

# SUMMER

2021



**YEW  
DELL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS**

New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)



# OUR VALUES



## COMMUNITY

We foster excitement about plants and gardening in people of all ages and backgrounds. Our communities and our gardens both thrive by sharing a collective knowledge and love of plants.

## EDUCATION

We provide education for everyone, from those just beginning their gardening journey to professional horticulturists. We see gardeners as citizen scientists who can apply our educational offerings to their practical, everyday lives.



## HORTICULTURE SCIENCE

Everything we do is rooted in science, from promoting and offering the best plants to providing sound gardening advice in ways that are accessible for all. Our hope is that visitors use what they learn here to create increased biodiversity, healthier ecosystems and more inspiring gardens.



## INSPIRATION

What makes Yew Dell's unique whimsy and beauty worth preserving is that it was lovingly handcrafted by forward-thinking horticulturist Theodore Klein. Like Theodore, we believe that beauty is not only necessary for the mental and physical well-being of all people but for deepening people's connection to the natural world. Our gardens provide a needed refuge and inspiration for the community.



## SUSTAINABILITY

We care deeply about what we do and employ passionate people who work every day to run both an environmentally and fiscally sustainable organization.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

One of the great miracles of nature is the delicate and enduring balance of big, bold events with the subtle, incremental changes that take eons to materialize. An earthquake, a forest fire, a polar vortex — they all can wreak havoc on local and regional ecology, but nature somehow endures. At the same time the tiniest of drip, drip, drips, given enough time and persistence, can carve the Grand Canyon.

It's easy to see the large scale events and their immediate impacts. But it takes a close and watchful eye to see all the little increments that make up long term patterns. For many of us, watching and learning from those small and subtle happenings is what makes gardening the great teacher. As the saying goes, if your hands aren't dirty, you're not close enough to be gardening!

When you sit back to enjoy a cool drink and look out over your garden, you're getting the big picture view. But when you're on your knees in your garden, that's the perfect time to get that up close and personal view of what's going on out there. When you pull a plant out of its pot to plant it in the ground, look closely at the root system to get a feel for how it grows. Take a look in the hole as you dig and pay attention to the roots of other plants you're cutting to make room for the new. When you see an ant scampering across the ground, watch it for a bit to see where it's going. You don't have to know the fancy-schmancy name of every plant part or insect on the planet to get a feel for how it all works together.

The growth and development of Yew Dell, in many ways, has followed that same model. Sure we've had our own big happenings... tornadoes (okay, only one!), weathered economic downturns

(more than one), and a global pandemic, but it has been the constant drumbeat that has kept us moving forward. A membership here, a volunteer hour there, a few weeds pulled, a full-fledged, online nursery business offering a stunning mix of awesome plants, all built in the blink of an eye. And all of a sudden we have a thriving botanical garden that enriches our community in a million ways, from big and bold to subtle and small.

So I invite you to visit this summer, to take a closer look at what makes a garden tick and what keeps Yew Dell growing.

*Paul Cappiello*





# CLASSES AND EVENTS



To register and for more class information, go to [www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events](http://www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events)

## CHILDREN IN THE DELL – IN-PERSON

SATURDAYS, NOW THROUGH AUGUST 7 • 10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
MEMBERS FREE / NON-MEMBERS REGULAR ADMISSION

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.



## HOUNDS ON THE GROUNDS – IN-PERSON

SUNDAYS, NOW THROUGH DECEMBER  
MEMBERS FREE / NON-MEMBERS REGULAR ADMISSION

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

## SATURDAY TOURS – IN-PERSON

SATURDAYS, NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER • 11:00 AM-12:00 PM  
MEMBERS FREE / NON-MEMBERS REGULAR ADMISSION

Interested in learning more about the history of Yew Dell? Take a volunteer-led tour of the grounds and gardens! Saturday tours are included with admission and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Tours are capped at 10 people.



## CULTURAL PASS – IN-PERSON

WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS, NOW THROUGH AUGUST 8

Yew Dell is excited to welcome back Cultural Pass, an innovative initiative to promote art and culture and improve summer learning in our community! This program, which is a partnership of Louisville Metro Government, Arts & Culture Alliance, Fund for the Arts, Louisville Free Public Library and regional libraries in the Greater Louisville area, grants participants a FREE one day access to our gardens from June 2nd to August 8th.

## THE OTHER POLLINATORS – VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM  
MEMBERS \$20 / NON-MEMBERS \$30

Aaron Sexton, University of Louisville PhD Candidate, will discuss the less-familiar birds, beetles, and bats, and their pollination impacts. Learn who the “others” are, what they do, and how we can attract and protect them in our gardens.



## INSECT IDENTIFICATION – IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JULY 17 • 12:00 PM-3:00 PM  
MEMBERS \$70 / NON-MEMBERS \$80

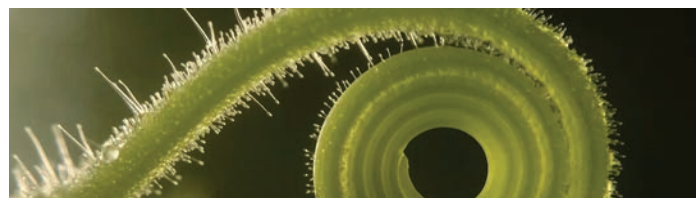
Join our Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, in exploring the insects present in our Kentucky gardens. In this workshop you will learn how to identify a variety of insects and explore what each contributes to your garden. Attendees will receive 2 insect identification field guides and a hand lens, which will be utilized throughout the workshop.



## SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY – VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, JULY 27 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM  
MEMBERS \$20 / NON-MEMBERS \$40

Due to the popularity of our Winter Smartphone Nature Photography workshops, we are repeating the topic for Summer! Join Ellen Sears, Yew Dell Volunteer and 30-year classroom instructor in Art and Math, for a workshop focused on getting the most out of your cellphone camera. During a virtual follow-up session Ellen will provide feedback on student submitted photos to help all improve their technique.



## HAND-RAISING MONARCHS – VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM  
MEMBERS \$45 / NON-MEMBERS \$55

Andrea Matz, District Program Coordinator at Oldham County Conservation District, will lead a talk on our pollinating friends, the monarch butterflies. This is the season for their southern migration, and it's an important time to be aware and protect them. We will learn how to hand-raise monarchs through their complete life cycle: from eggs, to caterpillars, to chrysalises, and finally monarchs! Ticket price includes a monarch kit with a monarch egg, a pop-up mesh habitat container, a tropical milkweed plant, and full instructions.



## FINDING BIRDS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES – VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM  
MEMBERS \$10 / NON-MEMBERS \$20

Pam Spaulding, former photographer for the Louisville Times and Courier-Journal, will talk about her experiences finding birds in unexpected places, like construction sites and flood retention areas. Step away from the camera and immerse yourself in nature. This workshop will be steered to observation and awareness, and releasing our sense of wonder at the presence of birds living all around us!



## PLANT WALK SERIES: POLLINATOR MEADOW – IN-PERSON

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

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

## SPECIAL EFFECTS PHOTOGRAPHY – VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM  
MEMBERS \$20 / NON-MEMBERS \$40

With instruction by Ellen Sears, learn how to layer special effects to transform your smartphone images into works of art using free and inexpensive apps. Note that this is not an introductory class, and topics covered in the Smartphone Nature Photography workshops will not be re-addressed in this workshop. Our cell phone photographers will then submit their images for a gallery session, where everyone can see and share accomplishments and get feedback on improving their work.

## BOURBON & BOTANICALS MUSIC SERIES – IN-PERSON

THURSDAYS THROUGH JULY & AUGUST  
GATE OPENS 5:30 PM • GARDEN TOUR 6:00 PM •  
MUSIC 7:00 PM-8:45 PM

Check our website for ticket information. Our Bourbon & Botanicals music series kicks off on July 1st for nine Thursdays with some returning favorites as well as some new performers! Live music kicks off at 7:00 PM. Our gates open at 5:30 PM, and we're arranging for seasonal interest garden tours starting at 6:00 PM that will focus on our Horticulture Staff's favorite things in bloom each week. Tickets will be pre-sale only and will sell quickly.







To register and for more class information, go to [www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events](http://www.yewdellgardens.org/classes-events)

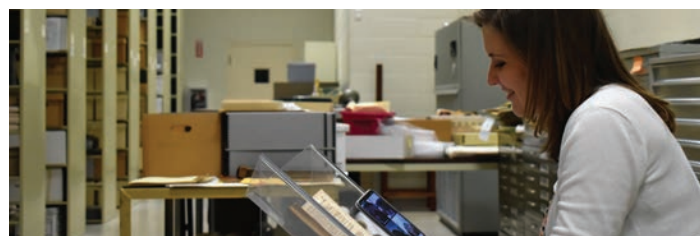
# CLASSES AND EVENTS CONT'D

## HISTORY OF CULTIVATION IN KENTUCKY – VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 • 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

MEMBERS \$15 / NON-MEMBERS \$25

Join Yew Dell Botanical Gardens and the Kentucky Historical Society as we explore the ways that Kentuckians past and present have cultivated land to meet the needs of both body and soul! KHS Museum Program Coordinator, Carol Easterly, will guide us on a virtual behind-the-scenes tour featuring garden and farm artifacts from the Kentucky Historical Society collection, including many items not on regular display.



## GARDEN TAI CHI – IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 • 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

MEMBERS FREE / NON-MEMBERS REGULAR ADMISSION

Daniel Lally and Amy Conner return with Garden Tai Chi: Fall, which connects participants to the changing season through relaxed fluid movements. Learn two fall acupressure points to press on your own body to help your “chi” flow in harmony. Rain or shine — all levels welcome.



## FALL FLORA PLANT IDENTIFICATION STROLL – IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 • 11:00 AM-12:30 AM

MEMBERS \$20 / NON-MEMBERS \$30

Join Pat Haragan, botanist and author of “The Olmsted Parks of Louisville: A Botanical Field Guide” on an in-person stroll through Yew Dell’s gardens to identify fall flowering plants. Pat will discuss basic field identification characteristics as the class explores the diversity of plant families found within Yew Dell’s gardens and grounds.

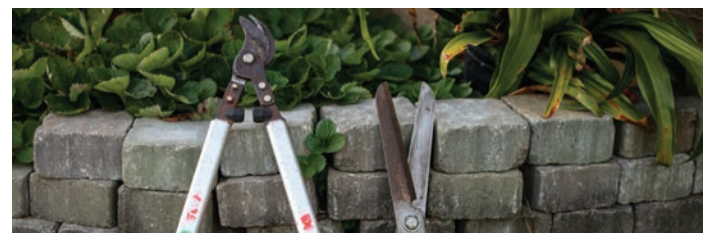


## FALL TOOL MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE – VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 • 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

MEMBERS \$15 / NON-MEMBERS \$25

Carl Heimerdinger, fifth-generation CEO of Heimerdinger Cutlery Company, follows up on his February workshop where he guided participants on getting their tools sharpened and ready for spring. Now that your tools have been working hard for the summer, it is time to learn how to properly maintain them as you store them away for the season.



## GARDEN GIFT SHOP

Yew Dell’s Garden Gift Shop is all about supporting our pollinator friends. Whether you’re looking for educational resources or a piece of jewelry to celebrate the beauty of a butterfly, we can help you! From home decor to butterfly cages and homes for our solitary bees, the shop supplies them all. **BEE ON THE LOOKOUT!** Our special honey from Yew Dell’s bees will be available mid-summer.

Pollinator cages 15”x24”, black or white, \$15.95–16.95. Books for both children and adults, pricing varies.



# Plan Your Summer Visit

Step aside cicadas, it’s pollinator season! During the summer, Yew Dell is buzzing with the bees and butterflies. Our entire garden is a habitat for pollinators, but there are some areas of the garden that get more buzz than others. Be on the lookout for hummingbird hawk moths and a variety of butterflies on the dwarf butterfly bush (*Buddleia* Pugster® Series) near the Administrative Office. The bottlebrush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*) growing near the Event Lawn is a pollinator magnet. And of course, the Pollinator Meadow and Overlook Garden are teaming with life. So this summer, bring out the whole family to observe our gardens a little closer. We invite you to put on your citizen scientist badge and get curious!

## SUMMER ANNUAL DISPLAY

Did you know we plant three different annual displays a year? After the Big Bloom bulb display finished at the end of April, Horticulture Staff and Volunteers removed the bulbs and replaced them with a gorgeous summer annual display of more than 2,700 plants! Sayde Heckman, Yew Dell’s Garden and Arboretum Manager and the designer behind the annual displays, selected different kinds of coleus and cannas including fantastic fiery colors and dwarf varieties. It’s a real showstopper! Once the summer annual display nears the end of its life, our staff and volunteers remove the plants and install our fall annual display that offers a pop of color towards the end of the growing season. And once the fall annual display has done its thing, our crew is back at it, planting next year’s Big Bloom bulb display. And what you might not see is that all these summer and fall annuals come directly from our own nursery. Once Sayde selects the plants for the annual displays (a year in advance!) our Nursery Staff get to work ordering seed, cuttings and plugs to be grown to perfection, all at just the right time for planting. If you come out on a regular basis, you’ll have a chance to see this delicate horticultural ballet take place!

## FAMILY GARDEN

This is the one garden where visitors are encouraged to interact with the plants through harvesting, smelling, and touching! This year, the 8 raised beds behind the log cabin are home to marigolds, cut flowers and milkweed. Look for caterpillars and chrysalis on the milkweed, the monarch butterfly’s host plant. Visitors are invited to help harvest marigolds and cut flowers and place them in the nearby smokehouse that has been converted into a drying shed. Inside, there are several racks for visitors to place their harvested flowers to safely dry indoors. The dried marigolds will be donated to Anchal Project for natural dye pigments and the other dried flowers will be used in our fall and winter décor. So come out this summer and lend a hand in the Family Garden!





# POLLINATOR MEADOW

## A LESSON IN PATIENCE – GARDENING IN YEW DELL'S POLLINATOR MEADOW

by Paul Cappiello

Ask any group of gardeners about the difference between an experienced gardener and a beginner and you'll get a range of answers. "Beginners obsess about getting things to grow while experts worry about keeping the garden from eating the house." "Beginners plant flowers, experts plant foliage." And my personal favorite, "experienced gardeners have killed way more plants!"

But the most important lesson we all learn, no matter our experience level in the garden, is to be patient, slow down and focus on the details — the big picture things will come over time.

Several years ago we decided to turn the former grazing pasture located below the Castle, into a planting of native grasses and wildflowers. And we made that decision because we wanted to show visitors what can be done on a smallish piece of land to support all our local pollinators. Sure, like just about everyone, we love the bumble bees, the monarchs and the hummingbirds. But we're also partial to the beetles, moths and others that don't get as much press but are just as necessary to a healthy ecosystem. And a more diverse plant pallet provides the resources to attract and maintain a more diverse pollinator pallet.

But the process of turning a pasture of mostly invasive plants into a more diverse system seemed like a daunting task. Populations of johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) and common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) among others, all had to be eradicated — a herculean task that would mean essentially a nuked meadow for a full spring summer and fall.

Then there was the winter seeding and a whole growing season of mowing the new growth on a monthly basis — and the hand pulling of breakthrough invasive plant species. Then on year three we'd finally let it all grow. One of our staff at the time coined the tripartite phrase, the dead-o, not-yet-o, and finally, the meadow for the three year-long stages of the project. It seemed like it would take forever.

Yet three short years later here we are — a fabulous planting of native plants that support an increasingly diverse population of insects, birds and other wildlife. There are still a few invasive plants here and there to be dealt with. But of course as any gardener knows, the planting of a garden or a meadow is not the end but rather the beginning. There are still bits and pieces of johnsongrass, dock and others to be hand pulled. We'll reseed a few species that didn't take off as planned. We'll thin a few things that have gotten a bit too proud of themselves. But as time goes on we'll move toward that ever-elusive "maintenance" mode where nature and gardener reach a bit of a botanical *détente*.

So now that we have our nice new meadow, there are two ways that you can take it in. If the big picture is your thing you can sit on a chair by the Castle Overlook and enjoy the view, or you can get down and dirty and enjoy the details. How many different insects can you find in an hour? How many invasive plants can you ID along the way? Have you ever seen more than one kind of milkweed? And then you can take the next step in your own yard. Have a lull in flowering in your own garden? That's a great time to come out to scan Yew Dell's gardens and meadow for what's flowering then to pick up a few ideas to even out the pollinator smorgasbord at home.

## A FEW KEY PLANTS TO LOOK FOR IN YEW DELL'S POLLINATOR MEADOW



**Maximilian Sunflower** (*Helianthus maximiliani*): One of our absolute favorites in the pollinator meadow is this stunning, perennial sunflower that can grow up to 10 feet tall. Native to savannah/grassland ecosystems throughout much of North America, it is tolerant of drought, bothered by few pests and offers a big, beastly golden exclamation point in the meadow in late summer. Large seed crops feed finches and other birds through the winter. The sturdy, erect stems offer protection for overwintering insects and the bright, cheerful golden flowers are just what the doctor ordered on a hot August day. This one is easy to grow, long lived and at home in just about any bright, sunny spot that's not too wet through the growing season.



**Chicory** (*Cichorium intybus*): This is one that drives native plant meadow managers crazy. It's an exotic introduced species so it doesn't fit the mold of a native pollinator meadow plant. But getting rid of every shred of chicory in any Kentucky meadow is just about impossible. But it also is a rather wispy grower that doesn't outcompete many other plants for space. While we might not plant one in our gardens on purpose, we also don't stress too much about the chicory in the Yew Dell meadow. It adds a bit of summer blue, services a few pollinators and generally plays nicely with others in the meadow. And if you see more of it than you like, it's easy to pull.

**New England Aster** (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*): Known for their late summer and fall flowers in pink and purple, the asters are mainstays in the late season meadow. And this is a case where the plant in question is actually much better in this meadow setting than in a proper garden. Other than a few select cultivars, most of the New England asters have a tendency to have the lower two-thirds of their leaves turn an oh-so-attractive black color. Not the best for a garden setting. But in a large meadow, you don't see those decaying leaves — just the cheerful flower heads poking above other grasses and fellow forbs.



## FIVE TIPS FOR CREATING YOUR POLLINATOR MEADOW

by Margaret Shea, Owner of Dropseed Nursery

1. Do a thorough job of eliminating the existing vegetation. This step is no fun, but it is important.
2. Don't till or fertilize. Tilling stirs up the weed seeds and causes a flush of weedy plants. The native plants don't require additional fertilizer and are actually better able to compete with weeds in nutrient poor soil.
3. Think "Wild Mix." Mix grasses and flowering plants together rather than planting sweeps of single species. A "Wild Mix" is better at crowding out weeds. Aim for 40–50% native grass.
4. Remember that it typically takes three years for a meadow to become established and begin to flower. Meanwhile, don't get discouraged — it's worth the wait!
5. Don't aim for weed-free. Concentrate on removing the weeds that can outcompete the natives (johnsongrass, thistle, etc). Many of the lower growing and less aggressive non-natives can be crowded out by the natives over time. Less weeding means more time to relax and enjoy what you have created!



Klein farm grazing pasture, September 1983



The old pasture transformed into today's pollinator meadow, September 2020



# NOTES FROM THE NURSERY

## ANOTHER EXCITING EXPANSION IN YEW DELL'S NURSERY PROGRAM

by Jacob Stidham, Nursery and Greenhouse Manager

Everyone loves to look at a plant list! Whether it be new releases at a garden center, the epic lists that go along with a rare plant auction, or if you are like me, the countless availabilities from wholesale suppliers across the country. There is an overwhelming problem with those wholesale lists in the perennial plant area though. 95% are sun perennials! It is a travesty that there are more cultivars of purple cone flower (*Echinacea*) on some lists than there are shade perennials.

At Yew Dell we sell nearly equal amounts of shade perennials and sun perennials during our plant sale events every year. So what's the deal with the lack of shade perennials at wholesale nurseries? The short answer is an *Echinacea* in flower sells a lot better than a pot with a single bloodroot leaf that is already starting to yellow and go dormant. The long answer is time.

You can germinate an *Echinacea* seed in late winter, pot it up in a quart container, and have a sellable plant by late summer. If you manage to get a bloodroot seed to germinate, it will be years before it is large enough to sell. People still want bloodroot though and we are up for our next challenge in the nursery at Yew Dell.

The most efficient way to propagate a lot of the shade perennials is by root division. Plant a small plant this year, let it grow for a couple of years, and then dig it up and cut those roots into pieces to make a whole bunch of new plants. This summer we will be building nearly 2,000 square feet of elevated growing beds filled with a custom blended potting mix underneath a shaded hoop house that will give us just the right conditions to produce a long list of outstanding shade perennials for sales, display and research.



Nursery Manager, Jacob Stidham, shows off the 6'-tall Solomon Seal



Flowers of *Polygonatum martinii*, an obscure shade perennial from China



The circled area indicates the planned location for this summer's construction of the new shade house. Top side of the picture shows grading for additional growing space for the future.

# HOW'S IT GROWING?

## CUSTOMERS FROM OUR COMMUNITY SHARE UPDATES ON THE PLANTS THEY PURCHASED FROM YEW DELL



### WES KRUPICZEWICZ – PURCHASED A VENUS DOGWOOD AT YEW DELL'S ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE IN 2010

"I purchased a Venus dogwood from Yew Dell about 10 years ago and for years it didn't bloom. A few years back, I lost a massive maple tree and the Venus, that was once in part shade, is now in full sun. This year, it is in full bloom and it was totally worth the wait. I've been a gardener for 40+ years and involved at Yew Dell since 2006. I continue to shop at Yew Dell's plant sales because the plants are always healthy and the selection is unique."



### JOHN & CAROLYN EMBRY – PURCHASED AN ALLIUM 'MILLENNIUM' ONLINE AT SHOPYEWDELL.COM IN 2020

"Living in a home that backs up to woodlands poses some special planting challenges due to few hours of direct sunlight and our "neighbors," the deer. Thanks to the outstanding variety of offerings available for purchase from Yew Dell, we were thrilled to find a perfect plant, ornamental onions (*Allium* 'Millennium'), for our one sunny spot alongside the driveway. Pollinators love it, the deer don't bother it and it boasts lovely flowers with attractive clumps of glossy green leaves."



### JACQUELYN MCGRAIL – PURCHASED AN INDIGO BAPTISIA AT YEW DELL'S ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE IN 2016

"My gardening motto is "Natives Nurture Nature" meaning that we need an abundance of native plants to sustain our ecosystem and feed the birds, butterflies, and bumble bees. I've been adding native plants to my garden for years now, from *Acer* to *Viburnum*, and *Amsonia* to *Zizia*. One of my late spring favorites is *Baptisia*, which comes with white, yellow, blue, or purple flowers. Bold, beautiful, and bountiful — what's not to love?"



### CHRIS KIRKLAND – PURCHASED A SEDUM 'ANGELINA' AT YEW DELL'S ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE IN 2019

"Larry and I fell in love with Yew Dell after attending their fall plant sale in 2019. The sedum 'Angelina' plant now growing in the rock wall by our home was one of the many plants we bought that year. We've watched it take root and spread when nothing else would grow there. We've attended every plant sale since (even the virtual ones). This fall we are excited, not just for the Fall Plant Sale, but that we will be saying 'I Do' at Yew Dell in September!"



### RUTH & LARRY NIX – PURCHASED MILKWEED THROUGH YEW DELL'S GARDEN GIFT SHOP IN 2019

"Every spring, summer and fall, we seem to 'need' more plants, shrubs, and trees. Eventually, one would think we'd run out of space to plant them. We might be nearing that point — or we can designate more of the open, grass spaces as garden areas. The Plant Sales at Yew Dell Botanical Garden have been a wonderful source of healthy, unique, and common plants. And when we are stumped by current plant disease, deciding which type of tree would thrive best, or want to try new projects, the Yew Dell staff has the answers."



### WE WANT TO HEAR HOW YOUR PLANTS ARE DOING!

Tag us on social media: Instagram: @yewdellgardens  
Facebook: Yew Dell Botanical Gardens

Plants are available for purchase in person through our Garden Gift Shop, at our Annual Spring and Fall Plant Sales and online at [shopyewdell.com](http://shopyewdell.com). Every purchase made supports our mission of "sparking a passion for plants and gardening through accessible science and inspiring beauty."



# GARDEN SPOTLIGHT

## THE MARY F. ROUNSAVALL PAVILLION GARDEN

By Sayde Heckman, Garden and Arboretum Manager

Any horticulturist or plant lover knows that a garden isn't born overnight, nor will it ever be complete. Many of us can attest to that in our own home gardens and at Yew Dell it's the same story. The Mary F. Rounsavall Pavilion garden was transformed from a graveled event space to a sweeping walk of cool tropical, annuals and perennials practically overnight in 2015. Just a few nights before the very first event under the new pavilion, hundreds of plants were frantically planted, turning the space into a fabulous combination of form, color, and texture. But as good as it looked right off the bat, six years later we are still editing the displays.

The garden acts as a backdrop to endless wedding receptions, Bourbon & Botanicals music series performances, annual plant sales, and fundraisers. With this comes a dynamic identity of not only a stunning event space, but also as a horticultural display which is ever changing and emotion evoking. Behind the scenes this garden is a challenge due to poor soil quality and most of all the endless amounts of viewpoints at which visitors experience the garden. The next time you're here be sure to check out this year's additions!

*Cephalanthus occidentalis* 'Moonlight' (Magical® Buttonbush) is hands down my favorite plant in this garden! Depending on the cultivar this mounding shrub can mature at 4 to 12 feet and thrives in full sun. Last fall we added a planting of *Cephalanthus occidentalis* 'SMCOSS' (Sugar Shack™ Buttonbush), which is a dwarf cultivar with red spherical fruits.



Hundreds of annual and tropical plants were produced in Yew Dell's nursery to provide a blast of summer color

Over the past few years we have started a nice collection of *Ajuga* (Bugleweed). This plant is a dense low growing semi-evergreen groundcover adaptable to both sun and shade. In the spring their purple/blue blooms stand on spikes well above the foliage. The cultivars vary in foliage and bloom color. Some of my favorites are 'Pink Lightning,' 'Min Crispa Red,' and newly planted 'Cordial Canary.'

Annuals are a huge factor in this garden. They add dramatic masses of color all season long and take any garden to the next level. This season 10 *Plectranthus* (Coleus) cultivars were grown by our greenhouse and nursery team for addition in the gardens. A few of the cultivars to keep an eye out for are *Plectranthus* 'UF12-22-1' (Campfire Coleus), *Plectranthus* 'UF16-91-25' (Heartbreaker Coleus), and *Plectranthus* 'Electric Slide' (Coleus).

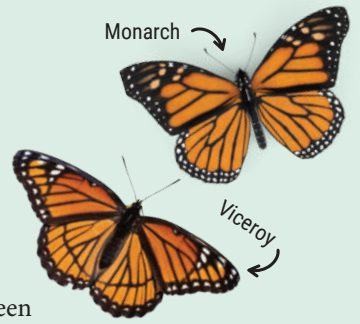


*Cephalanthus occidentalis* 'Moonlight'



# THE BUDDING GARDENER

A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES



## MIMICRY AMONG POLLINATORS

**What is mimicry?** In the natural world some types of plants and animals have evolved to resemble other things from nature, whether it be another living thing or something like a rock or fallen leaf. This resemblance provides protection or an advantage to the plant or animal which is known as the mimic.

## VICEROY VS. MONARCH

Can you spot the difference between these butterflies? Notice that the Viceroy has an extra black line that appears across the hind wings. The similarity in appearance may seem like a coincidence, but it's actually a useful defense mechanism called Mullerian mimicry. Both types of butterflies taste bitter to some potential predators, so it is less likely either butterfly will be eaten.

## CHECK OUT A POLLINATOR BACKPACK THROUGH THE VISITOR CENTER!

Yew Dell's Pollinator Backpacks are a great tool for families to use during their visit at Yew Dell! The backpack includes an activity lanyard that has self-guided lessons related to pollinators, a magnifying glass, sketchpad, journal and colored pencils. Make sure to check one out the next time you visit the gardens!



## SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL CATERPILLAR

As a form of protection against predators, the spicebush swallowtail caterpillar has evolved to look similar to another animal in the wild. Can you guess what animal it's mimicking to scare off its predators?



You can find this caterpillar on its host plant: the native spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) found in Yew Dell's Woodland Trails, or the sassafras tree found in Yew Dell's arboretum.



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## PHIL PAYNE — A REMEMBRANCE

We are all sad with the loss of a dear friend and all around Yew Dell champion with the passing of Phil Payne earlier this year. Long time board member and board president, Phil brought an infectious enthusiasm for Yew Dell as he recruited new board members, supporters and friends. He could be found every spring, effervescently selling memberships at the Spring Plant Sale. And his always-on marketing brain was constantly looking for ways to spread the Yew Dell word.

One of Phil's self-appointed responsibilities on the board was to insure that Yew Dell retained and celebrated the sense of whimsy infused throughout the property by Theodore Klein. When he rotated out of the board president position, fellow board members, friends and Yew Dell Staff honored Phil by commissioning a whimsical bench/sculpture by noted local sculptor Joe Autry. The botanical bench, with pine cone and holly motifs, now graces our Children's Sound Garden in the arboretum as an enduring reminder of Phil's service to Yew Dell.



Phil Payne (center) with Blair and Hunter Louis at Yew Dell's Garden Gift Shop opening event.

### MEET OUR NEW STAFF

During your next visit, make sure to say hello to these awesome staff members who are new to Yew!



Dan Westgate,  
Grounds Assistant

Brad Kessans,  
Buildings and  
Grounds  
Maintenance  
Technician

Silas Zoeller,  
Horticulture  
Apprentice



## SUPPORT US IN SEPTEMBER!

GIVE FOR GOOD AND  
TWILIGHT IN THE GARDENS

### GIVE FOR GOOD, SEPTEMBER 17TH, LOUISVILLE

As a non-profit botanical garden, all that we do happens with the support of our community. There are two great opportunities to help Yew Dell this September! Give for Good, Louisville's largest 24-hour day of online giving, will be held on September 17th. Last year, over 130 individual donations during Give for Good gave our organization nearly \$25,000 to be used to keep our gardens thriving. We hope that you'll contribute a gift and also follow us on social media to like and share our posts throughout the day.

### TWILIGHT IN THE GARDENS, SEPTEMBER 24TH

Join us for our biggest event of the year! Last year's gala was entirely virtual, but this year we will be celebrating the outdoors in person! Be sure to check our website to purchase tickets and to join the online bidding on auction items. Twilight is our most important fundraising event of the year and generates over 10% of our yearly income.

Both Give for Good and Twilight in the Gardens help us raise the vital unrestricted funding that helps every aspect of our mission — from purchasing bulbs for the Big Bloom, to upkeep of our display gardens, to allowing us to offer educational programs. If you have enjoyed being part of the Yew Dell community please join us for these outstanding events. We couldn't do what we do without you.





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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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# SUPPORT OUR POLLINATORS

## BUY LOCAL HONEY

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. While you're there, check out the Gift Shop's pollinator-related inventory including educational books and homes for our solitary bees.

## TAKE A CLASS

Yew Dell is offering a variety of pollinator workshops this summer including Hand-Raising Monarchs, the Other Pollinators and a Pollinator Meadow Walk, to name a few. The more we know about pollinators, the better we can support them!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO: UNITED MAIL, INC.