



20

23

**VOLUNTEER
YEARBOOK**



YEW DELL BOTANICAL GARDENS.



YEW DELL VOLUNTEERS TABLE OF CONTENTS 2023

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Dear Volunteers...

2023 was a year for the books! Our nursery expanded (a LOT), we added many new annual beds, our parking lot was paved, we began laying groundwork for the Capital Campaign project, our Weekly Workday and Nursery volunteer crews expanded, our garden staff increased, we got a new Nursery Manager, we launched our cut flower garden, we took a new horticultural approach to Yuletide decorations, we cleared room for a pavilion on the trails, we grew our docent program, we expanded Fairy Forest activities... It's difficult to point to an area of the grounds that didn't change this year. We couldn't achieve all of that without our magnificent volunteers. Please enjoy this reflection on the wonderful year we had. May the memories (and new-to-you moments!) bring you joy.

-Amanda Barnett, Volunteer & Website Coordinator



Thanks for an awesome 2023!



I know all you Yew Dell volunteers must get tired of hearing me say this – especially those of you who have volunteered for as long as (or longer than!) I've been at Yew Dell – but there's simply no way we could do all the amazing things we do each day, week, month and year, without your enthusiastic support. Whether it's pulling weeds, greeting visitors, organizing libraries, bushwacking trails or stuffing envelopes, each and every one of you is integral to all the success this place has enjoyed. You lighten our load and buoy our spirits.

As we move into 2024, all of us look forward to working with all of you to make the new year even better than the last!

- Dr. Paul Cappiello, Executive Director

2023 AT A GLANCE



485 Individual Volunteers
 2388 Volunteer Shifts
 5613 Donated Hours
 1327 Hours Driven*

How it compares

2022:

- 560 Individuals
- 2324 Shifts
- 5737 Hours
- 1360 Estimated Drive Hours*

Average hours donated per volunteer:

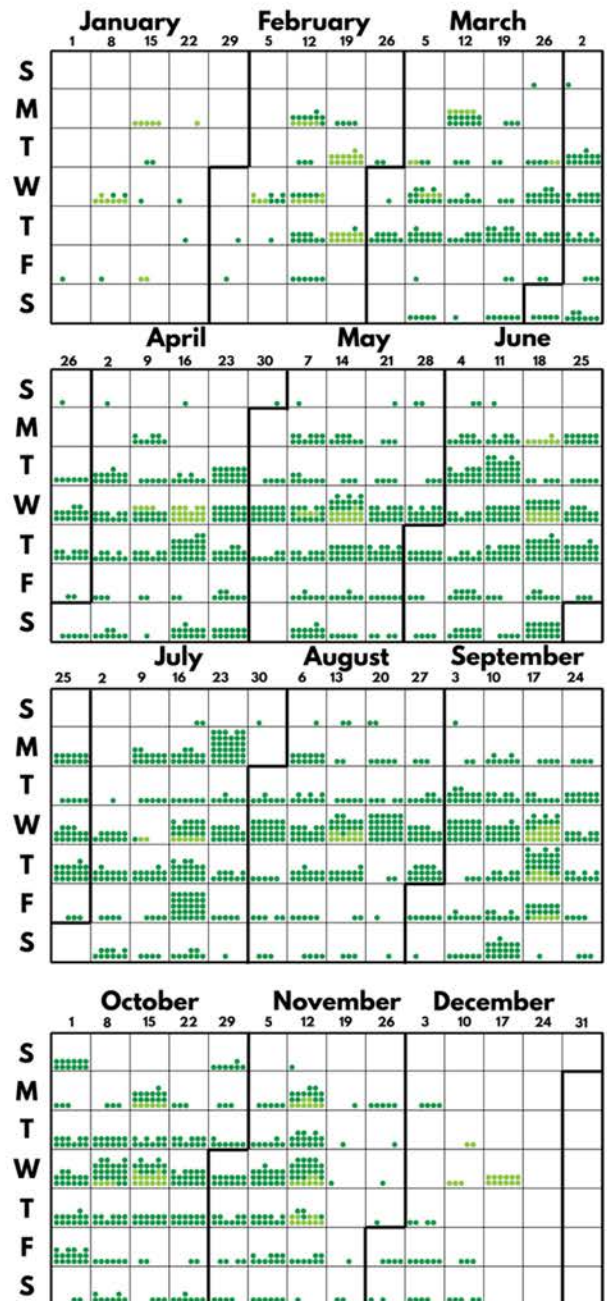
2022: 10.2 hours
 2023: 11.6 hours

What does it mean?

We saw fewer large groups this year, impacting our total headcount. However, we saw a huge jump in the average number of hours each volunteer donated. The conclusion? We had a tighter, more dedicated group of volunteers this year. THANK YEW!!

**This is the first year that we have calculated hours driven separately from volunteer hours. Until now, we've tracked them together because our first volunteers were primarily Master Gardeners who require this information. As our volunteer base has grown in size and diversity, this stat is no longer the best way to represent volunteer impact.*

Each dot below represents one person who donated time to Yew Dell each day. The lighter colored dots represent our board and committee members.



Volunteers by the

**N
U
M
B
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S**

Helped 180
Individuals
(>50 families)
with Children in
the Dell projects.



Events



Greeted nearly
1,000 guests with
the Cultural Pass
program (out of
the nearly 1,200
that visited!)

In the gardens...

**Wood
Chips: 30 yd³
(2 dump trucks)
covering the new
entrance path and
Serpentine
Garden**

**Pine Straw:
200 bags
(5 pallets of 40)
Covering over
20,000 ft² of
garden space**

**18,901
Bulbs
planted
(Perennial &
Annual)**

**Cedar
Mulch: 15 yd³
(1 dump truck)
Covering garden
paths**

**1,797
Photos
uploaded to
Database**

**2,609
Annuals
Planted**

In the nursery...

9,500 New plug transplants
110 New bare root specimens
potted
348 Peonies dug and potted
>600 Plants up-potted
>12,000 L of soil used

GARDEN ADOPTION PROGRAM

Each season Yew Dell garden volunteers help our horticulturists accomplish amazing things, from uncovering specimen trees in vines to installing entirely new garden beds, they do it all! Not only are they sweating and working hard alongside our staff, they're bringing new ideas, inspiration, knowledge, and being our cheerleaders every step of the way. Our community is stronger with volunteers at our core.

-Sayde Heckman
Garden & Arboretum Manager





“Yew Dell is the center of my gardening now. We left a nice garden when we moved here and there’s no room at home now. I get my gardening ‘fix’ every Wednesday at Yew Dell Gardens. And I can have my friends visit and enjoy gardens far better than I could ever create.”

- Bruce Murray

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS HIGHLIGHTS









IN THE COMMUNITY



(Top to bottom) Garden & Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, and volunteer, Jen Mendez interact with attendees at the Kentucky Science Center's Eat, Drink, Do Science Event.

Volunteer Patsy Harkess joined Volunteer & Website Coordinator, Amanda Barnett, at the April KAVA (Kentuckiana Association for Volunteer Administrators) meeting in which volunteer coordinators asked a diverse panel of volunteers questions about their volunteering experiences.

Volunteers Lisa LeCompte and Angela Callahan (not pictured), facilitated Yew Dell's booth at LaGrange's annual Oldham County Day event alongside Amanda Barnett. (bottom left)

Volunteer Jen Mendez helped set up our second annual Indoor Victorian Garden display at the Conrad-Caldwell House Museum.



Fairy Forest



Mail's here!

"Yew Dell Gardens is a hidden treasure that needs to be shared. As a volunteer for the Fairy Forest committee it is wonderful to hear and witness the excitement from children of all ages when they discover this hidden gem."

-Debbie Boklage



This year, we created a Fairy Forest Committee. These individuals committed to coming out weekly or bi-weekly to help maintain the Fairy Forest and keep it spiffy for visitors of all ages!

"I love volunteering at Yew Dell because it gives me a creative outlet, and allows me to become acquainted with so many wonderful volunteers who share the passion to make all things Yew Dell first rate. I also love interacting with visitors young, old and in-between!"

-Lynne Dowling



IN THE GARDENS

"[Volunteering] brings so much beauty into my life! A typical volunteer day always includes photos. I know a few people who look out for my posts on social media every Thursday!"

-Mary Beirne

SPRING



SUMMER





FALL



VOLUNTEER DOCENTS



After a bit of a respite and slow-down due to the pandemic, our docent program is on the rise! We have new volunteers joining the program and expanded the docent opportunities to take place almost every day we're open!



HEAR FROM A DOCENT:

"My favorite thing about volunteering at Yew Dell is spreading information about various ways people can enjoy the garden. I always mention the Fairy Forest, Big Bloom, Bourbon and Botanicals, and how to buy plants from Yew Dell. In the fall, I describe Boo Dell (Halloween), and Yuletide (Santa with a train and magical garden lights). Whenever possible, I inform visitors that Yew Dell's membership offers FREE entrance to over 200 Botanical gardens within the U.S."

-Judy Vetovitz



BEHIND THE SCENES VOLUNTEERS

<<< Data Assistant, Kathy Jarboe, and Volunteer, Carol Baldwin, work together monthly to stuff membership renewal mailings.



Volunteer Maria Margulis has been quietly working behind the scenes on a special project with Garden & Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman. Maria has been coming in weekly to capture stunning images of plants in specific gardens, tracking certain aspects (flowers, stems, bark, etc.) that Sayde can then utilize in our plant database, IrisBG. In the near future, these images and maps of the plantings will be accessible by visitors to the gardens through our website!



LIBRARY

Volunteer Angela Callahan has been working throughout the year to organize Yew Dell's library to make it easier to use and a more accessible resource. >>>



GROUP VOLUNTEERS



GROUP VOLUNTEERS



Before



After!

Not pictured: Girl Scout Troop 3288 and Alpha Phi Omega

BEYOND THE GARDENS

SPALDING CAPSTONE PROJECT

Our partnership with Spalding University's Auerbach School of Occupational Therapy continued this fall. Doctoral candidate, Katie Kutrubis, spent the entire semester with us, exploring ways for our staff and volunteers to adapt gardening activities to be accessible to a greater variety of individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. She left us with many helpful tips, a reference guide, educational materials, and a strengthened passion throughout our team to continue expanding our inclusion efforts!



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

As I'm reviewing 2023, I am staggered by the variety of ways that Volunteers support our Programs and Events throughout the year! Here's my running list of appreciation for your efforts, in loose calendar order:

- Docenting** for group tours
- Plant Sales** - for sharing your incredible knowledge and your muscles
- Fairy Forest** - for ongoing beautification and Fairy Day
- Children in the Dell** hands-on activities
- Cultural Pass** welcomes and check-ins
- Twilight** prep and day-of support
- Boo Dell** setups and staffing our booth
- Yuletide** prep and day-of support

Thank you once again
for all that you do!!

-Susan Lucas,
Event and Program Manager





Twilight in the Garden

Twilight is our single largest fundraiser each year dedicated to raising money to support the day-to-day operations and projects of Yew Dell. Volunteers played a huge part, both behind the scenes and the night of. Twilight committee members (from our board, volunteers, and community) met throughout the year to help organize the event, source auction items, and find sponsors. It was a wildly successful and fun evening!



Pictured (top to bottom) event volunteers dressed to the T. for Twilight, Amanda drives golf cart for volunteers in dress and heels, volunteers help assemble "party favors" for Twilight in the Garden guests (left two), and prep centerpiece vases.

Events & Prep



From left column to right:

Plant Sales

Fairy Day (prep and activities)

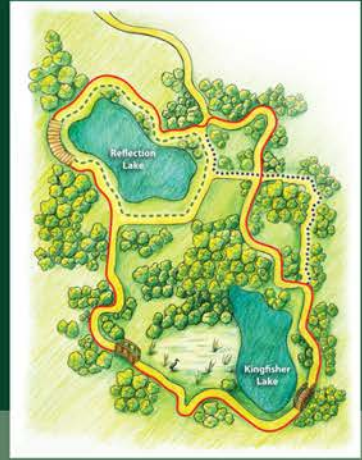
Yuletide décor creation (crafting dried materials into horticultural decorations)



Woodland Clearing

Group volunteers like the ones from Insight Global (pictured to the left) worked diligently this year to create new and tidy established clearings and vistas along our Woodland Trails. The largest of these is intended to house a new pavilion.

We're excited for this covered structure to live on our trails as a picnic or even event destination! The next time you visit our trails, look for the large clearing to the north of Kingfisher Lake to see it for yourself!



Home Garden Tours

Volunteers Kate Pfeifer and Andrea Eisenbrei along with staff members Sayde Heckman and Jacob Stidham welcomed volunteers and staff to tour their home gardens this summer. Hearing a chorus of "I got this at Yew Dell" throughout each tour was music to our ears and inspiration to our eyes and future garden planning!



CULTURAL GARDEN FLOWER

This year, we followed the vision of staff member, Jill Tinius, to grow cut flowers. Our goal? Letting people take a piece of the garden home with them! One of our newest volunteers (who has a history of working with cut flowers!), Carol Evans, took on the job of helping Jill care for the garden throughout the season.



FROM HERE TO THERE: A NURSERY JOURNEY

Since I started at Yew Dell in 2018 we have grown an actual nursery from the ground up, tens of thousands of plants, and many meaningful relationships with volunteers that have helped along the way. 2023 was another banner year in the nursery with the irrigation project coming to completion and the next (and biggest) greenhouse breaking ground. It also saw me step out of the nursery on a day to day basis and turn the reins over to Jeff who will be steering the ship from here. I look forward to seeing the growth the nursery and volunteer relationships have with him and Cosmo going forward!

- Jacob Stidham
Director of Horticulture & Facilities



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIPS

This year, we continued our partnership with Arvin Academy's Young Adult Transition Program (left). They had volunteers come out every week during the fall semester to work in the garden and tackled the project of assembling 600 craft kits for our Yuletide event!

We also had the pure pleasure of partnering with The Gathering Club Adult Day Health Services. Their volunteers came out once a month this year to volunteer in the gardens and learn more about nature and gardening. They were very fun to work with! (right)

2022 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Kate Pfeifer

When we discussed which volunteers stood out in 2022 to be considered for title of "Volunteer of the Year", the answer was nearly unanimous. Kate has been adopting a garden since the beginning of the Garden Adoption Program, but in 2022 she decided that wasn't enough. She began coming in an additional day every week to help in the nursery, signed up for décor and event preparation shifts, and attended more Saturday Workdays than anyone else (completely ruining anyone else's chances at a 'Weekend Warrior' award).



2022 GOLDEN TUB TRUG: BEHIND THE SCENES

Jen Mendez

In 2022, Jen dove into several significant behind-the-scenes roles. She truly shone in her work with our Twilight committee, dedicating numerous hours to creating stunning centerpieces for the tables. Additionally, she provided invaluable support to the Fairy Forest by repairing the houses and taking the initiative to come out on a weekly basis to maintain the Fairy Forest. Her dedication inspired the creation of the Fairy Forest Committee.



2022 GOLDEN TUB TRUG: HORTICULTURE

Millstone Garden Adoption Group

This group joined GAP in 2021, choosing their garden because they believed it needed the most attention, and their love for it is truly evident. In 2022, they worked so diligently that they even ran out of weeds to pull (if you can believe it), and had the opportunity to assist staff with plant curation in their area. Their exceptional dedication prompted the creation of a new award when it was observed that they "filled the most Tub Trugs with debris this year."



Monthly Volunteer Spotlights



Maria Margulis



Jack Marcum



Maxine Stoehr



Holly Cooper



Pat Hawley



Mike & Susan Gaul



Jim Gerdes



Abby Potter



Katie Kutrubis



Mary Beirne



Judy Hoge



Kathy Westgate

Meet our 2023 Team! Volunteers

Below you'll find every individual who donated at least ten hours as a volunteer to the gardens. This could be physically onsite, volunteering for school groups, building a fairy house, or any other number of tasks as demonstrated throughout this yearbook.



◆ Jacob Acevedo
Volunteer since 2023



Carol Baldwin
Volunteer Since 2019



🌱 Mary Beirne
Volunteer since 2021



Debbie Boklage
Volunteer since 2020



◆ Sophia Brown
Volunteer since 2023



🗑️ ◆ Rachel Bryan
Volunteer since 2023



🌱 Debbie Bunger
Volunteer since 2016



🌱 Wendy Butler
Volunteer since 2020



◆ Dianne Bynum
Volunteer since 2023



Angela Callahan
Volunteer since 2022



◆ Diane Campbell
Volunteer since 2023



◆ Katie Clifford
Volunteer since 2023



◆ Paula Cohn
Volunteer since 2023



🌱 Holly Cooper
Volunteer since 2002



🗑️ Dustin Cox
Volunteer since 2019



Volunteers



✦ Lizzie Darling
Volunteer since 2023



Bill Dowling
Volunteer since 2021



Lynne Dowling
Volunteer since 2021



✦ Henry Downs
Volunteer since 2023



✦ Andrea Eisenbrei
Volunteer since 2013



🏠 Carolyn Embry
Volunteer since 2017



🏠 John Embry
Volunteer since 2017



✦ Carol Evans
Volunteer since 2023



🗑️ Gina Gabrian
Volunteer since 2018



Mike gaul
Volunteer since 2022



Susan Gaul
Volunteer since 2022



✦ Jim Gerdes
Volunteer since 2023



✦ John Hajj
Volunteer since 2023



🗑️ Patsy Harkess
Volunteer since 2002



🗑️ Barbara Hartung
Volunteer since 2014



Jacquelyn Hawkins-McGrail
Volunteer since 2006



Pat Hawley
Volunteer since 2020



🗑️ Molly Hensel
Volunteer since 2013



✦ Ewanthi Hettiaratchi
Volunteer since 2023



🗑️ Ed Hill
Volunteer since 2020



✦ Judy Hoge
Volunteer since 2023



Kim Katz
Volunteer since 2022



🏠 Dave Keller
Volunteer since 2014



🏠 Wes Krupiczewicz
Volunteer since 2010



✦ Katie Kutrubis
Volunteer since 2023

Volunteers



 Susan Lancaster
Volunteer since 2016



 Lisa LeCompte
Volunteer since 2022



 Sandy Liles
Volunteer since 2021



 Jill Manning
Volunteer since 2008



 Charlotte Marcum
Volunteer since 2023



 Jack Marcum
Volunteer since 2006




Maria Margulis
Volunteer since 2017



Carol Matton
Volunteer since 2018



 Jeannie McMillan
Volunteer since 2023



Jen Mendez
Volunteer since 2019



 Janice Morgan
Volunteer since 2005




Brook Morse
Volunteer since 2020




Catilin Morton
Volunteer since 2022



 Ben Moseley
Volunteer since 2023




 Bruce Murray
Volunteer since 2014



 Linda Myers
Volunteer since 2018



 Larry Nix
Volunteer since 2017



 Kathryn Pasquenza
Volunteer since: 2015



 Katie Petry
Volunteer since 2023



 Kate Pfeifer
Volunteer since 2015



 Austin Pope
Volunteer since 2019



Abby Potter
Volunteer since 2022



 Cathy Reynolds
Volunteer since 2021



 Germaine Russo
Volunteer since 2023



Henry Ryan
Volunteer since 2022

Volunteers



Ellen Sears
Volunteer since 2020



Sharon Sengelaub
Volunteer since 2017



Blake Stasick
Volunteer since 2017



Judy Steinhauer
Volunteer since 2004



Ron Steinhauer
Volunteer since 2006



◆ Paige Stettler
Volunteer since 2023



Emma Stidham
Volunteer since 2019



Wyatt Stidham
Volunteer since 2022



◆ Maxine Stoehr
Volunteer since 2018



◆ Marty Thieneman
Volunteer since 2023



♻️ Fran Tiller
Volunteer since 2007



Martha Trotter
Volunteer since 2007



🏠 Judy Vetovitz
Volunteer since 2014



♻️ Dan Westgate
Volunteer since 2021



♻️ Kathy Westgate
Volunteer since 2021



♻️ LeeAnn Whites
Volunteer since 2021



♻️ Eva Woodruff
Volunteer since 2021



◆ Johnice
Volunteer since: 2023



◆ Marisa
Volunteer since 2023



◆ Robricay
Volunteer since 2018



◆ Christian
Volunteer since 2023

2023 Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors are among our most dedicated “behind-the-scenes” members of our volunteer community. They attend and conduct monthly meetings, sit on committees that help run our organization and development initiatives, and help promote Yew Dell amongst a variety of communities in the Kentuckiana area. We could not do what we do without their commitment, guidance, and support.



Lisa Barr
President



Rob Nunnelley
Vice President



Rosemary Kirkwood
Secretary



Barret Birnsteel
*Treasurer & Finance
Committee Chair*



Nell Bradley
Executive Committee



Fahr Juneja
Executive Committee



Mary Rounsavall
Executive Committee



Mary Broecker



Sue Brown



Shannon Budnick



Pat Dwyer



jana Dowds



Martha Hargis
*Twilight Committee
Chair*



Sarah Cronan Spurlock
*Governance Committee
Chair*



Mary Anne
Thornton



Sally Vail
*Development
Committee Chair*



Marianne Welch

Staff



Lisa Allen
VC Asst. Manager



Tony Ascheman
BG Assisant



Manda Barger
Marketing & PR
Manager



Amanda Barnett
Volunteer & Web
Coord.



Darlene Bohannon
VC Associate



Cosmo Bosela
Nursery Assistant



Amanda Brockie
Event Staff



Dr. Paul Cappeillo
Executive Director



Debbie Elmy
VC Associate



Storm Fraley
Garden Assistant



Sayde Heckman
Garden & Arboretum
Manager



Chelsea Hicks
Gardener



Barbs Hoffman
Café Associate



Madge Huecker
VC Manager



Kathy Jarboe
Database Assistant



Brad Kessans
BG Maintenance
Tech.



Alison Kurnik
Event Staff



Susan Lucas
Event & Program
Manager



Jeff Margreiter
Nursery &
Greenhouse Manager



Matthew McBride
Café Associate



Stephanie Parker
Grounds Assistant



Holly Rogers
Director of Finance &
Operations



Laura Ryan
Café & Event Staff



Marsha Simonyi
Café Associate



TJ Slaughter
Director of
Development



Shannon Stark
Event Staff



Jacob Stidham
Director of Horticulture
& Facilities



Jill Tinius
Guest Services &
Rental Coordinator



Peggy Winkler
VC Associate

THANK YEW!







**Our mission is to
spark a passion for
plants and gardening through
accessible science and
inspiring beauty.**

