

# Willowwood Journal

A Publication of the Willowwood Foundation

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## 1994 - 1995 GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Nine grants totaling \$25,950.00 were funded in the 1994 grant round of the Willowwood Foundation. These grants were selected from the 25 proposals received, with requests totaling \$121,980.00 and were selected since in most cases they either served as model demonstration projects or would serve as a resource to more than one institution.

Among the proposals funded were the following:

- \* \$2,000.00 to the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta in Wayne, PA to assist in the development of the resource center catalog and to abstract and computerize the Center's holdings.
- \* \$5,000.00 to the Arnold Arboretum of Jamaica Plain, MA to support a pilot project for one year that will eventually lead to a systematic evaluation, propagation and distribution program concentrating initially on an urban, low-maintenance environment at a small number of sites with differing conditions.
- \* \$2,000.00 to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden of Brooklyn, NY for support of its New York Metropolitan Flora Project.

\*\$3,500.00 to the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA in support of the North American China Exploration Consortium to collect

plants in Hubei Province, China and in the environs of Beijing, China with seed collected to be shared with other institutions.

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## PROPAGATION UNIT RECEIVES CHALLENGE

The Morris Parks and Land Conservancy has pledged a grant of \$45,000 for the reconstruction of the propagation greenhouse, which stood west of the Cottage Garden at Willowwood Arboretum, if the Morris County Park Commission can raise an additional \$55,000. The grant is in memory of Helen Gardiner, a long time devoted friend of Hal Tubbs, Ben Blackburn, and Russ Myers.

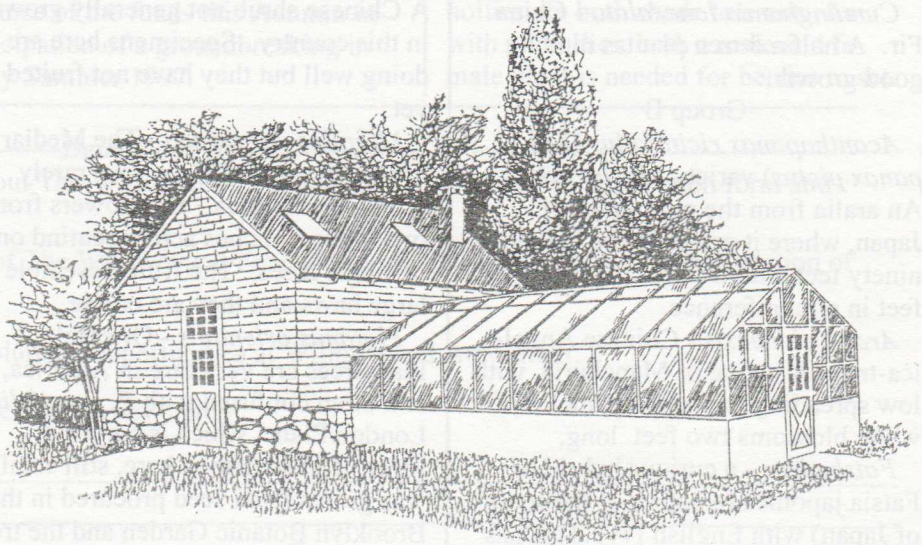
The Willowwood Foundation has raised \$16,719.17 to date. In June the Friends of the Frelinghuysen

Arboretum presented Ted Stiles, the Foundation's President with a pledge of \$13,000 toward the project, and with the assistance of the Henry Tubbs Trust, the Morris County Park Commission has raised \$9,819.24. The combined total is \$39,538.41.

The Willowwood Foundation will attempt to raise the remainder of the \$15,000 required to qualify for the challenge grant this autumn and is counting on its friends and patrons to reach this goal.

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**HOLLY  
DAYS**  
3rd Annual  
Fall Festival  
Details on  
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Artists rendering of the proposed Helen R. Gardiner Propagation Greenhouse at Willowwood Arboretum

## Unusual Plants at Willowwood by Henry Tubbs

(Editors Note: This is a reprint of an article by Henry Tubbs published in *New Jersey Club Woman* in March 1941. Some of the specimens including the Magnolias, Spruces, Bald Cypress and Hollies continue to grow. Others have been lost through the years, but will be reintroduced.)

In making a list of the more interesting plant materials growing at Willowwood, it seems wise to divide it into groups combining features of common interest. In Group A will be listed material more or less usual south of Washington but rare in the North; Group B will compromise really unusual specimens; and Group C plants not uncommon in this area, but interesting because of unusual growth or other features.

### Group A

*Asimina triloba* - Pawpaw. The small tree common in the South and central states but rare in this area. The specimen here now bears fruit.

*Albizzia julibrissin* - Silktree, commonly called Acacia in the South, is a native of Persia and China. Its finely cut leaves make a beautiful pattern against the sky and like many of the Acacia family they fold up at night. The flowers drop their petals upon opening leaving a "brush" of stamens in amber and rose which give color to the tree during July.

*Magnolia grandiflora* - Bull-bay, Evergreen Magnolia. The trees here have been growing for years. The cold winter of 1934 hurt them, but they have recovered and now bloom well.

*Lagerstroemia* - Crepe-myrtle. A variety with pink blooms.

*Cunninghamia lanceolata* - China Fir. A half a dozen plants making good growth.

### Group B

*Acanthopanax ricinifolius* (*Kalopanax pictus*) variety *Maximowiczii* - An aralia from the mountains of Japan, where it grows to the height of ninety feet with trunks nine to twelve feet in circumference.

*Aralia chinensis* - Chinese Angelica-tree. A native of Manchuria, with low spreading limbs and panicles of white blossoms two feet long.

*Fatsia japonica* - a curious hybrid of *Fatsia japonica* (a native of the south of Japan) with English Ivy. This has been growing outdoors for three years.

*Davidia involucrata* - Dove-tree. One of Ernest Wilson's more outstanding contributions from China. In his book, *Aristocrats of the Garden*, he devotes a chapter to the dramatic account of finding it. The specimen here is the gift of Mr. Wilson.

*Magnolia Kobus* - A very interesting tree magnolia from the mountains of Japan, where it grows in thinly scattered groups. The single blossoms somewhat similar to those of Star Magnolia fill the tree in late spring after the leaves are well unfolded and are followed by interesting fruits beautifully colored in autumn.

*Magnolia stellata 'Rosea'* - An interesting pink blossoming form.

*Pinus bungeana* - The Lace-bark Pine of China, typically used by the Chinese for temple and tomb plantings. The specimen here is beginning to show the characteristic mottled trunk.

*Sophora japonica 'Pendula'* - Weeping Pagoda-tree or Chinese Scholar-tree. A weeping form which is unusual.

*Prunus laurocerasus* variety *schipkaensis* - English-laurel or Cherry-laurel. A reputedly tender subject, but doing well here.

*Zizyphus Jujuba* - Common Jujube. A Chinese shrub not generally grown in this country. Specimens here are doing well but they have not fruited yet.

*Mespilus germanica* - The Medlar of poetry. A small tree very rarely grown in America. The flowers from two to three inches across remind one of single roses. The fruits resemble large haws and they are edible.

*Platanus orientalis* - Oriental Planetrees are very rare in America, and often confused with *P. acerifolia*, London Plane, which is a hybrid form. The specimen here, still small, was grown from seed procured in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the tree there were verified by botanists at Kew Gardens.

*Rhododendron 'Conewago'* - An interesting hybrid of *Rhododendron carolinianum* and *R. mucronulatum*. The masses of mauve blossoms, coming before the leaves, bridge the blooming periods of the earlier and later rhododendrons.

*Stewartia Pseudo camellia* - A Japanese type of this interesting group of shrubs rare in this country.

Rhododendrons - A group of dwarf hybrids from the nursery of Joseph Gable at Stewartstown, Pennsylvania.

### Group C

*Taxodium distichum* - Bald Cypress. The specimen here interesting because it has thrown out the characteristic "knees," which are rare in specimens in the North.

*Picea albertiana* (*P. glauca conica*) - Alberta Spruce. This tree grows in a limited area in the Province of Alberta. Although it is being used more as landscape material large specimens are rare. One of them here has nearly attained the full height, which is described as nine feet.

*Cedrus atlantica* - Atlas Cedar. This species is one of the three remaining true cedars - the other two being *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon) and *Cedrus Deodara* (Deodar).

*Franklinia Alatomaha* an old specimen of this tree.

*Pinus Thunbergii* - Japanese Black Pine.

*Pinus densiflora* - Japanese Red Pine. Two interesting members of the Pine family. The first is used very extensively by the Japanese for landscape work because of its twisted growth. They call it Kuramatsu and it symbolizes the male principle. *Pinus densiflora* is called Oka-matsu and symbolizes the female principle. Branches of the two trees are crossed on the altar during the wedding ceremony.

*Pinus parviflora* - Another pine from the Japanese mountains. The specimen at Willowwood is the form with short needles of a bluish silver tone.

## HOLLIES FEATURED AT WILLOWWOOD'S FALL FESTIVAL



*Viburnum Sieboldii* - An unusually large specimen.

*Hydrangea petiolaris* (*Hydrangea anomata*) - Climbing Hydrangea. An old and well-established vine of this rather rare plant.

*Prunus pumila* - Sand Cherry from the West.

*Prunus tomentosa* - The handsome Nanking Cherry from the mountains of China. Two interesting dwarf cherries covered in the early spring with white blossoms followed by delicious fruit.

Since the Arboretum project has been announced, a recent and esteemed gift is a holly hedge and two holly trees to be planted as specimens from Whitesbog, New Jersey.

The hedge was grown from cuttings taken from one holly plant of a bushy type. It is known as the 'Clark' holly and these plants are the first to be released from the Whitesbog nurseries.

The two 'Griscom' hollies, also given were grown from cuttings taken from a magnificent tree growing near the home of Walter Griscom a mile or more south of Woodbury, New Jersey. This tree is twenty-two inches in diameter some four feet high. It has a symmetrical conical form, fine glossy foliage and regularly produces heavy crops of large oval, brilliant red berries. Its age of over one hundred years guarantees its hardiness through any sort of weather that has visited the vicinity of Philadelphia during the past century.

The public is invited to discover the fascinating variety of hollies for the landscape at the Foundation's third annual fall festival at Willowwood Arboretum in Chester Township on Sunday, September 10, 1995 beginning at 2:30 p.m. The festival is being co-sponsored by the Delaware Valley and Long Island Chapters of the Holly Society of America.

E. Elizabeth Kassab, of Wallingford, Pennsylvania, a past president of the Holly Society of America and noted holly authority will present a program on the wonderful diversity of holly to add interest to the landscape. Hollies tolerate many conditions including shade, deer browse and air pollution while adding interest to the autumn, winter and early spring gardens. There will be a cutting exchange, plant sale, door prizes and a festive reception at the Tubbs House. Reservations are limited for this free, and what promises to be, popular event.

To register, or for further information including directions to Willowwood Arboretum, telephone (201) 326-7610 (weekdays 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

### Propagation Greenhouse (continuation from page 1)

Willowwood, with its impressive collection of more than 3,500 kinds of plants was initiated in 1908 and represents New Jersey's oldest continuously operated arboretum. However, this treasure is at risk as many important plantings are reaching their maturity and need to be repropagated. Further, to truly attain its potential as a living institution which will enrich the botany and horticulture of the region and the State, must evaluate and release plants from its extensive collection, and this facility is sorely needed to meet this goal.

The Foundation hopes to raise the balance of the funds this Autumn in anticipation of a groundbreaking in early Summer 1997.

### HOLLIES FOR THE GARDEN STATE

Based on trials at Willowwood Arboretum and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, the following hollies are dependable and attractive landscape specimens:

American Holly - *Ilex opaca*  
Blue Hollies - *Ilex x meserveae*  
Inkberry Holly - *Ilex glabro*  
Winterberry Holly - *Ilex verticillata*

While most hollies prefer rich well drained soils, Inkberry and Winterberry Hollies will grow well in wet conditions. American and Blue hollies are both shade tolerant. As with all hollies, both a male and female plant is needed for berries to set.

#### -----Detach and Return-----

- YES, I am interested in information about The Willowwood Foundation. Please send an application form and information
- YES, I would like to support the work of The Willowwood Foundation. Enclosed is my tax exempt donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- YES, I would like information about volunteer opportunities at Willowwood Arboretum.
- YES, I would like to receive future issues of this newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please complete the information above and return this request to:  
The Secretary, The Willowwood Foundation, P.O. Box 1295, Morristown, NJ 07962-1295

Grants  
(Continued from page 1)

\*\$5,000.00 to the Morris County Park Commission of Morristown, New Jersey for a Horticultural Element of its Comprehensive Masterplan for its 12,000 acre park system including The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, The Willowwood Arboretum and Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center.

\*\$2,500.00 to the Morris County Park Commission of Morristown, New Jersey for landscape plantings of Narcissus at The Willowwood Arboretum in an evaluation project being coordinated with the New Jersey Daffodil Society concentrating on deer-resistant plantings.

\*\$2,500.00 to the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx, New York to assist in the cataloguing of its world renowned library, one of the most comprehensive plant reference centers in the world.

\*\$2,500.00 to the organization for Tropical Studies to document and label plants on the grounds of the Robert and Catherine Wilson Botanical Garden at the Las Cruces Biologi-

cal Station in San Vito, Costa Rica which features a living collection of 4,700.00 plant species, many of which are endangered.

\*\$950.00 to the Reeves-Reed Arboretum of Summit, New Jersey for the installation of a trickle irrigation system in its rose gardens as part of a public education initiative to promote integrated pest management.

The Foundation is now receiving proposals for its 1995-1996 grant round. The deadline for applications is September 15, 1995. Applications have already been mailed to past applicants and those who have requested forms. Others who would like additional information and/or an application form should telephone (201) 326-7610 or write to the Secretary, The Willowwood Foundation, P.O. Box 1295, Morristown, New Jersey 07962-1295. Traditionally, grants range between \$500.00 and \$5,000.00. The Foundation encourages application challenge grants through non profit organizations.

## WILLOWWOOD FOUNDATION TO ASSIST WITH RESTORATION OF MERCHISTON FARM

The Willowwood Foundation has agreed to administer funds for the restoration of the gardens at Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center, originally known as Merchiston Farm. This property, which is adjacent to Willowwood Arboretum was originally the country home of William Anderson Hutcheson and Martha Brookes Hutcheson. Mrs. Hutcheson was one of the first female landscape architects trained in this country, receiving her degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1901. In 1923 she authored Spirit of the Garden. Today the property is included on the National Register of Historic Places. The property was donated to the Morris County Park Commission in 1974 by Mrs. Hutcheson's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. C. McKim Norton, who both served as Trustees of the Willowwood Foundation.

### The Willowwood Foundation

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Morristown, New Jersey 07962-1295

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