

SPRING

2021

***SPRING INTO
ACTION!***



**YEW
DELL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS**

Tulipa 'El Nino' and 'Crystal Star'

**OUR MISSION IS TO SPARK A
PASSION FOR PLANTS AND
GARDENING THROUGH
ACCESSIBLE SCIENCE AND
INSPIRING BEAUTY.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

You don't have to spend much time at Yew Dell for it to be obvious that people here are on a mission. Whether you encounter staff cranking out another groundbreaking program or searching out the next best plant, volunteers giving it their all in the garden or visitors furiously making notes and snapping photos in the evaluation gardens, most people who enjoy Yew Dell are passionate.

But one of the things we all love about this place is that it doesn't matter where you start or where you're headed. Whether you've just discovered plants and gardens or you're a card carrying member of Weird Plant Collectors Anonymous (double entendre intentional) Yew Dell simply has a tendency to get under your skin and light a fire. People who love rare plants and common plants, hiking the woods or sitting on a bench, taking a class or learning on their own – all find inspiration and develop passion at Yew Dell.

So when we sat down a while ago to update our organization's mission – the original was laudably focused on the rescue of this marvelous place and its transformation into a botanical garden – it was immediately clear that the new mission had to be about passion. We love to share our passion . . . and when you share yours, it inspires us to dig deeper and do more. So for 2021 we hope you'll join us in thumbing our collective nose at COVID-19 and embracing our newly minted mission statement:

. . . to spark a passion for plants and gardening through accessible science and inspiring beauty!

If you're a beginner, come take a class and learn a new plant or a new skill. If you're already a serious plant geek, start a daily garden journal or take a deep dive into a new group of plants. If you love Yew Dell for the peace, tranquility and beauty, plan to come more often this year and take in all this marvelous place has to offer.

But no matter what you do at Yew Dell, we hope you'll share your growing passion with us, share it with a friend or share it as a volunteer. After all, passion shared is passion ignited.

Happy Gardening!

Paul Cappiello





HOUNDS ON THE GROUNDS- IN PERSON

EVERY SUNDAY

FREE/REGULAR ADMISSON - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Dogs are welcome to the gardens on Sundays now through December. See our website for guidelines and blackout dates.



NATIVE PLANTS TO ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, APRIL 6 • 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

\$25/\$35- MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Alicia Bosela, owner of Ironweed Native Plant Nursery, will discuss how to attract hummingbirds to your own garden using native plants. Each ticket will include a Cardinal Flower plant grown in Yew Dell's Nursery.



BIG BLOOM WALK - IN PERSON

THURSDAY, APRIL 8 • 4:30 PM-6:00 PM

\$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Join our Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, on a behind-the-scenes tour and discussion on the Big Bloom, our annual bulb display. You'll learn what goes into creating the annual Big Bloom and gain inspiration on how you can create your own Big Bloom at home.

GARDEN TAI CHI: SPRING - IN PERSON

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 • 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

FREE/REGULAR ADMISSON - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Daniel Lally and Amy Conner return with Garden Tai Chi, which connects participants to the changing season through relaxed fluid movements.



BENEFICIAL BUGS FOR YOUR GARDEN - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14 • 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

\$25/\$35 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Blair Leano-Helvey, the owner and mastermind behind Idlewild Butterfly Farm & Insectarium, will get participants garden-ready for spring with a discussion about using beneficial organisms to control insect pests. This virtual workshop includes a beneficial bug that each participant will pick up prior to the class.



PLANT WALK SERIES: SPRING BLOOMING TREES - IN PERSON

FRIDAY, APRIL 16 • 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

\$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Enjoy a walk through the arboretum with our horticulture staff and learn about some of the best and showiest flowering trees in our collections. You'll enjoy the beautiful dogwoods to the showy magnolias and many other spectacular trees.



CONSERVATION AT HOME - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, APRIL 17 • 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

\$10/\$20 - YEW DELL MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

\$5 - RESIDENTS OF CURRYS FORK WATERSHED

Becca Trueman, Currys Fork Watershed Coordinator, and other local instructors will lead a virtual workshop focused on impactful and manageable ways to help nature right at home. Three lucky participants will win a free rain barrel.

HERBAL LIVING - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

\$25/\$35 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Join Horticulture Apprentice, Cassidie Cartwright, for a virtual presentation on all the ways you can use herbs from your garden to promote healing and wellness in your life. Each attendee will pick up 3 hand selected herbs for their garden prior to the class.



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

CLASSES AND EVENTS



LACE ART INSTALLATIONS FOR EARTH DAY - IN PERSON

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 • 10:30 AM-2:30 PM
FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Come out to the gardens for Earth Day to view our amazing Lace Art Installations! These beautiful pieces of fiber art are hand crafted by longtime Yew Dell Volunteer Debby Levine and made from invasive vines pulled from our arboretum. Debby will be on hand doing demonstrations and talking about the process involved in making these unique installations.



FAIRY DAYS - IN PERSON

TUESDAY, MAY 25 - SUNDAY, JUNE 20
FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

We spread out the fairy fun over four weeks of self-guided activities, all included with admission! Activities include an updated fairy forest scavenger hunt; a fairy door scavenger hunt in the arboretum; a fairy house trail and map through the gardens; and sensory plant explorations.

EVERGREEN FERNS - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
\$30/\$40 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

“Local Fernatic” Dr. John Hubbard leads a lecture focusing on Evergreen Ferns which provide a pop of green in your garden throughout the winter months. Each ticket will include a Dixie Wood Fern from Yew Dell’s Greenhouse. Note that the Dixie Wood Fern was a 2010 Theodore Klein Plant Award Winner.



GARDEN TAI CHI: SUMMER - IN PERSON

SATURDAY JUNE 5 • 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

RAIN GARDENS - VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

SATURDAY JUNE 5 • 1:00 PM-2:30 PM
\$10/\$20 - YEW DELL MEMBER/NON-MEMBER
\$5 - RESIDENTS OF CURRYS FORK WATERSHED

Becca Trueman, Currys Fork Watershed Coordinator, and other local instructors will lead a virtual workshop focusing on the benefits of rain gardens, including step-by-step instructions for planning your own rain garden at home.



ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

IN PERSON
SATURDAY, APRIL 24 • 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
*FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Our in-person Annual Spring Plant Sale, presented by LG&E & KU Foundation is your chance to ask our Horticulture Staff all your pressing plant questions. Be ready to purchase some great additions to your gardens while supporting our Nursery program. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor LG&E and KU Foundation.

*TIMED TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE



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

CLASSES AND EVENTS CONT'D

PLANT WALK SERIES: POLLINATOR MEADOW - IN PERSON

FRIDAY, JUNE 18 • 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
\$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Enjoy a guided walk through Yew Dell's pollinator meadow with our Horticulture staff and learn about the best native plants to support pollinators, our favorite native grasses and about wildlife that use the meadow for food and shelter.



CHILDREN IN THE DELL - IN PERSON

SATURDAYS, JUNE 19 - AUGUST 7 • 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Join us on Saturdays this summer for nature-related activities focused in and around Yew Dell's Family Garden. These activities are fun for the whole family to enjoy together.

ASTROLO-CHI®: SUMMER SOLSTICE - IN PERSON

SUNDAY, JUNE 20 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
\$15/\$25 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Daniel Lally and Amy Conner, our presenters for the seasonal Garden Tai Chi series, lead participants through the gentle movements designed for each of the 12 astrological signs. Astrolo-Chi® is a unique blend of tai chi and astrology created by Louisvillians Daniel Lally and Jeff Baugher.

PERENNIALS IN CONTAINERS- IN PERSON WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JUNE 26 • 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
\$25/\$35 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Jacob Stidham, our Greenhouse and Nursery Manager, will talk about perennials that do much better in a container than they will in the ground in our region! Tickets include your choice of a perennial from Jacob's selections.

HORTICULTURE TERMINOLOGY- VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

MONDAY, JUNE 28 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
\$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Join Horticulture Apprentice, Silas Zoeller, for a virtual discussion on common horticulture terminology that you may encounter as a gardener. This class is designed for both the budding gardener who wants to have a better understanding of their new hobby or the avid plant geek.

SAVE THE DATE

BOURBON AND BOTANICALS MUSIC SERIES - IN PERSON

THURSDAYS, JULY 1 - AUGUST 26 • 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM

Member - \$10 Adult 18-54, \$5 Adults 55+ & Children 6-17 | Non Member - \$15 Adult 18-54, \$10 Adults 55+ & Children 6-17

Our Bourbon & Botanicals music series is back this summer for nine Thursdays with returning favorites as well as some new performers! Before the music starts, join a seasonal interest garden tour that will focus on what's in bloom each week. Tickets are limited and will be pre-sale only, so buy your tickets fast! Keep an eye on our website for ticketing details and line up.

NEW THIS YEAR: SERIES TICKETS AVAILABLE - PURCHASE ALL 9 AT ONE TIME!

GARDEN GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT: IT'S TIME TO THINK SEEDS

YEW DELL'S GARDEN GIFT SHOP OPENS 3/27! STOP IN AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW INVENTORY

A new product for the Garden Gift Shop! These seeds from the Hudson Valley Seed Co. are developed specifically to preserve crop diversity. They are mostly heirloom and organic, and all are open pollinated. Each pack has original artwork that tells the story of its seed variety. *Supplies are limited.*



**"SPRING IS THE TIME OF PLANS AND PROJECTS."
-LEO TOLSTOY**



Plan Your Spring Visit

Experience an explosion of color and the gardens bursting with blooms! Here are a couple of 'reasons for the season' to help guide your plans for visiting the gardens this spring.

THE BIG BLOOM

ESTIMATED PEAK: MID-APRIL

Yew Dell's staff and volunteers planted around 17,000 tulip and hyacinth bulbs in the fall for a spectacular burst of spring color. The Big Bloom is estimated to last from March to May with April as the month to experience peak color. This is our largest annual bulb display to date.

PEONY SEASON

ESTIMATED PEAK: AROUND MOTHER'S DAY

Spring is peony season and Yew Dell is a great place to see a tremendous variety of peonies. Bloom season starts in mid April with the tree peonies. These tough as nails but uncommon plants come in a range of flower colors and can be found near our Visitor Center. They are followed by the traditional herbaceous peonies that flower in early and mid May. They are planted around the Castle, Rock House and Overlook Garden. Finally there are the tree/herbaceous peony hybrids – the intersectionals. These bloom in late May and early June – and we just happen to have one of the largest collections around of these much-sought-after garden gems. Don't miss them!

OPEN HOURS: TUESDAY-SATURDAY, 10 AM - 4 PM. SUNDAYS, 12 PM - 4 PM.

GARDENING IS A MARATHON NOT A SPRINT.

Gardening, like running, cycling or any other athletic activity, is best approached as a long game. Even sprinters – those powerhouses whose races can last no longer than a vigorous yawn – put in hours and hours of training to develop the required strength and conditioning. They need to learn and over many years perfect techniques to gain as much efficiency as possible. It's not about the victory dance at the end but rather all the work required along the way. The same is true of any garden, even Yew Dell.

When Yew Dell became a botanical garden in 2002, there was a lot of work to be done. People at all skill levels rallied together to groom the grounds and turn them into a public garden and to build an organization. Like training for a marathon, the first few years were a challenge... mentally and physically. It took hard work and endurance, mostly on volunteer work days held the second Saturday of every month. It was a slow process and sometimes difficult to see beyond the weeds – literally!

When garden projects seem unsurmountable, it's always best to look to small goals to avoid getting overwhelmed by big obstacles. But with every milestone reached, you pause to look back and see how far you've come. Yew Dell is coming up on its 20-year anniversary next year and one thing we know is that a garden does not mature overnight. It takes patience, endurance, dedication (and some sweat and tears) to love a garden into existence.

The great thing about gardening is that it doesn't really matter where you begin. Never grew a marigold in a cup as a kid? No

problem. You can start at the beginning. Been pushing a lawn mower over the grass for 20 years but never ventured beyond that one weekend activity? There are many ways to take the next step. Been a casual gardener your whole life but are now thinking you'd like to go down the rabbit hole of dwarf, double flowered, green striped, giant snow drops? Don't fret. There's a home for you too! Join a club. Take a class. Read a book. Visit a garden. Ask for help.

**“IT'S NOT ABOUT THE VICTORY DANCE
AT THE END BUT RATHER ALL THE WORK
REQUIRED ALONG THE WAY.”**



Volunteers clearing out the Sunken Rock Garden pond in 2007.



Over 100 volunteers participated in the planting of the Overlook Garden in 2006. 300+ plants were planted in one day.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: GARDENING AS AN ENDURANCE SPORT

Yes, running a marathon and building a garden (or a gardener!) have one thing in common. They all represent a process of starting where you are, picking a place you'd like to be and committing to following through...just as Yew Dell's community did 19 years ago with a historic property and a whole lot of potential. The good news is that now more than about any time in the past, is a great time to embark on a journey of your own. The resources and aids available to gardeners now are almost unending. There's a home and a path for anyone no matter where your starting line sits.

No matter your path, there is simply no substitute for time. Whether you are learning to garden, ride a bike across the country, or run a marathon, it all takes time. And building a botanical garden has been no exception. Yew Dell is an endurance sport and your own garden will be too. But trust us, it's worth all the effort.

Miriam Klein, a Yew Dell volunteer, joined our community in 2017 as a brand new gardener. In the last few years, she has researched and started her first garden. In that same time frame she's ridden her bicycle on a multi-year expedition through multiple states and thousands of miles. Miriam explains how creating a garden is a lot like riding a fully loaded bicycle across the country:

1. You can't get there quickly. A big part of the pleasure of gardening is imagining results to come months or even years from now. Long-distance bicycling and gardening both require lots of patience, and the ability to take the long view.
2. You get to enjoy the moment. It may take forever to cross that prairie, or to build that garden, but that forever is filled with delicious moments. Noticing a new sprout is a lot like seeing the first mountain appear on the horizon.
3. There's going to be bad weather. There's nothing like rain on the back of your neck to make you want to quit! But whether it's rain, or mud, or frost, this moment will pass, and what comes next will be glorious. If you see rain, expect rainbows.
4. The more you do, the more you learn. You don't have to start out as an expert.
5. Both gardening and long-distance bicycling have filled my spirit, helped me to be more resourceful, and made me more attuned to my surroundings. Both have helped me become physically stronger and grateful to be alive. I can't wait to see where my next trip takes me – and to see what will bloom in my garden this spring!



Volunteers laying sod on the Castle Lawn in 2008.

TIPS FOR NEW GARDENERS

So you started a garden. Now what? Here are a few helpful tips and easy-to-grow plants suggested by our horticulture staff to help you in your gardening journey.

WHAT SPARKS YOUR PASSION FOR GARDENING?

By Jacob Stidham, Nursery and Greenhouse Manager

To be a new gardener again! I used to know only a handful of perennials and I never knew what in the world a *Thujopsis* was. Fast forward to this past fall and I bought two different *Thujopsis* from virtual rare plant auctions! I've come a long way and so can you. It's pretty easy. Buy a plant and stick it in the ground. Buy a few more, kill a couple, buy 17 more, and all of a sudden you're a plant geek. Plant geeks don't landscape, we garden! I consider a landscape a grouping of plants that you see as you walk by on the way to get in the car that are just there but never really noticed. A garden, on the other hand, is an ever changing and never finished piece of artwork that you craft slowly over time.

If you're new to gardening and have one of those landscape things at home I highly recommend undoing that boringness into a garden! Rip out those knockout roses and go find some perennials that YOU think are cool. This is your garden, not your neighbors! Next, cut down the river birch on the corner of the house and go buy a small tree or shrub that YOU think is cool. And don't worry, there is always more room. Who needs all of that yard you have to mow every week?! Imagine how proud you're going to feel when the kid that rides their bike down the road every day starts paying attention to all of your cool plants. The plant that you think is the coolest plant in your garden may be the one that inspires the neighbor kid to get their hands in the soil too!

JACOB'S PLANT PICKS FOR THE SPRING PLANT SALE:

1. *Silphium perfoliatum* (**Cup Plant**) – This is the plant for the kid riding the bike down the road every day. Put this beastly, 6-8' tall perennial next to the mailbox. This is an easy plant, blooms bright yellow for weeks during the summer and is honestly just really cool. You'll be guaranteed to be cooler than the neighbor with the clematis on the mailbox.
2. *Begonia* hybrid '**Gryphon**' (**Pegasus® Begonia**) – One of my favorite annuals for a container. On a shaded porch this plant can easily reach 2-3' tall in a single season and have leaves as big as dinner plates. Amazing color and texture make this plant another that will grab a soon to be plant geek kid's attention!
3. *Heuchera sanguinea* '**Snow Angel**' (**Coral Bell**) – This Coral Bell of many, many colors will be happy as can be in a smaller planter sitting on your shaded porch. Year after year it will thrive much better in a planter with a quality potting mix than it would trying to eke out a living in our heavy clay soils.





GARDENING IS ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

By Sayde Heckman, Garden and Arboretum Manager

Whether you collect houseplants or grow herbs in containers, we are all gardeners in our own way. And as a gardener it's important to know that you'll never know everything, and that's ok.

As a horticulturist in constant training I have come to the realization that we often make gardening too complicated. We are told to make a plan, amend our soil, fertilize our plants, purchase healthy plants, and do all of these things to the point we are overwhelmed. My best advice is to not over think it - stick with the basics. The best way to do this is by reading your plant labels and familiarizing yourself with a plant's basic needs of sun exposure, soil, moisture, and growth habit. It's also important to remember that not all plants will survive... and that's normal! Gardening is a science and sometimes we have to engage in a little trial and error before finding success - and that's the best part! Through this process you will learn more and more each time and have better success in your future plantings.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Nobody will ever know everything, and there is no reason to reinvent the wheel. There are experts that specialize in all aspects of horticulture from pruning to propagation, seed starting, and so much more. Reach out to your gardening friends, garden clubs, plant societies, botanical gardens, and university extension staff who can help you on your gardening journey.

And lastly... remember to have fun!



SAYDE'S PLANT PICKS FOR THE SPRING PLANT SALE:

4. *Mangave* 'Bad Hair Day' – If you've been following Yew Dell over the past few years you may have noticed my obsession and love for Mangave. A hybrid of tropical *Agave* and the native *Manfreda virginiana*. Mangaves are non-hardy plants that make fantastic container specimens and houseplants, when given full sun exposure. The special thing about 'Bad Hair Day' is the thin strap-like leaves.
5. *Carex oshimensis* 'Evercream' (Japanese Sedge) – In the past 2 years we have added dozens of sedges to our plantings. This cream and green variegated grassy clumper has been a top performer in the evaluation gardens. Semi-evergreen and deer resistant, this one works great as a specimen or mass planting.
6. *Monarda didyma* 'Jacob Cline' (Bee Balm) – This is an all-around fantastic plant with funky, red colored summer blooms on 4' stems. It is an excellent plant for bees, hummingbirds and other pollinators. I first started growing this plant in my own garden last summer and really love the red flower color and clean foliage.



PLANT SALES - IN PERSON AND ONLINE

On the first Wednesday of each month through September, we will be adding new inventory to the **online Plant Market**. In addition to online sales, we will still have our in-person **Annual Spring Plant Sale** on Saturday, April 24th and a constantly changing selection of plants for sale on-site through our **Visitor Center** and our new and improved Plant Market located in the nursery area.

PLANT COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

While the Big Bloom takes the spotlight in spring, there are many other notable plants blooming in our gardens this time of year. Here are three spring-blooming collections to look for when you visit our gardens this season.

EPIMEDIUM (BARRONWORT)

There are over 30 species of Epimedium throughout Yew Dell's gardens. They make an amazing addition to any shade garden and adapt to a variety of soil and moisture conditions. Not to mention, the deer don't eat them! Semi-evergreen foliage makes them great for all season interest. These are very easy to overlook due to their low creeping growth habit. Most cultivars only reaching 1 to 2 feet tall.

The spring blooms float above the newly emerging foliage on tall, wiry flower stocks, and are the reason we love this plant. Both the foliage and blooms come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. In the Sunken Rock Garden you'll find Epimedium versicolor 'Sulphureum' which is one of our best spreading cultivars with red mottling on the newly emerged foliage and dainty yellow blooms. On the south side of the Event Lawn, you'll find Epimedium 'Pink Champagne' which has amazing serrated leaf margins, brilliant coloration that lasts all season, and a large spider-like pink bloom.



Epimedium 'Pink Champagne'
(Barrenwort)

IRIS

Worldwide there are some 250+ species of Iris and tens of thousands of hybrids. Easily recognizable by their distinct, sword-like foliage and *fleur-de-lis* blooms, they range from 4" to 4' tall and their colors include just about everything other than fire engine red. Most love hot, sunny conditions on well-drained soil, seem to thrive on neglect and most are unappetizing to deer.

Yew Dell's collection runs from the locally native dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*) in the Sunken Rock Garden to the rarely cultivated and sublimely delicate *Iris oxypetala* (no common name that we know of) and bodacious, bearded iris hybrids in the Overlook Garden. In the walled garden pool you'll find the variegated sweet flag (*Iris pseudoacorus* 'Variegata') and one of our favorites, 'Lady Vanessa' Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica* 'Lady Vanessa') along the event lawn path. And while a few forms will re-bloom in fall, the best time to see the Iris collection in bloom is from late April through mid-May.



Iris 'Katherine Hodgkin'

RED HOT POKER EVALUATION

Plant geek trivia question - how many native African plants can survive outside in a Kentucky garden? Answer . . . not many.

The red hot pokers (about 75 species of the genus *Kniphofia*) are native to southern Africa but some do amazingly well as Kentucky garden plants. Thick, almost succulent foliage – somewhat reminiscent of daylily foliage – produces upright spikes of summer flowers in an amazing array of colors from yellow to orange and red, with some bearing multicolored blooms. They love hot, dry and sunny sites and are outstanding hummingbird plants.

In recent years a number of breeders have been working their magic, turning out a huge quantity of new cultivars with bigger blooms, brighter colors and longer bloom seasons. So in 2020, we started a plant trial of about two dozen new varieties. You can see them this summer growing in the herbaceous plant Evaluation Garden located between the log cabin and nursery.



Kniphofia 'Flamenco'
(Red Hot Poker)

THE BUDDING GARDENER

A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES

FOUND FAIRIES

We like to call this project “found fairies”, because all of the pieces to make our fairy were found on Yew Dell’s grounds and in a craft box. We collected cones, acorns, and greenery. , then use items that can be found around the house to embellish our fairy. We used tissue paper, tulle, and pipe cleaners. What can you find in your garden and craft box to make a fairy?

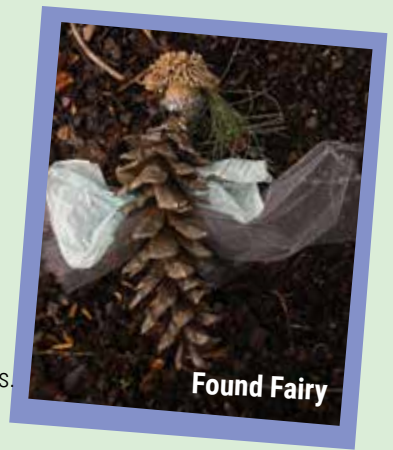
Toadstools: It is believed that fairies use mushrooms for seats and tables during their fêtes.

ONE SMALL SQUARE

Find a small square spot that is only 2-4 feet wide and long in your backyard, a park close by, or at Yew Dell. This is where your entire study will take place. Get a notebook to create your tiny square nature journal. Sketch and make notes about the diverse flora and fauna you find in this small square. Return to the spot often to observe changes over time. This is an invitation to take a very close look. When observing large areas, it is easy to miss many details. However, even the smallest of squares is teeming with activity. Can you draw a map of your square for the fairies that live there?



Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*): Tall stems topped with large leaves, these woodland plants make perfect umbrellas for fairies.



Found Fairy

Lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*): Because of its shape, this plant is called “fairy bells” in Celtic cultures. It is believed that only fairies can hear them ring.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FAIRY DAYS: TUES. MAY 25 – SUN. JUNE 20

The fairies have been hard at work preparing for visitors. They have made new fairy houses and fairy doors that will arrive on Tuesday May 25. These new additions will be hidden throughout Yew Dell’s gardens and arboretum. So come and explore!



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COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEERS PUT OUR MISSION INTO ACTION

In 2020, we had 212 individual volunteers, 9 groups and a total of 3,757 hours of service donated to our gardens. It is amazing how our community stepped up, even during a pandemic, to support our gardens.

2020 VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

ACCESSIBLE

We are committed to providing accessible science to our community. We accomplished this in part during 2020 through the installation of an Evaluation Garden and a Rain Garden. A team of 23 dedicated volunteers assisted with the installation of woody plants and herbaceous perennials in the Evaluation Gardens in spite of a downpour! A team of Currys Fork Watershed volunteers, led by Rebecca Trueman, Watershed Coordinator, along with Yew Dell 2nd Saturday volunteers successfully installed over 100 plants in the new Rain Garden.

INSPIRING

If you're looking for inspiration, look no further than Yew Dell's Big Bloom! In 2020 our entire staff joined 21 volunteers to meet the goal of planting 17,000 bulbs through the gardens over six days.

SPARK

Yew Dell has a way of *sparkling* magic even in the toughest of times. 2020 Twilight in the Gardens was no exception. Our event committee designed a successful virtual event including lovely gift bags filled with a myriad of goodies. We met our net goal and we could not have done it without the passion of donors and sponsors like you.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

Enjoy being outside in nature? Love gardening? Then Yew Dell may be the perfect place for you to volunteer! We are accepting new volunteers for our 2021 season. We have weekday and weekend outdoor opportunities available. Come serve with others in our beautiful gardens with the assurance of safe social distancing.

Contact Laura Ryan at laurar@yewdellgardens.org to sign up for one of our monthly volunteer orientation sessions scheduled the second Saturday of every month, 9:00 AM–10:15 AM.

GROW ON CAMPAIGN

For each of us, there is something that sparked that first sense of wonder in nature or gardening. And whether it is our 1st or 1,000th visit to the garden, we love to stroll through Yew Dell, fill our lungs full of the fragrant flowers, look at cool plants, and marvel at the world around us.

As many of you knew already (or know now from reading this newsletter) maintaining a garden is a lot of work. Yes, it is a passion and a pastime but there is no discounting the investment of time, energy and money that goes into growing any garden. As a nonprofit, Yew Dell relies on the generosity of our supporters to keep this place going. The revenue we generate when you buy a ticket to a class, purchase a plant, or renew your membership helps us a great deal in continuing those programs and services but it isn't enough to keep us thriving year after year.

Our best resource for keeping this beautiful place thriving is largely from gifts to our annual fund. We rely on gifts, \$25 to \$1,000, from individuals like you to take care of this place. That's why in 2017, we created the Grow On Annual Fund to help fundraise those valuable dollars that are the lifeblood of our organization.

We hope that you will help us keep Yew Dell growing now and into the future with a gift to Grow On today. Simply go online to yewdellgardens.org/donate or you can mail in a check to Yew Dell Botanical Gardens 6220 Old LaGrange Road, Crestwood, KY 40014.

Thank you for helping us continue our mission of sparking a passion for plants and gardening through accessible science and inspiring beauty. We could not do it without your support.



6220 Old Lagrange Road
 Crestwood, Kentucky 40014
yewdellgardens.org

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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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THE BIG BLOOM

BLOOMS FROM LATE MARCH TO EARLY MAY

Yew Dell's staff and volunteers planted 17,000 tulip and hyacinth bulbs in the fall for a spectacular burst of spring color. The Big Bloom is estimated to bloom from March to May with April as the month to experience peak color. This is our largest bulb display to date.

"A GARDEN MUST BE LOVED INTO EXISTENCE."

-Dr. Michael Dirr

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