



# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S**LETTER

hat's the difference between an experienced and beginner gardener? Some say that beginners want things to grow while the more seasoned among us want things to stay. I always think that it just comes down to the fact that beginners haven't killed enough plants to know much yet. I've certainly killed my fair share!

But one thing seasoned gardeners know is that the whole garden thing takes patience. You don't grow a shade tree overnight. You don't create a fabulous soil in one season. As my good friend and UGA hort professor Dr. Mike Dirr said many years ago, "you can buy a landscape, but a garden has to be loved into being." How true.

The tough thing is, even though we all know that patience in the garden is a worthy virtue, we all have a hard time waiting. On the other hand, it's a good thing that Mother Nature knows our weak points. She is always throwing us a bone to keep us in the game. It's like that one good shot in an 18-hole round of golf. It keeps you going and it keeps you coming back for more.

As I walk around the grounds at Yew Dell I'm constantly reminded about both sides of the gardening coin. The big old beeches and magnolias around the grounds seem to have grown overnight. But at the same time, it seems everywhere I look I'm waiting for something to happen.

Just two seasons ago the Big Meadow wasn't a meadow at all but what we called the Dead-O, much brown resulting from our efforts to kill off the invasive pest plants that had filled the space over the years. But this year, while it won't be in full force for another season or two (we'll call it the Not-Yet-O for the coming season) we should see the start of something wonderful.

Also just two years ago, what is now our exploding nursery consisted of a couple of acres of overgrown old and dying nut trees. And while we are looking down the road at another dozen or so production houses in the future, we're already way beyond where we thought we'd be by now.

So while you're waiting for all the wonderful things to happen in your own garden, make a habit to come out and see what's happening every day at Yew Dell. Remember, life in the garden is what goes on when you're waiting for something to happen!

Happy Gardening,

Paul Cappiello





To RSVP and register, go to yewdellgardens.org/classes-events

#### **APRIL**

MONTH



#### THE BIG BI OOM

#### FRFF/RFGULAR ADMISSION

POSTAGE STAMP REVEAL

Volunteers and horticulture staff planted 14,000+ annual bulbs in the fall for a spectacular spring display. Bulbs include early to late blooming varieties of tulips, hyacinths, crocus and snow drops for a month-long flowering season.

#### TUESDAY

#### FRFF/FRFF

The US Postal Service has selected Yew Dell as the site for the unveiling of two new stamps: The Contemporary Boutonniere Forever Stamp and the Garden Corsage Two-Ounce Stamp. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP. We hope you'll join us for this national event! Free admission for everyone.

#### SATURDAYS

#### SATURDAY TOURS

#### 4. 11.

Gardener's TO-DO LIST

FRFF/RFGIII AR ADMISSION

Learn about our plant-centric history from our experienced volunteer docents.

## SUNDAYS

#### HOUNDS ON THE GROUNDS FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

Dogs welcome to the gardens on Sundays.

**APRIL** 

#### **SECRET GARDEN PARTY: DERBY EDITION**

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM \$35/\$45 🕄

Join Yew Dell staff at a secret location for a new and fun take on the garden party!

#### THURSDAY

#### SPRING BULB WALK AND MASTER CLASS

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM · \$20/\$30 图

Follow our Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, for a walk of the Big Bloom annual spring display. She will talk about the behind-the-scenes process for the stunning show and offer tips for creating your own Big Bloom at home.

#### SATURDAY

#### HYPERTUFA WORKSHOP

18 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM · \$35/\$45 ■

Create your very own container that is perfect for low maintenance plants like succulents and cacti.

# 19

#### PAVILIONS. PONDS AND POETRY: CRANE HOUSE TALK

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM · FRFF/RFGULAR ADMISSION

Dr. Delin Lai, Professor and Head of UofL Art History Program, will talk about the functions of architectural structures, natural elements, and inscriptions in understanding the classical Chinese garden as a semiotic system. Free for YDBG and Crane House members/regular admission for non-members.

#### FRIDAY

#### MEMBERS ONLY PLANT SALE

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Yew Dell members get first shot at the best plant offerings! Help us kick off Plant Sale weekend with music, wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres, and most of all... plants. Memberships available at the door.

#### SATURDAY

#### PLANT SALE

#### 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM · FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

Yew Dell's largest plant sale of the year features a huge assortment of perennials, annuals, tropicals, herbs, shrubs and trees. 100% of proceeds directly support the educational and horticultural growth of Yew Dell.

#### Do a clean-up of your gardens if you didn't do it in the Fall. Make a wish list of the plants you will purchase at Yew Dell's Plant Sale.

Visit Yew Dell on Earth Day (Wednesday, April 22nd)

Celebrate Arbor Day (Friday, April 24th) by purchasing a tree at the Members-Only Plant Sale.

Check out your local gardens for spring bloom inspiration.

Walk in the woods to see spring ephemerals.

Time to plant! After the last frost you can set out the tender annuals and seedlings you may have started indoors (usually after Derby in Louisville area).

Bring out plants that you have overwintered indoors.

Plant up containers. Add mulch where needed.

# MAY

Don't miss our massive collection of peonies blooming in the gardens! Peak peony season is typically around Mother's Day, so plan to bring mom out for a visit on Sunday, May 10th.

# SATURDAYS

#### SATURDAY TOURS

PEONY SEASON

2. 9. 16. 23, 30

FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

# SUNDAY

#### HOMESTEADING IN SMALL SPACES

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM · \$20/\$30 ■

Join Yew Dell's Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, in a hands-on gardening project in our very own Family Garden. You will learn how to build your own backyard homestead in a raised bed. Participants will assist in the planting of the Family Garden, along with learning tricks on plant selection, planting, maintaining, garden placement, and much more.

# 3, 10, 17, 24.31

#### HOUNDS ON THE GROUNDS

FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

#### WEDNESDAYS

#### YOGA AT YEW DELL

6.13. 20.27 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM · \$10/\$15 🔊

Instructor Annie Button, owner of Om Sup Yoga. Unwind, renew and reconnect to nature in a beautiful botanical setting. Individuals of all experience levels are welcome.

# SATURDAY

#### PERENNIAL CUTTING PROPAGATION

10:00 AM - II:30 AM · \$55/\$65 ■

Join Nursery Manager Jacob Stidham for a class on starting perennials from cuttings. He'll take you around the gardens and teach you how to properly cut plants for propagation. After a few weeks of care in our nursery, you'll get to take home your very own Yew Dell display garden.

## SUNDAY

#### 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM · FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

Help us celebrate the arrival of the fairies! Have your little ones wear their fairy finest and let their imaginations run wild. The garden will provide the enchantment a parade, the lore of fairies, crafts and fairy activities. All ages welcome.

#### JUNE

Weed!

Assess your garden and fill in or add color where needed.

Eat black raspberries.

#### **BOURBON AND BOTANICALS MUSIC SERIES**

# 4. 11

# 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM · FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

**JUNE** 

Spend your summer Thursdays with us, enjoying live local music and so much more at our Bourbon & Botanicals Music Series. Starting at 6 p.m. our horticulture staff will do drop in strolls around the gardens to show off what is in bloom and let you ask all your burning botanical questions. A live, local musical group will take the stage from 7 pm-8:45 pm, so grab a glass of bourbon, settle in and enjoy a mixture of musical genres in the most beautiful venue in town. Be sure to check out our social media and website for an up-to-date lineup of bands. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own lawn chair. Food and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Guests are welcome to bring their own food, but please no outside alcoholic beverages. All ages welcome.

### THURSDAYS & SUNDAYS

#### **CULTURAL PASS**

4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 Cultural Pass provides free access to many of Greater Louisville's arts and cultural institutions for children of Metro Louisville. Yew Dell participates in Cultural Pass on Thursdays and Sundays from June 4th to August 6th.

#### SATURDAYS 6, 13,

#### CHILDREN IN THE DELL 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM · FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

This popular Saturday morning program is the perfect opportunity to give children a chance to unplug and spend time in nature. For children ages 4-8 years old.

#### SATURDAYS

#### SATURDAY TOURS 6.13. II:00 AM - I2:00 PM · FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

20.27

#### SUNDAYS | HOUNDS ON THE GROUNDS

7.14. 21, 28

## FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

#### HOSTA CUT LEAF AND ARRANGEMENT SHOW WITH HOSTAS OF KENTUCKIANA

#### 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM · FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION

Join Hostas of Kentuckiana for an amazing display of cut hosta specimens and arrangements. Learn all about this amazing group of plants from local club members who know what works best in our region.



# 25. 26

#### ARTS ON THE GREEN

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM · FREE/\$5

A fine arts and crafts festival held at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens. Free for members of Yew Dell and the Oldham County Arts Association/\$5 admission for non-members.









# STAFF PICKS FOR SPRING PLANT SALE

# KENTUCKY NATIVE *HAMAMELIS VIRGINIANA*, AMERICAN WITCH HAZEL 'LITTLE PROSPECT' – JACOB STIDHAM'S PICK

Plant geeks always want something new and different. I'm still searching for an oak tree that produces M&M's instead of acorns. Is that so much to ask? Until I find that, here is a must have for the garden that we do have. It will impress from spring until fall with the most beautiful yellow/deep green variegated foliage and cap your gardening season off with flowers in November/December!

#### O | KENTUCKY NATIVE LINDERA BENZOIN. SPICEBUSH – JACOB STIDHAM'S PICK

We won't spend time yapping about how much of an amazing 'green bush with inconspicuous yellow flowers' this is. If we did you would say, "Oh, a green bush. I'll pass." What lives on this shrub is what makes it a must in the garden. During summer, the caterpillar of the Spicebush Swallowtail feeds during the night and sleeps in a rolled up leaf during the day! Loads of fun for both the old and young gardener alike!

# 3 | AMSONIA TABERNAEMONTANA VAR. SALICIFOLIA (THREADLEAF BLUESTAR) - SAYDE HECKMAN'S PICK

If you're looking for a showstopper, this is the plant for you! This herbaceous perennial reaches a mature height and width of 3', thrives in full to part sun, and is amazingly drought tolerant. The foliage is narrow and willow-like providing a unique texture in any garden. The blooms are a beautiful blueish-lavender displayed in a dense panicle in late spring to early summer. And the show doesn't stop there. In fall the leaves turn a brilliant yellow that lasts through the entire season! You can find this plant in our Overlook Garden.

#### HEMEROCALLIS 'AUTUMN MINARET' (DAYLILY) – SAYDE HECKMAN'S PICK

Some of you may be wondering "Why in the world would I want to buy another daylily?" Well do you have one that blooms on 6 foot stalks? If not, then this is exactly why you need this plant in your garden! This cultivar is as tough as any daylily but blooms as late as September some years. Flower color is a deep orange/gold with a deep center. You can find this plant in our Overlook and Mary F. Rounsavall Pavilion Gardens.









#### HYBRID BOTTLE GENTIAN (GENTIANA 'TRUE BLUE') - PAUL CAPPIELLO'S PICK

I have long lusted after the blue gentians. Problem is that most are found growing at 10,000'-12,000' in the Swiss Alps and don't love a Kentucky summer, let alone the soil. But thanks to famed breeder Darrel Probst we now have this stunning, 2' tall summer blooming gentian that is, you guessed it, truly blue! Give it some morning sun and a little afternoon shade and be prepared to be stunned.

#### 🗅 📗 HIMALAYAN FALSE INDIGO (*Indigofera Heterantha*) – Paul Cappiello's Pick

From the cutback shrub hall of fame comes this all-summer-blooming gem. When cut to the ground every winter (it blooms on new wood) it forms a fine textured mound of gray-green foliage about 4' tall and wide. And starting in late spring, each and every branch is tipped with bright pink blooms that keep coming and coming all summer long. Give full sun or light shade and just about any reasonable soil.

#### 7 | GARDEN MUM (*CHRYSANTHEMUM* 'CLARA CURTIS' & 'PINK BOMB') -PAUL CAPPIELLO'S PICK

Mums may not be the most uncommon plants on the planet but these are superb. Rather than those dopey pot mums that you find on Kroger shelves each fall, 'Clara Curtis' and 'Pink Bomb' actually come back year after year to put on stunning displays each fall. They have a nice fragrance and are both outstanding pollinator plants. Give full sun or light shade for best performance.

#### ORNAMENTAL OREGANO (*ORIGANUM* 'KENT BEAUTY') – PAUL CAPPIELLO'S PICK

Surprisingly hard to find locally, this has always been one of our favorites for dry, sunny sites. It forms a low-growing mass up to about 1'x 2' that loves to spill out of the bed edge, container or hanging basket. Fine textured, blue green leaves have a nice fragrance and can be put to culinary use. The flowers are tiny, rosy pink affairs that are nestled down among gray/green bracts. A little short lived but easy to propagate. It will excel during our summer droughts when other things are wilting and whining.

# BEHIND THE SCENES OF OUR NURSERY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Year round, nursery volunteers assist staff with propagation of the plants that are used in our display gardens and sold in our plant sales. Our nursery volunteer program is intended to give gardeners at all levels a hands-on experience in a greenhouse/nursery setting. So when you purchase plants at our sales, you are directly supporting our educational and horticultural growth.







# The most delicate and bombproof of plants for your garden

Peonies are tough to beat.
They will grow just about anywhere the sun shines and where you can get a spade in the ground. They're long lived, disease resistant and a snap to propagate and share with friends. They make fabulous cut flowers and come in a range of colors that rivals almost any other plant out there. Whether you are a novice or have chlorophyll in your veins, there's a peony out there with your name on it.

But as indestructible as they are as garden plants, their bloom show can be fleeting. Those big, billowy petals make a stunning display but as we all know, one 80 degree, breezy spring day, or one gully-washer of a spring rain storm and those petals don't stand a chance. The moral of the story is, when they start to bloom, enjoy the show 'cause it might be over tomorrow!

Peonies come in three basic flavors.
There's the traditional herbaceous
perennial type, those we call garden
peonies (Paeonia lactiflora and hybrids.)
These die back to the ground each fall and
re-emerge in spring shortly before they
bloom in April/May. These are the peonies
we all remember so fondly from grandma's
garden. But modern hybrids are this and
so much more; sturdier stems, larger
blooms and a ridiculous array of colors.
At Yew Dell you'll find these all around
the gardens from the Sunken Rock Garden
to the Overlook Garden and spotted
elsewhere around the grounds.

Our current favorites are the coral colors, 'Pink Hawaiian Coral' and 'Coral Charm'

Then there are the tree peonies – Paeonia suffruticosa. Ok, they're not so much trees as they are shrubs that mature at about 4-5' tall and wide. Hailing from northern China and Manchuria, these beasts are about as tough as plants come. In their native range they can experience over 100 degrees in drought-stressed summers and 40 below in winter. They tend to live just about forever as long as they're not on a soggy soil. But despite their toughness, their blooms are the epitome of delicate. Almost crepe paper petals in white, pink, rose, purple and even yellows, gardeners in Japan are known to actually tie little paper umbrellas on each branch to shade the flowers in an attempt to get the blooms to last a little longer. Tree peonies are a bit coarse and rough in late summer so their fleeting bloom season is the time to come out and see them, late April through mid-May.

Then there's the third group – the so called intersectionals. These are all crosses of a herbaceous garden peony and a tree peony. And while the cross is difficult to make, the plants are easy as pie in the garden. Intersectionals grow just like the herbaceous garden peonies – they die back to the ground each fall and then re-emerge and bloom in spring. But the difference is that while garden peony foliage can get a bit bedraggled by mid-summer and August tree peony foliage can be downright

painful to look at, the intersectionals look great all season long. And as an added bonus, they bloom much longer than either parent, making a spectacular show throughout the month of May. And thanks to our good garden friend, Don Smith of Floyds Knobs, IN and founder of the Midwest Peony Society, near the Yew Dell Castle you'll find what we think is one of the largest display collections of intersectional peonies you'll find anywhere on the planet!

And to give you a little hint of things to come in another year or two, we're so taken with these intersectional peonies that we (ok . . . I) came home from a trade show last winter with about 2000 tiny babies from a friend's Canadian tissue culture lab. And our talented Nursery Manager, Jacob Stidham, has been coaxing them along ever since. Stay tuned!





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# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



iriam Klein, a Yew Dell volunteer since 2018, joined our volunteer program after making a bold change in her career. After selling her business, Miriam decided her new passion and focus in life was gardening. As a beginner gardener, she was looking for educational opportunities and stumbled across Yew Dell. She attended a plant walk and soon after joined our volunteer program. Miriam hit the soil running and quickly got involved with several projects with our Garden Manager. Miriam, like a true gardener, never stops learning. She was a Suzuki cellist, started the program Heartland Music Together, and along with her new-found interest in plants, she has also been crossing the country by bicycle in 500 mile segments since 2014. She crossed the Continental Divide in 2019 and plans to reach Portland Oregon in 2021. Miriam follows her dreams and continues to do what makes her heart sing. We are so glad she found Yew Dell and joined our community of forever learners. There is never a wrong time to start gardening.

#### MEET OUR NEW VOLUNTEER AND WEBSITE COORDINATOR: LAURA RYAN



We would like to welcome our new Volunteer and Website Coordinator, Laura Ryan. Laura has worked with volunteers in a variety of settings throughout her career. Most recently she assisted seniors in engaging with children in classroom settings as mentors and tutors through the Louisville Metro Foster Grandparent Program. Prior to that she worked for Louisville Parks and Recreation where volunteers engaged in a plethora of roles in forestry, natural areas, park maintenance, environmental

education, community center programming, special events and so much more. "The contribution and commitment of volunteers is the foundation of so much good that happens in our community and I know this is true here at Yew Dell as well. I am honored to be given this opportunity to get to know each of you and continue the wonderful services Lindsay and others have built to support volunteer engagement at Yew Dell," says Laura. "It is the special place it is because of the combined talents and heart and soul of all who are committed to its continued existence and expansion." We are thrilled to have Laura working alongside and providing support to our incredible volunteers.



THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO MEMBERSHIP THAN ADMISSION.

Our members are our most enthusiastic supporters. They get benefits like discounts on our classes and workshops to learn a new skill or grow the ones they have. They know the garden is a place to get inspiration for their own backyards or a place for some serenity or unplugged family time. Always interested in finding an inspiring plant or garden design, they use their Yew Dell membership to visit one of the 300 botanical gardens in the US that are part of our reciprocal admission program. They also know that this place is only here because of the support of individuals and their membership dues, which are the vital lifeblood Yew Dell needs to continue to grow and thrive for generations. We have over 1700 member households and continuously grow our membership community. We have memberships at all levels so if you're new to Yew Dell we have membership levels to fit your budget, if you're a longtime supporter, consider renewing your membership at an upper level to further support the vital work of Yew Dell Botanical Gardens. We deeply appreciate you all and hope you'll join or renew today.



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.



# SPRING PLANT SALE

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 24

#### MEMBERS ONLY PLANT SALE

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Yew Dell members get first shot at the best plant offerings! Help us kick off Plant Sale weekend with music, wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres, and most of all... plants. Memberships available at the door.

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

#### **PLANT SALE**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Yew Dell's largest plant sale of the year features a huge assortment of perennials, annuals, tropicals, herbs, shrubs and trees. 100% of proceeds directly support the educational and horticultural growth of Yew Dell. Free for members/regular admission for non-members.