

Fall 2004

The Castle CHRONICLES

www.yewdellgardens.org

Gala & Open House a Tremendous Success



photo credit, Ric Lombardo

Numerous renovations, thousands of volunteer hours, a larger than expected public turnout and having great luck with difficult June weather.

Those were the ingredients for one great opening weekend and a new chapter in the history of Yew Dell Gardens.

Finally, after two years of planning and fund-raising to purchase and renovate the 33-acre gem created by Theodore Klein, Yew Dell Gardens' staff, board of directors and hundreds of volunteers were able to open the gardens to the public the weekend of June 11-13.

This exciting weekend was a success both for fundraising and public relations.

The weekend started off with an invitation-only gala premiere, "Twilight in the Garden," that showcased the gardens to financial

Yew Dell Gardens' Executive Director Dr. Paul E. Cappiello (l-r), Board President Mary F. Rounsavall and Oldham County Judge-Executive Mary Ellen Kinser and Jim Kinser chatted during the "Twilight in the Garden" celebration on June 11. Over 400 attendees enjoyed the opening festivities.

supporters, friends and green-thumbs who have become involved with the charming setting at Yew Dell Gardens.

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YEW DELL GARDENS TO HOST NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Yew Dell Gardens' fans were thrilled when Klein's property was taken under the wing of The Garden Conservancy and considered a national treasure worthy of preservation.

But the excitement is far from over.

When it was learned that the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) would be holding its annual conference in Louisville, several friends of Yew Dell approached the NTHP about including the gardens as one of several workshop sites.

They got more than they could have imagined.

Yew Dell Gardens will serve as a venue for an all-day field session on historic landscape preservation.

Louisville historian and Yew Dell consultant Donna M. Neary described the September 30 field session as the perfect marriage of two programs - first, tours of the grounds and second, the session on preserving historic landscapes, with an emphasis on Yew Dell Gardens, itself.

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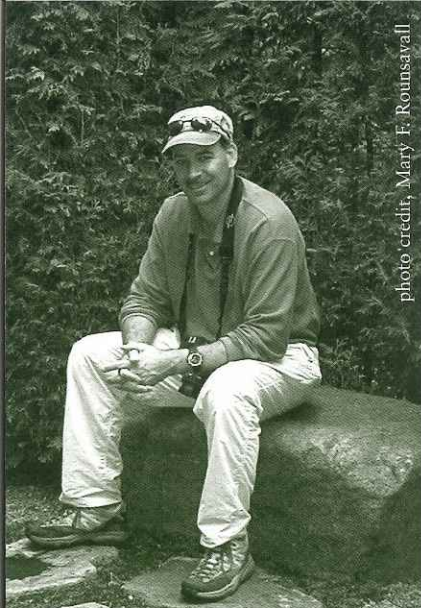
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photo credit, Mary F. Rounsavall



Paul Cappiello, Executive Director

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Travels with Executive Director

There is an old and very bad Jack Benny joke that goes something like this; two jumper cables walk into a bar and the bartender says, "now don't you two go starting anything." (Sorry for that, but stick with me a bit . . .) While it was certainly several Klein family members and early board members that got the Yew Dell ball rolling several years ago, I would love to know the names of the first two jumper cables who showed up on a Saturday morning to pull weeds, tug on vines, clear out barns and generally start preparing the property for the public.

During the fabulously successful opening weekend in June, most visitors commented on the tremendous progress made on the property over the last year or so. And while the board, staff and committees have grown considerably in that time, the volunteer work force has been the engine that has helped to transform the property into the wonderful display that greets visitors today.

Here are a few statistics: almost 400 volunteers; nearly 3500 volunteer hours, January through June; more than 1500 hours in just the two weeks of set-up for the opening weekend: tremendous numbers for a young up-start organization. While volunteers assist in just about every aspect of operations, it is the work on the grounds that is most noticeable to visitors. The newly rehabilitated Secret Garden, the adopted project of the Louisville Rambler Garden Club and financed in part by the Principal Financial Group, now boasts an impressive collection of more than 70 hellebores, 100 hardy ferns, hardy gingers (*Asarum*) and many unusual companion shade plants. The project has been further boosted by generous donations of more than 500 hostas by Hostas of Kentuckiana and Dr. Jerry Meyer: now one of the largest public Hosta collections in the region. This is just one example of many.



photo credit, Ric Lombardo

Over 30 volunteers were recruited for the "Twilight in the Garden" event, which included a live and silent auction. Yew Dell Gardens' Director of Development and Marketing Leslie Buddeke lead the troops.



photo credit, Ric Lombardo

A force of volunteers stood ready to greet guests for the much anticipated "Twilight in the Garden" at Yew Dell Gardens held on June 11.

With all the demands on time these days, I am continuously amazed by our consistent and enthusiastic volunteer effort. Even more surprising was an unexpected reminder to me of how and where we choose to donate our time, talent and treasure. On a recent trip to Chicago, I found myself walking along Michigan Ave. admiring the magnificent plantings (I highly recommend a trip to the Magnificent Mile... for the plantings, that is.) One of the best garden spots of all is wedged right between

Michigan Avenue and Lake Shore Drive. In the midst of one of the busiest traffic areas just about anywhere, sits the Richard & Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor's Garden; a quiet, contemplative space that can't help to capture the heart of even the most hardened of souls. The inspiration and impact of that space is a testimonial to the powers of a garden. If that garden, in the middle of all the urban chaos, can have that impact, it is not surprising that Yew Dell's respite has created such a strong community response.

So to all Yew Dell's army of volunteers, for whatever your reasons, the Board and Staff join me in thanking you for making Yew Dell part of your lives.

Dr. Paul Cappiello
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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A group of garden enthusiasts recently traveled with Dr. Paul Cappiello to visit Les Quatre Vents in Quebec. This exceptional estate is the home of The Garden Conservancy Founder Frank Cabot. His lovely wife, Anne, welcomed our group for cocktails and a personal tour of the garden the following day.

Pictured left to right - Adelaide Thompson, Weezie Hickox, Laura Lee Brown, Leslie Buddeke, Sue Brown, Angus MacLean, Davison Thompson, Mary Rounsavall, Paul Cappiello, Hewett Brown (front), and Pete MacLean. Missing from the photo is the photographer Mary Anne Thornton.

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*A special thank you to our Eagle Scout candidates and their co-workers for their hard work & dedication to Yew Dell:
Ben Craigmyle, Robbie Long and Eli Nachtman.*

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Board President Mary Rounsavall welcomed friends and guests to the "Twilight in the Garden" gala. Rounsavall is flanked by dear friends Neal & Lee Cory.

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Please know we are so grateful for the generous support of everyone who attended or purchased items at the gala and open house. Donors names that are published in this issue of our newsletter represent direct donations to the ongoing capital campaign, new members and in-kind contributors. If we have missed or misspelled your name, please call our office at 502-241-4788. We apologize for any errors.



Yew Dell Gardens was bustling with festive flair during the opening gala celebration on June 11. This view is from the top of the terrace overlooking the Castle and meadow.

Gala & Open House

continued from cover



photo credit, Ric Lombardo

"Twilight in the Garden" Gala Chair Rosemary Kirkwood took a second to glance over numerous finishing touches. The blanket of rose petals that created pathways for guests throughout the property was donated by Nanz & Kraft Florists. A special thanks to David Kraft for providing this elegant added feature.

"We are lucky to be fortunate enough to have something here that touches peoples' hearts as much as this," said *Twilight in the Garden* Chair Rosemary Kirkwood.

Kirkwood said the gala was not only an exceptional event but it doubled the net projections.

Donated items that were auctioned off helped contribute to the total funds raised during the gala:

- One-week home packages in France and Colorado, a rare dove tree, a jet airplane rental for a weekend and cooking lessons from Kathy Cary were just a few of the auctioned items.
- The Bank - Oldham County cosponsored the event with The Silver Spoon, which donated their catering services for the event. Plenty of folks stayed into the night, evidence that visitors were very pleased with what has been accomplished thus far at Yew Dell.

"We are so very blessed to have that kind of support," Kirkwood added.

"It was a wonderful evening," Kirkwood said. But by no means was *Twilight in the Garden* the only event of the weekend.

After more volunteer hours on Saturday, the gardens were opened again for Sunday's open house. Visitors came pouring in for guided tours and information on one of the area's greatest secrets.

Open House Chair Mary Anne Thornton said she was surprised at the number of people who both showed up and wanted guided tours of the grounds.

An estimated 700 interested people attended the open house. Many visitors also participated in supporting Yew Dell by bidding in the silent and live plant auctions.

The auctions featured fabulous planted containers donated by some of Louisville's best gardeners. Few visitors left without a special container or plant. Everyone left with pictures or memories of the special setting.

Even the kids were catered to beneath a special tent as board member Suzette White, and her volunteers helped children paint pots and plant flowers of their own. Thornton thanked the support of volunteers, financial and in-kind contributors who helped make the open house a success and gave special mention to the knowledgeable guides who stayed busy with tour groups.

Many memberships were also sold during the open house and the weather was, once again, kind to both staffers and visitors alike.

"There were many people who became intrigued with Yew Dell that day," Thornton said. The combined events generated over \$45,000 and brought more than 1,000 people to the gardens. "It couldn't have been any better," said Yew Dell Gardens' Board President Mary Rounsavall. "The feeling of excitement was tremendous."

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photo credit, Ric Lombardo

Hunt & Cindy Rounsavall (l) joined Gordon & Linda Dabney (r) at the entrance of the newly renovated Walled Garden. The Walled Garden was funded by a grant from the Glenview Garden Club, a member of the Garden Club of America.



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**YEW DELL GARDENS TO HOST
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

continued from cover

The session will focus on the assessment of historical sites and best management practices for restoring and preserving sites like Yew Dell Gardens for future generations.

The session will be managed by national award-winning landscape planner Aaron Tuley of Seabrook, Texas, who has worked on a number of large-scale projects throughout the country including the Buffalo Bayou Partnership in Houston.

Tuley will be joined by Neary, Landscape Architect Cari Goetcheus, The Garden Conservancy's Jennifer Hanna and NTHP advisor Karen Jessup.

The session will be a hands-on training session for NTHP conference participants to give interested persons a behind-the-scenes look at having a site placed on the National Register of Historic Places and how other agencies approach historic preservation.

Understanding the significance and the uses of historical sites, and what steps to take to preserve them will also be part the field session, as will different techniques used to document historical significance of a site.

Neary said Yew Dell Gardens could gain some very beneficial information and advice on its own preservation, since the site will be used as a model for the session. "Yew Dell is the perfect place for this," Neary said.

The impact of the session was summed up by Yew Dell Gardens' Board President Mary Rounsavall. "It's a tremendous affirmation of Yew Dell's significance as a historical site. It's terrific."

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Tours of the Garden

On the second Saturday of every month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Yew Dell will host tours of the gardens, plants, and buildings.

OCTOBER 9
NOVEMBER 13
DECEMBER 11

Suggested donation is \$5.00 per person, but free to members.



The Castle

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

A plot of primarily antique roses was barely breathing in the Arboretum at Yew Dell in 2001. Three years later and after countless hours of attention, Harry Bounnell has reclaimed the Rose Garden that flourishes today. His commitment and dedication earned him the 2004 Volunteer of the Year Award at Yew Dell Gardens.

Volunteer workdays are held the second Saturday of each month and every Wednesday. If you'd like to spend a marvelous day in the beauty of the gardens tending the grounds, Volunteer workdays may be for you. While we love to have experienced gardeners on hand, no particular experience is needed. It is a great way to learn.

Numerous other volunteer opportunities are available. Please stop by the office for an application form, visit the website at www.yewdellgardens.org or call the office at 502-241-4788.



Harry Bounnell proudly displayed his award with Mary Rounsavall.

YEW DELL BIDS FAREWELL TO FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER

Founding Board of Director Karen Whitty recently tendered her resignation from Yew Dell Gardens to return to the other passion in her life -- The Cameron Mills Ministry. Whitty was one of a tiny group that saved Yew Dell Gardens from falling into the hands of developers. She and her dear friend, Marian Klein Koehler, spearheaded the effort to purchase the property and launch the initial capital campaign. Whitty committed countless hours to the project and her contagious enthusiasm will be missed, although her husband, David Whitty, will remain active on the board. We wish her continued good fortune with her newest venture and efforts with Mills' Ministry.

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