



# Willowwood Journal

A Publication of the Willowwood Foundation

Volume 20, Issue 1

March, 2014

THE  
WILLOWWOOD  
FOUNDATION IS  
A NON-PROFIT  
EDUCATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION  
INCORPORATED  
IN THE STATE OF  
NEW JERSEY  
WHICH WAS  
ESTABLISHED TO  
NURTURE AN  
APPRECIATION  
FOR AND  
KNOWLEDGE OF  
BOTANY,  
HORTICULTURE  
AND THE  
NATURAL WORLD  
THROUGH ITS  
SUPPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC  
EDUCATION, THE  
PUBLICATION OF,  
AND ACCESS TO,  
LITERATURE  
RELATING TO  
PLANT SCIENCE  
AND THE  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF FACILITIES TO  
PROMOTE, USE,  
AND ACCESS  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT NATIVE  
AND EXOTIC  
PLANTS.

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MORRIS COUNTY  
PARK  
COMMISSION



## *A Message from Rob Diemar, President, the Willowwood Foundation....*

*Dear Friends,*

If you have visited Willowood Arboretum before, you already know what a special place it is. If you haven't, you are missing out on experiencing a truly magical place that is right in many of our back yards. Tucked away in the southeast corner of Chester, NJ, on 130 acres of rolling farm land, Willowood is home to more than 2,100 different native and exotic plants. It hosts formal gardens and undisturbed forest. Historic collections include oak, maple, willow, magnolia, lilac, cherry, fir, pine, a superb specimen of Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia*) now more than 98' tall, masses of ferns and handsome stands of field and forest wild flowers. Maintained by the Morris County Park Commission and supported by the Willowwood Foundation, the arboretum is open to the public seven days a week from 8 am to Dusk.

Willowood's genesis dates back to 1908 when two brothers used a small legacy to acquire a country home near Gladstone, New Jersey. The two brothers, Henry and Robert Tubbs, and Henry's adopted son, Dr. Benjamin Blackburn, developed this country place into the Willowood Arboretum, New Jersey's most comprehensive and longest continually operating Arboretum. Since 1980 under the stewardship and management of the Morris County Park Commission, the Willowwood Foundation with the support and hard work of countless donors and volunteers have made it possible for the public to enjoy this beautiful green space of gardens and meadows.

Please consider a donation to The Willowwood Foundation this year to continue the work started by the Tubbs brothers over 100 years ago. To date, contributions to the Foundation have funded internships, important projects and garden restorations at Willowood. The Foundation works closely with Morris County Park Commission to make sure that our resources are deployed as effectively as possible.

Spring is right around the corner and is always one of the most beautiful times of year at Willowood. I hope you have the opportunity to visit the Arboretum and take in its beauty. It's a truly special place that is there for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Rob**

## **Cherry Photo Contest**

**announced:** Photographers—get your cameras ready! After the successful Daffodil and Magnolia Photo Contests, the Willowwood Foundation has planned a third contest on Willowood's **Cherries**.

Generally in bloom at Willowood in April (dependent, of course, on Mother Nature), your photos of Willowood's cherries will qualify for contest entry and prize in 2014. Rules: All Magnolia photos must be taken at WW. Photos from the past or this year will qualify. Submit jpegs via email. Questions? More Information? Email: [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com) or visit [willowwoodarboretum.org](http://willowwoodarboretum.org).

## **Morris Arboretum of the U of Pennsylvania** donated Ornamental Cherry plantings to Willowood and Frelinghuysen Arboreta:

Tony Aiello, Director of Horticulture and Curator, arranged the donation of 7 ornamental cherry cultivars to help diversify the MCPC collections which provide beautiful Springtime display.

Specimens included were *Prunus* "Ariake", 'Dream Catcher' 'Helen Taft', 'Hi-zakura' ('Ichiyo'), 'Scott Early', 'Shirotae' and 'Taki-Nioi' from the Morris Arboretum's collection.

Blooms may not be visible for a few years, but we are very grateful for this wonderful gift of Spring color!

**Thank you!** Many friends of Willowwood made generous donations in the last six months to help fund the Tubbs' & Blackburn horticultural legacy and to insure that this wonderful place survives for future generations. We can only say "Thank you" for your help...

Mr. Stathis Andris

~

Mrs. Janet D. Allocca

Mrs. Julie Baron

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Dietz

The Gelfand Family Foundation Inc.

Mrs. Anne Peterson

Mr. and Mrs. James Porter

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Mr. and Mrs. David Parrish

In Memory of Dr. E.E. Tucker:

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McMillan

Ms. Nancy H. Monroe

### ***Like Pretty Posies?***

### ***Wanna Play in the Dirt?***

Enthusiastic amateurs and friendly master gardeners play, learn and work together in three short messy and magical hours in Willowwood or Bamboo Brook's beautiful gardens. Dedicated teams and nimble fingers are urgently needed to help maintain the eye appealing gardens.

This hands on program - *Garden-Works* - teaches volunteers at the gardens one weekday morning to assist our horticulture staff. Call Kate Gutierrez, Horticulture Volunteer Program Specialist at 973.326.7629 or email Kate at [kgutierrez@morrisparks.net](mailto:kgutierrez@morrisparks.net), for more information and schedule.

## **Spring Events**

**Sunday, May 11 Noon to 4 pm**  
***Mother's Day at Willowwood and Bamboo Brook!*** Bring Mom and the family and visit two of New Jersey's most beautiful public gardens (adjacent properties).

A perfect post brunch or a lovely prelude to dinner, you will enjoy the Spring Gardens and Meadows via guided tours, music by the A.L.L. Trio, photo ops, plant sale and light refreshments.

***Free to the Public...***

***No Reservations Required***

**Sunday, May 18, The "Lilac Party"** is one of this area's most anticipated spring garden parties. Presented by the Willowwood Foundation, this annual fundraiser features musical entertainment by the incomparable 'The Ten', a Spring Artisan Wine Tasting hosted by Chris Cree, 56 degree wine, taste tempting hors d'oeuvres, Cheese table and Open Bar. Bidding is always brisk at the Silent Auction of unusual plants. And heavenly scented Lilacs in Bloom are just right for romantic strolling!

Time: 4:30—7 pm Rain or Shine  
***Tickets required.*** Call 973 615 4841

### ***May 17, 2014 Party Date is***

***still open!*** Contact MCPC Event Specialist Chris Knox at 973-326-7619 or [cknox@morrisparks.net](mailto:cknox@morrisparks.net) for more details.

### ***Experience the ultimate party***

***venue!*** Trees with twinkling lights surround the WW Stone Barn or your own private tent with room for dancing, creating a magical setting for any "very special" event. The Seasonal Gardens are glorious and perfect for photo ops. Willowwood or Bamboo Brook with its beautiful reflecting pools can be the setting for *your perfect party*—wedding, birthday, anniversary, etc.

A few dates still available in 2014 but now booking 2015 and 2016.

## ***Save the Date!***



## **The "Lilac Party"**

***Sunday,  
May 18, 2014***

4:30 pm

Wine Tasting by  
Master of Wine,  
Chris Cree  
56 degree wine

\*

a cappella music by  
"The Ten"

\*

Silent Auction  
featuring  
Unusual Plants

*Hors d'oeuvres* by  
Ross and Owren

### ***Tickets and reservations:***

Email: [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com)

Or Call 908 234 1815

## Hellebores at Willowwood:

Hopefully, when you receive this issue of the Willowwood Journal, the snow has disappeared and you are ready for your first “sunny day” walk through Willowwood’s gardens.

The daffodils and crocus will be bright and colorful and fill the fields but perhaps even before their bloom, on a fine and tempting day, you may find nestled around the Tubbs House, in the Rockery (watch for a white *Helleborus niger*) and the Cottage Garden those wonderful harbingers of Spring—the Hellebores or as many know them—“Lenten Rose”. One of the earliest in the gardens, right around the start of Lent, these dramatic perennials may be unfamiliar to some, but gardeners love this shade loving plant that offers “Deer Proof” evergreen foliage and flowers that range from pale white to pink to soft green or variegated to, in the newer varieties, vibrantly colored double flowers.

The charms of these plants are hard to resist with their delicate looking, downward facing blossoms. They thrive in woodland settings and yet will take some sun during the summer if oft watered with good drainage. They grow slowly and make take several seasons before they are really showy. But anyone who despairs of winter will greet these lovely plantings at the first sign of Spring.

### And...

Before you see the winter aconite in the Rockery or by the small stone cottage the yellow *Jasmine nudiflorum* (Winter Jasmine), you can still enjoy the Ornamental Walk opposite the Stone Barn and continuing to the left. The trees and plants have interesting fruit, bark or branching habits during the Winter and if you haven’t really looked as yet, take a quick peak now before they begin their Spring growth.

And while you are walking around, peak through the glass windows of the green house to see the spring pansies grown and potted by the garden volunteers, starting to be in full bloom – it’s too early to plant them outside – or drop by the Conservatory attached to the Tubbs House—there is always a riot of color and scent that awaits you from the tropical plants in full bloom. The Conservatory is open weekdays 8 am to 3 pm. Check out the Moravian tiles on the walls too.

If you would like Willowwood bloom updates, send an email to [contactus@willowwoodarboretum.org](mailto:contactus@willowwoodarboretum.org) and a short email will be sent every so often so you don't miss any of our Spring blossoms.

## Openings for Seasonal Gardeners and Interns at Willowwood and Frelinghuysen Arboreta

**Seasonal gardener positions** for those with experience in horticulture or gardening are available now at the Arboreta for the 2014 growing season. Gardeners participate in all aspects of garden and arboretum management including but not limited to, planting, mulching, watering, weeding, pruning, fertilizing, mowing, propagating, and record keeping. Gardeners rotate through the different specialty gardens and collections and may select an area of concentration.

**Internship Program:** Each year the Willowwood Foundation helps an individual(s) obtain practical hands on gardening experience by funding an internship at WW. The program begins early spring through late fall and may run for three to eight months. Paid Interns (full- or part-time) are admitted on an as needed basis.

In 2013 an internship was awarded to Amanda Connelly, a Horticultural student at the County College of Morris, and to Bronwyn Harris, a Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources student at Rutgers.

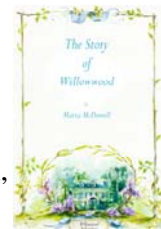
All Applicants must possess a keen interest in horticulture and enjoy working outdoors.

To learn more about each program, or if interested, send resume to Kate Gutierrez at

[kgutierrez@morrisparks.net](mailto:kgutierrez@morrisparks.net)  
or call 973-326-7629.

## Now Available: *The Story of Willowwood*, by Marta McDowell and *Willowwood in Pictures*

*The Story of Willowwood*—Marta McDowell, noted botanical author and landscape historian, has written the complete history of the Tubbs’ brothers, Willowwood and its gardens and collections. Many photos from the Morris County Park Commission archives. \$10. plus \$2.50 s&h.



*Willowwood in Pictures*—Over 2500 photos were submitted by local photographers—all in beautiful, seasonal color. The gardens, the buildings and artistic objects are featured in this pictorial walk. A hardcover edition was adapted by Ray Rogers, Garden Book author and winner of top awards at the Philadelphia International Flower Show, and designed by fellow Trustees Dan Will and Leslie Allain. Cost is \$40. + \$2.50 s&h. To order call 908-234-1815 or email: [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com)



*A great gift for Easter, Mother’s Day or Father’s Day or Any Day for the Gardener in your life!*

**The Willowwood Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 218 \* Gladstone, NJ 07934**  
**908-234-1815**  
**wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com**

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*Save the Dates...*

Mother's Day at Willowwood.....Sunday, May 11

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**Sunday, May 18 \* "The Lilac Party"**

*Wine Tasting by 56 degree wine, "The Ten" and Silent Plant Auction*

**Earth Day** is April 22 but at Willowwood as we dig in the gardens, every day is Earth Day! If you would like to help us GO GREEN, sign up for the Willowwood Journal via email on the website: [www.willowwoodarboretum.org](http://www.willowwoodarboretum.org).

**Garden notes:** Bloom times are a bit late this year but if you send your email address to: [Contactus@willowwoodarboretum.org](mailto:Contactus@willowwoodarboretum.org) we will let you know when each of the flowering collections begins its bloom!

**Seeds from the Index Seminum:** List now available at the Store on [www.willowwoodarboretum.org](http://www.willowwoodarboretum.org). Email your order to us at [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com)

**YES, Rob! I want to help the Willowwood Foundation and Willowwood Arboretum in 2014:**

Please add me to your mailing list\_\_\_\_. Email\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to The Willowwood Foundation.

All donations are tax deductible under section 501© (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: *The Willowwood Foundation, PO Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934* or call 908-234-1815 or visit [www.willowwoodarboretum.org](http://www.willowwoodarboretum.org)