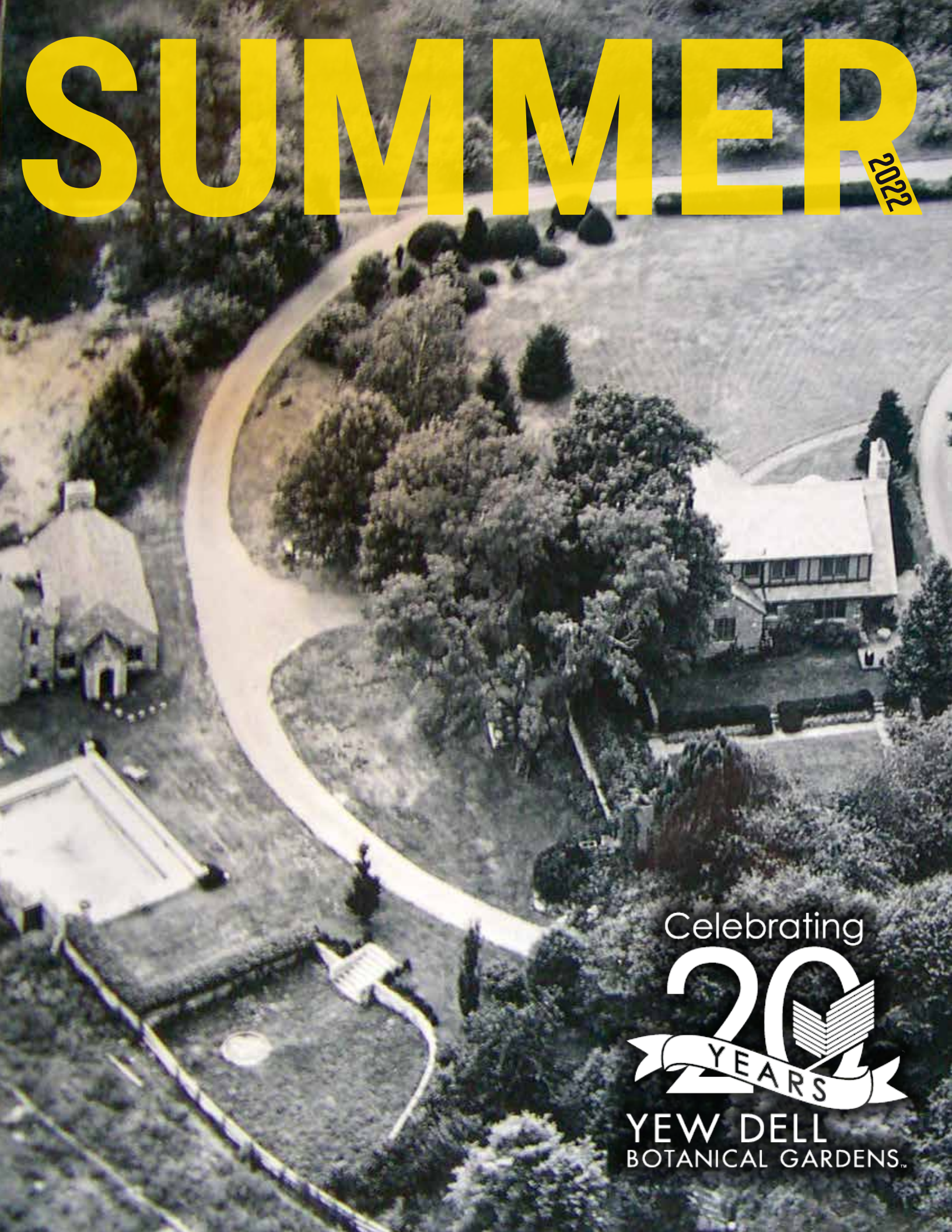


SUMMER

2022



Celebrating

20
YEARS

YEW DELL
BOTANICAL GARDENS.

IS IT DESTINY, OR IS IT COINCIDENCE THAT SHAPES ONE'S COURSE IN LIFE? IT MATTERS NOT TO ME, WHICH ONE. I HAVE NO REGRETS. -THEODORE R. KLEIN



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

One day recently, Brad Kessens (Yew Dell's wizard of all things that need fixed, fashioned, moved, or found) walked into my office with a piece of lumber. Knowing that I'm a bit of a wood geek, he brought me this mystery plank that he found stored in the rafters of our maintenance building. From the dust on the surface, it was clear the board had been there since the time that Theodore and Martha Lee Klein were raising their family and working the grounds of their Crestwood farm and nursery.

I took a quick look at the sample, did a bit of mental math and determined that it must be a piece of American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) left from Theodore Klein's work to craft the paneling that lines the walls of my present day office. What a cool piece of wood! The once ubiquitous American chestnut has long since mostly disappeared from the American forest due to chestnut blight. American chestnut lumber is quite simply something you can't find anymore.

I took the board home and popped it on my lathe to turn out a few chestnut pens. A few days later, Karl Klein – the quiet keeper of so many Klein family bits of history – stopped in my office and said he thought it was more likely Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*) that used to grow along the original entrance drive to the farm. After a bit of discussion I had to agree . . . not American chestnut as I originally thought but Chinese chestnut. But still, what a fun and cool connection between this property's unique and storied history and today's Yew Dell, Inc.

In this volume you'll have other chances to follow the long and winding path from the early days of the Kleins in Crestwood to today's Yew Dell and on to the exciting plans for the future. Expanding nurseries, talented new staff, the Castle Gardens capital campaign. We've even added a bit of a timeline along the bottom of each page to help you put some of it in perspective. We hope you enjoy it.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go sign a bunch of letters . . . with my fancy new chestnut pen!

Happy Gardening!

Paul Cappiello





MEMBERS' 20TH ANNIVERSARY THANK YOU CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JULY 8 • 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

FREE BUT RSVP REQUESTED • MEMBERS ONLY

Members, we look forward to you joining us for our 20th Anniversary Celebration! We're planning outdoor games like Cornhole and lawn-sized Jenga, live music with Derby City Dandies, evening garden tours, and yummy summer treats to thank you for your support.

YEW DELL'S GEOLOGY AND HISTORY WALK

SATURDAY, JULY 16 • 1:00PM - 2:00PM

INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

In celebration of what would have been Theodore Klein's 117th birthday, Brad Kessans, Yew Dell's own Facilities and Trail Guru, will lead an easy walk around our grounds to showcase the geology of our gardens, while sharing the Klein family's ongoing history.



SOIL CONSERVATION OVERVIEW

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20 • 6:00PM - 7:30PM

MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBERS \$35

Join Tim Hendrick, who spent 29 years with the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, for an overview on soil conservation, to include a basic soil introduction, methods to improve soil, and soil conservation methods to give your plants the best growing environment. We'll provide all registrants details on how to take and bring in a soil sample.

PALEOBOTANY IN KENTUCKY

TUESDAY, JULY 26 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MEMBERS \$15 / NON-MEMBER \$25

Cortland Eble, geologist with 32 years with the Kentucky Geological Survey, digs into Paleobotany – or fossilized plants – in this workshop geared to all ages! Cortland will talk about the unique characteristics and requirements for plants to fossilize, and he will have touchable fossil samples collected from around Kentucky. Following this presentation, join a Yew Dell staff member for a walk around the gardens to see living plants related to the fossils.



FOREST BATHING

SUNDAY, JULY 31 • 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MEMBERS \$30 / NON-MEMBER \$40

Russ Turpin, Instructor with Red Oaks Forest School, leads our session on Forest Bathing, or immersing yourself in the atmosphere of trees. This practice blends mindfulness and nature immersion with things like sit spots, intentional slow walks, and short meditations while engaging all of our senses. We'll provide a list of what to bring for the best experience.





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

All listed programs are tentatively scheduled to be in-person with the possibility of changing to virtual.

CLASSES AND EVENTS

BEST OF THE COLLECTIONS

Three sessions showing off the newest and coolest plants from our gardens. You'll get a first-hand look at the plants that have performed the best, and a recap of those that have been relegated to the great compost bin in the sky. Registrants that attend all three sessions will receive a free plant!

SESSION ONE: ANNUALS AND TROPICALS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBER \$35

Sayde Heckman, Garden and Arboretum Manager, gets us started with Annuals and Tropicals.

SESSION TWO: HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBER \$35

Jacob Stidham, Greenhouse and Nursery Manager, continues with Herbaceous Perennials.

SESSION THREE: TREES AND SHRUBS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16 • 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MEMBERS \$25 / NON-MEMBER \$35

Paul Cappiello, Executive Director, wraps up our series with Trees and Shrubs. Registrants that attend all three sessions will receive a free plant.



BIOLITZ IN THE POLLINATOR MEADOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

For [#nationalhoneybeeday](https://www.instagram.com/nationalhoneybeeday), join Currys Fork Watershed Coordinator Becca Trueman for a BioBlitz of Yew Dell's Pollinator Meadow!

At 11 AM, Becca will help participants inventory the plants and pollinators at play in the meadow. Families can download iNaturalist on their phones ahead of the visit to track what they see during the BioBlitz, then use the app afterward in their own yards and neighborhoods.

At Noon, Becca will guide participants in seed collecting in the Meadow.

These activities provide a valuable record of what's living in Oldham County, and provide a great starting point for at-home explorations.

DAY-LONG FIELD TRIP SERIES RETURNS!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24 • 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

MEMBERS \$125 / NON-MEMBERS \$135

After a Covid-induced hiatus, we're back! Join us for a one-day bus trip that will be sure to take your gardening to the next level. Our primary destination will be Earth Tools in Owenton, Kentucky. They are the Nation's largest sales and service dealer of walk-behind tractors (tillers and other awesome power things!) But what we also love is their amazing collection of top-quality hand tools - and that you can test it all out in their demo garden! Spades, weeders, hoes . . . you name it . . . they have it. And we'll make a stop at Wilson's Nursery in Frankfort, KY for a plant buying opportunity as well.

Price includes bus transportation, snacks, boxed lunch, and bottled water.

SEASON EVENTS



CHILDREN IN THE DELL CONTINUES THROUGH JULY

EVERY SATURDAY IN JUNE AND JULY
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM • INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

Drop in each Saturday in June and July for a special outdoor family activity geared to **sparkling a passion for plants and gardening**. You'll find us outside by the Log Cabin.

In June, we'll celebrate Fairy Month with fairy-themed creations.

For July, learning about Pollinators will be our weekly focus.

Children in the Dell is included with admission and will be canceled in case of inclement weather. No reservation is needed.

WELCOMING CULTURE PASS BACK INTO THE GARDENS!

JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Cultural Pass families can enjoy our gorgeous gardens this summer! We have a variety of Scavenger Hunts to get you out and exploring. Refer to your Cultural Pass for full details.

Passes can be picked up at:

- Any Louisville Free Public Library
- Bullitt County Public Library
- Jeffersonville Township Public Library
- Charlestown-Clark County Public Library
- Floyd County Library
- Harrison County Public Library



SOLD OUT!



See the series lineup at:
<https://www.yewdellgardens.org/bb2022>

MEET OUR NEW STAFF!



ELAINE LOSEKAMP
HORTICULTURE APPRENTICE



JP STEGMAN
GROUNDS ASSISTANT



CHRISTINE POWERS
HORTICULTURE APPRENTICE

Over the year, we will introduce you to the newest additions to the Yew Dell family.

1950: Klein home complete; property named "Yew Dell"



Specimens of *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Amazing Grace'

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN

BY SAYDE HECKMAN

Since this issue of the Newsletter is all about connecting to our history, it makes sense to highlight that connection through some of the plants that have their origin right here at Yew Dell. After all, it's often the plants themselves that fuel that passion in those of us who love plants and gardens. But they also offer so many ways for others to connect with this magical place. Whether a person is here for a concert, a wedding, a corporate retreat or an escape into nature's beauty, the plants at Yew Dell offer a connection to both today's Yew Dell and the Yew Dell that was so lovingly crafted by the Klein family many years ago.

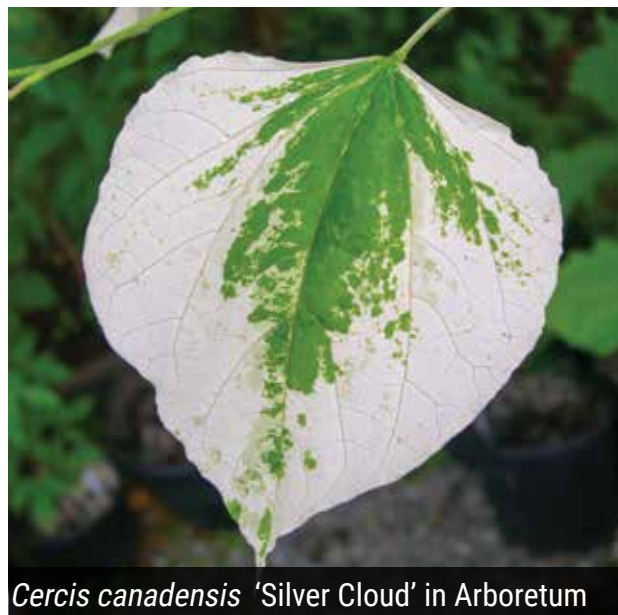
With a strong connection to the yews (*Taxus*) and hollies (*Ilex*) that formed the core of Klein's nursery business, many people miss the long list of plant varieties (about 60!) he selected and introduced to the industry. And being the person ultimately tasked with caring for Yew Dell's plant collections, I thought it worth reviewing a few that have stood the test of time and occupy a special place in our collections.



Viburnum 'West' at Yew Dell's Front Gate

Viburnum 'West' – This open pollinated seedling of *Viburnum carlecephalum* was selected for its enormous flower masses and intense fragrance. Growing to 10' tall and wide or more, this sun loving but shade tolerant shrub is covered in April with softball sized masses of pink and white. In fact, it seems to be the largest flower form of all its relatives. Our largest mass sits beside the entrance gate to Yew Dell's main parking lot.

Cercidiphyllum japonicum 'Amazing Grace' – This magnificent weeping form of katsura tree is widely recognized as the best of all the weeping katsuras on the market. Specimens mature into a broad, pendulous mass of soft green foliage up to about 30' tall and 40' wide. It is the only weeping katsura selection that has the fabulously fragrant, apricot colored fall foliage. Our best specimen at Yew Dell is in arboretum south, near the visitor center.



Cercis canadensis 'Silver Cloud' in Arboretum

Cercis canadensis 'Silver Cloud' – Probably Theodore Klein's most successful introduction, this redbud variety produces medium green leaves with a splashed white variegation pattern in each leaf. And while it is not as prominent in the industry as it once was, it lives on in its genetics. Many of the newer variegated forms got that trait from a 'Silver Cloud' parent. You can see Silver Cloud in the north section of the arboretum.

Of course, there are many others beyond these three. And with our ongoing mapping project, you will eventually be able to enjoy a self-guided tour of all of Klein's plant introductions on the grounds.

Castle Gardens Campaign Update



Yew Dell Botanical Gardens announced earlier this year the launch of our Castle Gardens Capital Campaign! This \$5 million project will transform the area around the iconic Castle into a stunning collection of new gardens, water features, and educational opportunities- all fully accessible to all visitors. We're starting the summer with 40% raised- help us fill in the rest of the castle by donating today!



WINTER 2022



Yew Dell Botanical Gardens | 09.25.2021
Project # 2021004
Site Illustrative Oblique | Design Concept

CASTLE GARDENS PROJECT REACHES CRITICAL PLANT SELECTION STAGE



The Land Morphology team was recently on the grounds working with Yew Dell's horticulture staff to start the process of selecting plants for the planned new gardens. And you can imagine what that discussion was like. Five hours of debate over two days was enough to leave both Yew Dell staff and the Land Morphology team thoroughly exhausted but completely energized at the same time.

The developing plant list and associated comments are now under lock and key at Fort Knox, right next to all the gold! Stay tuned for a sneak peak in upcoming newsletter issues.

1996: Martha Lee passes away

1998: Theodore passes away

AVAILABLE NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Memorialize a friend or family member. . . Honor someone special in your life. . . Naming opportunities not only give you the chance to do something important to you but will help us bring this magical project to life. Naming gifts range from \$10,000 to \$1 million.

Name the Castle Gardens	\$1,000,000
Castle Terrace and Event Space	\$250,000
Castle Terrace Arbor and Seating Space	\$200,000
Overlook Terrace	\$200,000
Grand Staircase and Ramps	\$150,000
Meadow Staircase	\$100,000
Castle Bosque	\$75,000
Path Markers	\$35,000
Castle Terrace Benches	\$20,000
Path Benches	\$10,000



DID YEW KNOW?

The castle was hand built by Theodore Klein in the 1950s and served as the family's pool house.

The castle's chandlers and stone carvings were all designed and created by Klein himself- including the family coat of arms!

You can find this image carved into the outside of the castle on the right side of the doorway.

THE NITTY GRITTY STUFF

While the cool plants and stunning views often get top billing on this project, there are thousands of hidden details that need to be dealt with to insure the success of the final project. Everything from topographic surveys (to allow cut/fill calculations), to utility mapping (to keep everyone safe and allow for new utility planning) and geotechnical surveys (to make sure the whole garden and castle don't sink into the abyss!), are all essential parts of a plan of this scale. With this work now well underway, construction drawings are the next big step.



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

A LITTLE TREE WITH A BIG STORY



One of the great things about gardening is walking through the garden, recounting the long and winding path all your plants followed to get to your garden. It's one of those things that separates a landscape from a garden. Lee Squires knows a thing or two about plants with history. As the longtime lead guy (now retired) at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Lee has a special fondness for plants with a past.

Back in 1978, Lee was walking the Yew Dell nursery rows with Theodore Klein when he spotted a dwarf hinoki falsecypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Gracilis'.) The poor little guy, sitting at the end of a row, had been unintentionally hit by a passing bush-hog – the top ripped off about 6" above ground level. But Theodore, being Theodore, knew that Lee was an avid bonsai man. He suspected Lee could take the 3 scraggly branches and remaining trunk and transform it all into something special. Lee graciously and enthusiastically took up the challenge to turn a nursery reject into a bonsai masterpiece.

Now for those not familiar with the art of bonsai, it essentially boils down to taking a tree that is genetically programmed to grow into, well, a tree . . . and through judicious and artful pruning (both tops and roots) and painstaking manipulation, grow a miniature version in a container while accentuating the look of great age in the mini tree. It is a labor of love to be sure.

Lee set about excavating, inspecting and pruning the root system, potting it in a special, very well drained potting mix and training branches to create a sweeping and aged-looking character. He meticulously retained some dead branches and even stripped bark off some others, painting them with a bleach and lime Sulphur treatment to preserve and whiten them to accentuate the sense of age in the little tree. And the work – the constant pruning, repotting, rewiring of developing branches – it all continued for some 30 years as part of Lee's private bonsai collection.

Then in 2010, Lee got an idea. Why not return the little tree to its original home? So he called up executive director, Paul Cappiello, and posed the question, "would Yew Dell like to have the bonsai'd tree?" The answer was an immediate "absolutely."

For the last 12 years, Lee's bonsai has been displayed in various places around the grounds. It spends its winters protected in one of Yew Dell's nursery's poly houses. And Lee comes out from time to time to give his little tree an annual pep talk and the kind of TLC that could only come from someone who's dedicated half a lifetime to its care and culture.

Thank you Lee . . . and Theodore!

2002: Original 33 acres of Klein property purchased

2004: Harry Bounnell named as first "Volunteer of the Year"

NOTES FROM THE NURSERY

BY JACOB STIDHAM

"The only thing that stays the same is everything changes." This is a line from the song *Time Marches On* by Bobby Braddock. Any way you look at it, no matter what part of life you apply it to, it holds true.

You can see change everywhere you look at Yew Dell.

The man that built the castle has gone on but now small children fancy about its magic and brides spend those precious moments in it before getting married. After walking out of the castle, the bride then makes her way to the event lawn for the ceremony.



Today's event lawn, surrounded by flamboyant gardens, was a utilitarian lath house decades ago. Theodore Klein used this flat top structure, made from World War II surplus material, to shade and protect his newly propagated plants before they were later moved to the field to grow on. In the nursery today at Yew Dell, you can find structures with a similar purpose. We simply call them shade houses or hoop houses, covered in a woven, tarp-like cloth that blocks out a desired amount of sunlight. Just a new twist on an old theme.



Another thing that has changed at Yew Dell's nursery is the type of plant material produced. Instead of acres and acres of woody plant material like yews, hollies, and spruce originally grown in the Yew Dell nursery, we now focus on herbaceous perennial plants with a keen eye for those that love the shade. But as with Klein's nursery, today we are on the constant lookout for the next great plant for gardeners, nursery owners and designers.

Later this year we will see a huge change in the nursery that will take us back to something that Theodore did in his time here. A Klein-era pond that served the family's livestock herds, is being reconstructed to serve as an irrigation pond for our expanding plant nursery. Sometimes the old can be new again.

But the one thing at Yew Dell that has seemed to escape change over the decades is the passion for rare, unusual and better plants. As you walk the gardens you can find dozens of rare, unusual, and many times one-of-a-kind plants that Theodore planted. The same can be found as you stroll through our nursery today. Remember where you came from, know that changes are certain, and always keep cool plants around!

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens Memberships Make Great Gifts!



They'll remember your thoughtfulness all year round. With the benefits listed below, there is something for everyone to enjoy!

- Free regular admission to the gardens for one year
- Members-only discounts on classes & events
- Invitation to Members-only events
- Early registration for select events & programs
- Discounts at other local garden & nursery shops
- Reciprocal admission benefits at botanical gardens across North America
- Our quarterly newsletter
- Our monthly Garden eNews
- 10% discount in the Garden Gift Shop
- Two free guest passes
- And more!

Scan the QR Code to learn more!



Your support will keep our gardens strong and growing.



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

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



LIMBWALKER

Louisville's Urban Forest Experts

ORGANIC LAWNS

PLANT HEALTH CARE

MOSQUITO CONTROL

TREE CARE



Save These Dates

- August 27: Apprentice Plant Walk
- September 23: Twilight in the Gardens
- October 30: Boo Dell!
- November 25: Yuletide returns

Keep an eye on your monthly Garden News email for event and ticketing details.



Scan the QR Code to sign up!

Visit our Plant Market in person or online at:
<https://shopyewdell.com/>



Paul Clinton
Arborist/Forester



Practicing the art and science of arboriculture since 1988
Office 241-0471 • Cell 296-3825

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



DAVE KELLER
DOCENT OF THE YEAR



OCHS INTERACT CLUB
YOUTH VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



ANDREA EISENBREI
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

In May, We invited volunteers and their families to join us for the return of our in-person Volunteer Celebration!

We spent the night sharing memories, celebrating volunteers of the year, revealing this year's volunteer shirt design, answering questions about the Castle Gardens Capital Campaign, and swapping plants!

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY VOLUNTEERS

Early Spring through late Fall, we have an incredible team of volunteers who come to help at Yew Dell on a weekly basis. Every week, we have around twenty volunteers working with the Garden Adoption Program (GAP) maintaining ten of our gardens, a dozen volunteers who tend the young plants in the nursery, several more who attend Weekly Garden Workdays multiple times a month (or week!), and a growing, steady crew of Saturday Workday volunteers who come twice a month.



Without our amazingly dedicated and hardworking volunteers, Yew Dell would not be the thriving, ever-changing, respite we all know and love. The next time you see a volunteer on the grounds, be sure to stop and say "Thank YEW!"



Sign up for our Volunteer eNews to receive more information!

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

This Spring, we invited our friends from Waterfront Botanical Gardens to visit the grounds. Some of our top notch docents led the WBG staff on a tour through the grounds, discussing the history, horticulture, and community that is Yew Dell while swapping stories of common goals between the gardens. We loved having them visit and look forward to growing with them!



2014: New Horticulture center and greenhouse completed

THE BUDDING GARDENER

A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES



Are you looking for a way to stretch summer into fall and winter? One suggestion is to collect flowers and preserve them! Here are two easy methods using things you have at home.

Dried Flowers



Wrap a rubber band or string tightly around a bundle of flower stems and suspend them with the flowers hanging down.

Hang your batches on a hanger in a closet or area where they won't get bumped or knocked around while drying.

Tape a note onto the hanger with the start date to track your progress.



Pressed Flowers

Find a book or catalog that you don't mind getting messy.

Remove the leaves and stem from your flower.

Find a piece of paper, fold it in half, and place your flower inside. Write the date you started the pressing process on the paper.

Tuck your folded paper inside the book, close it, and place something heavy on top of the book.

The pressure from the heavy item will help your flower to dry flat.

Check every 7 - 10 days to see if it is completely dry. If the paper is wet, replace the paper with a fresh sheet.



Since Budding Gardeners like to experiment, here are a few suggestions:

- Try BOTH methods to see which works best for your type of flower. Sunflowers dried with the hanging method, for example, look beautiful when placed in a vase, but they are so thick they might take months to dry out if pressed.
- If you are hanging your flowers, trim the stems to different lengths to see how long it takes to dry depending on how long the stem is.
- For pressed flowers, try different kinds of paper (photocopy paper, tracing paper, newspaper, etc.) to see which kind works best for your specific bloom.
- Think about what flowers you would like to grow next year for drying, and start your garden planning now. That's a sign of a true Budding Gardener!
- And ALWAYS, be sure to get permission before you collect flowers. At Yew Dell, we ask that you don't pick any flowers or any plants that are still attached to the ground.



6220 Old Lagrange Road
Crestwood, Kentucky 40014
yewdellgardens.org

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Louisville, KY
PERMIT #879



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.
Copyright 2022



GARDEN GIFT SHOP

SUPPORT THE GARDENS

Did **YEW** know we have a gift shop?

The Garden Gift Shop is full of unique, beautiful items. With a variety of children's activity toys, local jewelry pieces, and yes- garden tools, there is something for everyone to shop for at our store. And each purchase helps our gardens grow!

Members receive a discount in our shop!

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT
MEMBERSHIP
PERKS



Follow Us On Social Media
[@yewdellgardens](https://www.instagram.com/yewdellgardens)



SPECIAL THANKS TO: UNITED MAIL, INC.