

The Castle Chronicles

SUMMER 2007



Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice'

YEW DELL GARDENS TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN GALA

October 12 is the date set for Yew Dell Gardens' *Twilight in the Garden Gala* sponsored by Brown-Forman. This year's event will feature dining under the stars, entertainment and fabulous live and silent auction packages. Numerous travel offerings, local dining and entertainment entries and exclusive art and goods from local and national businesses will be available for bidding.

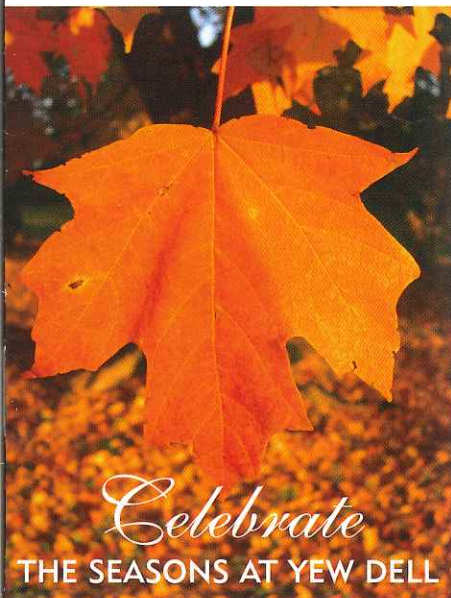
Last year's event sold out quickly and hosted more than 400 guests for a magical event in the gardens. And this year's event promises to be an outstanding opportunity to entertain clients, colleagues and friends and at the same time, help support what has been developing into one of the most exciting community resources in the area.



Our 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.

Twilight in the Garden is Yew Dell's biggest fund raiser of the year with the funds raised going to support our growing research, display gardens and education programs that have caught the attention of the national garden world. In just the last 12 months, feature articles in Garden Design Magazine, filming for national PBS garden show Garden Smart and others have helped get out the Yew Dell word. So if you were here for the Gala last year, come again. And if you haven't been for a while, come for a great evening and see what the excitement is all about.



Celebrate

THE SEASONS AT YEW DELL

For reservations or more information, please call

241.4788.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Gold Sponsor | \$10,000 |
| Silver Sponsor | \$5,000 |
| Bronze Sponsor | \$2,500 |

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP SALES:

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Table of 10 | \$1,500 |
| Individual Tickets | \$150 |

YEW DELL



GARDENS

President's Letter

We're Number One!

By the time you read this, most of you will know that Yew Dell Gardens was voted the #1 "Wonder" of Oldham County by the readers of the Oldham Era. Thanks to all who voted in support of Yew Dell.

But we're also moving up the list in another area - and it's an important step for us. We have long wanted Yew Dell to be a center for horticultural education, and it's been part of our mission statement from the very beginning. This year marks the real kick-off of a set of educational offerings for all ages and all levels of gardening and green interests. This year we are hosting, right here in Crestwood Kentucky, the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association's summer outing, the International Plant Propagators' Society Area Conference, and the American Horticultural Society's Garden School - The Wonderful World of Plants - only the second time they've held such a program outside their home field in Virginia!

We are well on our way to becoming an indispensable source for garden education for the region - from children's classes and camps to beginner gardening programs for those who have not yet caught the bug, to avid gardeners and even professionals in the region. Yew Dell's Garden School will continue to grow over the coming seasons to offer a wide-ranging menu of opportunities from informal plant walks to lectures, classes and all-day workshops presented by Yew Dell staff, local experts and some of the very best speakers the garden world has to offer.

One of the most exciting developments this year is our work with local education consultant Michele Hemenway to develop a formal school education program that will provide area teachers KERA-based curricula to support combined science, art, history and environmental activities at Yew Dell.

Oh - and we've made the list of "1001 Gardens to See Before You Die", a compendium of the world's great gardens edited by Rae Spencer-Jones and published by Barron's Educational Series. Thanks again to ALL who have helped make us number one in SO many ways!

Mary F. Rounsavall
PRESIDENT

THE PERFECT GIFT

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Let it grow...
& grow. 

Gardeners are great at growing things! Now you can help Yew Dell grow for the future. Consider leaving a true legacy at Yew Dell Gardens by building a planned gift into your retirement plan.

Call us for more information
502.241.4788. 



This fabulous new limestone bench was created by area sculptor Don Lawler and given to Yew Dell by an anonymous donor offering a wonderful new highlight to the gardens. Be sure to find the bench on your next visit!



The 2007 Summer Kid's Camp was a fun learning experience for the kid's. We look forward to seeing all return for Summer Kid's Camp in 2008!



Our Good Old-Fashioned Family Picnic day was fun for the whole family! Some families challenged each other in the water balloon toss. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's picnic! Special thanks to our sponsors: Brown-Forman Corp., Fastline Publications, and Project Guild of LaGrange.

Garden Education & Events

"GARDEN WISE" TOUR

October 3 | 5:30 - 7 p.m. | Yew Dell Gheens Barn

Now that Autumn has settled in, the best fall fruiting plants are strutting their stuff. This walk will concentrate on some of the best performers for this area. Join Executive Director Dr. Paul Cappelletto for this unique garden walk. Cost is free.

CONTAINER BULB GARDENING LECTURE WITH BRENT HEATH

October 27 | Lecture 11:00 a.m. | Yew Dell Gheens Barn

Join one of the nation's top bulb experts for this outstanding presentation. Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs [www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com] has run one of the best bulb mail order nurseries in the country. Participants will enjoy a lecture by Mr. Heath featuring a range of bulbs from common to the most unusual and choice selections available. This is a presentation not to be missed. Cost \$15 members/\$20 nonmembers.

BULB PLANTING WORKSHOP, BRENT HEATH

October 27 | 1:00 p.m. | Yew Dell Gheens Barn

Get your hands dirty! Create a container bulb masterpiece! Brent will lead this small group through the process of planting a layered bulb container that will provide weeks of enjoyment in your own garden next spring. Cost \$45 members/\$50 nonmembers (includes all materials including bulbs, container and potting medium).

TWILIGHT IN THE GARDEN GALA

October 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Yew Dell Gheens Barn

This annual fundraiser has grown into one of the most delightful must-do events. Last year's event was full of stellar auction packages as well as the trademark surprise touches that make this an event that keeps people talking. This year's event promises to keep up the tradition! Come enjoy the evening and support the treasure of Yew Dell Gardens. For information on tickets, donating auction items or being a sponsor, please call 241.4788.

YEW DELL PRESENTS "BOO-DELL"

October 20 | 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Yew Dell Gardens

Trick-or-treaters come donned in your favorite Halloween costumes for our trail of treats 11:30 - 1:30. Oldham County businesses will await your arrival, and fill your bags with all sorts of goodies. Stay around for a Halloween magic show with Mr. Magic, Jeff Russ at 2:00. Yew Dell is happy to host the first annual "Book-o-Lantern" presented by Oldham County Public Library. Bring your best "book character" decorated pumpkin to our contest - with great prizes! Pumpkins may be dropped off at Yew Dell Friday, October 19 from 10:00 - 3:00 or Saturday from 10:00 - noon. Special guest judges will announce winners at 3:00. Hayrides and pumpkins for sale all day. Please show your Oldham County Public Library card for free entry to "Boo-Dell".

HOLLY-DAY EVENT

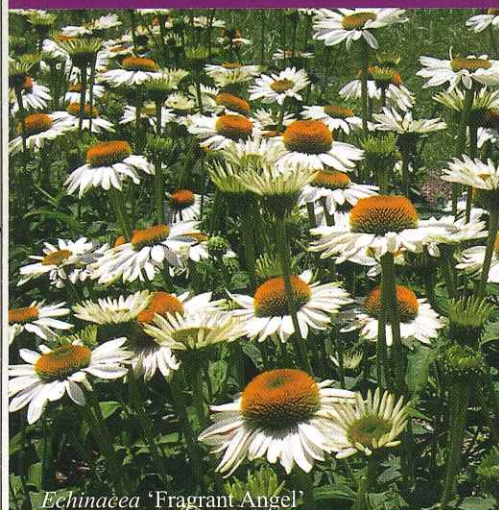
December 1 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Yew Dell Gheens Barn

Yew Dell Gardens spreads holiday cheer with two unique workshops! Come enjoy the amazing winter landscape at Yew Dell Gardens while participating in making a gingerbread house with Lida Rowland-Snow or a winter wreath with Jules Klein. Reservations are required to ensure adequate supplies. Watch our website for registration details.

To register, visit: www.yewdellgardens.org, or call 241.4788.

Have we seen the last of the damage from the big spring freeze?

This was certainly one of the toughest winters/springs any of us can remember in years - the very cold early weather (8F the first week of December) followed by warm, then three Jan/Feb weeks that barely broke 35F, four late Feb. days near 80F, and then finally the real killer, 17F on Easter weekend. There was a great deal of immediate damage (the *Emmenopterys* in my yard looked like a bacon tree!) but that has not been the end of the story. Even as late as early July at Yew Dell, we were seeing new signs of damage in the form of bark falling off large old hollies and other plants, and don't be surprised if something else shows up even now. The best advise at this point, as has been the case all spring and summer, is to simply practice good, middle of the road common sense gardening. Don't overdo the fertilizer. Just keep the soil reasonably moist. Just keep an extra eye on your plants for unusual signs and let us know what you see. We'll report what we see and hear as time goes on. Just remember, there's always next year!



Echinacea 'Fragrant Angel'



Echinacea 'Hope'



Echinacea 'Kim's Knee High'

Bloom Garden Shines in its First Year

New gardens are great fun, especially the first year as new plants develop. This is when the watchful gardener is amazed by some wonderful unplanned combinations, and occasionally squints a bit at those that might just need a little adjustment. That's what gardening is all about.

Watching Yew Dell's newest garden unfold this summer has been a true joy. The mountains of work put in by more than 200 volunteers last September has paid great dividends this summer. The plants have just jumped out of the ground for a tremendous display. And with that early performance, we thought it might be a good time to share some of the real winners in the garden so far.

Midsummer is a great time for the coneflowers (*Echinacea*) and this has been no exception. Without a doubt, the three stand-out performers so far have been *Echinacea* 'Hope', 'Fragrant Angel' and 'Kim's Knee High'. The first two are from Dan Heims of Terra Nova Nursery in Oregon. Both are tremendously fragrant, sturdy growers that just seem to produce non-stop through the summer. 'Hope' bears petals of soft pale pink while 'Fragrant Angel' is pure white and a major improvement over the older 'White Swan'. 'Kim's Knee High' is one of the brightest colored coneflowers, with huge crops of a screaming graded shade from purple to almost magenta. But an added plus here is the smaller stature – a selection that tops out at about 2.5' tall. A bit of a disappointment has been 'Bravado' a selection that has gotten lots

of press but so far, has turned out to be just a sort of run-of-the-mill purple coneflower.

Another member of the composite family is the *Rudbeckia maxima*, a true giant in the garden often growing to 8' tall or more. This plant sports typical *Rudbeckia* flowers of brown center and bright golden around, but is usually most noted for its foliage. The leaves are huge and brilliantly colored a striking bluish-gray. This is an excellent textural plant in the summer garden.

Two final winners come as recommendations from Yew Dell's garden manager JoAnne Fischer and our super volunteer curator and plant database manager Abi Rennkamp. From these two great gardeners comes the recognition of *Eupatorium rugosum* 'Chocolate', an outstanding mostly foliage plant with rich burgundy foliage on a dense grower to about 4'. In the garden, it has made for excellent contrast with the gold foliage of *Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger' Tiger Eyes™. Lastly comes what has just been named the Perennial Plant of the Yew For 2008, *Geranium* 'Gerwat' (Rozanne). It seems appropriate that this Adrian Bloom selection would be such a wonderful performer in Adrian's garden at Yew Dell. A vigorous spreading mount of medium green foliage just seems to drip with masses of light purple flowers. It is well worth the visit to come see. While you are here, pick out your favorite. Maybe the next article will be "visitors' favorites!"

DID YOU KNOW...

• Tracy Lightfoot, Yew Dell's very own Media and Marketing Assistant has worked very hard in her last year at University of Louisville and has earned several awards and certificates to prove it! Tracy recently received second place in the 'business service reporting' category at the SPJ Metro Louisville Journalism awards. She has also earned her professional certifications in PR Writing, PR editing, Integrated Communications, and PR Practice. Tracy is one of only three students in U of L's history to earn four certification! We are so proud of you, Tracy!

• Yew Dell Executive Director, Dr. Paul Capiello was recently elected to the board of directors of the Magnolia Society International. This appointment will continue Yew Dell's international representation as Dr. Capiello completes a three-year term on the board of the International Plant Propagators' Society.

• Yew Dell's plant collection now boasts more than 3000 species and varieties including 300+ hostas, 60 ferns (Athyrum, Dryopteris, Polystichum, Osmunda), 60 hollies (Ilex), 55 dogwoods (Cornus), 50 magnolias, 50 hellebores and 18 coneflowers (Echinacea) among many others.

In Memory of Bill Ballantine,
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Broecker

In Memory of Rondal Allen Bruce,
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Broecker

In Memory of Florence Citrynell,
World of Flowers Garden Club

In Memory of Suzanne North Hazelet Clark,
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rounsavall, III
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Burr

In Memory of Jenan Dorman,
Ms. Merrily Orsini

In Memory of Henry Levy,
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Palmer

In Memory of M/M D.Powell,
Ms. Nancy Blythe
Ms. Hollis Willig
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Wall, IV

In Memory of Ann Louise Rives,
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hermann

In Memory of Alpha White,
Mr. & Mrs. William Babbitt
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Ms. Linda Lough
Ms. Patricia R. Montgomery
Ms. Sara Jones Pope
Ms. Stephanie White
Ms. Stephanie White

In Honor of Suzette White,
Green Thumbs Garden Club

In Honor of Mrs. C. King McClure,
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Kulp, Jr.

In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. Pearse Lyons,
Yew Dell Gardens

3/1/2007 - 8/1/2007

MEMBERSHIP

Yes, I want to show my support of Yew Dell Gardens by becoming a member today.

- Virginia Bluebells (\$25/single membership)
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There is a full schedule planned for the coming year from classes and plant walks to garden trips, family fun events and more. And the only way to stay on top of it all is by becoming a member. On top of all the planned activities, remember that Yew Dell members receive generous discounts at many of the best garden centers in the area. Just one trip to the garden center this spring could pay for the year's membership. Of course it is also our membership support that helps us continue to grow and offer some of the best programming and plants in the region.

VOLUNTEERS

Caroline Breeden's love of gardening drew her to Yew Dell in its early stages of rehabilitation. Now, five years later, she comes to the gardens twice a week to help maintain the exceptional grounds.

In the beginning, she helped tear out runaway ivy and put in new plants, anticipating Yew Dell would be an educational environment.

"I have a large garden of my own, and I thought this would be a great place to learn," she said. She enjoys the



“Caroline is truly a gardener’s gardener...”

—Dr. Paul Cappiello, Yew Dell Gardens Executive Director

opportunity to learn more about the plants, as well as learning to identify insect damage.

Each week, Breeden comes to Yew Dell on Wednesday morning to tend to the Sunken Garden, then back on Thursday mornings to work on the Bloom Garden.

The Sunken Garden group has been coming on Wednesdays for some time, caring for the unique alpine-style rock garden. A lot of effort went into making the Sunken Garden the standout it is today, including removing the heavy clay soil and replacing it with a well-drained planting mix.

Breeden and the other Sunken Garden volunteers track the bloom time and performance of all plants, a major contribution to Yew Dell's ongoing evaluation and development program.

But working in the Sunken Garden, which looks out to Yew Dell's latest addition, the Bloom Garden, made Breeden realize her assistance was needed there as well.

"It was bad," she said. Just planted in September 2006, the Bloom Garden needed more attention to coax the plants into their best shape. She organized a group of volunteers, and began a three-hour session on Thursdays. "It's fun to work with everybody," she said. "You get a group together and everything goes faster." Working in a group means she meets a lot of nice people, she said, plus she sees the results of her work more immediately. Her hard efforts have not gone unnoticed by Yew Dell's staff.

"Caroline is truly a gardener's gardener," Dr. Paul Cappiello, Yew Dell's executive director, said. "She has incredible energy and uncommon focus and determination on her garden projects, but still manages to make it fun for herself and all the others around her."

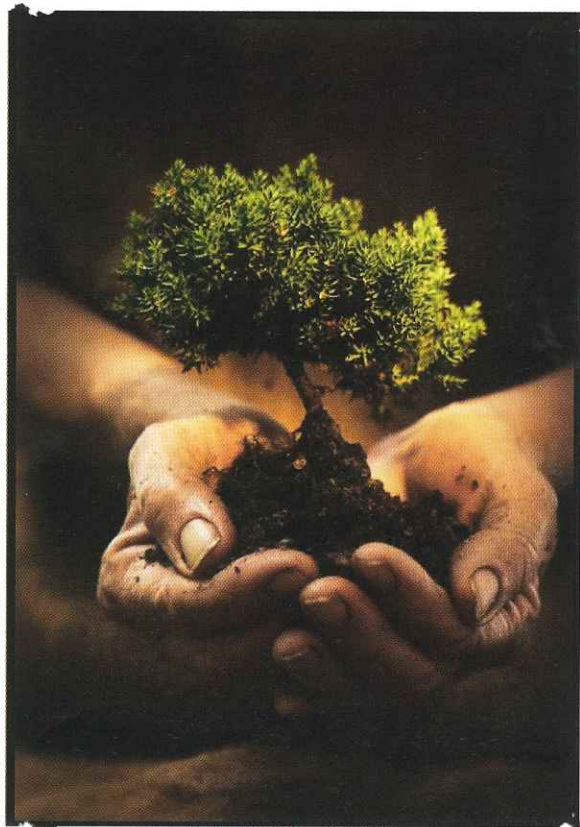
Now retired, Breeden likes to spend at least five hours a day in her own garden, trying to stay ahead of everything. Her experience at Yew Dell has given her additional skills to use at home, and her work at Yew Dell has definitely shaped it into the amazing place it is today.

If you're interested in helping in the Sunken Garden, Bloom Garden, or in any other aspect of Yew Dell Gardens, inside or outside, call or email volunteer coordinator Bonnie Heaton, 241-4788, bonnieh@yewdellgardens.org.



E. On U.S. volunteers spent a summer evening building monster compost bins at Yew Dell, as well as offering many hands in tending the new Bloom Garden

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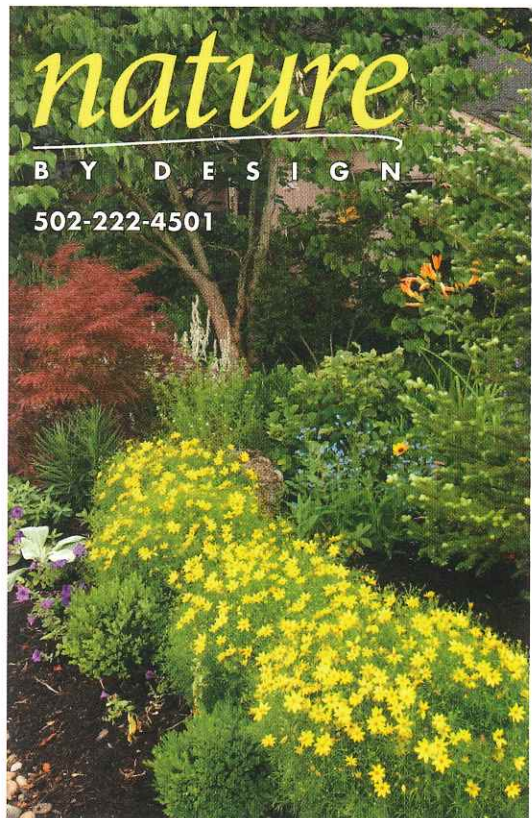
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a national, non-profit organization
founded to help preserve
America's exceptional gardens.

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The Castle Chronicles

YEW DELL, INC.

6220 Old LaGrange Road
Crestwood, KY 40014

OPEN HOURS

April through November:
Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

December through March:
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(502) 241-4788

Don't forget to include Yew Dell Gardens!

Yew Dell Gardens will be adorned with Holiday lights this season, and is the perfect choice for hosting your Holiday party – private or corporate. We'd love to have you!

Yew Dell has several facilities available for parties large or small. And our spectacular collection of evergreens means your guests will enjoy a lush seasonal landscape.

Call us for more information on renting the gardens for your event, 241.4788.

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