

WINTER

2021

**GREENHOUSE:
A PULSE OF LIFE
IN WINTER**



**YEW
DELL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS**



**THERE'S *NO SUCH THING*
AS BAD WEATHER, ONLY
*INAPPROPRIATE CLOTHING.***

– SIR RANULPH FIENNES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

I have a favorite pruning sweater. Every gardener needs one. Mine is a big, toasty, black-wool affair I bought in a little shop in Killarney, Ireland. It's way too heavy to wear indoors but it's perfect for those chilly winter days when I venture out for a little garden work. From the minute I pull it on I can feel it dragging me outside. You can keep your Carhartt® bibs and Polartec® fleece. I'm a natural-fiber guy.

If there's anything we have all learned in 2020, it's how essential it is to get outside. And this winter it will be doubly important. Whether to prune your fruit trees or take a hike in the woods (my sweater works for that too) the outdoors provides the great equalizer; the way to re-center a hamster-wheel-brain and to reconnect with Mother Nature's tonic.

If you're one of those COVID-inspired new-to-plants-and-gardens folks, welcome to the tribe. Now that things have calmed down in the garden, it's a great time to learn how to up your game in 2021. This is the time to get out and walk the trees – to have a little up close and personal time with those standing sentinels you've walked past for so many years with barely a look. Take a walk in Yew Dell's arboretum where display tags will make the required introductions. Pick up a tree guide and take it out for a walk in the woods and arrange your own proper introductions.

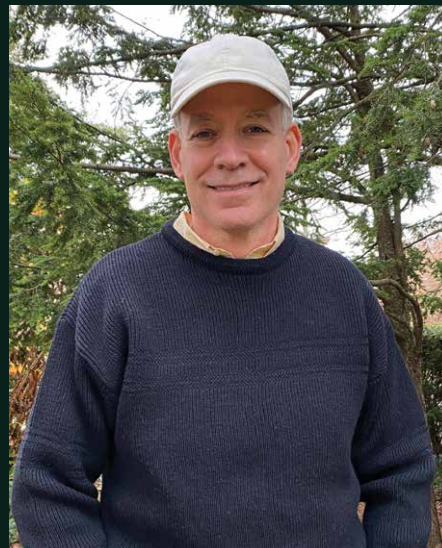
And if you're someone who's spent a lifetime in the garden and you're on a first name basis with your woodland friends, there's always more to learn. Maybe this is the year you once-and-for-

all finally remember which trees have opposite leaves rather than alternate (tip – the opposites follow the MAD Horse rule – Maple, Ash, Dogwood and Horse chestnut.) Maybe it's time to learn a bit more botanical Latin (hint – nobody cares whether you pronounce it Clem-A-tis, CLEM-a-tis or Clem-O-tis!) or maybe this is the year you'll finally try to understand cultivar names versus trademarks. Either way, the more you learn, the more you'll learn you have more to learn.

As for me, I'll be out there in my sweater, learning along with you.

Happy Gardening!

Paul Cappiella





THE BUZZ ON BEEKEEPING - VIRTUAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

12:00 PM-1:00 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Yew Dell's "resident" honey bee keeper, Claude Nutt, will lead our virtual discussion about what to expect when considering beekeeping as a hobby.



SMARTPHONE WINTER NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY - VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

6:00 PM-7:30 PM • \$20/\$40 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

12:00 PM-1:30 PM • \$20/\$40 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Ellen Sears, Yew Dell volunteer and 30-year classroom instructor in art and math, presents a virtual workshop focused on getting folks outside to capture beautiful winter images with their cell phones.

WHO'S LIVING IN YOUR GARDEN? INSECT COLLECTING SERIES OVERVIEW - VIRTUAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:00 PM-7:00 PM • FREE/FREE - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Learn about our upcoming four-part series that will allow you to gain a greater understanding of which insects are living in your backyard, and what the biodiversity says about what you can expect to grow there.



MONARCHS OVERWINTERING IN MEXICO - VIRTUAL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:00 PM-7:30 PM • \$20/\$30 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Tavia Cathcart-Brown, Executive Director at Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve, shares her personal experience with monarchs overwintering in Mexico.



IDENTIFYING EVERGREENS - VIRTUAL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00 AM-10:00 AM • \$5/\$10 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Join our horticultural apprentices for a virtual walk around the arboretum to learn more about evergreens and what makes them unique.



GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS - VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:00 PM-7:00 PM • \$30/\$40 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Margaret Shea, owner of Dropseed Native Plant Nursery, will lead this virtual workshop on the benefits of including native plants in your garden. Workshop price includes three packets of native seeds.



TOOL SHARPENING WORKSHOP - VIRTUAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

10:00 AM-11:30 AM • \$15/\$25 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Carl Heimerdinger, CEO of Heimerdinger Cutlery Company, leads our virtual session covering the basics of sharpening with a discussion and demonstration of the best techniques for keeping your tools in their prime.



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

CLASSES AND EVENTS



THE DIRT ON POTTING MIX - VIRTUAL

SATURDAY MARCH 6

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

Are all potting mixes created equal? Absolutely not! Jacob Stidham, Greenhouse and Nursery Manager, will lead a virtual and hands-on learning experience about what goes into a quality mix. Workshop price includes potting mix supplies kit.

THE BEAUTY OF BONSAI: INTRO - VIRTUAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

1:00 PM-3:00 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Guest instructor, Michael Murphy will discuss the art form and bonsai history, what is involved with taking care of bonsai, and resources for purchasing one.

THE BEAUTY OF BONSAI: DEMO - VIRTUAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

1:00 PM-3:00 PM • \$25/\$35 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

In this virtual session, Michael Murphy will demonstrate how to repot, trim and shape bonsai, along with other caretaking actions. Participants will have a chance to win the tree that Michael uses for the demonstration!

THE BEAUTY OF BONSAI: IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

1:00 PM-4:00 PM • COST TBD

Participants will get their hands dirty while repotting, trimming, and shaping their bonsai, all expertly guided by Michael Murphy. Participants will each have a bonsai to take home.

PRUNING WITH PAUL CAPPIELLO - VIRTUAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

2:00 PM-3:30 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

One of Executive Director Paul Cappiello's favorite workshops to lead! Paul says that pruning is one of the most therapeutic of gardening practices and can make or break your garden. In this virtual how to, he will take you through the basics, the specifics and the one-off, weird cases to help you get the most out of the pruning season.



MAXIMIZING YOUR MOVEMENTS IN THE GARDEN - VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

6:00 PM-7:30 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/ NON-MEMBER

Just in time for spring gardening, join Shelly Nold, owner of The Plant Kingdom, as she guides participants on how to maximize productivity with correct body positioning when working in the garden. You'll learn how to select the right tool for the job, increase your productivity, and save energy, as you consider your gardening tasks.



OPENING DAY

IN PERSON

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

10:00 AM-4:00 PM • FREE/REGULAR ADMISSION - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Help us celebrate the arrival of spring! We are thrilled to be welcoming our community back to the gardens for a safe, in-person event. We will have plant sales (including hellebores) and guided plant walks. Advanced ticketing is required and timed ticketed slots with limited capacity will ensure social distancing.

GARDEN GIFT SHOP OPENS FOR THE SEASON!



YEAR OF THE NURSERY



In 2020, we expanded the Plant Sale area near the Garden Gift Shop.

2020 is finally over. We are all ready to push the reset button and move on from such a difficult year. However, looking back, 2020 wasn't all bad. Among the trials were moments of triumph, and we especially witnessed it in our Nursery Program. With so much emphasis on "home"; people rediscovered the restorative power of gardening.

Last year, we made a massive pivot to online sales to make our plants accessible during the lockdown. The response was profound. Through our online plant market, we sold 727 plants during our Hellebore Sale, 5,437 plants during our Spring Plant Sale and 920 plants during our Fall Plant Sale. *In 2019, we had not sold a single plant online.* In 2020, we altogether sold 7,562 plants online. It's no secret that gardening has been a solace to the soul for many. The expansion of our Nursery Program couldn't have come at a better time. It has been the green pulse of life for our community and for our non-profit. Nursery sales have kept our botanical garden afloat during what could have been a financially devastating year. We are grateful for our community's expanding enthusiasm and growing interest in plants and gardening!

NOTES FROM THE NURSERY AND GREENHOUSE MANAGER, JACOB STIDHAM

For people who work in a nursery, the smell of spring starts in January and it is that smell that overwhelms you when you walk into a warm greenhouse. All of the seed flats and trays of new plants are filled with warm potting soil and there is nothing else better to get you excited about the coming growing season!

Spring preparation begins as early as November. All of the orders for plants, seeds, and materials have to be placed months in advance. It is just sheer misery (insert sarcastic grin) to have to sit down on a dreary fall day and scroll through pages and pages of awesome plant material that you get to grow the next year! Fast forward through the holidays and the real magic starts during those gloomy days of January. All of those orders from November start to germinate and grow into what gardeners take home in April and May. It is always humbling to see a plant that you held in your hand as a seed or cutting go home to a new garden. When you tell people you work in a nursery, some assume you mean a little human nursery. In a lot of ways, it is the same. But you don't get in trouble if you drop a tray full of plants on their heads!

"IT IS ALWAYS HUMBLING TO SEE A PLANT THAT YOU HELD IN YOUR HAND AS A SEED OR CUTTING GO HOME TO A NEW GARDEN."

2020 NURSERY STATS

OF PLANTS SOLD DURING HELLEBORE SALE: **727**

OF PLANTS SOLD DURING SPRING PLANT SALE: **5,437**

OF PLANTS SOLD DURING FALL PLANT SALE: **920**

OF ADDITIONAL PLANTS SOLD ONLINE: **478**

TOTAL # OF PLANTS SOLD ONLINE:

7,562

TOTAL # OF PLANTS SOLD IN PERSON:

1,792

ESCAPE FROM WINTER IN THE GLASS GREENHOUSE

In the dead of winter, there is nothing better than walking into a warm greenhouse. The humidity loosens your joints, the sunshine beams through a wall of windows and warms you to the core. The misters leave a dew making it smell like a forest after rain. Easing your fingers into the soil to transplant a young sapling feels like heaven. Best part of all, you're surrounded by plants.

It's safe to say, most travel plans will be further postponed or canceled this winter. Since visiting the south is less of an option, we're forced to get creative with how we find ways to escape blustery winter days. Yew Dell Botanical Gardens' glass greenhouse is the perfect remedy to beat the winter blues. Our collection of succulents, cacti and other weird plant specimens make you feel like you are stepping into a tropical jungle. Not to mention, admission to the gardens is free in the winter! So come soak up the heat and atmosphere and admire the exotic plants. It's totally reinvigorating.



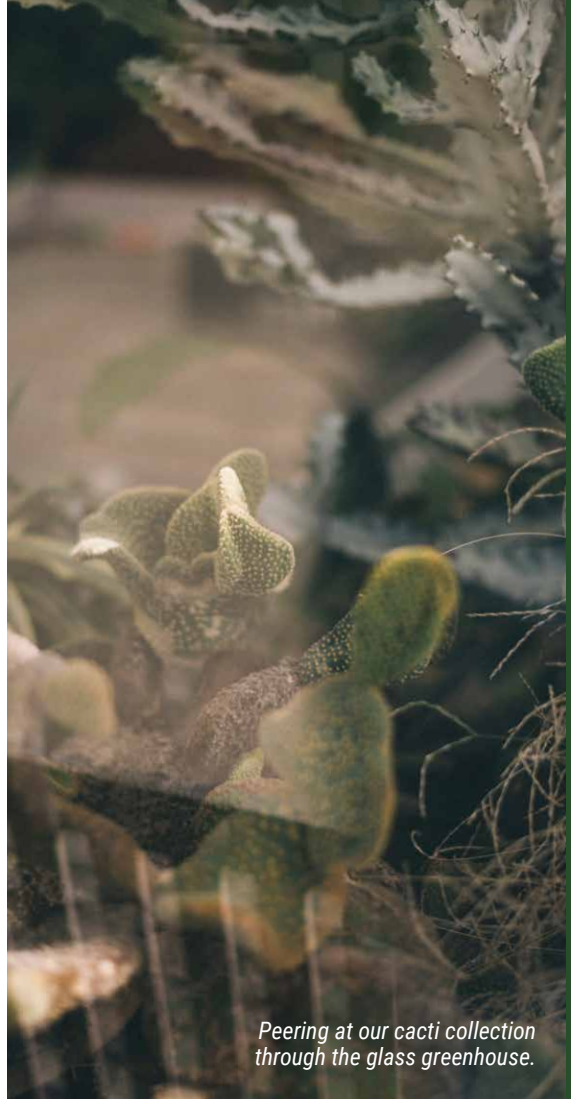
Mangave 'Moonglow'
Part of our mangave collection in the glass greenhouse.

WINTER HOURS
NOW UNTIL MARCH 26

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

ADMISSION IS FREE

Restrooms are closed during winter



Peering at our cacti collection through the glass greenhouse.

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN AND ARBORETUM MANAGER, SAYDE HECKMAN

In 2020, Walters Gardens gifted Yew Dell a large collection of mangaves, which are on display in the glass greenhouse. With over 40 specimens in our collection you can truly see the diversity and amazing characteristics of this wonderful plant. Not only are mangaves stunning, drought tolerant, and fast growing, they also perform great indoors.

Mangave's are an intergeneric hybrid between the genus *Agave* and *Manfreda*, resulting in beautiful structure, brilliant coloration, and softened spines. This cross intrigued plant breeder Hans Hansen, at Walters Gardens, and resulted in the development of scores of new cultivars which you now see on the market. Cultivars such as 'Man of Steel', 'Lavender Lady', 'Kaleidoscope', and 'My Dog Spot' are all unique in their coloration, growth habit, and structure providing amazing contrast in the garden, as well as indoors.

BENEFICIAL INSECTS IN THE GREENHOUSE

Yew Dell Botanical Gardens took the first step to implement a biocontrol program in the nursery. In early November, Jacob noticed the grubs of black vine weevils beginning to damage a crop of Heuchera. Instead of purchasing a chemical pesticide to drench the soil, Jacob opted for a 250 million count package of a nematode, *Steinernema kraussei*. The nematodes, a killer of black vine weevil grubs, were mixed into five gallons of water and applied with the same injector and water hoses that are used to fertilize and water the plants.

We have noticed very healthy natural populations of lady bugs, green lace wings, and tiny parasitic wasps in the nursery. All three of these helped keep aphids at a tolerable level on the crop of milkweed grown this past summer. This coming spring we will be releasing 1,000s of these insects in our heated greenhouse to help with aphid control.



Nematode
(*Steinernema kraussei*)

THE BUDDING GARDENER

A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES



YOUR HOUSE IS A GREENHOUSE, TOO!

Just because it's winter doesn't mean you can't grow plants! Your house is a wonderful place to start seeds and overwinter houseplants. Plus, green really helps beat the winter blues! Getting a head start on your spring garden is a great activity for the whole family. Below are a few activities you can do to turn your house into a greenhouse this winter!

KITCHEN SCRAP GARDENING

If you have more odds and ends leftover from your fresh summer veggies than you could ever compost, repurpose those old plant parts into a new scrap garden! Have the ends of a carrot, some leftover ginger, or an unused sweet potato? All you need is a glass of water, toothpicks, and a little potting soil to propagate new plants from your scraps. Here are the steps to growing a tree from an avocado pit...

Materials needed:



glass of water



soft avocado



three toothpicks

Step 1: Remove the stone



Note: Keep track of the top and bottom. You don't want to grow your tree upside down!

Step 2: Wash off any flesh

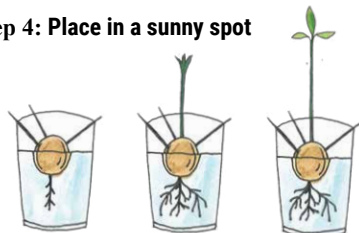


Step 3: Insert the toothpicks



Note: Angle the toothpicks down so most of the stone is submerged in the water

Step 4: Place in a sunny spot



Step 5: Plant your tree in a pot

Note: Leave the top of the stone showing when you plant it in soil

Note: When your plant reaches 6 inches, cut it back to 3 inches and let it regrow



WYATT'S SEED STARTING ACTIVITY

Do you have a sunny window sill in your house? That is the perfect spot for starting seeds! One of Wyatt's, our Nursery and Greenhouse Manager's son, favorite ways to get a jumpstart on the spring garden is by starting seeds. It's very simple...

Materials needed: Seed (for kids—sunflower, zinnia or pumpkin seeds are easy to grow), water, spray bottle, paper towel, resealable storage bag, permanent marker, soil and a pot.

Step 1: Soak a paper towel in water.

Step 2: Place your seed on the paper towel and fold it over once.

Step 3: Place your wet paper towel with the seed inside a resealable storage bag. Zip up the bag and lay it flat on a sunny window sill. Write the date on your bag to track its growth.

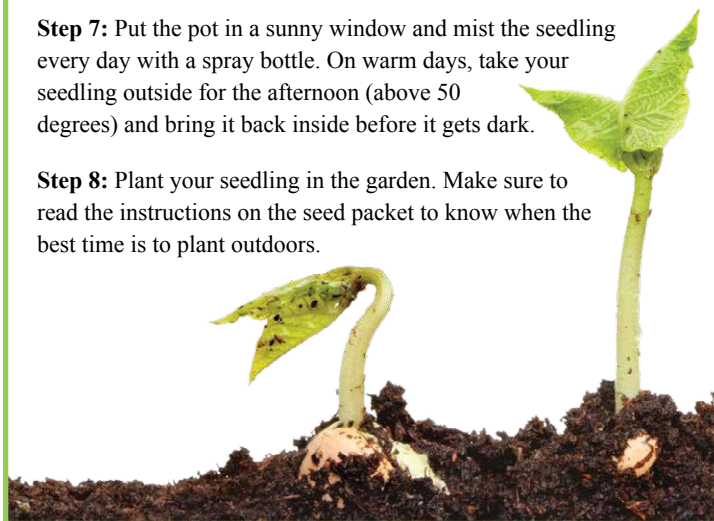
Step 4: Check the bag every few days to look for growth progress. This is a great way to witness what a seed looks like under the soil when it germinates!

Step 5: Once the seedling has two false leaves (cotyledons), you can transplant it to a pot filled with soil.

Step 6: Make 1/4 inch deep hole in the soil and place your seedling.

Step 7: Put the pot in a sunny window and mist the seedling every day with a spray bottle. On warm days, take your seedling outside for the afternoon (above 50 degrees) and bring it back inside before it gets dark.

Step 8: Plant your seedling in the garden. Make sure to read the instructions on the seed packet to know when the best time is to plant outdoors.



'21 THEODORE KLEIN AWARDS



They're here! Each year a panel of Kentucky green industry professionals hunkers down in a dark and smoky room and battles it out to see which plant nominees are deemed the Theodore Klein Award winners. These awards started back in 1999 and now add up to the go-to collection of woody and herbaceous garden plants for the region.

For a link to past winners, see www.yewdellgardens.org/theodore-klein-plant-awards



American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) – A noble tree if there ever was one! This Kentucky native grows to 60' tall and wide with strong branching and beautifully smooth gray bark. It loves deep, rich and moist soil and is typically a long-lived specimen in the landscape. Avoid extreme drought and soil compaction in the root zone.



Shantung Maple (*Acer truncatum*) - A durable and adaptable, medium shade tree (20-25' tall and wide) it emerges in spring with red tinged leaves that mature to a deep, rich green. Fall color can be brilliant yellow, orange and/or red. It tolerates heat and drought and is amazingly free from insect and disease problems.



'Millennium' Ornamental Onion (*Allium* 'Millennium') – This delightful hybrid forms tight masses of 8"-tall, strap-like leaves topped with bright rosy/purple, rounded flower heads in summer. It is an excellent pollinator plant and the onion scent of the foliage deters both deer and rabbits. Best in full sun in any reasonable soil.



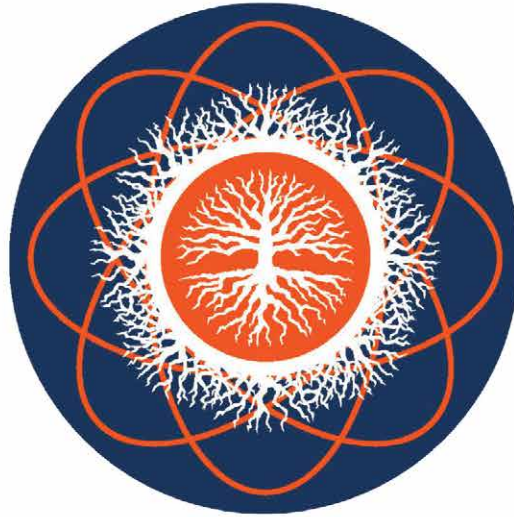
Magical® Moonlight Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis* **Magical® Moonlight** ('Kolmoon')) – This excellent Kentucky native is one of our favorite pollinator shrubs, offering up honey-scented, golf ball sized flowers in late spring and glossy green summer foliage. This selection is more compact than the straight species, topping out at about 5' tall and wide. It will tolerate everything from sopping wet soil to drought conditions. It is best in full sun but will also take light shade.



'Gold Standard' Tall Tickseed (*Coreopsis tripteris* 'Gold Standard') – From our friends at the Mt. Cuba Center comes this stunning native perennial for the summer garden. A big grower to about 7' tall, it forms large masses of upright stems topped with cheerful golden blooms from early summer through frost. Best in full sun and sparse soil.



'Aphrodite' Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus* x 'Aphrodite') -This hybrid between *C. chinensis* and *C. occidentalis* boasts fragrant, bright red blossoms over a long period in late spring and early summer. It is deer resistant, tolerant of a wide range of soils and can grow in full sun or light shade. It will grow to about 10' tall and wide. Our favorite of all the sweetshrub hybrids.



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VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

BULB PLANTING EXTRAVAGANZA! 2021 BIG BLOOM

In the fall, Yew Dell's horticulture staff and a team of more than 30 volunteers came together over 6 days of planting to install almost 17,000 — yes, 17,000 — bulbs! Every year, the Big Bloom grows more massive, topping the previous year's show-stopping display.

Since Yew Dell was closed to the public in the spring of 2020, it's been almost 2 years since our community has experienced our Big Bloom. We are thrilled for everyone to witness the 2021 Big Bloom. So make sure to mark your calendar for April and May when the Big Bloom will be in full effect! In the meantime, we will wait patiently for its arrival. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this annual display possible. We appreciate you.



2021 VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION - VIRTUAL SATURDAY MARCH 20

Mark your calendars for our annual Volunteer Celebration! The event will be virtual so look for more details as we get closer. The celebration will include the announcement of our 2020 volunteer award winners, recognition of the amazing accomplishments of our dedicated volunteers in the gardens, nursery, arboretum, woodland trails and more, and sharing in some fun and creative virtual activities as a community. We can't wait to celebrate each of you and all you bring to the Yew Dell community through your gifts of time and talent!

YEW DELL INSTALLS A NEW RAIN GARDEN

In November, Yew Dell staff and volunteers constructed a new rain garden. Located below the Rounsavall Pavilion, the rain garden is a shallow, sunken planting bed that is designed to catch surface runoff during rain events and allow it to percolate into the ground to recharge ground water sources. The project was funded through Oldham County's Currys Fork Watershed



Coordinator's office that is headed up by Rebecca Trueman. Rebecca and a group of her volunteers joined a team of Yew Dell volunteers for our November Second Saturday Workday and planted the new rain garden. Come check it out next summer as the new plants start to fill in the space!

THANKS TO OUR 2020 CORPORATE SPONSORS

All of us at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens would like to thank our community and corporate partners who generously sponsor and provide in-kind support to our gardens and events.

We could not thrive without your help.

A.M Leonard
Antiques at Distillery Commons
Charles and Lisa Barr
Bob Ray Company
Boone County Arboretum
Brian's Botanicals
Brown-Forman
BurgerIM
Kathy Cary
Dave Caudill
Carl Ray Landscape Nursery
Chicago Botanic Garden
City Girl Farm/ Hagan Properties
Classic Garden Ornaments
Commonwealth Bank and Trust
Creek Hill Nursery
Crane Harscape Supply
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Walters Gardens

Want to get involved as a Yew Dell volunteer?

E-mail our Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Ryan, at laurar@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.

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OPENING DAY

PLANT SALES
INCLUDING HELLEBORES!
GIFT SHOP OPENS
GUIDED PLANT WALKS

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Help us celebrate the arrival of spring!
We are thrilled to be welcoming our community back to the gardens for a safe, in-person event. We will have plant sales and guided plant walks. Advanced ticketing is required and timed ticketed slots with limited capacity will ensure social distancing.

**"IF WE HAD NO WINTER,
THE SPRING WOULD
NOT BE SO PLEASANT."**

-ANNE BRADSTREET

SPECIAL THANKS TO: UNITED MAIL, INC.