

# WINTER

2023



Rose-Gold Pussy Willow *Salix gracilistyla*

 YEW  
DELL  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS.

**“THOSE WHO CONTEMPLATE THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH FIND RESERVES OF STRENGTH THAT WILL ENDURE AS LONG AS LIFE LASTS.”**

**-RACHEL CARSON**



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The joys of living in a 100-year-old house . . . Oh, there are so many of them. Old pipes, bad wiring, drafty windows . . . But on the other hand, there are those delightful character details that show up from time to time that make it all worth it.

In our main (and only!) bathroom, there's one of those old fashioned, tile soap dishes mounted above the pedestal sink. Along with the black and white tile floor and newfangled "mixer" faucet, they make up a definite sign of the house's vintage. But as it turns out, it is the perfect size for a small bud vase that my wife found in one of those "antique" shops along some dusty backroad somewhere along our travels.

That bud vase, sitting on the old tile shelf, has tuned into our year-long, constantly rotating, horticultural display. A witch hazel in January, hellebore in February, snowdrop in March and so on. It's a simple bright bit of our garden, brought inside, that greets us first thing in the morning.

Over the course of this gardening year, we'll be helping you find ways to connect, or maybe reconnect, with your garden. Rather than something you drive past twice a day as you leave for and return home from the day, a garden- no matter how humble or ambitious- is so much more when it's part of your daily life. Vegetables and herbs fresh from the garden to the dinner table... An exuberant bouquet on the dining room table... a sprig of mint for your julep on Derby day... a snowdrop to offer a little cheer on a gray, winter day.

Throughout the year we'll be offering classes and workshops, field trips and lectures, newsletter articles and social media content to help you make the most of your garden and your relationship with it.

I hope you'll join us for some or all of it!

Happy Gardening . . .

*Paul Cappiello*





### MAGICAL, MYSTICAL WORLD OF ROOTS - VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 - 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MEMBERS \$25 • NON-MEMBERS \$35

One of the marvels of the plant world is going on right beneath our feet! We're talking about the relationship between plant roots and symbiotic fungi. These mycorrhizal unions are essential to plant growth- and are mostly unknown to gardeners. Shannon Walker, Ph.D. Biology Student at the University of Louisville, will lead a virtual discussion on understanding this magical relationship and how to encourage it in your own garden.

### THE AMAZING WORLD OF PLANT SELF DEFENSE - VIRTUAL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - 6:00PM - 7:30PM

MEMBERS \$25 • NON-MEMBERS \$35

Run and Hide isn't a viable defense strategy when your roots are stuck in the ground. So plants have evolved a dizzying array of defense mechanisms to help them ward off predators of all kinds. From physical barriers (thorns) to chemical deterrents, camouflage, and chemical signaling, you'll learn that applying deer spray to your hydrangeas isn't the only defense tactic happening in the garden. Morghan McCool, Biology Graduate Student at University of Louisville, will amaze us with a virtual discussion on these adaptations.



### GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM • WORKSHOP RUNS 6:00PM - 7:30 PM

MEMBERS \$40 • NON-MEMBERS \$50

Whether it's butterflies, bees, birds, or other wildlife, garden plant selection can have a huge impact on what you attract to your garden as well as how your garden supports the animals around us. In this class, Margaret Shea, owner of Dropseed Native Plant Nursery, will help you work through the process of picking the right plant for the right place for local wildlife. Come early and enjoy the gardens before the class!



### LET'S GET GROWING SERIES

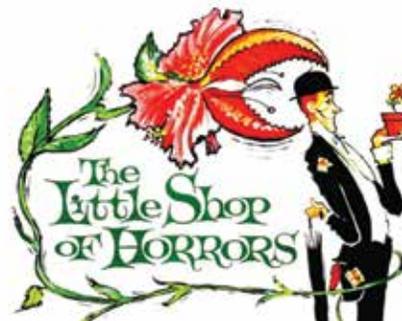
Join Emma Stidham, mom, wife, and horticulturist with more than 15 years of experience in vegetable gardening, public gardens, and retail sales, as we kick off our Vegetable Garden Planning series with the Winter session. In this comprehensive step-by-step guide to planning a vegetable garden over an entire season, each quarter will focus on timely topics to get your garden from start to finish. We'll go from seed catalog to fall harvest in the four workshops. Note that each workshop has a separate registration fee.

### WINTER SESSION: VEGETABLE GARDEN PLANNING GUIDE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 • 10:30AM - 12:00PM

MEMBERS \$40 • NON-MEMBERS \$50

For the Winter session, we'll get started with planning, mapping, ordering seeds, growing young plants at home, and early spring plantings. Please note that the session will switch to Virtual Format if we have inclement weather.



### BAD SCI-FI MOVIES AND REAL PLANT SCIENCE: THE LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (1960)

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 • DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM • MOVIE STARTS AT 7:00PM

MEMBERS \$20 • NON-MEMBERS \$25

We are kicking off a new film series – Bad Sci-Fi Movies and Real Plant Science – with the 1960 classic film Little Shop of Horrors. After watching this film, learn from our Hort Team about plant intergeneric crosses and carnivorous plants, and how it relates to Audrey Jr.'s behavior. Bring your best "would plants really do that?" questions for our Team to answer.



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

**Don't delay - tickets are limited!**

All listed programs are tentatively scheduled to be in-person unless otherwise noted.

# CLASSES AND EVENTS

## THREE STEPS TO PLANT ADDICTION – 3-PART LECTURE/DISCUSSION SERIES . . .

There's always room for one more plant! Join Yew Dell's top plant geeks for these fun and engaging discussions about how the plant collecting bug has taken over their homes, their yards and their family vacations. Learn to spot the signs of developing illness, learn a few new plants and find a little solidarity among those suffering the developing symptoms of this plant-based affliction.

### STEP ONE: WHEN YOUR HOUSEPLANTS TAKE UP MORE SPACE THAN YOUR FURNITURE!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 • 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

MEMBERS \$30 / NON-MEMBER \$40

Join resident tropical plant guru Sayde Heckman for a window into how house plants took over her home. Starting with plants she propagated at Yew Dell as an apprentice, her home now looks like something out of a Jurassic Park remake – and she's perfectly ok with that!



### STEP TWO: WHEN YOU CONSIDER 50 TREES IN THE YARD AS NO MORE THAN "A GOOD START"!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 • 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

MEMBERS \$30 / NON-MEMBER \$40

It all started with Jacob Stidham's first live Christmas tree planted in the yard after the holidays. Now, ten years down the road, things are getting out of hand. And not just trees, but pretty much anything and everything the plant kingdom has to offer . . . This is the story of a couple suffering together.



### STEP THREE: WHEN THE CONTINENT SIMPLY DOESN'T OFFER ENOUGH . . . TAKING YOUR HABIT INTERNATIONAL.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 • 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

MEMBERS \$30 / NON-MEMBER \$40

While an uncontrolled collecting gene and 1/10th of an acre yard would seem incompatible, Paul Cappiello has come up with a solution. Get a job running a botanical garden and scour the planet for plants that someone else has to maintain!

## THE RETURN OF HOUNDS ON THE GROUNDS!

EVERY SUNDAY DURING OUR OPEN SEASON

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Starting March 26 to December 10, we allow leashed, well-behaved dogs on most Sundays for Hounds on the Grounds.

**Check our website for blackout dates.**



## MEET OUR NEW STAFF!



**BARBI HOFFMAN**  
CAFÉ ASSOCIATE



**LAURA RYAN**  
CAFÉ ASSOCIATE

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



# OPENING DAY!

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

MEMBERS: FREE

NON-MEMBERS: REGULAR ADMISSION

We look forward to welcoming you back to the gardens for Opening Day 2023! Come and enjoy:

- Our traditional plant sale with hellebores and other spring ephemerals (starting at 10:00 AM)
- Drop-in tours of our grounds and gardens with our Horticulture Team (in the afternoon)
- Martha Lee's Kitchen with a menu of delicious sandwiches, salads, and baked goods (opens at 11:00 AM)
- Garden Gift Shop with new, whimsical decor, jewelry, books, and other garden-themed items

We hope to see you there!

## NOTES FROM THE GARDEN BY SAYDE HECKMAN

In the world of horticulture, we love using fancy terms like Latin binomial, native distribution, apical meristem, and arboretum. But sometimes we forget that even to us plant geeks, these were foreign terms when we were starting out in the plant world. And when it comes to plant names, we sometimes go astray and overwhelm our non-plant-geek friends with names like, *Metasequoia glyphstroboidies*, *Amsonia tabernaemontana var. salicifolia*, and *Cephalanthus occidentalis*.

In the garden and arboretum at Yew Dell, it has been our priority to maintain collection signage on all of our specimens. Not only does this allow our horticulturists to properly curate, track, and map the specimens, but it improves the experience for our visitors, volunteers, and staff as well. These collection signs are meant to make the gardens less intimidating, to spark curiosity, and provide an educational tool- which is what we're all about!

As you explore the gardens, you'll come across two types of signage.



**Permanent Collection** signs are engraved on black aluminum and identify our trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs – plants that come back year after year.



**Temporary Collection** signs are printed on white waterproof paper and identify temporary plantings such as annuals, tropicals and short-lived edibles. These plants either don't survive our winter season or complete their life cycle within a year. You may also see this type of signage on plant evaluations which can be annual or perennial.

Both signs provide information that helps you understand the plant, its use in the garden, and how you can replicate it at home.

**Trade Name:** this is a marketing name used by commercial developers of new plant varieties. It is most commonly used to identify a brand of plant introductions or series of related varieties.

**Latin Name:** the 2-part scientific name created as a universal language when speaking about plants.

**Common Family Name:** the family that the plant belongs to.



**Common Name:** a variable name depending on one's region, country, culture, etc. Common names can be based on a plant's physical, medicinal, culinary, and cultural characteristics and background.

**Cultivar:** short for cultivated-variety - refers to an individual clone or group of related plants that exhibit a unique and consistent characteristic.

**Native Distribution:** the area/areas where a plant species has evolved and grows naturally.

**Accession number:** an 8-9 digit number assigned to each permanent collection plant or grouping. It contains a planting/receiving date and the order it was planted/received. These numbers are recorded in our plant database for tracking and record keeping throughout the plant's life.

*\*Note: We may use a year of evaluation and whether it is an annual/perennial in place of an accession number for the temporary collection signage to help guests distinguish between the different types of collections.*

Learn more about which plant sparks your passion for gardening next time you visit!

# Castle Gardens Campaign Update

Earlier in the year, we announced our Castle Gardens Capital Campaign- a \$5 million project to transform the area around our iconic castle, improve guests' experiences, and increase accessibility to **all the beauty** that Yew Dell Botanical Gardens has to offer.

Through the Castle Gardens Campaign, we are embracing our mission to:  
*spark a passion for plants and gardening with accessible science and inspiring beauty.*

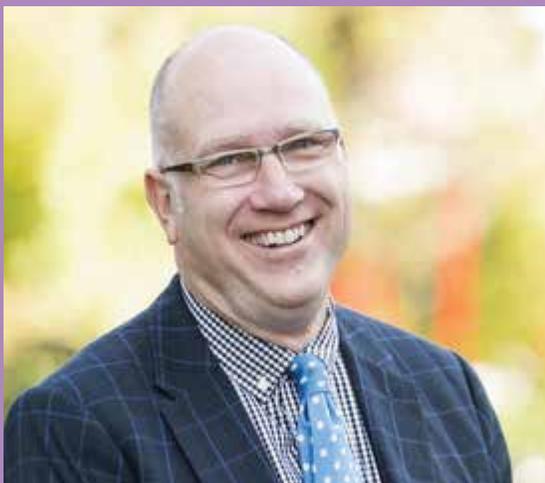
This is our **most ambitious project** of our first 20 years and we invite you to join the effort with a gift to the campaign.



Credit: Land Morphology

## Designs being tweaked and refined

Working with our brilliant Land Morphology design team, we're plowing through a long list of design details and materials options to leave no stone unturned. The most exciting design development has been a reworking of the planned **water feature** to be placed in front of the Castle. As a nod to the history of this remarkable property and combining Theodore Klein's love of history and a cache of fabulous old millstones he collected, Richard Hartlage and his team have come up with a stunning plan to form a water cascade over layered millstones as the central feature of the Castle Terrace space.



"The Castle Gardens are an exemplary project for Land Morphology, but more than that, it is an opportunity to make an exceptional garden in the town I grew up in. There is no other garden in the region that will demonstrate the highest standards of garden making. The Castle Gardens are the first step towards creating a renowned garden destination like Wave Hill in New York, and Chanticleer in Pennsylvania."

**- Richard Hartlage**  
CEO & President, Land Morphology

## Visitor circulation to get an upgrade



Credit: Land Morphology

One of the improvements this project will bring is in how visitors **will first enter the gardens**. Currently, the entrance path takes visitors directly to the back side of the castle and the Klein home's garage door. Not the most compelling first experience! The new plan will bring visitors straight out of the Visitor Center and **across the front of the historic Klein home**. This will give visitors more time to decompress and adjust to the surroundings, gain a little historical context along the way and finally, will set up a much more dramatic entrance to the Castle Terrace from the opposite side of the space . . . the way it was designed to work!

This winter and early spring, we'll be working to create the **new entrance path** so even before the Castle Gardens project gets fully underway, we'll start to use the new circulation plan. Stay tuned for more details!



Scan the QR Code to learn more about the Castle Gardens Campaign Project!

## Fundraising continues

We continue to be overwhelmed and delighted with the community's response to this campaign! With **\$3.25 million committed so far**, this is now Yew Dell's largest capital fundraising effort in our 20 year history. And with well over 60% of the way to our \$5 million goal, we're charging ahead, refining design plans and tightening up the project's schedule.

There are still naming opportunities available at a wide range of levels. All campaign donations for \$2,500 and more will be acknowledged on our permanent donor recognition area in the new gardens.

To take part in this exciting project contact us at 502-241-4788 or [Development@yewdellgardens.org](mailto:Development@yewdellgardens.org)

**With \$3.25 million committed so far, this is now Yew Dell's largest capital fundraising effort. We invite you to be part of our transformation!**



## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT YEW DELL

All of us at Yew Dell love to do things that make this place more environmentally sustainable. That's pretty obvious. But what we really love to do is to do things that just make plain common sense.

**Solar/Geothermal Greenhouse** – This one has been on the ground for a number of years and sometimes it gets overlooked with all the new things going on, but this was a complete no brainer. We needed to build a greenhouse. Greenhouses in a Kentucky climate need heating in the winter and cooling in summer. The energy requirement to provide a reasonable growth environment for plants can be pretty daunting. So we designed the house that is built into the side of a gentle hill so the north wall is insulated by the ground. We put a green roof on the north slope to reduce winter heat loss and summer heat gain. We also installed a bank of solar panels to harvest the sun's energy



and connected it to a geothermal system that harvests heat from the ground beneath our feet. Of course, all these advancements are wonderful parts of an environmental sustainability initiative, but they also result in about a 70% reduction in fossil fuel use . . . and a huge cost savings year after year. Sounds like common sense to us!



**New irrigation pond for the growing nursery** – Each year we grow more . . . and more . . . and more plants in our expanding nursery. All those plants need water. There's no ground water to be had 'round these parts (we drilled five 400' deep wells for the greenhouse geothermal system and didn't hit a drop of water!) At the same time, we had a tremendous problem with surface water runoff during heavy rain events. Solution? Rebuild an old, long-ago-washed-out farm pond below the castle that just happened to sit in the perfect spot to pick up runoff from our main parking lot, all our building roofs, paved paths and other impermeable surfaces. The benefits? We'll save a ton of money on our water bill and at the same time we'll reduce downstream erosion and siltation in nearby creeks and streams.



**Rechargeable power equipment upgrade** – With support from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, in the last few months we were able to replace most of our old, gas engine powered equipment (chain saws, hedge trimmers, blowers and string trimmers) with rechargeable, battery-powered units. Not only will this save us gas money. It will reduce smog-causing exhaust (in general, the smaller the engine, the more polluting it is!) and will greatly reduce noise levels in the gardens. Win-win!

I haven't known life without greenhouses since nearly back in the 1900s! I'm going to start using phrases like that as I get older and more gray hairs start showing up. Greenhouse structures make growing plants a breeze: controlled temperatures, mist systems, heated tables, and the list goes on and on. You really should have one in your garden!

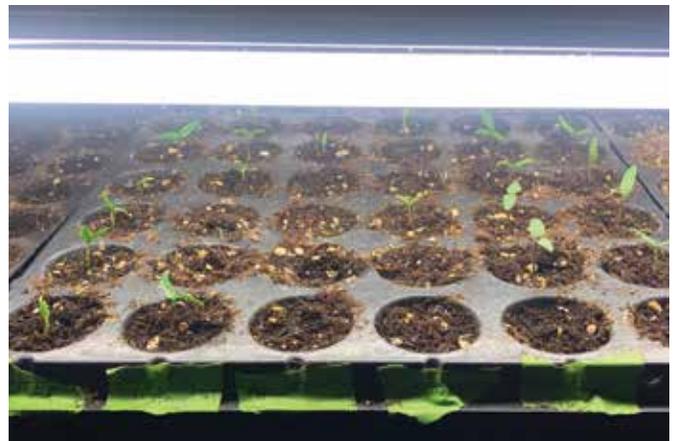


But when you look at your small yard or start looking into everyone's favorite subject, zoning regulations, you might find that your own magical greenhouse isn't feasible. Such is life. But don't let that stop you! There is plenty of hope for people who want to propagate more plants without a greenhouse.

One of our nursery volunteers, I'll use the pseudonym Ned Hall to protect the identity of a fellow plant propagator, comes in each week and while helping out, he learns little propagation techniques he can use at home. Ned has used small cold frames to extend the season for cool season crops. He has started succulents from leaves that have fallen off mature plants in the nursery, and even taken the cuttings from coleus that we pinched back in late winter to start his own crop at home.

## **"THIS IS THE TIME OF THE YEAR TO GET EXCITED ABOUT PROPAGATING PLANTS."**

A great way to start new plants at home is to use a simple grow light to allow you to start your cole crops (brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, etc. to name a few) indoors in late February - or your tomatoes in early April. Using artificial light you can also start enough cuttings off of your houseplants to start a farmer's market stand! And that is all before our last frost of the year!



Much of our nursery propagation and growing at Yew Dell happens outside in the summer, and without a greenhouse. Dividing a clump of perennials in late winter can pay big dividends. A tiny division given a good potting mix, ample water, and fertilizer, will grow much faster in a container than just being plopped back into a garden bed. But you can simply divide and replant right away and still have excellent results.

Whether it's starting veggies inside under lights in winter or dividing perennials to build your garden, it's all about growing more plants – with or without a greenhouse!

As for me, and probably Ned, we'll be happy to write a letter to your zoning board about how a greenhouse is way cooler and more beneficial than a swimming pool!

## Thank YEW to our 2022 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.

Baptist Health Oldham County  
Beechwood Trees & Gardens  
Bluegrass Automotive  
Bob Ray Company  
Brown Forman  
Digs Home and Garden  
Dinsmore Shohl  
Dwyer DesignScapes  
East & Westbrook Construction  
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Kiel Thomson Company  
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## COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

A cold, wet Halloween didn't keep us from holding Boo Dell! From our volunteers making scarecrows, to our sponsors filling the Trail of Treats, to the families that braved the weather to enjoy the grounds, we want to thank you for being a part of Boo Dell at Yew Dell!

We would also like to thank our sponsors, LG&E and KU Foundation and German American Bank!



We look forward to a boo-tacular time in 2023!



We are honored to work with our community to spark a passion for plants and gardening with everyone near and far. We had TWO finalists this year for Louisville Tourism's ROSE (Recognition of Service Excellence) Awards. Congratulations to our executive director Paul Cappiello and volunteer Susan Lancaster!



# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

## CORPORATE/GROUP VOLUNTEERS

We are so grateful for our group volunteers! We accomplished **SO** much in 2022 with the help of these groups. They removed invasive plants from several areas as well as helped with general garden maintenance, nursery projects, and fall wreath making. Thank YEW!



## CAPSTONE PROJECT

Sign up for our Volunteer eNews to receive more information!



This fall semester, we were thrilled to host Miranda Sorrell, Doctoral candidate with the Spalding University's Auerbach School of Occupational Therapy for her Capstone Project! This project allows students to apply their learning to their selected organization to improve its function in some way. Miranda focused on the "accessible science" aspect of our mission and spent this semester with Yew Dell learning about volunteer tasks and helping lay the groundwork for volunteers with cognitive or physical disabilities to be able to volunteer independently. We were thrilled to work with Miranda and look forward to a continuing partnership with Spalding to continue her work!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

Each month, we select a volunteer (or group) who has really shone in their contributions to Yew Dell. Join us as we celebrate and thank these marvelous Volunteer Spotlights from the past year!



# THE BUDDING GARDENER

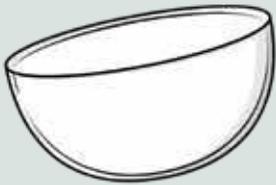


A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES

Be a Junior Horticulturist and care for plants indoors! You can plant, research, and track your own miniature garden by making a terrarium!

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A glass bowl (about 4" deep)
- Small stones or pea gravel
- Bagged potting mix
- A few small, tropical plants



## Get to Work!

- Fill your bowl about half way with moist potting mix (**no stones in container base!**)
- Plant your plants, leaving enough room for a few decorative items
- Water gently to settle the plants into the potting mix
- Place a few stones as a layer of stone mulch between the plants
- Add some special decorations for a personal touch
- Place in a bright spot but out of direct sun
- Enjoy your new terrarium!



## A little terrarium science

- *Measure the height or width of each plant once a week and chart their growth*
- *Look for formation of new leaves and keep count*
- *Take a picture once a week or once a month to see how your terrarium changes over time*





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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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# PLANT MARKET

*SHAKE THOSE WINTER BLUES  
BY PLANNING YOUR NEXT GARDEN*

Our online plant market is open 24-7 and 365 days a year- allowing you to shop for your next garden addition at any time. In 2023, we will bring back our monthly plant releases so be sure you're following our social media and our Garden eNews!

Just as we did in 2021 and 2022, we will care for your plants while you schedule a pick up date in the spring.

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