive plants to a dark, indoor spot for their winter nap. They may need water, so check if the soil is dry.
- Start thinking about what you'll add to your spring garden!



WAYS TO GIVE

Your gift enables Yew Dell Botanical Gardens to share its historical property, gardens, trails, workshops and programs with thousands of visitors from across the U.S. each year. There are many ways to donate to Yew Dell, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity. Your support enables us to continue being a place of beauty and tranquility.

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For further information or assistance in making your gift, please call Yew Dell Botanical Gardens

Development Office at 502.241.4788 Ext. 1000



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GARDEN GIFT SHOP

Our Garden Gift Shop is the perfect place to find that perfect present whether it's for a birthday, anniversary, or for the holidays. With a variety of children's activity toys, local jewelry pieces, and yes- garden tools, there is something for everyone. And each purchase helps our gardens grow!

Don't forget that the gift shop closes in Mid-December so you'll want to do you Christmas shopping early!

Members receive a discount on select items in our shop!

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