

January 2006

The Castle CHRONICLES

www.yewdellgardens.org

CHINESE TREE PEONY COLLECTION TO GRACE YEW DELL GROUNDS

Yew Dell recently received a gift of hundreds of Chinese tree peonies (*Paeonia suffruticosa*) for a planned display unlike anything in the region. Through the connections of the newly formed Midwest Peony Society, two prominent Chinese nurseries have sent more than 350 plants for display and evaluation at Yew Dell.

Tree peonies have been grown for thousands of years, first for medicinal use and later as highly prized ornamentals. As early as 3,000 years ago a medicinal preparation known as Mu Dan Pi was made from the bark of tree peonies and was said to cool the blood as well as have antibacterial properties. For more than 1,500 years, tree peonies have been grown as ornamentals. During the T'ang Dynasty (A.D. 600-900) the popularity of tree peonies reached a furor similar to the Victorian tulipomania where single plants of highly valued varieties could fetch a greater price than that of a modest house.



Paeonia suffruticosa

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mission

THE MISSION OF YEW

DELL GARDENS IS TO
CONTINUE THE
HORTICULTURAL LEGACY
OF THEODORE KLEIN;
TO ENCOURAGE
EXPLORATION OF
THE ARBORETUM,
GARDENS AND
THE EXTRAORDINARY
ARCHITECTURAL SETTING;
AND TO PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
EDUCATION, ENRICHMENT
AND ENJOYMENT.

Moonlight in the Garden Raises \$11,000

Yew Dell Gardens was honored this year by The Business Professional Women of Oldham County, which chose Yew Dell's bank barn project as the beneficiary of their Fall Ball. This year's ball, Moonlight in the Garden, provided a wonderful opportunity for Yew Dell, not only to raise funds, but also to raise awareness of our grounds, mission, and projects. Fall Ball Chairperson Patty Gibson said, "This was a unique opportunity for BPW/OC to work with a group that not only provides education and research for our community, but one that is recognized nationally and internationally for excellence."



Garden expert Cindi Sullivan served as the Master of Ceremonies for Moonlight in the Garden.

YEW DELL, INC.
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Crestwood, KY 40014
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www.yewdellgardens.org



It is with sadness that I mark the passing of our friend, supporter, and board member, Roy Kimberly "Kim" Snell. It was through Kim's vision as chairman of the Oldham County Historical Society that our founding group, the "Friends of Yew Dell," came to be. Kim was widely known and loved in Oldham and Jefferson Counties, and we extend our sympathies to his wife, Virginia, and to his friends and family. He will be greatly missed.

I am sure that many of your lives were touched in 2005 by natural disasters, family tragedies, and other such difficult events. Certainly mine was. But as we begin a new year, we all look towards renewal in many ways. At Yew Dell Gardens, we'll see that soon in the winter bloom of the witchhazels, which burst into color and scent even in the bitter January cold. These will be followed by week upon week of snowdrops, daffodils and Virginia Bluebells, of fabulous new and unusual dogwoods, of fragrant and riotously-colored magnolias, of magnificent newly-planted tree peonies and roses, and all of the other treasures and surprises which we will bring you this year. Yew Dell Gardens has the best possible staff I can imagine, and they are already at work planning ways to provide beautiful spaces, to develop new plant material, to provide information for the new or experienced gardener, to create an inspiring place to volunteer or to simply enjoy, and to combine new and unusual plants in Yew Dell's historic and charming settings - all for you!

But we also want to thank you for your help in making Yew Dell arguably the region's top horticultural and botanical resource. With the long-awaited opening this summer of the Gheens Bank Barn and the Peyton Samuel Head Trust Pavilion, we will truly be - a place of education, enrichment, and enjoyment!

Mary F. Rounsavall
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A Message from the President



FEBRUARY 11 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

This month's tours will cover the best of the winter and early spring landscape; the brilliant reds of deciduous hollies, bark of paperbark maples and harbingers of Kentucky spring, the witchhazels and snowdrops.

FEBRUARY 17 | LECTURE WITH STEVE FOLTZ, HORTICULTURIST | COMMONWEALTH BANK & TRUST CO. | 7 P.M.

Cincinnati Zoo Horticulturist, Mr. Foltz is one of the top plantmen in our area and a much sought-after garden lecturer. Over the last few years, he has developed an outstanding program to test and evaluate hundreds of varieties of annual and tropical plants in the Cincinnati Zoo landscapes. In this lecture, hear about those varieties that have performed best in our summer climate. Cost is \$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers.

MARCH 11 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

March brings anemones, early daffodils and the star magnolias among a few other unusual early bloomers. The secret garden will be bursting with hellebore blooms. This is a great time to get a jump on the season and have Yew Dell Gardens' staff and volunteers help you select some new gems for your own garden.

MARCH 18 | TRELIS WORKSHOP - GROW VERTICALLY IN YOUR GARDEN | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M.

With shrinking gardens and an ever-expanding pallet of plants, learn the newest trend in gardening -- using vertical spaces. Trellises, tripods and other upright structural elements provide access to previously unuseable space and create dramatic plant displays. This workshop will take attendees through the process of making bamboo trellises. It uses a renewable resource, allows endless creativity, and the end product will be a personal creation to use in your own garden. Cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for nonmembers.

APRIL 8 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

April is early spring in full swing. The magnolias will be showing their best in white, pink and yellow. Viburnums, the workhorses of the spring garden, will be in bloom throughout the arboretum and gardens. Have we mentioned the bulbs? The heck with April in Paris. We've got April in Crestwood!

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APRIL 29-30 | PLANT SALE AND OPEN HOUSE | YEW DELL GARDENS, SAT. 10 A.M. - 4 P.M., SUN. 1 - 4 P.M.

The 2005 event was so packed with activity that we decided to expand it to the full weekend for 2006! Yew Dell members will be invited for early admission on Saturday at 9 a.m. to get first crack at some of the fantastic and uncommon annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs for sale throughout the weekend. In addition, there will be children's activities, garden and historic tours of the buildings and grounds, garden lectures, exhibitors and food. Come spend the day!

MAY 13 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

This is the perfect time to see the rock garden in full bloom. Dozens of rare and unusual perennials and dwarf shrubs now grace the garden, providing plenty of ideas for those with limited space to garden at home.

*This will also be an excellent chance to grab an advance look at Yew Dell's bank barn
- the Gheens Education Center and Peyton Samuel Head Trust Pavilion.*

MAY 18 | PLANT WALK WITH DR. PAUL CAPPIELLO | YEW DELL GARDENS, 5:30 - 7 P.M.

Dr. Cappiello will spend the evening showing and talking about some of the most unique plants in the Yew Dell collections. Bring a picnic supper and join the group. This will be the first of several special member events for 2006! Space will be limited so call early! This special event is free to members, \$20 for nonmembers.

JUNE 10 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

The walled garden will be bursting with perennials, many now in their third year of testing. We'll take a look at this outstanding garden as well as taking a spin through the evaluation nursery where you will see many plants not being grown elsewhere in the region.



*If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events,
please contact JoAnne Fischer at 241-4788 ext. 15 or email her at joannef@yewdellgardens.org*

PROGRAMS

JUNE 15 | PLANT WALK WITH DR. PAUL CAPPIELLO | YEW DELL GARDENS, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

This walk will cover some of the more unusual and new perennials in Yew Dell's gardens. With all the new plantings installed at Yew Dell over the last year, this will be an excellent opportunity to see and hear about some of the best. Bring a picnic dinner if you like! This special event is free to members, \$20 for nonmembers.

JULY 8 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

Now that summer is in full heat, come see some of the newest annuals and tropicals being trialed in the gardens at Yew Dell.

AUGUST 12 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

Come see what plants are performing best in the heat of a Kentucky Summer. Our expert tour guides will point out new projects, new plants and the best of the best, and maybe a few under-performers to avoid next year.

SEPTEMBER 9 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

Now that the kids are back in school, it is time to come out for a tour to begin planning your garden wish list for next year.

SEPTEMBER 14 | PLANT WALK WITH DR. PAUL CAPPIELLO | YEW DELL GARDENS, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

The cooler evenings of September are the perfect time for reviewing what plants have performed best over the summer. Join Dr. Capiello on this plant walk to learn about the plants that performed best through the summer heat and drought. We'll also take a look at some of the best fall fruiting shrubs for area gardens. This special event is free to members, \$20 for nonmembers.

OCTOBER 13 | TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN GALA | YEW DELL GARDENS, 6:30 P.M.

This annual gala will unveil the much-anticipated main education center at Yew Dell -- the Gheens Bank Barn and Peyton Samuel Head Trust Pavilion. Along with viewing this outstanding barn, guests can stroll through the gardens while enjoying samplings by The Silver Spoon. Twilight in the Garden also features a live and silent auction.

OCTOBER 14 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

If you missed the gala celebration the night before, come tour the new education center and its surrounding gardens. There will also be plenty of fall foliage color developing this time of year.

NOVEMBER 2 | PLANT WALK WITH DR. PAUL CAPPIELLO | YEW DELL GARDENS, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Finish out the 2006 gardening season with the last plant walk of the year with Dr. Capiello. Come learn about the best of not just the red-fruited hollies, but also the oranges, golds and yellows. This will be an excellent chance to select great plants for winter impact in your garden. This special event is free to members, \$20 for nonmembers.

NOVEMBER 11 | GUIDED PUBLIC TOURS | YEW DELL GARDENS, 10 A.M. - NOON

November's tour will cover the last of the season's flowering shrubs and perennials and the best of the fall fruiting trees and shrubs. Come ring out the 2006 growing season with the last of the fall foliage.

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MONTHLY VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS

Please join us for monthly volunteer workdays every second Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. - noon February through November.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please contact JoAnne Fischer at 241-4788 ext. 15 or email her at joannef@yewdellgardens.org

OUR RECENT DONORS

Donations and memberships received between December 1, 2004 and December 1, 2005.

Yew Dell Gardens gratefully acknowledges the many individuals, families, businesses and foundations that support our work through generous contributions. These gifts make it possible for us to continue our mission. With your generous support we continue the legacy that Theodore Klein left behind. Thank you!



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In honor of the marriage of Ellen Collier & J. David Beneke
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jaegers



The Glenview Garden Club and the Louisville Nursery Association teamed with Yew Dell Gardens to bring expert gardener and author Gordon Hayward to Louisville for a standing-room only lecture in November. Hayward's new book, "Your House, Your Garden" offered attendees clever lessons in developing seamless links between the house and garden. This photo of Mrs. Elisabeth Healing's garden, The Priory, in the North Costwolds of England, shows the importance of a firm structure in a small garden. "Nine squares (four edged in box, four of cut stone, the central one with water) make for a pleasing coherence in this small garden," said Hayward.

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CHINESE TREE PEONY COLLECTION

While the traditional garden peony is a herbaceous plant that dies back to the ground each winter, tree peonies are woody shrubs. They are highly prized for their enormous flowers in May. The colors available include whites, pinks, reds, purples, yellows, and several described as blue and black. Plants are a bit slow growing, but given a bright spot and reasonable garden soil, they are long-lived, pest resistant and surprisingly drought tolerant. In short, while these are not well known, they make outstanding garden plants for this part of the country.



Paeonia suffruticosa

Donated by the Heze Spring Nursery in Shandong and the Lanzhou Peony Horticulture Development Company in Gansu, China, the shipment includes several highly prized and very old varieties. Those interested in more detail on the variety of flower colors and forms can go to our website (www.yewdellgardens.org) where

several links will show a dizzying array of flower colors and forms. And while at Yew Dell's website, go to the Horticultural Links section to find information on the Midwest Peony Society.

Yew Dell's new plants will be featured in plantings around the red tobacco barn, castle, house and several other new plantings planned for 2006. Of course, we will also be evaluating the relative performance of all the plants over the next several years in order

to determine which are the very best for area gardens. For those interested in growing a few tree peonies, we have potted a limited number of the newly imported varieties for sale at Yew Dell's annual plant sale planned for April 29 and 30.

NATIONAL CITY BANK
has graciously donated \$10,000 toward the rehabilitation of Yew Dell's historic tin-roof bank barn. The barn, to be christened the Gheens Education Center and Peyton Samuel Head Pavilion, are so named to acknowledge the generous support of those two Foundations. This wonderful facility will provide much-needed space for Yew Dell's expanding education programs, lectures, workshops and classes, wedding rentals, corporate retreats and other events.

Look for the formal opening in 2006!



The Castle

CHRONICLES

YEW DELL, INC.

P.O. Box 1334

Crestwood, KY 40014

OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Fri 10 am - 4 pm

Guided tours are available every Tuesday and Thursday at noon and 1 pm and every second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. - noon.

(502) 241-4788

www.yewdellgardens.org

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