

The Castle CHRONICLES

Photo credit: Marian Klein Koehler, *Ilex verticillata*



“TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN”

A magical evening drew 450 guests to Yew Dell Gardens for the annual Twilight in the Garden Gala on Friday, Oct. 13. Attendance exceeded expectations as visitors came for the ribbon cutting of the refurbished Gheens Barn and new Peyton Samuel Head Trust Pavilion. Donors for the capital campaign were recognized, as were architects Ross Primmer and Roberto de Leon. Participating in the ribbon cutting were Yew Dell Gardens Executive Director Paul Cappiello, Board of Directors President Mary Rounsavall, Peyton Samuel Head Trust representatives Wick Gaines and J. W. Hall and Gheens Foundation representative Carl Thomas.



Cari Thomas blossomed at “Twilight in the Garden” adding an unexpected element for not only guests but for the gala committee. The staff at Yew Dell Gardens witnessed these exquisite botanical creatures in Chicago and surprised everyone with a delightful display of butterflies, a mayfly and a rose to entertain guests.

Our Mission

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

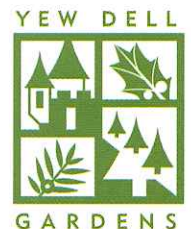


Photo credit: Julius Friedman

The newly completed Gheens Barn and Peyton Samuel Head Trust Pavilion grace the landscape at Yew Dell Gardens. The project was led by de leon & primmer architecture workshop of Louisville with construction management by Peters Construction.

The refurbished Gheens Barn is one of America’s few remaining bank barns, and provides a much-needed space for hosting meetings, lectures and educational programs. The Peyton Samuel Head Trust Pavilion supplies Yew Dell Gardens with ample space for catering, public restrooms and seating in an amphitheater space located at the base of the Gheens Barn.

After the opening of the two buildings, guests perused a silent and live auction, showcasing fabulous vacations, exceptional art and one-of-a-kind jewelry. Bennett Higgins Music played on the pavilion before dinner, and guests delighted in watching dancers outfitted in costumes by Annie Hickman of Bugs & Balloons. An exceptional dinner was catered and donated by The Silver Spoon, served outside under a tent blossoming with gorgeous floral bouquets by Margaret Kulp and her committee.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In 2002, the "Friends of Yew Dell" were able to purchase Theodore Klein's 33-acre property with its whimsical buildings, arboretum, and gardens, all slated for probable destruction. Since then, this young non-profit has had an absolutely phenomenal rate of activity in rehabilitating grounds, gardens and buildings to bring you what you see today at Yew Dell Gardens, the area's premiere botanical treasure, nestled in a charming historic setting. We celebrated the completion of the rehabilitation of the bank barn at "Twilight in the Garden" this October, and are ever grateful to our major donors such as the James Graham Brown Foundation, the Gheens Foundation, the Peyton Samuel Head Trust, the W.L. Lyons Brown Foundation, Hannah Foundation, Owsley Brown Frazier, de leon and primmer architecture workshop, and so many other donors listed in the pages of this newsletter who supported the barn project and also our capital campaign. We simply couldn't have done it without every single one of you!



A highlight at the 2006 Twilight in the Garden Gala was the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly rehabilitated Gheens Barn and Peyton Samuel Head Trust Pavilion. (l-r) Executive Director Paul Cappiello, J.W. Hall, Wick Gaines, Carl Thomas, Mary Rounsavall, Roberto de Leon, Ross Primmer and Bill Pace were on deck for the ceremony.

Our volunteers, some 400 strong, and our over 700 members and countless donors give us annual financial support for operations and hands-on work on the grounds and this means more to us than we can say. Continued support from such supporters as the Kentucky Department of Forestry and work teams from E.ON-U.S. and UPS among many others allow us to undertake such ambitious programs as the Adrian Bloom planting and also to simply keep the doors open, the lights on - and the gardens weeded!

We have now completed, in just shy of five years, the challenge of bringing back to life the historic center of Yew Dell Gardens. It is now time for us to take a breath, step back, and take on master planning, which will help us deal with issues such as circulation, areas for future growth, branding, signage, and historical documentation, which we have had to put largely on the back burner for these few years to perform triage on the buildings and grounds.

It would be remiss of me to not mention here the departure of our Director of Development and Marketing, Leslie Buddeke. We wish her the absolute best in her new position, and truly believe the closing of one door is the opening of another. At our October board meeting, the board passed this resolution in her honor: "Be it resolved: the Board of Yew Dell Gardens thanks Leslie Buddeke for being a part of growing Yew Dell Gardens for the past five-plus years; for always being available to each of us; and for putting her positive and can-do attitude on the face of Yew Dell Gardens. She has certainly set an example and precedent for our future events. She is truly a remarkable woman and will be missed." We are grateful for the presence of our U of L development intern, Tracy Lightfoot, and we look forward to sharing with you soon the news of the appointment of a new Development Director.

Your support and confidence in Yew Dell Gardens is critical to our continued progress, and we hope we can count on your enthusiasm and financial support in the future. It is our donors, volunteers, friends and members who have allowed the board and staff of Yew Dell Gardens to return this treasure to a place of education, enrichment, and enjoyment.

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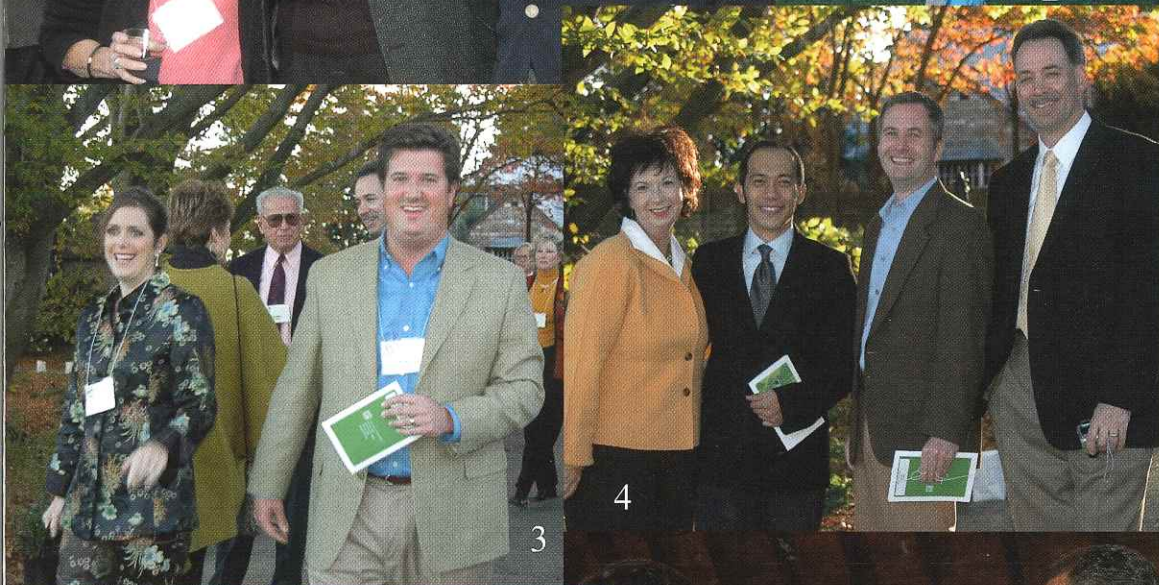
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“TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN”



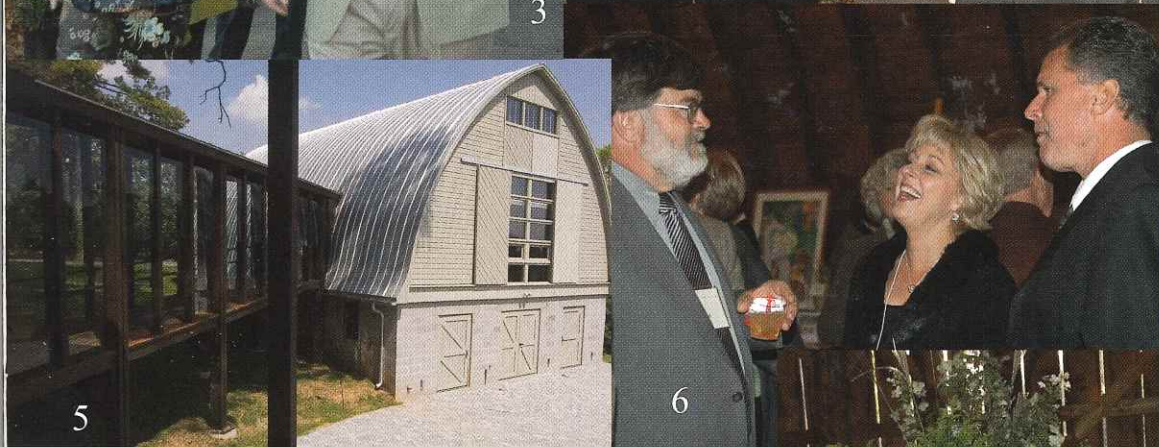
1 Anne Boyd, Peter Carnahan and Morton Boyd awaiting the ribbon cutting ceremony.

2 Costumes by Annie Hickman's Bugs and Balloons delighted guests at "Twilight in the Garden."



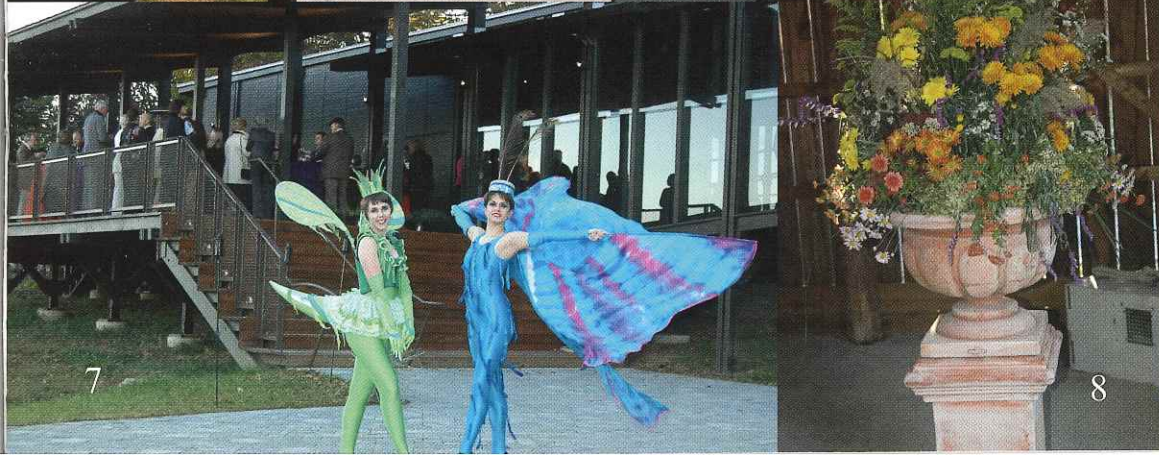
3 Hope and Matt Gardiner arrived in style. Boone Gardiner Garden Center donated the plethora of plants used to decorate "Twilight in the Garden."

4 Board member Rosemary Kirkwood, Architects Roberto de Leon and Ross Primmer, and Paul Cappiello awaited the arrival of over 450 guests to this year's event.



5 The Gheens Barn will serve as the main center for special events, weddings and educational programs.

6 The late Theodore Klein's granddaughter, Paige, spoke with her uncle Karl Klein.



7 Guests enjoyed cocktails on the new Peyton Samuel Head Trust Pavilion while listening to the sounds of Bennett Higgins Music and the sights of Bugs and Balloons creatures.

8 Margaret Kulp's magical touch. Yew Dell Gardens was adorned with lush floral arrangements.

Adrian Bloom

LECTURE & GARDEN PLANTING

Among the long line of outstanding horticultural accomplishments at Yew Dell in 2006, the Sept. 8 and 9 Adrian Bloom event was truly a shining star. In a single day more than 200 volunteers joined acclaimed British garden designer Adrian Bloom in building Yew Dell's newest garden. The mixed border of over 2,500 perennials and shrubs installed just below the castle terrace will provide outstanding views as well as an unparalleled educational collection of plants.

Volunteers donned bright red t-shirts provided by the event sponsor, E.ON-US, whose employees played a major role in making the whole project possible. The Blooms of Bressingham company provided tremendous logistical support, helped to arrange some of the plant donations and, of course, made it possible for Mr. Bloom to take part in the event.

The Yew Dell faithful volunteers were joined by a host of dignitaries including "People Places and Plants Magazine" publisher Paul Tukey, Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs and Joe Kunkel of Blooms of Bressingham and past president of the Perennial Plant Association, to whom is due a great "Thanks" for helping to put this event together. The event even included a ceremonial planting with all the Oldham County Magistrates and Judge Executive Mary Ellen Kinser.

The planting event also included a sale of rare and new plants. On Saturday, a sold-out crowd enjoyed a lecture by Mr. Bloom in the Gheens Barn, the first educational event in the newly rehabilitated facility.

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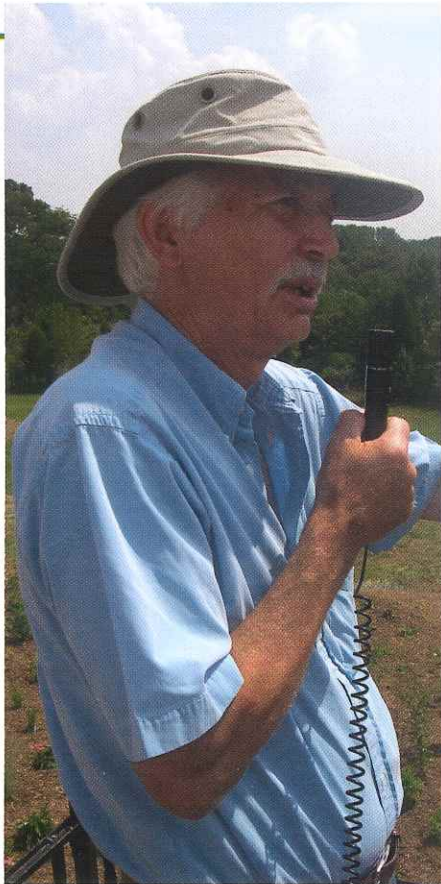
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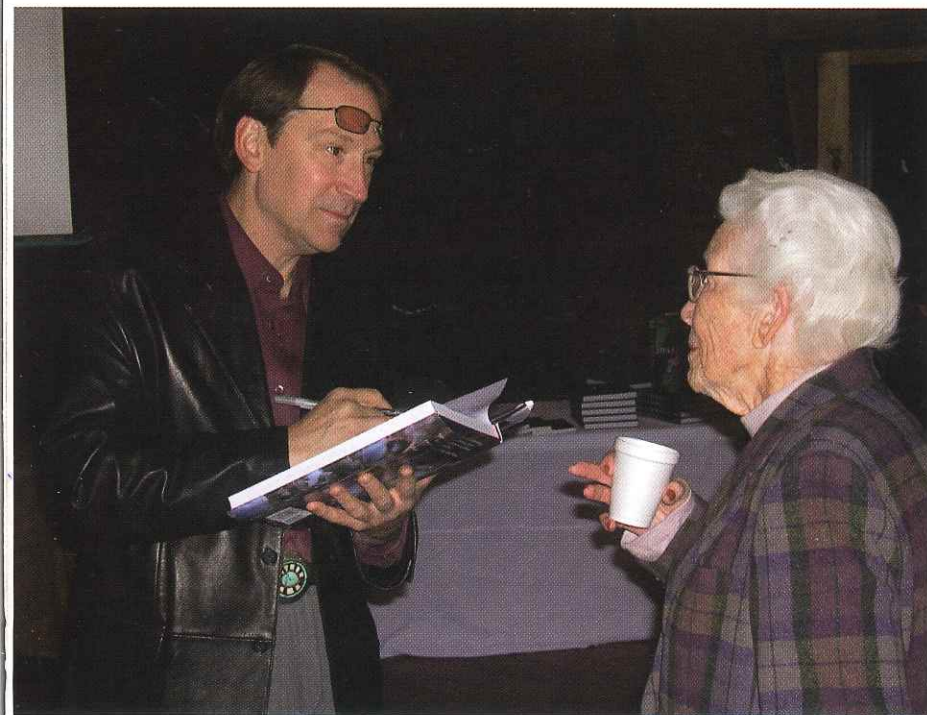


Adrian Bloom directs the massive volunteer planting effort in Yew Dell's newest garden.

Adrian Bloom



Yew Dell's fall garden tour to the Baker Arboretum in Bowling Green and PineView Nursery in Leitchfield offered a wide array of great plants and gardens. The next day trip opportunity will be an April trip to Cincinnati, Ohio and the fabulous bulb displays of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden.



Speaker Cole Burrell signs a copy of his new book, *Hellebores*, for Helen Trueblood at Yew Dell's November lecture in the Gheens Barn. The lecture was sponsored by the Glenview Garden Club and the Louisville Nursery Association.



Kevin Collard of PineView Nursery in Leitchfield, Ky. treated the group to endless stories about his favorite plants. Here he is extolling the virtues of one of his favorite hollies, *Ilex attenuata* 'Sunny Foster,' a form with brilliant gold new growth.

VOLUNTEERS

If you've wondered what all those 400+ Yew Dell volunteers do aside from providing thousands of hours of support in the office, helping with events and keeping the grounds shining, here are a few highlights...

SUNKEN ROCK GARDEN – a contingent from the Oldham County Master Gardener Association and the Green Thumbs Garden Club spent much of the 2006 gardening season not just maintaining the garden, but also tracking the performance of the many unusual plants in the new garden. The long-term goal is to produce a publication to communicate the results of this outstanding project.

SECRET GARDEN – members of the Louisville Ramblers Garden Club have done the same for this wonderful garden that contains the majority of Yew Dell's hellebore collection. Stay tuned for results of this major effort on one of Yew Dell's most popular collections.

HARDY GARDENIAS? – well... maybe. Staff and volunteers have spent considerable time this fall evaluating and tracking a collection of potentially cold-hardy selections of this popular houseplant. Sure, the chances are slim for any of the over 70 plants to survive our winters, but think of the possibilities if even one makes it!

COLLECTIONS CURATORS – As just a couple of examples, Nanette Dietmeyer and Ralph Archer, hydrangea and hardy fern curators respectively, have spent countless hours collecting performance information so that we can let our visitors and friends know how all these wonderful new plants are performing in our climate. Of course there are plenty of volunteer curator positions open for those who might be interested.

LIBRARY – Much of Theodore Klein's wonderful horticulture library has been sorted and cataloged. This work has been done as part of preparations to develop what will become Yew Dell's reference library, a resource we hope members will enjoy in the future. Stay tuned for more detail in future newsletters.

See the event insert for two volunteer events you won't want to miss!



Volunteers hard at work in the sunken rock garden.

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2007 EVENTS

FEBRUARY 10 | VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION EVENT | 10 AM - NOON | GHEENS BARN

*Join Yew Dell staff in a celebration of all the volunteer accomplishments for the year.
Enjoy light refreshments, volunteer award presentations and more!
Free and open to all volunteers - please call the office to register*

MARCH 10 | FIRST ANNUAL VOLUNTEER KICK-OFF EVENT FOR 2007 | 10 AM - NOON | GHEENS BARN

*Volunteers, start your engines . . .
this event will offer existing and new volunteers a chance to see all that is planned for the year.
Learn more about the many opportunities available for volunteers,
educational enrichment sessions and more!
Free and open to all.*

MARCH 10 | HELLEBORE DAZE! | NOON - 3 PM | YEW DELL GARDENS

*Yew Dell holds one of the very best and most diverse collections of this wonderful group of winter bloomers.
Join Yew Dell staff for tours of the collections, growing tips, what's new in breeding work and more.
There will also be plants for sale and we'll have copies of Cole Burrell's new hellebore book as well.
Free with regular admission (and that means free to members!)*

MARCH 24 | FLORAL DESIGNS FROM YOUR OWN GARDEN | 10:30 - 12:30 PM | GHEENS BARN

*Classes also take place, Saturday, April 14, and May 12.
Join award winning floral designer Margaret Kulp for this unique opportunity.
Attendees will learn how to select, cut, condition and arrange to get the best out of stems and blooms
cut from your own garden. The classes are timed to take full advantage of the rapidly changing spring season
when Yew Dell will be bursting with blooms of all types.
All materials provided. No experience necessary. Registration required.
Members/Non-members: \$25/\$30 per class, \$65/\$80 for the series.*

APRIL 19 | GARDEN TRIP TO CINCINNATI | 8:15 AM - 6:00 PM

*You've heard about the trips to Indianapolis, Bowling Green and Leitchfield, so don't miss this one.
The day will include stops at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens at peak bulb display time, and
Spring Grove Cemetery, home to one of the best tree collections in the nation.
Board the bus at 8:15 a.m. at Yew Dell's main visitor parking lot
Members \$75, Non-members \$85, includes lunch and snacks.*

APRIL 28 & 29 | YEW DELL ANNUAL PLANT SALE AND GARDEN MARKET | SAT, 9 - 4 SUN, 10 - 4

*Just in time for your spring planting, don't miss this annual event.
Yew Dell's sale of unusual and new plants will be joined by some of the area's best vendors of plants and garden goods.
Food vendors, demonstrations and activities for kids will round out a stellar event.
Free with regular admission.*

****Special for Members****

Yew Dell members will be admitted to the sale at 8 a.m. Saturday - and yes, memberships will be on sale!

www.YewDellGardens.org



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12/1/2005 – 12/1/2006

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Snow-capped boxwoods and hollies border the formal garden.

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The log cabin at Yew Dell Gardens.

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12/1/2005 – 12/1/2006

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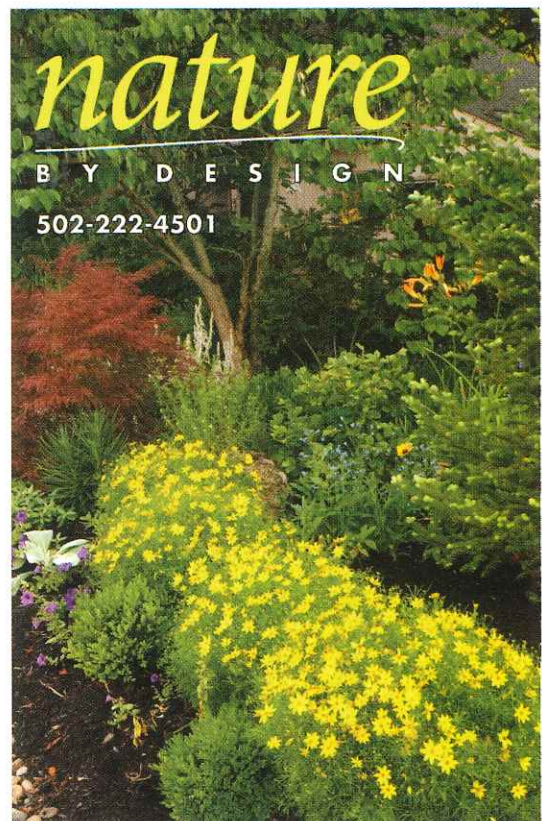


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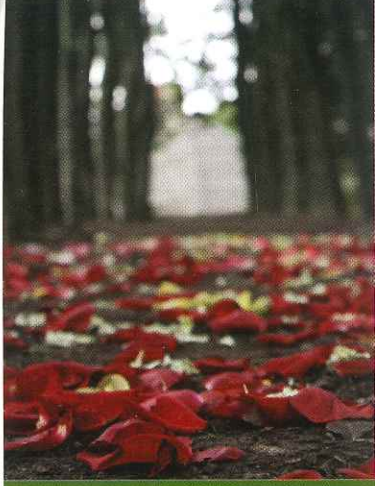
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Mary Rounsavall received the Garden Club of America's Zone Historic Preservation Award at the annual Zone VII meeting in Alexandria, Va., held at The American Horticultural Society's River Farm. It was given in recognition of her vision and determined leadership to rescue and preserve the historic specimen landscape and buildings at Yew Dell Gardens.

Glenview Garden Club members Blair Louis, Mary Rounsavall, Lisa Barr and Peachy Koehler celebrated in Alexandria on Oct. 12.



Yew Dell 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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