YEW DELL BOTANICAL GARDENS™

SPARKING A PASSION
SINCE 2002

Chrysanthemum 'Gethsemane Moonlight'

FALL 2026

CRESTWOOD KENTUCKY

" Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."

Emily Brontë

***Ginkgo biloba*, commonly called the maidenhair tree, is considered a living fossil. It is the only surviving member of a group of ancient plants believed to have inhabited the earth up to 150 million years ago.**

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One day recently, our guru of HR and office systems, Megan Wallace, brought me two sheets of paper to sign – to approve the hiring of employees #39 and 40. Forty staff! Somewhere along the lines, Yew Dell grew up.

What that means to you is that this newsletter is always filled with multiple voices. Chef Mike from Martha Lee's Café is always ready to share a garden-inspired recipe. Nursery manager, Jeff Margreiter, shares the process he and his wife went through to renovate a garden in front of their new house. The tireless work of program czar, Susan Lucas, is always front and center whether it's the Bourbon and Botanicals music series or Yuletide. Of course, I always manage to get in my 2 cents, somewhere . . .

But what the growing and diverse staff at Yew Dell also means to you is that every time you visit the grounds, you have a wealth of expertise to seek out. Looking for the perfect gift for that difficult-to-buy-for friend? Our shop folks are experts at it. Need a deer-proof plant recommendation for your garden? We have plenty of opinions to share. Our café staff are happy to share a few tips on how to make your own pawpaw or basil soda (even though you might not like the pawpaw cleaning part) We can even share a few secrets for the perfect marriage proposal spot on the grounds.

Even within our staff, the synergy grows every day. Our nursery crew was recently looking for seed of our native passion vine (*Passiflora caerulea*) and they knew there were none growing in the nursery. Enter Cosmo Bosela from our grounds department. He noticed a passion vine growing on one of our back fences while he was out mowing grass. Problem solved!

Your generosity and support have helped us grow up from a tiny start-up organization just a short time ago to a diverse and vibrant staff of 40 (and counting . . .)

And we're happy to return the favor anytime

Happy Gardening!

Paul Cappiello

FALL 2026

CLASSES
WALKS
EVENTS
DEMOS

OCT · NOV · DEC

OCTOBER

CONSERVATION PATCH DAY
Saturday, October 3, 10am-Noon

Whether your young conservationist is in scouting or just loves the outdoors, this is a great opportunity to feed their passion for nature. Five stations, earth-friendly tips and a chance to earn an original Yew Dell Conservation Patch. Suitable for individuals or groups.

$22 per Child Participant includes Admission
Accompanying Adult General Admission: $12 Non-member / Free for Member

POLLINATOR PAIRS: AN ADULT & CHILD WORKSHOP
Saturday, October 10, 10am–Noon

Join Oldham Conservation District's Mason Quiram for a presentation about pollinators, protection tips and the Conservation District's pollinator garden cost share program. Includes a pollinator plant.

$30 Member Pair / $40 General Admission Pair

PERENNIAL DIVISION WORKSHOP
Saturday, October 17, 10am–Noon

Nursery and Greenhouse Manager Jeff Margreiter will lead this annual hands-on favorite. You'll learn the tricks of perennial plant division and take home five perennial clumps for your own garden.

$60 Member / $70 General Admission

WRAPPING UP BLUEBIRD SEASON
Saturday, October 17, 2–3:30pm

Join Phil Tamplin of the Kentucky Bluebird Society for this informative and engaging walk around the gardens. Learn about the wonders of Fall bluebird activity and inspect nesting boxes along the way.

$15 Member / $25 General Admission

Boo Dell at Yew Dell

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, NOON-4PM

Costume up and join in the fun at this annual celebration of the season. Enjoy the Trail of Treats, hands-on activities and family-friendly surprises throughout the gardens.

INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

WEEKLY WEEKEND HAPPENINGS

INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

SUNDAY EDIBLE GARDEN DEMOS Enjoy this weekly pop-up activity featuring Fall's garden bounty. **Thru October 25, Noon-2pm**

SATURDAY PLANT WALKS Join our horticulture staff for this weekly garden walk featuring Fall pollinators in the garden and plants that will jazz up your winter garden. **Thru November 28, 1-2:00pm**

NOVEMBER

FALL CONTAINER BULB WORKSHOP
Saturday, November 7, 10am–Noon

Plant a spring masterpiece this fall. Each participant will plant a layered bulb container with several types of bulbs. Includes: container, bulbs, planting mix and an afternoon of garden fun.

$75 Member / $85 General Admission

DRIED FLORAL ORNAMENTS WORKSHOP
Saturday, November 14, 10am–Noon

Join our horticulture staff for a morning of garden crafting. You'll make holiday ornaments with flowers dried from the Yew Dell Gardens. Includes a decorative box for gifting.

$75 Member / $85 General Admission

Yuletide at Yew Dell

DECEMBER

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 19
CHOOSE TIMES 5-7PM OR 6:30-8:30 PM

Enjoy the gardens adorned with holiday lights and music, the winter Model Train Village, kid crafts, Community Partner holiday tree display (vote for your favorite!), visits with Santa and free hot chocolate, with adult beverage upgrades available for purchase.

NEW! For the first time we will have house-made S'mores kits to cook over a camp fire. And join in the fun of themed weekends including: Matching Pajamas, Ugly Sweaters, Holiday Characters or Victorian Ghostly Characters. Nightly prizes awarded. Visit the website for details and to purchase tickets - they do go quickly!

NEW!
WE'VE EXPANDED AN ANNUAL HOLIDAY CLASSIC TO INCLUDE TWO NEW EDITIONS

CLASSIC HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING
Saturdays, December 5 & 12, 10am–Noon (or) 2–4pm

Each workshop features the freshest greens harvested from Yew Dell and includes all the bows and decorations you'll need. Plus, you'll have Yew Dell's horticulture staff to guide you along the way.

$100 Member / $110 Non-Member

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING: WASSAIL AND WINE EDITION
Thursday, December 3 / Tuesday, December 15, 5–7pm

Enjoy the season with wreath making, adult beverages and a chance to walk the garden filled with lights and music for the season.

$135 Member / $145 Non-Member

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING: DATE NIGHT EDITION
Thursday, December 10, 5–7pm

The perfect holiday-themed date night out. Make a wreath and enjoy some holiday cheer. Afterwards, enjoy a romantic walk through the garden filled with lights and music.

$170 Member Pair / $180 General Admission Pair

Seasonal Shopping at the Garden Gift Shop gives in many ways.

Enjoy holiday shopping with a purpose. Skip the rush at the the malls and give gifts that give twice. Every purchase supports Yew Dell's mission and the gardens you enjoy. Plus, Members enjoy a discount on most items.

AS THE SEASONS CHANGE, WE INVITE YOU TO SEEK, FIND AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BEAUTY OF HORTICULTURE AT YEW DELL.

Japanese Beautyberry
Callicarpa dichotoma

Hardy Garden Mum
Chrysanthemum

Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida 'pointsett'

Tatarian Aster
Aster tataricus

Orange Winterberry Holly
Ilex verticillata

Tea Vibrunum
Viburnum setigerum

Seven Son Flower
Heptacodium miconioides

Aromatic Aster
Symphyotrichum oblongifolius

Big Leaf Magnolia
Magnolia macrophylla

Winterberry Holly
Ilex verticillata

Common Witchhazel
Hamamelis virginiana

Chinese Ironwood
Parrotia subaequalis

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF THE SEASON

Something for Everyone at Yew Dell

Mission message time at Twilight in the Garden

'Boo Dell at Yew Dell' afternoon of family fun

'Bourbon & Botanicals' Summer Music Series

The Castle Garden hitting full swing for the season

Yew Dell cut flower subscription bouquets headed for pick-up at the Visitor Center

Emma Bryan spreading some PawPaw love at a Sunday 'Edible Garden Demo'

Family fun in the Gardens

'Secret Garden Party' Summer Event

Nature-inspired crafts at 'Children in the Dell'

'Bourbon & Botanicals' Summer Music Series

Tractor Fun at the Farmers Market

Helen, Director of Pest Management

Above: Bourbon & Botanicals music lovers
Right: 'The Big Bloom' features nearly 30K bulbs

Yew Dell welcomes the Louisville Girls Walking Club

Silent Auction Bidding at Twilight in the Garden

Fabulous Fridays Farmers Market goers.

Impact 100 Louisville women meeting in the Gheens Barn

Left 1: 'Seed Starting Workshop'
Left 2: Scouts harvest beets during a Sunday 'Edible Garden Demo'

CULTIVATING YEW DELL GARDENS FOR CONTINUED GROWTH

THE GENEROSITY OF THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YEW DELL TO CONTINUE TO GROW, INSPIRE, EDUCATE AND CONNECT.

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WINLAND FOODS

AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, we often find ourselves reflecting on the places and experiences that brought us joy, inspiration, and connection and thinking about where we want to make a difference in the year ahead.

We hope Yew Dell Botanical Gardens is one of those places for you.

A garden may look effortless, but its beauty takes all kinds of unique care and boundless amounts of energy. Every day, our team works to nurture extraordinary plants, preserve historic landscapes and buildings, maintain trails and gardens, and create a place where people can slow down, explore, learn, and simply enjoy being outside.

Your support makes that possible.

When you make a gift to Yew Dell, you are helping care for a living garden. You are supporting educational programs that inspire children and adults to discover the natural world.

You are helping preserve the Castle and the legacy of Theodore and Martha Lee Klein. And you are ensuring that Yew Dell remains a welcoming place for our community now and for generations to come.

More than two decades ago, people came together to save this remarkable place. Their generosity created the Yew Dell we know and love today. We have the distinct privilege to carry that legacy forward.

As you consider your year-end giving, we invite you to make a gift to Yew Dell.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps this special place grow, thrive, and welcomes the next generation.

Thank you for believing in Yew Dell and for being part of the community that makes it possible.

Together, we are cultivating beauty, learning, connection, and joy—one season at a time.

Please know we are here and welcome your call.

STACY GORDON-FUNK
DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY
StacyG@YewDellGardens.org
502-537-2549

IN JUST EIGHT SHORT MONTHS working at Yew Dell, I've had the privilege of experiencing three seasons. I've watched the landscape transform, discovered new corners of the gardens, and witnessed the joy this amazing place brings to so many.

With each change in the landscape, there's always something new to notice, celebrate, and love about Yew Dell - and most importantly a garden to share with the community.

Partnerships aren't measured solely by the size of a contribution—they're measured by shared values, relationships, and a commitment to making our region a better place to live, work, and grow. Every partnership matters and every partner has something meaningful to contribute. Our neighbors matter!

That belief inspired our *Rooted Together: Neighbor 2 Neighbor Partnership Program*. Strong communities grow through connection. *Neighbor 2 Neighbor* brings together local businesses, organizations, and community leaders who believe in supporting one another while investing in the future of our community.

More than a sponsorship program, *Neighbor 2 Neighbor* is an opportunity to build lasting relationships, create meaningful collaborations, and celebrate the organizations that make our community stronger. Through networking events, shared visibility, and opportunities to connect, our partners become part of a growing network that supports both Yew Dell Botanical Gardens and the people we serve.

Whether you're a family-owned business, a nonprofit organization, a growing company, or an established corporation, there is a place for you at Yew Dell. Partnerships of every size make a difference, and together we can create lasting impact.

I invite you to learn more about how your organization can become part of our growing *Neighbor 2 Neighbor* network. To start the conversation, please reach out:

JILL MARIE SCHIERBAUM
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
JillMarieS@YewDellGardens.org
502.241.4788 x1018

A PERSONAL INVITATION TO GROW TOGETHER

ROOTED TOGETHER: NEIGHBOR 2 NEIGHBOR PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

BIG LEAGUE ROOFERS
CITYPLACE
HALLMARK HOUSE
HANDY MAN REPAIR, CRESTWOOD
HOME ORGANIZING MADE EASY, CRESTWOOD
KENTUCKY JUNK RESCUE
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HOME GARDEN RENOVATION: AUTUMN STYLE

JEFFREY MARGREITER
NURSERY & GREENHOUSE MANAGER

My wife Anna Claire and I purchased our first home last June and since both of us have horticulture-related backgrounds we had high ambitions for our home garden. Ripping off the band-aid of an existing landscape can be intimidating, even for those who do it for a living.

The existing landscaping along the front of our home consisted solely of a boring hedge of boxwoods – hardly the kind of biological and aesthetic diversity we envisioned. They were immediately removed and stumps ground to make way for a colorful and diverse variety of perennials sourced primarily from those grown in the nursery at Yew Dell. The front beds are full sun, so our plant choices had to suit.

As gardeners, so many of us immediately think Spring however the timing of our house purchase along with our appreciation for the benefits of Fall planting conspired to direct us toward tackling the front yard right away rather than waiting.

It felt like a daunting task to create a new garden from scratch, especially with so many great plants to choose from, but the results have been remarkable and well worth the effort. We were elated at the first sighting of emerging Spring foliage and in the months to follow we watched garden beds of initial sparse greenery transform into a lush panoply of vibrant blooms.

OUR PLANTING LIST INCLUDED STANDOUTS FROM THE YEW DELL NURSERY TRIALS

- (1) *GEUM COCCINEUM 'KOI'* (AVENS)
- (2) *RUDBECKIA MAXIMA* (GIANT CONEFLOWER)
- (3) *STOKESIA LAEVIS* (STOKE'S ASTER)
- *ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM* 'SASSY SUMMER TAFFY' (YARROW)
- *COREOPSIS VERTICILLATA* 'MOONBEAM' (TICKSEED)
- *SYMPHYOTRICHUM OBLONGIFOLIUM* 'OCTOBER SKIES' (FRAGRANT ASTER)

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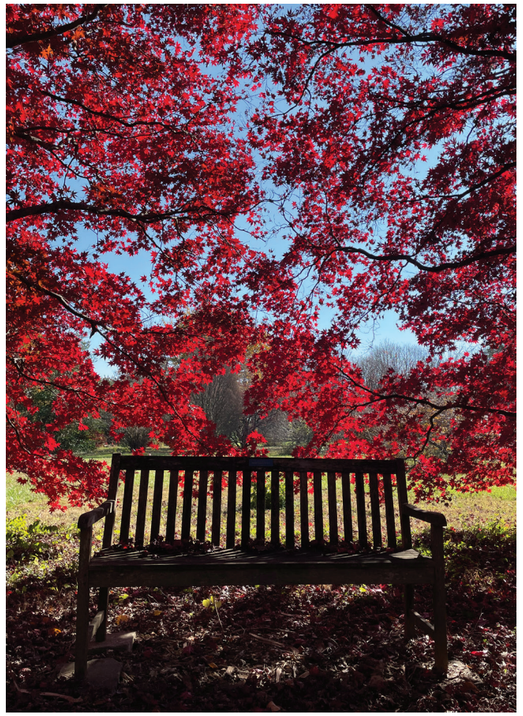
THE GREAT LEAF DEBATE

PAUL CAPPIELLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AS GARDENERS, WE ALL WANT TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE PLANET WE CALL HOME. And we pay attention to the messaging that comes out of the horticultural glitterati around the country so when confronted with a dilemma, we consider all the key implications, short and long term. But sometimes it can feel a bit like we're caught in a never-ending margarine/butter or paper/plastic debate.



For generations, the standard advice to home gardeners was to clean up the leaves in fall. Old, brown and decaying leaves left all winter in a garden bed provides a source of disease inoculum that can exacerbate especially foliar disease problems next spring. Made total sense. No Brainer. Clean up every last leaf in your beds before the snow starts to fly.

But over the last 25 years or so we started to hear a different voice. Leaving the old leaves in garden beds gives all the beneficial creepy crawlies out there a place to overwinter, breed more beneficial creepy crawlies and generally put you, the gardener, in line for a Nobel Prize of conservation and concern. And who can't get behind that? Some research even went so far as to suggest that naturally decaying leaves left right in place for the winter, could actually decrease some fungal disease problems in future seasons. Certainly, there are nutritional benefits to allowing all those lovely organic acids and nutrients released from decaying leaves to filter down through the layers of your garden soil.

But I live on one eleventh of an acre of land – 60% of which is taken up by house, driveway and garage. And I have big trees . . . and my neighbors have big trees . . . and so do theirs. If I didn't rake and bag most of my leaves, they'd consume my house up to the second floor windows!

THE ANSWER, AS IS ALMOST ALWAYS THE CASE IN GARDENING, IS EQUAL MEASURES OF COMMON SENSE AND MODERATION. ABSOLUTES RARELY WORK.

GREAT LEAF DEBATE DECISION RUBRIC

- LAWNS AND LEAVES DON'T MIX. IF YOU WANT A NICE LAWN, YOU'LL HAVE TO REMOVE THE LEAVES.
- MULCH WHEN YOU CAN. IF YOU DON'T HAVE TOO MANY LEAVES, USE YOUR LAWNMOWER TO MULCH THE LEAVES AND PROVIDE A NICE ORGANIC BOOST TO THE LAWN.
- LEAVES IN BEDS? LEAVES MAKE A GREAT MULCH FOR SHRUB AND PERENNIAL BEDS BUT BEST WHEN FIRST RUN THROUGH A SHREDDER/MULCHER. THE SMALLER PARTICLES STILL HELP THE CREEPY CRAWLIES, THEY DON'T SMOTHER SMALLER PLANTS, AND THEY BREAK DOWN FASTER TO RELEASE NUTRIENTS TO THE SOIL.
- TOO MANY TO DEAL WITH? MANY MUNICIPALITIES COLLECT AND COMPOST LEAVES. REUSABLE CONTAINERS ARE BEST IF ALLOWED. IF YOUR COMMUNITY REQUIRES BAGS, USE COMPOSTABLE PAPER BAGS.

CHEF MIKE'S ULTIMATE HOT CHOCOLATE TOPPING

CREATE A SIMPLE MARSHMALLOW FLUFF TO ELEVATE HOT CHOCOLATE IN THE SEASON TO COME

WINTER WILL SOON BE UPON US and nothing is better on a chilly day than Hot Chocolate. I enjoy making a simple marshmallow fluff to top mine. It is an easy way to elevate an everyday experience during the holiday season.

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 large egg whites
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla Bean Paste

INSTRUCTIONS

Set up a Double Boiler: Put an inch of water in a pot and bring it to a simmer on the stove. Place a heat-proof metal bowl on top of the pot. Make sure the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water.

Melt the Sugar: Add the egg whites, sugar, and cream of tartar to the bowl. Whisk constantly for about 5 minutes until the sugar dissolves completely, and no granules remain — or the mixture reaches 160°F.

Whip into Fluff: Remove the bowl from the heat. Add the vanilla bean paste. Use a hand mixer or stand mixer with a whisk attachment. Whip on high speed for 5 minutes until stiff, glossy peaks form. Enjoy!

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VOLUNTEERS GET IT DONE

GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELP US THRIVE

Our devoted volunteers work year-around to help our staff keep Yew Dell shining. Please give them a shout out next time you're in the Gardens.

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM

JENNY WARD
VISITOR CENTER ASSOCIATE

Joined the Visitor Center team in June, bringing a wealth of experience and a natural warmth to every visitor interaction. She has quickly become a welcoming presence, adding great style and a friendly smile to every visit.

ANGELINA YARBERRY
FOOD SERVICE COOK

Angelina joined Yew Dell in June, bringing her experience, creativity and love of good food to the Martha Lee's Café team. She has already made her mark with fresh ideas and delicious creations, including our seasonal, handcrafted pawpaw soda.

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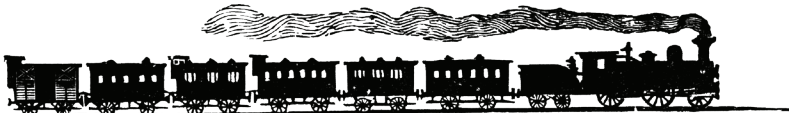

SPECIAL THANKS TO UNITED DIRECT SOLUTIONS, INC.

NOVEMBER 27-28 // DECEMBER 4-5 // DECEMBER 11-12 // DECEMBER 18-19

A WINTER WONDERLAND WITH MAGICAL OUTDOOR LIGHT DISPLAYS
FOUR WEEKENDS ON FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS

Yuletide at Yew Dell

The magic of the season is in the air during Yuletide, a month-long winter festival that celebrates light, community, and the return of longer days during the darkest time of year.

Yew Dell welcomes you to experience an iconic Model Train Village, Community Partner Light Displays, a variety of Craft Projects, and Seasonal Treats served up warm and delicious from Martha Lee's Café.

MORE DETAILS FOR THE UPCOMING EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE THREE.
TICKET SALES FOR YULETIDE HAVE LAUNCHED, VISIT US ONLINE

YewDellGardens.org/yuletide/