

Willowwood Journal

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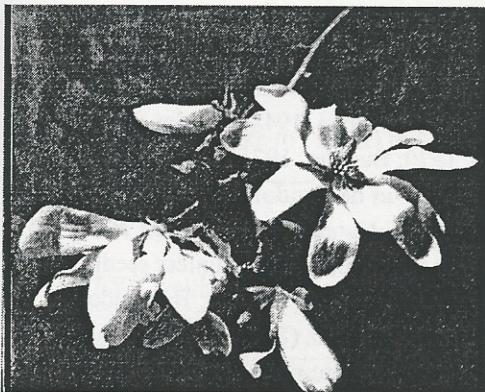
Autumn 1996

MAGNOLIAS FEATURED IN 4TH AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Magnolias have been a featured plant group at Willowwood since the Tubbs "cousins," the Dorrances, sent a selection of *Magnolia x Soulangiana* 'Alexandrina,' in 1911 to "Willowwood," from Kingston, PA, the Tubbs family hometown prior to "Willowwood." A year later, Robert Hamilton Tubbs became enamored with a specimen of *Magnolia Kobus* f. *stellata* 'Rosea' in a New York City plant market which he purchased and brought with him on the train as he travelled to "Willowwood," his country home. Both plants remain in the collection.

In celebration of this love affair with Magnolias, which is now in its 85th year, the Willowwood Foundation will dedicate its 4th Annual Autumn Festival on Sunday, September 8, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. to the genus *Magnolia*. The *Magnolia*

Society will co-sponsor this special afternoon which will include a program on Magnolias by Rick Darke, noted lecturer and author who serves as Curator of Plants at the renowned Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. His program will stress the diversity and beauty of Magnolias and how to use them effectively in the landscape. Resistant to deer browse and caterpillar defoliation, Magnolias are an excellent landscape plant for New Jersey gardens and, among woody plants, are the true harbingers of Spring. A plant sale, door prizes and festive reception at the Tubbs house will complete the program. Reservations are limited for this popular free event and preregistration is recommended by calling (201) 326-7610 (weekdays 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.).



← A photograph of *Magnolia Kobus* f. *stellata* from the Willowwood Arboretum Archives. This species was introduced from Japan in 1862 and grows into a dense shrub or small tree up to about 15 or 20 feet in height, and therefore is a good choice for smaller properties. Its cultivar 'Rosea' was first planted at Willowwood Arboretum in 1912.

WILLOWWOOD WELCOMES NEW HORTICULTURIST

Frederick R. Spicer, Jr. joined the staff of the Morris County Park Commission as Superintendent of Horticulture and will be supervising the maintenance of Willowwood Arboretum.

Fred, a Registered Landscape Architect who graduated from Cook College of Rutgers University in 1983, comes to Willowwood with ten years management and supervisory experience with two of the regions most prestigious nurseries - Dubrow's in Livingston, New Jersey and Snipes' Farm and Nursery in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. He is a Landscape Design Specialist with the Rutgers University Office of Continuing Education, strengthening a traditional linkage with that institution begun by Dr. Benjamin Blackburn.

Fred has published articles in the *American Nurseryman* magazine and is a polished energetic and humorous speaker who makes good use of his more than 8000 slides to compliment his topics.

Fred resides nearby in Lebanon, New Jersey with his wife, daughter and son and enjoys not only gardening, but also photography, birding, fishing and golf.

The Foundation is happy to welcome Fred and wishes him well in his new career.

Magnolias at Willowood by Benjamin Blackburn

Part II - continued from the Spring 1996 issue

After reading and re-reading Sir Peter Smither's succinct comment on a current renaming of *Magnolia denudata*, the lovely Chinese Yulan, in the AMS Journal (XV, 2, 1979), it may be appropriate to note that the Buc'hoz/ Dandy names are considered quite unacceptable and invalid, and are not used at Willowood. The fact that Dandy himself abandoned them as valid names, in a sort of "middle period," and referred to them as early synonyms of *M. denudata* and *M. liliflora*, invalidates them under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Article 43 states, "A name which is not accepted by the author who published it is not validly published."

The Buc'hoz names were introduced in his book *Plantes Nouvellement Decouvertes* in Paris, 1779 (a book most difficult to find in libraries in this country), and careful study of the copy in the British Museum (Natural History) in London two years ago revealed serious faults to accepting the two drawings of Plate 19 and the text on page 21 as valid type descriptions of two species Mr. Dandy wished to call Magnolias. Dandy's paper proposing transfer of the Buc'hoz names under *Lassonia* to *Magnolia* appeared in 1934 in the Journal of Botany. In his *Bibliography of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs*, 1949, Alfred Rehder of the Arnold Arboretum gave his opinion in a line of abbreviated Latin under *M. liliflora* and the same under *M. denudata*: "Description inadequate and false."

Until a more detailed review is completed, it must suffice to say here (with the Editor's indulgence) - that the Buc'hoz/Dandy names are illegitimate because (1) only the petals drawn by the Chinese artist may have been taken from Magnolias, and Buc'hoz himself described them as quite like Tulip petals; other diagnostic parts shown and described are all un-Magnolia like, with (2) about 35 stamens making an open bowl or cup, (3) complete lack of a spindle-like receptacle with spirally attached flower

parts, (4) strange multi-ribbed structures at the base of each flower interpreted as fringed calyces, and (5) detailed roughnesses of the bark without any sign of the stipule scars so easily noted in every *Magnolia*.

Another article in the code provides that "A name of a taxon must be rejected if its characteristics were derived from two or more entirely discordant elements, unless it is possible to select one of these elements as a satisfactory type." Without other acceptable and accurate diagnostic parts, petals alone, Tulip-like, Magnolia-like, or otherwise, are entirely unsatisfactory for typification of species. Rehder's decision, "inadequate and false," still applies, and we must reinvest *Magnolia denudata* and *M. liliflora* in their rightful positions of highest admiration and respect.

The Willowood record is summarized in the alphabetical listing, which gives origin and date for the first or the most successful planting under each name. Later plantings, though important, may not be included. Also not included are the failures, records of the many others tried and lost. This regretted group includes *Campbellii* and its variety *mollicomata*, the true ivory-white *denudata*, *pyramidata*, *Sargentiana*, several *Soulangiana* selections, *Veitchii*, and *Wieseneri*. Though tempered in this bowl-shaped valley, our winters are still too severe for some of these. Temperatures rather frequently dip below 10 degrees Fahrenheit for a few hours, and in years of record to -9 degrees. Successes with numerous plants of reputedly tender qualities leave hope for more encouraging results in different locations and more numerous trials, rather than just a few plants. Repeated failures with ones like *pyramidata* and *Wieseneri*, both tried again and again and favored with the most beguiling attentions, have come to be attributed to an unrelenting and even malign garden influence which we do not seem able to appease nor circumvent!

Magnolia List

Plants in botanical and horticultural categories growing at Willowood on January 1, 1980:

- M. acuminata* Linnaeus; Cucumber-tree (Robins, Ashford, NC, about 1925)
- M. Ashei* Weatherby; Sand-hill Magnolia (Mrs. J. Norman Henry, Gladwyne, PA, 1952)
- M. cordata* Michaux; Yellow Magnolia (Wwd seedling from an original from Bobbink & Atkins, Rutherford, NJ 1947)
- M. cylindrica* Wilson (Plant from L. S. Fortescue, Devonshire, England, 1973)
- M. Dawsoniana* Rehder & Wilson (Gossler Farms, Springfield, OR, 1970)
- M. denudata* Desrousseau; Yulan (Drew University, Madison, NJ, 1957)
- M. Fraseri* Walter; Fraser Magnolia (Robbins, 1940)
- M. grandiflora* Linnaeus; Southern Magnolia (Glen St. Mary Nurseries, FL, early 1920's)
 - c. 'Edith Bogue' (Dr. James Gunckel, Rutgers University, 1973)
 - c. 'Exmouth' (E. A. Wohler, Narberth, PA, 1926; Thomas Buchter, then at Skylands Botanical Garden, Ringwood, NJ, 1973)
 - c. 'Little Gem' (National Arboretum, Washington, 1974)
- M. x highdownensis* Dandy; Highdown Magnolia (A single plant from seed from Thompson & Morgan, Ipswich, England, 1952, ? true)
- M. hypoleuca* Siebold & Zuccarini; Silverleaf Magnolia (Yoshiharu Matsumura, Nikko Botanical Garden, Nikko, Japan, 1948; Gossler Farms, 1970; Buchter, 1975)
- M. Kobus* de Candolle; Kobus Magnolia (F & F Nurseries, Springfield, NJ, about 1930; many volunteer seedlings)
 - var. *borealis* Sargent; Hokkaido Magnolia (E. H. Wilson, Arnold Arboretum, 1930; many Wwd volunteer seedlings)
 - x *M. liliflora* c. 'Betty' (Robert Talley, Gulf Stream Nursery, Wachapreague, VA, 1979)

- x *M. liliflora* c. 'Ricki' (Talley, 1979)
- x *M. liliflora* c. 'Susan' (Talley, 1979)
- f. *Loebneri* (Kache) Blackburn c. 'Leonard Messel' (The Lady Anne Palmer, Devonshire, England, 1978)
- c. 'Merrill' (Talley, 1955)
- c. 'Willowwood' (spontaneous seedling at Wwd, early 1940's)
- f. *stellata* (Siebold & Zuccarini) Blackburn; Star Magnolia (grafted plant on *M. Kobus* root, probably Bobbink & Atkins, about 1927; Wm. Flemer III, Princeton Nurseries, 1953)
- c. 'Centennial' (Gary Koller, Arnold Arboretum, 1977)
- c. 'Rosea' (New York City plant market, about 1912)
- c. 'Royal Star' (Peter Vermeulen, John Vermeulen & Son, Neshanic, NJ, 1959, 1962)
- c. 'Rubra' (Henry Hohman, Kingsville Nurseries, 1952)
- c. 'Waterlily' (bud-wood from E. H. Wilson, 1928)
- M. liliflora* Desrousseaux; Lily Magnolia (F & F, about 1928)
- M. macrophylla* Michaux; Largeleaved Magnolia (Mrs. Everett Rowley, Hanover, NJ, 1973)
- M. officinalis* Rehder & Wilson; Spice Magnolia (seeds from Daniel Barmes, Villa Taranto Gardens, Pallanza, Italy, 1972)
- var. *biloba* Rehder & Wilson; Spice Magnolia (Daniel Barmes, 1972)
- M. x Proctoriana* Rehder emend. Blackburn in Bailey 5,1,1957; Proctor Magnolia (Seeds, Bernard Harkness, Department of Parks, Rochester, NY, 1958; Wwd seedlings of Wada's Magnolia 1975)
- c. 'Wada's Memory' (Brian Mulligan, University of Washington Arboretum, Seattle, 1956; layer plants from the preceding, 1975)
- M. salicifolia* (Siebold & Zuccarini) Maximowicz; Anise Magnolia (Hohman, 1951; Harkness 1956, 1962)
- M. Sieboldii* K. Koch; Oyama Magnolia (oldest record lost, about 1930; seeds from Walter Ingwersen, Birch Farm Nursery, Gravetye, Sussex, England, 1951; John Alexander III, Arnold Arboretum, 1979)
- M. sinensis* (Rehder & Wilson) Stapf (seeds from University of Washington Arboretum, 1978, plants indoors)
- M. x Soulangiana* Hamelin; Soulang Magnolia, a large-flowered selection, perhaps 'Alexandrina' of Van Houtte (Dorrance, Kingston, PA, 1911)
- c. 'Alba Superba' (Hohman, 1972)
- c. 'Alexandrina' (William Ladd, Mendham, 1948)
- c. 'Brozzoni' (Gossler Farms, 1970)
- c. 'Grace McDade' (Dr. John Wister, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, 1952)
- c. 'Lenne' (Layer from a fine specimen, Morristown, NJ 1953)
- c. 'Rustica Rubra' (Tingle Nursery Co., Pittsville, MD, 1920's)
- M. Sprengeri* Pampanini (U.S. Plant Introduction Station, Glenn Dale, MD, 1964)
- c. 'Diva' (Jacques Legendre and Robert Talley, Gulf Stream Nursery, 1966)
- M. x Thompsoniana* (Sweet) J. St. Hilaire; Thompson Magnolia (Vermeulen, 1975)
- M. tripetala* Linnaeus; Umbrella Magnolia (Tingle, about 1927; Mrs. Everett Rowley, 1973)
- M. virginiana* Linnaeus; Sweetbay (collected NJ Pine Barrens, 1912 and later, Tingle, early 1930's)
- var. *australis* Sargent; Southern Sweetbay (Suffolk County, NY, collection beneath very large garden specimen brought from Louisiana, 1951; National Arboretum ex seeds from Bethel Springs, TN, 1969)
- M. Wilsonii* (Finet & Gagnepain) Rehder; Wilson Magnolia (seeds from University of Washington Arboretum, 1978, plants indoors)

Benjamin Blackburn, Administrator, lived and worked at Willowwood from 1946-1987, taught botany at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey for 22 years and was a professor emeritus at Drew upon his retirement.

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-----**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 \$ _____.
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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

GARDEN LIBRARIES BENEFIT FROM FOUNDATION'S GRANT

A \$1,000.00 grant from the Willowwood Foundation was instrumental in advancing not only the rare book conservation project of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum's Julie Appleton Cross and Elizabeth Kay Collections, but also resulted in a conservation assessment of the Benjamin Blackburn Botanical Library at the Willowwood Arboretum, which was bequeathed to the Willowwood Foundation by Dr. Blackburn. Some of the volumes date back to the 15th Century.

Through a cooperative effort, the Foundation awarded the Friends of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum the grant, which included a provision that the Friends would sponsor an evening program featuring books from the Cross and Kay Collections. Dr. Donald

Cresswell of the Philadelphia Print Shop was the featured speaker on the evening of March 12, 1996. More than 50 people attended and after expenses, \$466.61 was raised to assess the conservation needs of the Blackburn Library, which had been completely organized and catalogued by Foundation Trustee Mimi Pitney.

Noted Library and Archive Conservator Jeffrey Rigby of Hudson, New York assessed 13 volumes and offered specific recommendations for their preservation.

Through this unique partnership, appreciation of the rare book collections at both institutions was raised, significant progress was made in preserving volumes at risk, costs for the conservation work were reduced and substantially greater financial resources for this work resulted!

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 a knowledge of botany, horticulture and the natural world through its support of public education, the publication of, and access to, literature relating to plant science and the development of facilities to promote use, access and information about native and exotic plants.

The Willowwood Foundation
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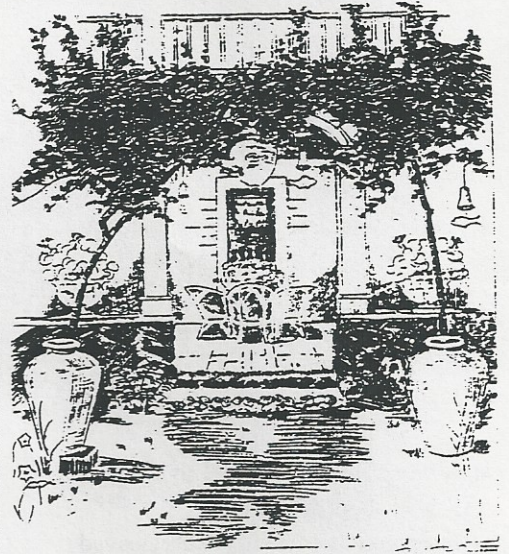
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A plant portrait.....

BLACK HAW VIBURNUM

One of the signature plantings featured at Willowwood Arboretum are the two Blackhaw Viburnums (*Viburnum prunifolium*) which were planted framing the back porch on either side of the entrance to Pan's Garden in 1912. It is believed that these specimens were transplanted from the fields.

It grows into a round headed tree or multistemmed stiffly branched shrub from 12 to 30 feet in height. Its white clustered flowers are followed by fruit which evolve from light pink, to rose and mature to bluish-black. It is an excellent wildlife plant.



Viburnum framing back porch on The Tubbs House. Historic lithograph by Bessie Sargeant.

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