

FALL

2020

**NATURE
ISN'T
CANCELED**



**YEW
DELL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS**

SEEK BEAUTY EVERY DAY

BEAUTY IS NECESSARY

In a world that is increasingly stressful, it is important to take time to seek beauty. Yew Dell Botanical Gardens strives to provide a place of peace, beauty and respite for our community. We invite you to come unplug and reconnect with nature.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

To say that the last six months have been a challenge would have to be considered leading candidate for understatement for the year. No matter where you are, what you do and how you roll, we've all had to learn new ways to think, to act, to do our jobs and to take care of each other. It's times like this that we also learn how essential it is to spend some of that effort taking care of ourselves, too.

Amidst all the revised messaging and reworking of our programs and publications this year, one of our staff came up with the line, "nature is the friend you can still spend time with" and it instantly struck me as one of the best lines for the times. But the more I think about it, the editor in me just can't resist. Rather than a friend you *can* spend time with, I think the challenges of 2020 have taught us that nature, and gardens, are friends we *have* to spend time with.

At a place like Yew Dell, you can strip away the programs and the research, the solar/geothermal greenhouses and the growing nursery operation . . . all the headline bits and pieces that we rightly and proudly tout all the time. But with all that pulled back, what it leaves behind is the simple tranquil beauty that sits at the center of what places like Yew Dell offer. It doesn't require a brochure, a website, a drone or a docent. It requires nothing more than each one of us taking the time to put him or herself in a place that will feed the senses and nurture the soul.

A garden, like a beach, a shaded wood or a mountain pass, has curative and restorative powers beyond our ability

to fully understand. But fortunately, especially at times like this, it is not beyond our ability to put to good and essential use.

So this fall, pay us a visit or two. Take a walk in the woods. Sit on the shore of the river. But spend some time with that friend that has so much to offer us all—nature.

Happy Gardening,

Paul Cappiello



CLASSES AND EVENTS



TWILIGHT IN THE GARDENS - VIRTUAL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

6:30 PM • *ONLINE AUCTION WILL OPEN ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE*

Our annual fundraiser to support our gardens and mission is moving online this year. We will have an online auction of rare and unusual plants, and other garden-centric items opening on Friday, September 18th, giving participants a week to bid. On Friday, September 25th, we will have a brief virtual program highlighting our mission. We encourage you to tune in for a re-imagined Yew Dell experience you won't want to miss!



FALL PLANT SALE - VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7: MEMBERS ONLY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8: GENERAL PUBLIC

We decided to turn our Fall Plant Sale into an online sale just as we did in the Spring! We'll email a secret password to our current members before it goes live so you can access the online market at 9am on October 7th for a full day of members only shopping. We'll open it up to the general public at 9am on the 8th. So make sure your membership is current, we have your correct email and get ready to shop!

DESIGN A TREE JOURNAL - VIRTUAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

1:00 PM-4:00 PM • \$35/\$45 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

INCLUDES A KIT

Join Joanne Price, Founder and Creative Director at Starpointe Studio, for a family-friendly session on making two blank Tree Journals or Sketchbooks. Participants will learn two binding techniques (pamphlet stitch and Japanese side-stab binding) for their journals.

TREE TALK WITH THE EXPERTS - VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

6:00 PM-7:30 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

A half dozen of our region's best tree minds will come together for this virtual master class in tree selection.

PLANT WALK: SPOOKY, WEIRD & UNUSUAL - IN PERSON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:00 AM-10:00 AM • \$5/\$10 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Take a stroll with our Horticulture Apprentices through displays that include spooky and interesting plants with dark and magical pasts. Limited to 6 people.

TREE PLANTING BASICS - VIRTUAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

11:00 AM-12:30 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Join Nursery and Greenhouse Manager, Jacob Stidham, and his wife Emma Stidham, for an overview workshop about planting trees.

GARDENING IN THE FALL - VIRTUAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

10:30 AM-12:00 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Learn how to garden for the fall and winter months with Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman.

SECRET LIFE OF TREES - VIRTUAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

1:00 PM-2:30 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Taught by long-time volunteer, Jacquelyn McGrail, this workshop will explore the fascinating secret world of trees and their connectivity to the "wood wide web".



WREATH MAKING - VIRTUAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

11:00 AM-12:30 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/ NON-MEMBER

Due to the popularity of our annual Wreath Making workshops, Nursery and Greenhouse Manager, Jacob Stidham, is reconfiguring this year's workshop to a virtual format.

YULETIDE - IN PERSON

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY NOV 27-29 & DEC 4-6

4:30 PM-7:30 PM • *MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE AS EVENT DRAWS NEAR.*

Mark your calendars for our annual holiday celebration! We are working out the details to make sure this event is a safe and fun in-person experience for the whole family.

YEAR-ROUND PRODUCE GARDENING - VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:00 PM-7:30 PM • \$10/\$20 - MEMBER/NON-MEMBER

Horticulture Apprentice, Cassidie Cartwright, leads the discussion on how to grow your own food year-round.

EXPERIENCE YEW DELL

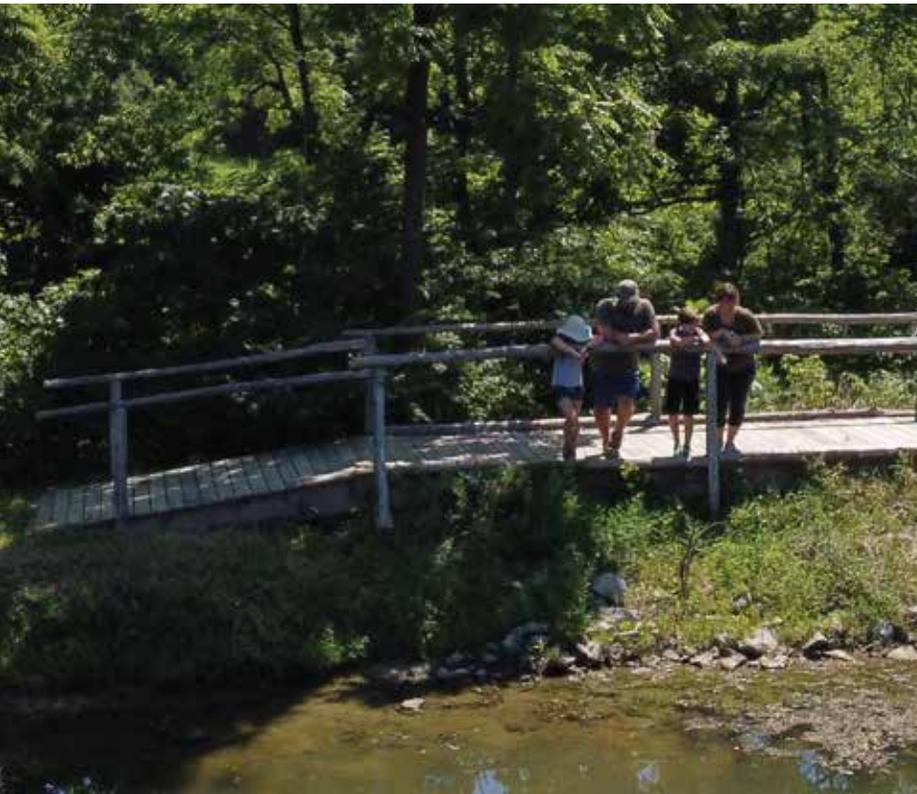
IN LIEU OF BOO DELL

For the safety of our visitors, we have decided to cancel Boo Dell this year. We are going to miss having our community vendors out for the Trail-O-Treats, Karl's hayride in the arboretum and other festivities that typically happen on the last Saturday in October. However, we still plan to make fall an amazing time to visit the gardens.

Beginning mid-October, we will have our **fall fairy house display**—a magical fairy village made with pumpkins and gourds. **Scarecrows** will return to the gardens this year. Children can check out a **tree activity backpack** through the Visitors Center. We will also hide ghosts throughout the arboretum for our popular **ArBOOretum scavenger hunt!**

Our horticulture staff and volunteers created fantastic fall garden displays to celebrate the season. In early September, Garden and Arboretum Manager, Sayde Heckman, and the rest of the horticulture crew, ripped out the summer annual displays in the Walled Garden and Kitchen Garden and planted fall crops. The transformation in these spaces is worth planning a visit!

Whether it's educational, to shop the garden gift shop, buy plants or to simply enjoy the beauty of the season, we encourage you to come experience Yew Dell this fall. *Nature isn't canceled.* Check social media and emails for updates.



WOODLAND TRAILS

With more than a mile of hiking trails, three ponds and wildlife galore, our Woodland Trails are the perfect place to enjoy an afternoon this fall. Most of what is now Yew Dell's natural areas were productive pasture and farm fields during the heyday of the Klein farm and nursery. The ponds were built to provide water for farm animals. What you see today is the result of some 30+ years of regrowth after the Klein family stopped grazing livestock on the fields. You can still see signs of that past activity in the form of old fences and common fence-row plants such as Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). The Woodland trails now have bridges and benches built by Eagle Scouts and the trails are maintained by horticulture staff and volunteers.

You can access this area through a gate at the base of the meadow below the castle.



SAYDE'S
PICK

Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree
(*Ginkgo biloba*)



SAYDE'S
PICK

Chinese Ironwood
(*Parrotia subaequalis*)



JACOB'S
PICK

Yellowwood
(*Cladrastis kentukea*)



JACOB'S
PICK

Black Gum
(*Nyssa sylvatica*)

STAFF PICKS FOR FALL COLOR

LEAVES

GINGKO (*GINGKO BILOBA*) BY SAYDE HECKMAN GARDEN & ARBORETUM MANAGER

The first thing that comes to mind when I think fall is the amazing, brilliant, yellow color of the Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree—*Ginkgo biloba*. This large tree is the only living species of the division *Ginkgophyta* (more closely related to pine and spruce than it is to maples) and is often referred to as a living fossil—it was around during the time of *T. rex* and friends! It is a deciduous tree that can reach up to 100 feet tall and 60 feet wide. With its stunning fan shaped leaves, beautiful bark and outstanding structure it is a conversation piece in every season. Many cultivars of *Ginkgo biloba* are now on the market offering dwarfs and columnar selections better suited to smaller gardens and even containers! My favorite thing about this tree is that its green leaves turn bright yellow all at once and then drop to the ground, leaving a carpet of yellow beneath.

CHINESE IRONWOOD (*PARROTTIA SUBAEQUALIS*)

Parrotia subaequalis . . . what is there not to love about this plant? Chinese Ironwood is highly endangered in its native range of central China—in fact there are only a handful of plants left in the wild. It was first discovered in the wild and brought into cultivation only about 30 years ago and Yew Dell has one of the first plants grown in the US sitting happily in the Glen Garden. In cultivation it grows to become a medium-sized tree reaching 25-35' tall and 15-20' wide. When it comes to fall color, this plant ranks number 1! The fall color ranges from deep red to burgundy, changing gradually throughout the fall season and lasting until frost. In fact it is the first plant in the garden to turn and the last to lose its color. And if you thought it stopped there, it doesn't. This tree also holds onto its leaves until spring, providing amazing texture for the winter garden! We are working with Ohio nurseryman Tim Brotzman to evaluate the 5 different clones that are in cultivation to eventually introduce the best one into the nursery/landscape industry.

YELLOWWOOD (*GLADRASTIS KENTUKEA*) BY JACOB STIDHAM NURSERY & GREENHOUSE MANAGER

An amazing native tree (in sparse areas of KY) that can grow 2-3' a year. Once the tree is mature it can be covered in fragrant clusters of white flowers that hang down similar to the black locust. Although named after the color of its heartwood it also boasts a beautiful yellow fall color. More unique is how this tree drops all of the leaflets from its compound leaves first and retains the leaf rachis (leaf stem) which makes the tree look like it is covered in yellow fiber optic sticks on the branches for several weeks before winter!

BLACK GUM (*NYSSA SYLVATICA*)

Black Gum is a tough native that provides fruit for wildlife, shows off with eye popping fall color, and provides a stately silhouette with its branches in winter. There are several selected cultivars on the market including 'Wildfire' and 'Hayman's Red' (Red Rage®) which was selected by Louisville's own Mike Hayman. If you want a truly unusual selection of this fall beauty, check out 'Zydeco Twist.' This cultivar has contorted and twisted limbs and was discovered in Louisiana and aptly named after the Creole music found in the area.



American Beech
(*Fagus grandifolia*)

BARK

BY PAUL CAPPIELLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When most people think about garden features of plants they're generally thinking about flowers, sometimes leaves and less frequently, fruit. Bark rarely makes the list. And that's a real shame. Bark is there through rain and snow and gloom of night . . . It performs its protective function and never asks for a thing in return. But when the leaves drop and winter moves in, its the perfect time of year to give bark a little love.

Here are a couple of favorites from opposite sides of the planet.

AMERICAN BEECH (*FAGUS GRANDIFOLIA*)

Maybe it has something to do with having grown up 20 miles from midtown Manhattan surrounded by mature beech forest. Maybe it's just that its bark is simply fabulous. Either way, I love it. American beech has a stunningly simple, smooth, light gray bark that is all too often marred by the pen knife of high school sweethearts or anyone else with a pair of initials. But the clean and clear, unadulterated trunk of a mature beech is quite simply one of the joys of a walk in the woods. When the leaves are green, the trunks give a majestic contrast. When leaves fall, the trunks stand there, seeming to throw down the gauntlet to winter's worst, "go ahead, give me your best shot!" And honestly, it's just about impossible to walk through a mature beech wood without giving one a great big hug. Beeches of all flavors require a reasonable soil, even moisture and are a bit slow to establish. They are intolerant of soil compaction or other soil disturbance. They don't have basketball-sized flowers or showy fruit. But their bark . . . that by itself makes it worth growing one in your garden.



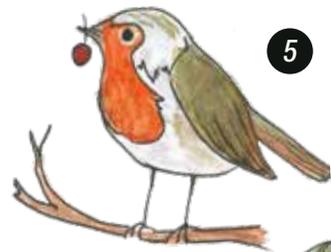
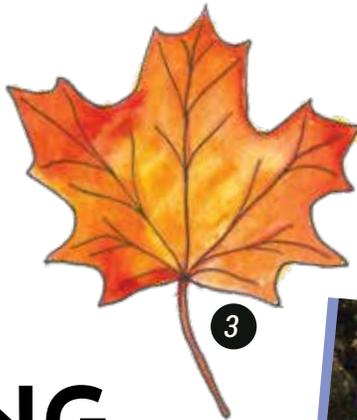
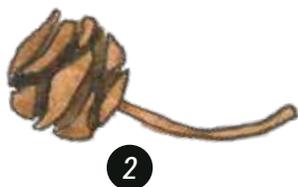
Japanese stewartia
(*Stewartia pseudocamelia*)

JAPANESE STEWARTIA (*STEWARTIA PSEUDOCAMELIA*)

While the American beech's bark is subtle and sublime, the stewartia's is just plain stunning. Young plants start out with a not-very-distinguished gray/brown offering. But as plants age, they develop a striking patchwork of copper, cinnamon, tan, a bit of red and some almost white as well. It is an eye-catcher when dry but when caught in a spring rain shower its colorful pattern can cause whiplash to unsuspecting garden admirers. Japanese stewartias can be a bit maddening to grow. They generally like a slightly acidic soil and don't respond well to drought. They can take their sweet time getting their feet under them. But once established, they combine stellar white flowers, intense fall foliage display and then that bark, to provide the full package. To grow one of these to full size for maximal bark impact is a lifetime job to be sure. But then again, anybody who plants a tree knows that one generation plants the tree . . . the next enjoys the shade!

TREE TOUR IN THE ARBORETUM

Enjoy a stroll through our arboretum and explore the shapes, textures, and colors of our unique and unusual trees and shrubs. Get to the root of our tree collection by exploring our newly expanded QR code tour of the arboretum. This self-guided tour will engage you with video interviews of horticulture staff and green industry friends explaining the history and fun facts of some of the rarest and most wonderful trees in our collection.



THE BUDDING GARDENER

A GUIDE FOR GARDENERS OF ALL AGES



SKETCHES OF NATURE

Isn't it fun to draw pictures of nature? During your next walk in the woods, bring a journal with you and sketch your favorite discoveries! When you get home, try to identify what it is that you drew. You can use plant identification books or research your findings on the internet. Here is the ID of the nature drawings on this page, inspired by Yew Dell's arboretum:

- 1. Oak leaf
- 2. Dawn Redwood cone
- 3. Maple leaf
- 4. Acorn
- 5. Robin with berry
- 6. Magnolia leaf
- 7. Yew sprig
- 8. Ginkgo leaf
- 9. Hemlock sprig
- 10. Holly sprig
- 11. Earl the squirrel
- 12. Norway spruce cone
- 13. Sawtooth Oak acorn and cap
- 14. Pine cone

When you visit Yew Dell, see if you can discover these leaves, cones and animals in our arboretum! We also encourage you to sign up for the "Design a Tree Journal" workshop. This is a great introduction to creating your own natural journal... a great activity for the whole family.

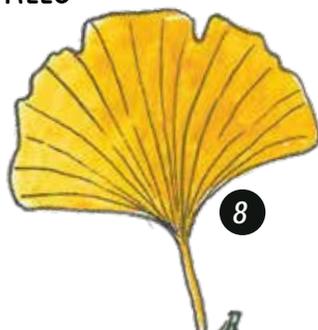
See page 3 for more details!

THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF CONES!

Did YEW know... not all cones are pine cones? There are oodles of different cones that you can find in nature and they all have their own unique look and design! Hemlock cones are tiny where the Norway Spruce cone is long and narrow. The Dawn Redwood cone is spherical and has the most interesting pattern! What differences do you notice in cones? Noticing unique character traits helps you identify your findings in nature.

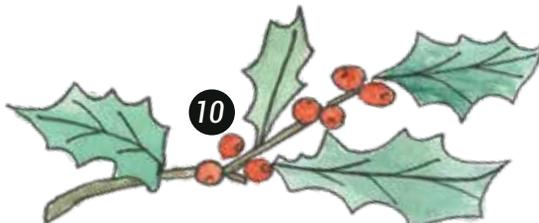
EVERGREEN VS. DECIDUOUS TREES

Cones vary and so do leaves. Ever notice that there are some leaves that stay on the tree all winter (evergreen) and others turn colors and drop in the fall (deciduous)? Can you come up with reasons for these two different strategies? Why do you think trees need to adapt during the winter?



TREE BACKPACK

Looking for an educational experience while visiting our gardens? Check out a tree backpack through the Visitors Center! The backpack has an activity lanyard filled with information about our arboretum and related activities. This is a great way to get kids excited about our incredible tree collection.



LEGACY TREES

EVERY TREE HAS A STORY.

It's no secret that Yew Dell has rich history. When a relentlessly curious person custom builds their life, they almost always leave behind a collection of incredible stories. It seems that Theodore Klein, the founder of Yew Dell Nursery, grew more curious the longer he lived. From building a castle, to growing plants, to carving images into stone, Theodore's zest for life never waned.

Theodore and his wife, Martha Lee, took yearly vacations, first around the United States, then abroad. On their travels the Kleins documented rare, historic or freak trees. This hobby of photographing trees later developed into a project to protect historic trees and to foster public appreciation for these legacies.

In 1980, at the ripe, young age of 84, Theodore began a non-profit organization called Historic Trees with his friend Stan Lemaster, a computer engineer with General Electric Company. Their mission was to obtain seeds or cuttings of trees associated with famous people or events, grow them and then get them planted in public places.

A few examples of trees they grew in Theodore's nursery include:

-Moon Sycamore: Descended from the first tree seeds taken to the moon and back.

-Sir Isaac Newton Apple Tree: Descendent of the tree in Lincolnshire, England that inspired Newton to develop his theory of gravitation in 1665.

-Napoleon Willow: The seeds were taken from his tomb at St. Helena.

-Johnny Appleseed Apple: Grown from budwood taken from a tree personally planted in Lima, Ohio, by Johnny Appleseed.

There was no one else in the world doing what Stan and Theodore did. As pioneers of historical tree museums, they managed to get their saplings planted in all 50 states, over 20 foreign countries, and eventually they partnered with the Jefferson County Public School system and agreed to supply a historic tree for every public schoolyard in the

county. Through this partnership, they donated over 600 historic trees.

Even though most labels have worn away over the years, there are still several historic trees that exist in Louisville and other cities. Theodore's son, Karl Klein, planted two Johnny Appleseed Trees at Pillar (formerly known as Apple Patch) in Crestwood. There is a historic tree museum in Iowa that is still maintained today. There are a few historic trees growing at South Oldham High school. Recently, former UofL biology professor, Clifton Keller, reached out to Yew Dell asking about the Sir Isaac Newton Apple Tree planted on the University of Louisville campus. He has been keeping track of the tree for 20 years now.

Theodore taught us how trees not only provide beauty and canopy, but also stories for future generations. It is so important that we continue to tell the trees' stories. Not only does it keep our history alive, but it keeps us all connected to nature... and to each other.

Photograph: The General Sherman Tree is the world's largest tree, measured by volume. Theodore Klein took this photo in 1958.



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COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: PATSY HARKESS

Patsy Harkess, who's been involved as a Yew Dell volunteer for 18 years, is a perfect example of the wonderful people who make up our community. Over the years, Patsy has helped with special events, committee work, gardening and clerical. She is most devoted to her weekly weeding in the Overlook Garden. She often says she's only a "gopher" in the garden. However, we all know Patsy is much more than that...

Earlier this year, Patsy was planning to hike the Camino de Santiago in Europe—a 40 day, 500-mile trek. But COVID-19 interrupted those plans. Since she spent significant time training for the trek, Patsy decided she'd just walk 500 miles in 40 days from her home in Anchorage instead. And there was something else that propelled her forward—her friend, Mary Jane Eigel, was diagnosed in April with ALS, a progressive neurodegenerative disease. Patsy made her 500 mile journey walking 12-15 miles a day for 40 straight days, rain or shine, to raise money for ALS research in hopes it will help find a cure for her friend's illness. During her first 500 miles, she raised \$17,000. Patsy did not stop there. She decided to walk another 500 miles by the end of August and just reached 1,000 miles and has raised over \$20,000. Did we mention Patsy is 80 years old?

We are so lucky to attract people like Patsy Harkess to our Volunteer Program.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Every day we are able to add more opportunities to engage both seasoned and new volunteers. Check our website for volunteer orientation dates and upcoming volunteer opportunities!

www.yewdellgardens.org/volunteer

MEET OUR NEW HORTICULTURE STAFF



COSMO BOSELA
NURSERY & GREENHOUSE ASSISTANT



ALICE CULIN-ELLISON
GROUNDS ASSISTANT



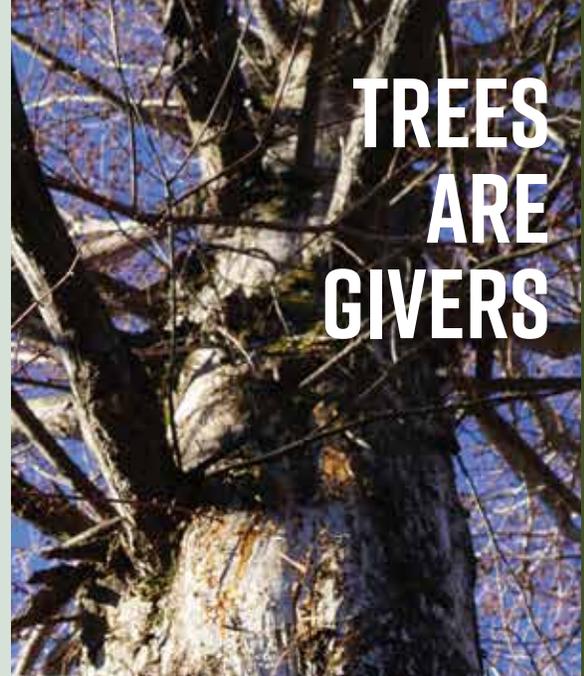
CASSIDIE CARTWRIGHT
HORTICULTURE APPRENTICE



MEGAN JOHNSON
HORTICULTURE APPRENTICE

Yew Dell would like to welcome the latest additions to our Horticulture Department! Cassidie Cartwright and Megan Johnson are Yew Dell's two new Horticultural Apprentices. Each year, Yew Dell's horticulture apprenticeship program provides 2 recent college grads an opportunity to live and work in our botanical gardens, learning how to be the next generation of leaders in the horticulture world. Cosmo Bosela began as an intern in our Nursery Program. His summer internship evolved into a permanent position as Nursery and Greenhouse Assistant. In addition to exploring her love of horticulture at Yew Dell, our new Grounds Assistant, Alice Culin-Ellison, is the violinist and Artistic Director of Louisville based Bourbon Baroque. We are excited to see our community expand in such wonderful ways!

TREES ARE GIVERS



ROOTS OF THE SEASON

For most of us, the holidays are going to look and feel different this year. While we may not gather shoulder to shoulder around a table or attend nonstop cocktail parties with friends, it feels like an opportunity to get to the root of the season.

Like the trees that go deep into their roots to find the energy to sustain them during the long winter, we too can focus on what really sustains us. 2020 has taught us what we truly value and are thankful for. And it's safe to say, we are all thankful for Yew Dell.

Throughout this challenging season we've received countless messages from our community. You said you missed us when we were closed. You said you used our spacious gardens as a safe gathering place to connect with friends and families from 6 feet apart. You said you were thankful for the peace the gardens brought to your worried, overstimulated, and tired minds. You said that taking a stroll here was the closest thing to normal you've felt in ages. And many of you gave.

When you strip everything down, Yew Dell is a place you want to continue to be here. If you're thankful for this place or you are filled with the spirit of giving, we hope that you'll give to our annual fund today. COVID-19 has impacted our daily operations and a gift to our annual fund, in any amount, is vital to keeping us open and thriving.

This year, more than ever, it is important to stay connected. And with your support, we'll always be here for your moments of joy and as a place to connect.

Happy holidays.



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Yew Dell Botanical 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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CELEBRATING THE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF OUR GARDEN GIFT SHOP

Help us celebrate our Garden Gift Shop's 10th anniversary by shopping local this holiday season! Check off your shopping list with creative and unique gifts, decor and imaginative children's toys and games. Every purchase made in the Garden Gift Shop directly supports Yew Dell Botanical Gardens' mission of providing spectacular display gardens and a slate of educational programming to our community.

**EVERY PURCHASE
MADE SUPPORTS OUR
GARDENS' MISSION.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO: UNITED MAIL, INC.

**SHOP LOCAL FOR
THE HOLIDAYS!**