

WINTER

2026



Winter is the perfect time to explore the Glasshouse – where this stunning plant and so many others thrive in the warmth of the season.

Mother of Thousands
(*Kalanchoe daigremontiana*)

 YEW
DELL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS™



“And don’t think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It’s quiet, but the roots down there are riotous.”

— Rumi

A Note from Our Executive Director

The Vulcan Mind Meld



During my grad school days, I spent many a late, late night sitting in the lab, waiting for some mad scientist biochemistry procedure to run its course. I passed the time half writing and half watching old black and white reruns of Star Trek. And while my all-time favorite technology from the show would be the transporter (imagine not having to deal with airports or airlines!), a close second would be Mr. Spock's "Vulcan mind meld." A finely honed craft, he could just place his fingers on the subject's temple, and the two minds would become one – providing the practitioner access to the full slate of the subject's knowledge and life experience.

The Orwellian potential of such an ability notwithstanding, what a cool way to transfer a lifetime of accumulated garden knowledge from one person or one generation to the next.

Don't worry. We're not planning to subject all future Yew Dell visitors to an uninvited cerebral invasion, but in the pages of this newsletter, we attempt to offer the next best thing. We've asked some of our garden staff to reach into their voluminous bag of garden knowledge and pull out a few gems to pass along for your consideration as you spend the long winter evenings planning for the coming season. You might even think of it as having first engineer, Scotty, pulling a few more horsepower out of your horticultural warp drive.

Whether you're making plans for the veggie garden, expanding a perennial garden or thinking of trying your hand at growing some cut flowers for the first time, we've pulled together a few good starting points. New varieties. Start-up kits. Even staff favorites from our heirloom tomato program.

It's not exactly a mind meld. But we hope it gives you a nudge to try something new, do something different, or look at the garden in a different way.

Live long and prosper!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Exappielle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a mix of upper and lowercase letters.

Straight from the Gardener

Cut Flower Varieties for the Home Gardener



Jill Tinius
Cut Flower Guru

Growing your own cut flowers is all the rage these days. So, we asked Yew Dell resident cut flower guru, Jill Tinius, for a few recommendations for the home cut flower grower. If you've never tried it before, cutting fresh flowers from your own garden is one of the great joys of gardening at home. Here are a few of Jill's recommendations.



Zinnias
(*Zinnia elegans*)

There are several zinnia species out there, but this Mexican native is a must. Available in a rainbow of colors, sizes and forms, they are easy to grow and the more you cut them the more they flower.

2025 selections – 'Ballerina' and 'Queen Lemon Peach'



Cosmos
(*Cosmos bipinnatus*)

Another Mexican native, Cosmos come in shades of white to pink/rose and offer delicate foliage that adds an elegant touch to arrangements.

2025 selections – 'Versailles Red' and 'Afternoon White'



African Marigolds
(*Tagetes erecta*)

These are big, robust and dependable for cutting. Two- to three-inch flowers in yellow to orange bloom on plants that grow three to four feet tall. You can cut them all summer long. They are also great for drying and the bright petals can be used for home dye projects.

2025 selections – 'Coco Gold' and 'Giant Orange'



Gomphrena or Globe Amaranth
(*Gomphrena globosa*)

These delightful little globes come in white, pink, screaming fuchsia and even red(ish). Thin, wiry stems produce little balls of cheer all through the summer. They are great for drying as well as fresh arrangements.

2025 selections – 'QIS Orange' and 'QIS Carmine'



Celosia or Cock's Comb
(*Celosia argentea*)

Large, feathery plumes of yellow, peach, orange and red offer a delightfully fun and delicate touch. And for something entirely different, the crested forms (*C. argentea var cristata*) are wildly weird and fun, looking like a hunk of dry-land coral on a stick!



The Garden Opens Tuesday, March 3!

We're excited to open the gates for another year at Yew Dell on Tuesday, March 3 – a year of blooms, learning and the kind of inspiration that only a garden can bring. Each season offers something new to discover, whether it's a plant you've never noticed before or an idea to take home to your own backyard.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2026 Spring Plant Sale
Friday, April 24, Saturday, April 25



Classes and Events



Castle Embroidery in the Castle

Saturday, March 7 | 11a.m.–3:30p.m.

Members \$40, Non-Members \$50

In collaboration with the Louisville chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, join us inside Yew Dell's iconic Castle to capture its beauty in stitches. Choose your favorite season and create a custom embroidery piece using provided patterns and stitch ideas for all four seasons.

Note: This intermediate workshop is open to ages 10 and up. Participants should know at least one basic stitch (straight, back or stem/outline); additional stitches will be taught. Each ticket includes all supplies: pre-drawn ground cloth, 8" hoop, needles, DMC cotton floss and scissors. Please bring lighting or magnification if needed.

Celebrating Pi Day

Saturday, March 14 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Included with Admission

Join us for a fun day celebrating Pi – and pie – in the Gardens! Pi, the mathematical constant (ratio of a circle's circumference and diameter) is evident all around the gardens. We'll have a special scavenger hunt focused on the many millstones Theodore Klein collected and placed throughout the grounds, and our Martha Lee's Café will feature pie dishes like chicken pot pie, quiche and hand pies.

Tool Sharpening with Paul Cappiello and Carl Heimerdinger

Saturday, March 14 | Noon–2p.m.

Members \$50, Non-Members \$60

Get your gardening tools ready for spring planting! Executive Director, Paul Cappiello, and Heimerdinger Cutlery President, Carl Heimerdinger, will share the art of sharpening all your garden hand tools from pruners and loppers to spades and hoes. Bring a few of your ailing tools, and Paul and Carl will try to rescue as many as time allows.



Basics of Chocolate Making

Sunday, March 15 | 1–3p.m.

Members \$50, Non-Members \$60 (includes all supplies)

Back by popular demand, we're celebrating American Chocolate Week once again with Jennifer Simpson, founder and creative mastermind behind the ever-decadent Oldham County Small Batch Chocolate. Watch as Jennifer demonstrates her chocolate-making process, and then each participant will get to hand dip spring-themed treats to take and enjoy at home.

Note: Workshop is suitable for ages 10 and older. Due to space constraints, each participant will be required to purchase a ticket.



Seed Starting Workshop with Jeff Margreiter

Saturday, March 21 | 10a.m.–Noon

Members \$60, Non-Members \$70 (includes all supplies)

Plant Production Pro/Nursery & Greenhouse Manager Jeff Margreiter shares the tricks of the trade to give your seeds the highest chance of success. Learn how to choose the best flower and veggie seeds, how best to plant them and proper watering and light conditions. Participants will go home with a tray of seeds to grow at home.



Nursery Open House and Early Bloomer Sale

Saturday, March 28 | 10a.m.–4p.m.

Sunday, March 29 | Noon–4 p.m.

Included with admission

We had so much interest last year that we're expanding to two days of Nursery Open House fun! Take this opportunity to peek behind the curtains in the Nursery, get recommendations from our horticulture staff and purchase a few hellebores, spring wildflowers and an awesome collection of other early bloomers while they are strutting their early season stuff.



Croatia Travelogue Dinner with Paul Cappiello

Sunday, March 29 | 4-6p.m.

Members \$85, Non-Members \$95

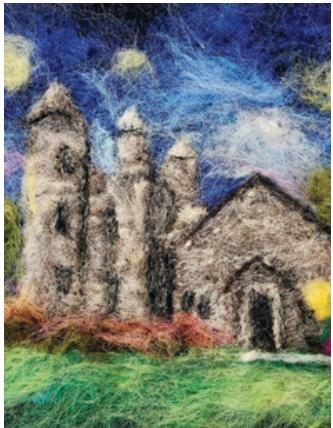
Travelogue Dinner Returns! Join Yew Dell Executive Director Paul Cappiello for a horticultural and culinary romp through the Dalmatian Coast. From the natural history of the region to the plants that have contributed so much to our gardens and diets, this lecture will leave you wanting to plan your own trip. And Chef Mike Ross will dial up a Mediterranean feast that will have you drooling with delight.

Needle Felting: The Castle at Yew Dell

Saturday, April 11 | 10a.m.–Noon

Members \$50, Non-Members \$60 (includes all supplies)

Join Norma Drish, Gallery Manager and Teaching Artist at The Little Loomhouse, for a fun, beginner-friendly needle-felting session inspired by Yew Dell's iconic Castle! Create your own 5" x 7" wool-felted design as Norma guides you step-by-step through the process of this beautiful fiber art. Workshop is suitable for ages 10 and older. Due to space restraints, each participant will be required to purchase a ticket.



Saturday Plant Walks

Saturdays, 1–2p.m. | March 7–November 28

Included with Admission

Our popular Saturday Plant Walks return for 2026! Level up your gardening skills or just enjoy a guided plant walk with our horticulture staff – every Saturday! Themes vary with the seasons, and each week will be slightly different, based upon what is blooming or showing off. So, bring your questions and join us for an amazing season!

March	Arboretum – Enjoy early spring among this diverse and magical tree and shrub collection
April	Spring Blooms – Enjoy the Big Bloom, magnolias (if the weather cooperates!) and more
May	Nursery – Get a behind-the-scenes look at where all those amazing plants come from
June	Seed Collecting – Learn the tricks of the trade from our plant pros
July	Edible Plants – Bring your appetite!
August	Summer Annuals – Join this walk to learn which are the winners and losers for 2026
September	Drought Tolerance – If a plant looks good in September, it's likely a good plant!
October	Fall Pollinators – The overlooked pollinator season. Can you say garden mum?
November	Winter Interest – Pick up ideas to juice up your garden for the cooler months

Sunday Plant Walks

Sundays, 1–2p.m. | March 8–April 26

Included with Admission

Early spring in the gardens is a magical and fleeting time, worthy of its own moment in the spotlight! Time to see Yew Dell's collections of spring ephemerals, hellebores, magnolias and early blooming woodys, as well as watching the Big Bloom unfold one layer at a time. Every Sunday throughout March and April grab your favorite spring sweater and explore the beauty of the spring garden with the horticulture team.

March Spring Blooms

April Big Bloom 2026



Ready to Learn?

Scan and Sign Up!

Classes fill up quickly. All listed programs are scheduled to be in-person unless otherwise noted.

Discover Winter at Yew Dell

Twelve quiet wonders to lift your spirits this season.

■ January ■ February ■ March



1 **Lenten Rose**
(*Helleborus niger* and *nigercorpus*)

Millstone and
Secret Gardens



2 **Witchhazel**
(*Hamamelis*)

Entrance
Gardens



3 **Persian Ironwood**
(*Parrotia persica*)

Arboretum
North



4 **Magnolia**
(*Magnolia* species)

Arboretum
South



5 **Daffodil**
(*Narcissus* species)

Gardens



6 **Hellebore**
(*Helleborus*)

Visitor Center, Glen Shade,
Millstone and Secret Gardens



7 **Snowdrop**
(*Galanthus* species)

Visitor Center, Beech Path
and Rockhouse Gardens



8 **Summer Annual
Cuttings**

Glasshouse



9 **Fritillary**
(*Fritillaria imperialis* 'Rubra')

Castle and Rockhouse
Gardens



10 **Hyacinth**
(*Hyacinthus*)

Gardens



11 **Bright Gem**
(*Tulipa batalinii*)

Glasshouse Terrace, Greenroof
and Sunken Rock Garden



12 **Cornelian Cherry Dogwood**
(*Cornus officinalis*)

Arboretum South
and Front Gate



We're
Rooting
for You!

From Martha Lee's Café:

The Easiest Eggnog Ever

With the winter holidays approaching, it is nice to have some make-ahead food and drinks for all the festivities. This is a delicious make-ahead eggnog that will surely delight everyone. You can make this eggnog two weeks to a month before it's needed and store it in your fridge in an airtight container.

Ingredients:

12 egg yolks
4 cups sugar
1 tablespoon fresh grated nutmeg
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
2 pints heavy cream
1 pint whole milk
2 cups bourbon
1 cup spiced Jamaican rum
½ teaspoon Kosher salt

Directions:

Cream eggs and sugar in a large mixing bowl. In a separate large bowl, whisk together remaining ingredients. Add egg mixture to milk and booze mixture. Transfer to an airtight container. Refrigerate for two weeks or up to a month. This will let the alcohol mellow. Serve in your choice of glassware. Finish with more freshly grated nutmeg and a cinnamon stick.



Notes from the Nursery

After a record 2025, Yew Dell's Plant Market is ready to explode – in a good way. Our nursery team has been busy seeding, rooting, potting and generally propagating just about anything that stands still for more than 10 seconds – all to bring you the best-ever collection of plants for the coming season. Here are a few dates and details you'll want to consider.



Plant Market Drop–Perennials

Tuesday, February 10 | 10a.m.

Sun perennials, shade perennials, woodland wildflowers, ferns, you name it, we'll have it. While we'll certainly list additional offerings throughout the spring and summer, the bulk will hit the Plant Market in our February drop so get on it before things sell out. Nursery Manager, Jeff Margreiter, and his team have assembled an amazing list this year.

A few groups to look for include the Theodore Klein Plant Award winners – that annual list of best performers that has been making garden plant recommendations for our region for more than 25 years. There's our Super Pollinator list that will help you pack your garden with plants for everything from hummingbirds to butterflies, bees and a menagerie of all those other non-headliner pollinators. And if you have shade, we'll be **adding a long list of very cool and unusual shade perennials from Polygonatum (Solomon Seal) to Arisaema (Jack-in-the-pulpit), many that we've rarely offered before.**

Plant Market Drop–Awesome Annuals and Heirloom Edibles

Thursday, March 12 | 10a.m.

So close to the edible garden season we can almost taste it! To help scratch that itch early we offer our Heirloom Tomato and Hot (and sweet) Pepper pre-order program. **Nick Boysel** joined our nursery team last year and brought with him an amazing background in vegetable farming. We're excited to share the collection he chose to grow this year. Here are a few of his top tomato and pepper picks you'll want to check out – see them to the right!



Top Heirloom Tomato and Hot (and sweet) Peppers



Tomato 'Queen of the Night'

Amazing black/orange, sweet and productive salad tomato.



Tomato 'Brad's Atomic Grape'

Fabulous oblong cherry tomato with streaks of green, black and orange.



Tomato 'Rosella'

Tiny but highly productive rose/purple cherry variety for cooking or fresh eating.



Sweet Pepper 'Lunchbox'

This small and sweet offering is perfectly named – but not just for lunch!



Hot Pepper 'Anaheim'

Mildly hot with a notably smokey flavor, the perfect pepper for grilling. Commonly used in Southwestern cuisine.



Hot Pepper 'Fish'

Hot but not as hot as Scotch Bonnet – this variegated offering has streaked and striped fruit and leaves, adding a showy touch to the veggie garden.

And let's not overlook those Awesome Annuals! We're known for our perennials in both the gardens and the nursery but Director of Horticulture and Facilities, Jacob Stidham, makes sure to be an advocate and champion of those plants we change out every year. Here are his top three annuals that were winners for us in 2025:



Salvia 'White Flame' (Salvia)

Delicate spikes of white that work well in the ground and in containers. The bumblebees love this one.



Alternanthera brasiliiana 'Purple Prince' (Joseph's Coat)

Fantastic purple-foliaged spreader for pots or beds.



Cuphea hyssopifolia 'Allyson Heather'

Amazing, foot-tall mass of glossy green foliage and rose/purple flowers. Loves the heat, and the pollinators love it.

Rooted in YEW

What does a volunteer programme mean to me?

What does it mean to YEW?

A volunteer program, in theory and in practice, can take many shapes! The contours of such a program are typically outlined by an organization that will utilize labor from passionate, invested and knowledgeable people who have decided to give of their time, energy and expertise.

For some time, I've had the opportunity to work with volunteers at a variety of organizations, and I can say now with six(ish) months under my belt, Yew Dell volunteers are different. While embodying all the characteristics outlined above, I've witnessed an integral distinction that I'd like to share.



Newcomer volunteer Mary Doyle and Education and Volunteer Coordinator Emma Bryan were matching one day in their embroidered denim jackets!

One of my favorite activities at Yew Dell is taking a walk around the garden in the mornings to hear all the chatter happening as volunteers and staff plunge their hands into the dirt. I overhear bits and pieces of conversations that sound something like, "Remember that trip we took to Williamsburg?" or "What are you most excited about as you start your freshman year of college?" There is knowledge-sharing, identifying poison

ivy, dumping tub-trugs full of weeds and reminding one another to take a water break. We work in tandem and lean on one another, all while trying our darndest to keep the weeds at bay, plants from wilting in the hot summer sun or making sure those bulbs are planted correctly so they'll come up for Big Bloom in the spring. These conversations are born out of existing relationships between colleagues, long-time volunteers, siblings, but oftentimes, between complete strangers.

I think what makes Yew Dell volunteers different from my experience with other organizations is our collective connection to this place. Each of us have found ourselves here and feel called or connected by one thing or another. Maybe you love plants, maybe you love this region, maybe you knew Theodore and Martha Lee Klein (maybe you're their grandchild), maybe you want connection to like-minded people, maybe you just need to get out of the house, maybe you know or knew someone on our staff or maybe you need volunteer hours for a Master Gardener program or BETA club. Regardless of how we got here, we are here. Together. Working toward a common goal.

I feel very grateful to have the opportunity to know and learn from all of you. Thank you for making this place full of life, for keeping the Klein family legacy alive, for helping our gardens grow, both literally and metaphorically, and for welcoming me into this space.

I am SO excited about the 2026 growing season and all we'll accomplish in tandem. Cheers.



Interested in getting involved?

Scan the code for more information, or email Emma Bryan at emmab@yewdellgardens.org.



An all-star Weekly Workday group. From left: Ellen Redmon, Steven Klug and Beth Linder with Garden Assistant Rhiannon Cruz.



Emma and Holly Cooper, Garden Adoption Volunteer and granddaughter of Theodore and Martha Lee Klein, share a hug at Twilight 2025.



Long-time volunteer Bruce Murray and Yew Dell's Pest Management Specialist share a sweet moment on a fall morning in the garden.



These volunteers ROCKED our Girl Scout Patch Day in September. From left: Eva Woodruff, Debbie Lorence, Judy Vetovitz, Judy Steinhauer and Lisa LeCompte. Not pictured, but a huge help on Patch Day, is Susan Lancaster!

SAVE THE DATE

Yew Dell's Volunteer Celebration is Saturday, February 28, 2026. Stay tuned for a 2025 Volunteer Season recap in the Spring Newsletter!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025

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We're so grateful for the businesses that stand beside us at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens. Your generosity and partnership help us bring classes, events and garden experiences to life. We truly couldn't grow without you!

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2026 Theodore Klein Plant Awards

Kentucky's top plant pros offer an annual list of best plants for Kentucky gardens.



Shade Tree

Hybrid Elms
(*Ulmus*)

The best hybrids of this diverse group adapt well to a wide range of soils and have excellent disease tolerance. Quality summer foliage and bronze to golden fall color. Some of the best-performing selections include: 'Frontier', 'Patriot', and 'Prospector'.



Small Tree

Red Buckeye
(*Aesculus pavia*)

Exquisite small tree or large shrub growing 10 to 20 feet tall, primarily grown for its red spring flowers. Prefers full sun or light shade and is tolerant of acid and slightly alkaline soils. A favorite flower of spring migrating Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.



Shrub

Panicle Hydrangea
(*Hydrangea paniculata*)

This mainstay of the summer garden is represented in the market by an ever-increasing list of new selections. Ranging from three feet tall to more than 15 feet, and available in flower colors from green to white and deep pink depending on variety. Full sun to light shade in about any reasonable soil.



Sun Perennial

'Jeana' Tall Phlox
(*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana')

Considered the best tall phlox for mildew resistance, pollinator attraction and overall garden performance. Plants mature at three to five feet tall and from July to September are covered with rose/lavender, lightly fragrant flowers. Top rated variety in trials at Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware.



Shade Perennial

Dwarf Crested Iris
(*Iris cristata*)

Delightful spring denizen of the eastern hardwood forest, this little iris tops out at about eight inches tall with arching, gray/green foliage and blue flowers. Does well in light shade and tolerates dry summer conditions. Excellent cultivars include 'Powder Blue Giant', 'Tennessee White', 'Shenandoah Sky' and 'Navy Blue Gem'.

See 26 years of
Klein Award winners
on our website!



Rooted in Membership

Our members make everything at Yew Dell possible – from the gardens we all love to the programs that inspire new generations of gardeners. As we look toward another year of growth, we invite you to renew your membership or share the beauty of Yew Dell by gifting one to a friend.

Memberships help us keep the gardens blooming, the classes running and the gates open to all who seek a little beauty and inspiration.

Renew, gift and grow together.



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Plant the First Seeds of Spring with Help from the Garden Gift Shop

Baby, it's cold outside—the perfect time to start dreaming of spring! We'll once again be stocking seeds from Hudson Valley, including a great mix of early edibles and colorful blooms. Each packet is beautifully illustrated and filled with all the growing details you need to get started. See you in March!

