


# SUMMER

2020

GIFTS  
FROM  
THE  
GARDEN



YEW  
DELL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS



“EVERYTHING THAT SLOWS US  
DOWN AND FORCES PATIENCE,  
EVERYTHING THAT SETS US BACK  
INTO THE SLOW CIRCLES OF NATURE,  
IS A HELP. GARDENING IS AN  
INSTRUMENT OF GRACE.”

-MAY SARTON

## ON THE COVER

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens grows and harvests marigolds as part of our collaboration with a local non-profit called Anchal Project. Our family garden is a satellite natural dye garden for their dyeScape project. The marigolds are just one example of a gift from our gardens. See Page 4 for more details.

*Echinacea purpurea* (Coneflowers) blooming  
in the Overlook Garden

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” How often have I found it appropriate to nick that Dickens line? I suppose that’s the definition of timeless.

Amidst the sorrow and hardship brought on by the dreaded coronavirus, as is so often the case across Kentucky and beyond, people have stepped up in ways that can just melt your heart. From 3rd graders sewing masks for senior centers to the daily 7pm cheers for health care workers and first responders, citizens of the globe have shown their very best. And it’s no different right here in our own back yard.

When the lockdown hit, it couldn’t have been worse timing for a small business that makes so much of its living in the spring season. From plant sales to gardening classes, gate admissions and membership renewals, spring is the engine that keeps a place like Yew Dell humming along. But all that came to a screeching halt just as we were gearing up for a banner year. But what came next was not just unexpected. It was overwhelming.

When we called those of you who had signed up and paid for spring programs to let you know of the cancellations, rather than complaints or grumblings, a great many just said, “why don’t you keep my registration fee as a donation.” We had to move our always much-anticipated Annual Spring Plant Sale to a last minute, make-shift online sale and curbside pickup at the back gate and behind our twin dumpsters. But rather than grumblings about a minor glitch or two in the hastily thrown together system, most people thanked us for letting them buy plants!

When our educational content moved entirely online, the response was

remarkable. One email came from a woman who thanked us for the videos because she had just gone into the hospital and the videos had become her joyful contact with the outside world. When connecting with the community is a big part of your mission, that kind of response is hard to beat.

So to all of you out there who have stayed with us, joined with us and been part of what will certainly go down as the great humanitarian gift of the century, thank you! Mr. Dickens would approve.

Happy Gardening,

*Paul Cappiello*





# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

## WHILE WE WERE CLOSED

Despite being closed to the public, this past spring felt like one of our busiest seasons yet. Our staff worked around the clock to move our Annual Plant Sale online, maintained the gardens, cared for the plants in the nursery, and created a robust slate of social media content. Our horticulture staff felt the impact of not having 600 volunteers to assist with day-to-day projects. Working late nights and long days, our Nursery and Greenhouse Manager, Jacob Stidham, worked tirelessly pulling orders for the online plant sale. Our Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, kept 33 acres of display gardens looking fantastic in preparation for our reopening day. Our Executive Director organized photos and descriptions for over 600 plants for the Online Plant Shop. Doing all of this while the majority of our staff worked remotely was no easy feat!

With so many people turning to gardening as an outlet for stress during quarantine, Yew Dell made sure to provide a source of expertise and education on social media. We created free educational content about gardening, posted beautiful bloom pictures and mandalas to our social media channels and e-news to help support and keep our community connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's no secret that many communities, individuals, and organizations were hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak. Yew Dell is no exception. Being forced to close to the public during our busiest spring season was not easy for our organization, as we missed out on admission, membership, and program revenue that sustains us.

We know that COVID-19 has had an impact on many of us financially. If you are able, we ask that you support us to allow us to support you and others in our community. Any donation amount is helpful and allows us to continue our mission. You can go online to make a donation or mail in a check specifying it's for the Grow On Annual Fund in the memo line. We have a wonderful community and we know that we will get through all things together.

[www.yewdellgardens.org/DONATE](http://www.yewdellgardens.org/DONATE)  
502-241-4788

## CLASSES AND EVENTS

Due to COVID-19, we have decided to cancel and reschedule several of our events. However, some workshops are still happening with either limited capacity or virtual attendance. Please visit our website for more information:

[www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events](http://www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events)

## BIG BLOOM BOUQUETS

This year, Yew Dell had one of the finest spring seasons to date. Our "Big Bloom" (a planting of 14,000 annual bulbs) arrived in full force with no one there to witness it. We knew we had to figure out a way to share the spectacular display with our community. Staff arranged and delivered over 200 bouquets made using cut flowers from the Big Bloom. Recipients included local hospitals, Volunteers of America, and Hoparus Health of Louisville patients and families. When the project became a major operation, our Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Ryan, reached out to the Louisville Metro Office for Women to have them call for vase donations. The next week, scores of vases were dropped off on Laura's front porch. We received countless heartfelt thank yous from healthcare workers and even messages from families of patients receiving hospice care. It meant so much to see our Big Bloom being enjoyed by so many people, despite being closed to the public. Flowers truly are a gift from the garden.

**"IT REALLY MADE  
A BRIGHT SPOT ON  
OUR UNIT AND GAVE  
US SOMETHING TO  
FEEL GOOD ABOUT."**

**-NURSE AT BAPTIST HEALTH LOUISVILLE  
WORKING ON A COVID UNIT**



# GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN



Former Yew Dell Horticulture Apprentice, Isabel Branstrom lives in Lansing, MI and works for Michigan State Extension as a Consumer Horticulture Educator.

## NATURAL DYEING WITH ISABEL BRANSTROM

If you've ever had an interest in natural dyeing, summer is the perfect time to start. And let's face it, with all the time you've been spending in your garden, you'll have a bountiful covid-19 garden harvest that will need to be put to good use! There is something so satisfying about the beginning-to-end process of dyeing with the plants you grow in your own garden. When dyeing with plants, you can get an incredible range of hues. But keep in mind that results can vary. If you like to experiment and you're not bothered by imprecision, then this is the hobby for you! Former Yew Dell horticulture apprentice, Isabel Branstrom, takes us through the steps of dyeing with plants.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

Fiber (cotton and raw silk for beginners), plant material (marigolds, onion skins, black walnuts, sumac berries, etc.), dish soap, alum (aluminum sulfate), cream of tartar, 2 eight qt stock pots, strainer.

### STEP 1- Wash your fiber.

Wash your fiber in warm soapy water. Dish soap works well.

### STEP 2- Treat your fiber with a mordant.

Most fibers will benefit from being treated with a mordant before dyeing. A mordant is a chemical that will help pigments adhere to the fibers, which do not "grab" pigments well just by themselves. Alum (aluminum sulfate) and cream of tartar are commonly used. Use 8g of alum and 7g of cream of tartar per 100g of fiber. Dissolve alum and cream of tartar into boiling water. Make sure there is enough water to cover and fully saturate the fiber. I usually use an 8qt stock pot and fill it up. Add the fiber to the pot and simmer for 1 hour.

### STEP 3- Prepare your dye bath.

In the meantime, bring another pot of water to a boil. Make sure there is enough water in the pot to cover the plant material. Again, I usually use an 8qt stock pot and fill it up. Add your plant material and simmer for 1 hour.

### STEP 4- Remove plant material from the dye bath.

Strain the plant material from the dye bath. I usually pour it through a strainer directly into another pot.

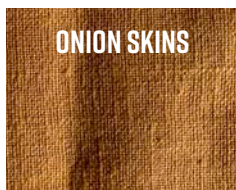
### STEP 5- Add your fiber to the dye bath.

Remove your fiber from the mordant bath and add it to the dye bath. Make sure there is enough dye in the bath to completely cover the fabric. Cook for 1 hour, or until it looks like the color is not getting any deeper.

### STEP 6- Remove fiber and celebrate the results!

Remove your fabric and hang to dry. Hand wash the fabric after it has dried. Some of the color will run. It's okay – most of it should stick. The final color depends on several things such as water pH and hardness, if you use fresh or dried plant material and what kind of fiber you use. Celebrate your final product – even if it doesn't come out as expected!

**Pictured Below- swatches and the material used to dye it.**



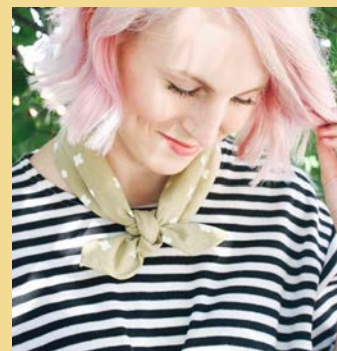
**"WHEN I WORK WITH NATURAL DYES, IT FEELS LIKE A SCIENCE EXPERIMENT."-ISABEL**



Isabel holding a quilt she made using naturally dyed materials. The quilt was a gift to her nephew when he was born.

## COLLABORATION YEW DELL GROWS MARIGOLDS FOR ANCHAL PROJECT

Anchal Project is a Louisville-based nonprofit social enterprise that addresses the exploitation of women around the world by using design thinking to create employment opportunities, services, and products that support empowerment. Sisters Colleen and Maggie Clines have grown this passion project into a global brand that teaches eco-friendly textile trade and design to women in India who have been subject to exploitation and abuse and allows them to become self-sufficient. From that effort, the dyeScape project grew. Anchal's dyeScape project is a natural dye initiative that will revolutionize the industrialized textile system and educate the community about sustainable textile practices. Yew Dell has offered space in our family garden as a satellite dye garden for Anchal's dyeScape, aligning shared values and mission between these organizations. We grow, harvest and dry marigolds for them to use in their dyeing projects. Together we are raising awareness about eco-friendly, sustainable practices.



# GARDEN & NURSERY SPOTLIGHTS



California Poppy  
(*Eschscholzia californica*)



Hardy Banana Tree  
(*Musa 'Basjoo'*)



Volunteer, Linda Myers, engaging visitors in the family garden.



Sunflower (*Helianthus*)  
blooming in the family garden.

## KITCHEN GARDEN

We love when our edible plants taste good, and double points if they look good, too! The intention of Yew Dell's Kitchen Garden is to showcase ornamental edibles. We believe veggies don't have to just be planted in rows, but can be beautifully integrated into a display garden. The Kitchen Garden, like many of our others, is an area of plant experimentation and trialing. We design this garden using a variety of edible annual and perennial plants such as lavender, borage, peppers, strawberries, and more. A few signature plants in this garden are the malabar spinach tunnel and a massive banana tree. The malabar spinach (*basella rubra*) has a succulent leaf that makes a great addition to salads and is one of the most attractive annual vines to grow over a tunnel. The hardy banana tree (*Musa 'Basjoo'*) grows an impressive 10-15 feet tall. We cut the tree back in the fall and cover its roots in mulch, which allows this tropical plant to return every year. Each year, the horticulture staff selects 5 or more new and unique edible plants to incorporate into the display. In previous years we've planted luffa, pole beans, gourds, nasturtiums, and a variety of dwarf vegetable varieties. The goal of the garden is to give visitors an idea on how they can incorporate edible plants into their own gardens.

## FAMILY GARDEN

Unlike any other garden, the Family Garden is a place of immersive education where visitors are encouraged to interact with the plants through harvesting, smelling, and touching the plants. The garden consists of 8 raised beds, a meadow maze, and a mobile garden. The mobile garden was built by volunteer, Tim Baker, and the gardens are maintained by volunteer, Susan Byrne, who adopted the garden last year. This year, the raised beds will be planted with marigolds for harvesting, milkweeds for discovering butterfly chrysalis, herbs for scent, and herbs for taste. The nearby smokehouse is being converted into a drying shed, with several racks for visitors to place their harvested marigolds to safely dry indoors. The dried marigolds are then delivered to Anchal Project to use for natural dye. As the garden continues to grow, we are utilizing it in our educational activities such as Children in the Dell, horticultural workshops, and a variety of events. We have also created a backpack program that guides families in interacting with this garden, which we hope you will check out during your next visit.

**“WHY TRY TO EXPLAIN MIRACLES TO YOUR KIDS WHEN YOU CAN JUST HAVE THEM PLANT A GARDEN.” -ROBERT BRAULT**



Trays of plants  
in our Nursery Program.

## PLANT MARKET

No matter how well you plan in the garden, nursery, or greenhouse, Mother Nature throws you a curve ball. Yew Dell was used to hitting these curve balls out of the park. Rain, snow, late spring freezes, and even a tornado in 2019! With brazen confidence we secretly planned to unveil our new Plant Market this spring. What could go wrong? We had been propagating more awesome plants, had space available, and members and visitors were asking about buying plants out of the nursery. Fool proof. We had it in our sights. Excitement was building and our staff was ready to announce this new aspect of Yew Dell. Then Covid-19 came along, possibly the most wicked curve ball Mother Nature will ever throw. We put the Plant Market on hold and jumped head first into our first online plant sales. Now, as we come out of the depths of the global pandemic we are once again excited to announce that Yew Dell's new Plant Market will be open and ready to shop during your next visit to the gardens. You will find it in what used to be our old "high tunnel" vegetable production greenhouse. Available to purchase will be plants propagated from our own gardens, the unique and unusual plants you have come to love about Yew Dell, and new exciting plants that we want to introduce to you. From our garden to yours, we look forward to sharing more of our love of plant propagation! Oh yeah, since we had to figure out online plant sales we will continue to do those throughout the year, too!

## EVALUATION GARDENS

It's getting serious, folks. During our early years, plant evaluation work at Yew Dell was a pretty informal process. Drop it in the ground and see what it does. But this year we're launching an amazing program to advance our work to determine the very best garden plants for our region. With support from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and J Frank Schmidt Family Charitable Foundation we have started work on two evaluation gardens; one for herbaceous perennials and one for woody shrubs. The plan is to pick a group of plants (say, baptisias or hydrangeas), track down every variety we can find on the planet and plant them all side by side for multi-year performance testing. When we're done, we'll publish the results. But we've located the gardens in the public areas (either side of the Log Cabin) so that you can come out and check out the work while it is in progress. We're even working to raise the funds to develop a smartphone app to allow visitors to get involved with the evaluation process. The gardens are graced by two fabulous corten steel entrance kiosks designed by the brilliant and award winning architects at deLeon and Primmer Architecture Workshop who have worked on all our award winning architecture projects over the years and who generously donated their design services for this newest project.



Steel kiosks mark the entry to  
our new evaluation gardens

## BEHIND THE SCENES

### MARTY THIENEMAN'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE EVALUATION GARDENS

You'll notice the beautiful new kiosks marking the entrances to our new plant and trial research gardens. These steel wonders, designed by deLeon & Primmer to mimic the lines of our logo, were fabricated by the talented Marty Thieneman at Sentry Steel, Inc. Marty spent his childhood summers helping his uncle at his plant nursery in Crestwood. They would often visit Theodore Klein's nursery. Marty has so many fond memories of being on the Klein family farm and nursery and learning about plants from Theodore that he donated his work on the entrance kiosks. Thank you Marty!

# THE BUDDING GARDENER

A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES

## HOW TO OBSERVE THE STAGES OF A MONARCH'S LIFE IN YOUR GARDEN



- Plant milkweed in your garden.
- Use a magnifying glass to look for cream colored eggs on the milkweed plant.
- After 4 days, the eggs hatch into caterpillars, also known as larvae. Use your magnifying glass to watch as they grow!
- You can bring your baby caterpillars inside if you have a butterfly house or tent. Make sure to provide milkweed for them to eat and a small dish of water.
- \*Note: make the water shallow (use a plastic container top) so the caterpillars don't drown. Also, the caterpillars poop a lot so you'll have to clean their home regularly.
- After two weeks, look for chrysalis. Inside the chrysalis a process called metamorphosis transforms the caterpillar into a butterfly.
- After about 10 days or so the beautiful orange monarch emerges and will fly away. Make sure to release your butterfly if you brought it inside!

**Milkweed and butterfly houses are available for purchase in the Plant Market and Garden Gift Shop at Yew Dell!**



## NATURE MANDALA

Making a nature mandala is a calming and relaxing art form that can help children embrace the world around them. In its simplest form, a mandala is a circular structure with a design that radiates out symmetrically from the center. To make a nature mandala, first you collect materials: leaves, flowers, sticks, pinecones... anything you think is beautiful! Make sure to collect at least three of everything to create a repeating pattern. Start with a centerpiece, maybe a flower, and then arrange the other materials in a pattern around it. There is no wrong answer to making a mandala, so it's a perfect activity for all ages.



## SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find these gifts to the garden hiding on this page?

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| monarch butterfly | snail             |
| garden hose       | something yellow  |
| lady bug          | heart-shaped rock |
| bee               | garden pot        |
| feather           | worm              |
| spider web        |                   |

Once you've found them here, go outside and look for them in your backyard!





# BEEES

## A conversation with our resident beekeeper, Claude Nutt.

**D**id you know Yew Dell has bee boxes? Claude Nutt, our resident honeybee keeper, has maintained 10 or so honeybee hives at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens for six years. Claude is a member of the KY State, Oldham County, Kentuckiana, and Capital City Beekeepers Associations, and serves on the board of directors of the KY Queen Bee Breeders Association. He has been a beekeeper for 35+ years.

### **How did you get involved with Yew Dell?**

I brought some honeybee hives to Yew Dell following an inquiry announced at a beekeepers meeting expressing an interest in having bees at the gardens. I jumped at the chance and in addition to managing my bees, now thoroughly enjoy interacting with the talented staff.

### **Why is beekeeping important to the environment?**

Honeybees play an incredible role in the production of the world's food supply. Many fruits, vegetables, and nuts are dependent on insect pollination, a job done by far most efficiently by honeybees. The crops affected make up to 1/3 of our diet, and 85% of wild flowering plants rely on pollinators to thrive. There is a growing tug of war between our need to feed the rapid increase of the world population and the decreasing number of pollinators due largely to current and evolving agri-business practices known as mono culture such as endless acres of corn.

### **You've caught several swarms at Yew Dell. Can you explain why bees swarm?**

The average gardener may never or seldom see a swarm of honey bees, but it is a grouping of bees generally about the size of a basketball that gather in a tree or bush as a temporary stopping off place on their way to finding a new home. In a recent article appearing in American Bee Journal, Megan Milbrath, a honey bee and pollinator researcher, explains that swarming is the means whereby honey bees reproduce. She states "The ultimate goal of every animal is to reproduce, and honey bees are no exception." So that is why honey bees swarm, but when and how often is not so easily explained or understood. Usually swarming occurs in our area in spring, when trees and flowers are in bloom. There are many contributing factors that influence swarming behavior. Not all hives swarm every year, and some swarm more than once in a year. Because a swarm contains about half the bees in a hive, beekeepers work to recognize the signs that a hive is about to swarm, and take steps to keep those bees from leaving and thus lost to the beekeeper. So



beekeepers sometime split the hives that are about to do the same thing naturally, that is swarm, which, when done by the beekeeper, is sometimes called an artificial swarm.

### **How can we help the bees?**

I am happy to say that Yew Dell is playing an important role in demonstrating what all of us can do in our own garden or yard to encourage and protect pollinators. Some of the ways we can help bees and pollinators in general are as follows:

1. Stop or reduce the use of toxic chemicals (if you must, use fast-acting, short-residual options, and apply at dusk when pollinators are least active).
2. Bees are more attracted to native plants such as daisy, aster, sunflower, and fruits to name only a few.
3. Plant a diversity of flowering plants to have something in bloom spring through summer.
4. And here is my favorite, allow some weeds to grow!

### **What do you do with the honey produced by the bees at Yew Dell?**

The honey that is produced by me and the bees at Yew Dell is sold in the Garden Gift Shop, usually available beginning in July. It is pure and all natural, with nothing added or taken away, just like the bees that produced it.

**If you are interested in learning about beekeeping as a hobby, e-mail [grow@yewdellgardens.org](mailto:grow@yewdellgardens.org) and we will put you in touch with Claude Nutt.**





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# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RUTH & LARRY NIX

Ruth and Larry Nix have been volunteering in the gardens since 2007. In 2017, they became regulars in the weekly Garden Workdays helping with weeding, mulching, and planting. In 2018, they joined the Garden Adoption Program and adopted the Walled Garden with Andrea Eisenbrei where they have transformed the space from a modge-podge perennial garden to a seasonally themed annual display. Last year, Ruth and Larry donated

materials for the restoration of the Walled Garden pond and guided the installation of a new liner and fountain. When asked about the experience they shared the following: “The Walled Garden is a very desirable area for visitors. As long as we, and the third member of our Garden Adoption crew, Andrea Eisenbrei, have been working in that area, that pond has been empty due to many leaks, and the fountain mechanics did not work. At some point, we saw photos of Klein family members sitting by the pond. The idea of restoring the pond became even more compelling. We contacted local and national pond outfitters, and learned that it would be best to line the pond with impermeable rubber, hoping to seal every leak. We found a Canadian company that custom-made pond liners, and they referred us to a YouTube video of how to install it. We shared this information with Yew Dell staff, and an order was placed. The planning process was challenging, but, by far, seeing the water coming up through the millstone was the most rewarding.”



Martha Lee Klein enjoying the Walled Garden Pond with her great-grandchildren and granddaughter, Holly.

Not only do Ruth and Larry maintain their garden, they go above and beyond to elevate the experience visitors have in their adopted area. Having the water in the pond and the fountain working has had such a massive impact on the garden. The pond is part of our history and we are so grateful for their tireless efforts.

### Want to join our volunteer community?

E-mail our Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Ryan, at [laurar@yewdellgardens.org](mailto:laurar@yewdellgardens.org).



## MEET OUR NEW EVENT AND PROGRAM MANAGER: SUSAN LUCAS

I am thrilled to join the Yew Dell Botanical Gardens team as Event and Program Manager! I am from southern Indiana, and, after graduating from IUS, lived and worked in New York City and Los Angeles. I've been back in the area for almost four years and enjoy exploring all the cultural attractions and restaurants. I most recently was Marketing and Sales Coordinator for an educational services company, and I've worked in three museums in Guest

Service and Marketing roles. In my spare time, I like to play my bagpipes. Can you imagine a more beautiful place to get to practice? I look forward to meeting YEW in the gardens!

# PLANNED GIVING

## PRESERVE THE GARDENS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

We've talked about the Klein family legacy before. Yew Dell is unique in so many ways. While there are many other botanical gardens that were once family estates like Yew Dell, many of those gardens belonged to some of the wealthiest families in the US. When their family estate became a public garden, the family left a portion of their vast wealth to maintain and upkeep the gardens in perpetuity. However, that is not Yew Dell's story. Theodore Klein was a man who built his legacy through hard work, passion, and creativity. Klein was a trade nurseryman and he and his family built, together, this wonderful place. And he built this place not just as a family business, but as a place to raise his family and leave his legacy. His passion for unique and interesting plants left a lasting mark on our arboretum and garden collections, as he planted many of the plants we have today. Members of the plant community knew how special his life's work was and that is why they banded together upon his death to save Yew Dell from development. They weren't left a huge sum of money to preserve the gardens but had to work to raise the money that bought the initial property. Yew Dell is a lasting legacy of both the Klein family and those wonderful community members who have and continue to support us so that we thrive. If you would like to help preserve the gardens for future generations of your family and others, we ask that you consider including Yew Dell Botanical Gardens in your will, trust, or other estate plans. Your legacy of giving will help us thrive in perpetuity.

**If you'd like to discuss how to set up one of these meaningful legacy gifts to help Yew Dell, please contact Aimee Conrad-Hill, Director of Development and External Relations, at 502.241.4788.**



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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.

# WE HAVE HONEY!

**AVAILABLE FOR  
PURCHASE IN OUR  
GARDEN GIFT SHOP**

The honey that is produced by the bees at Yew Dell is sold in the Garden Gift Shop, and is usually available beginning in July. It is pure and all natural, with nothing added or taken away, just like the bees that produced it.

**"The hum of bees  
is the voice of the  
garden." -Elizabeth Lawrence**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:  
UNITED MAIL, INC.**