



Willowwood Journal

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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, ACCESS AND INFORMATION ABOUT NATIVE AND EXOTIC PLANTS.



Annual Lilac Party May 16th

Continuing a tradition started in the days of Henry Tubbs, The Willowwood Foundation is planning its annual Lilac Party to benefit the Foundation. Held just west of the stone barn where masses of beautiful and fragrant lilacs are in bloom, an open bar and hors d'oeuvres will be passed while guests have an opportunity to wander through the gardens. The University Club Chorus from New York City under the direction of John Baldwin will once again sing from their repertoire.

Additionally Manabu Saito, a renowned flower painter, will be exhibiting his paintings. Manabu's dynamic paintings, which are as scientifically accurate as they are artistically brilliant, are in the permanent collection of the Hunt Botanical Library in Pittsburgh. His work has also been exhibited at the New York Botanical Garden, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum.

For those who attend, two different lilacs will be given away. A Chinese species, *Syringa pekinensis* (continued on page 2)

1998 - 1999 Foundation Grants Are Announced

The Willowwood Foundation is pleased to announce the 1998-1999 Grant Awards. The Foundation received a variety of grant requests this year, ranging from Chicago to Virginia. After careful consideration the Foundation awarded five grants totaling \$16,970.11. The awards, based on requests that have relevance to the mission of the Arboretum, will support programs from public exhibitions, horticultural studies to an intern for Willowwood Arboretum. Among the proposals funded were the following:

- * Morris County Park Commission, Morristown, NJ received \$4,325.11 to support an internship program to aid in research and maintenance of the Willowwood Arboretum.
- * \$5,000.00 to the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia to continue studies of Chinese Hemlock growing in Zhejiang, Fujian and

Hunan provinces of China for resistance to Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestations.

- * \$1,500.00 to Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, Morristown, NJ to support the exhibit: *The Nature of Garden Design*.
- * \$2,145.00 to the John Bartram Association, Philadelphia, PA to support the Franklinia Census and Education Project honoring John Bartram's 300th birthday.
- * \$4,000.00 to the Morris County Park Commission, Morristown, NJ to purchase labeling equipment and software to produce plant labels for Willowwood Arboretum.

The Foundation is now receiving proposals for 1999-2000 grants. Any organization that may be interested in applying for a grant can call the office at (908) 234-1815 for an application. The deadline for applications is September 15, 1999.

Historic Bartram's Garden: 300th Celebration and *Franklinia* Census

This Spring, Historic Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia, PA is celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Bartram (1699-1777), America's first botanist. As part of the celebration, which includes a scholarly symposium on his life and work, a tall ship visit, dedication of a first class Bartram commemorative stamp, and living history festival, is the sponsorship of a *Franklinia* Census and Education Project.

The Census and Education Project is centered on the *Franklinia alataamaha* tree, which John Bartram introduced into cultivation.

The Willowood Foundation has supported this project in 1999 with a grant to the John Bartram Association.

The following outlines a brief history of the discovery of the *Franklinia* tree as well as a calendar of planned events at Historic Bartram's Garden to celebrate his 300th birthday.

HISTORY AND DISCOVERY OF THE *FRANKLINIA* TREE

Of the approximately 200 North

American plant species introduced into cultivation by Bartram, the *Franklinia* is unquestionably most closely identified with him. John Bartram and his son, William, found a small colony of an unknown member of the Tea Family (Theaceae) growing along the Altamaha River in Georgia in 1765. On a later trip, William collected seeds for propagation in the family's botanical garden in Philadelphia where it bloomed in 1781. The Bartrams began selling the seeds of what they listed as an "undescribed tree lately from Florida" in their 1783 nursery catalogue. By 1785, it had been named *Franklinia* in honor of John Bartram's great friend, Benjamin Franklin. For many years, there was a dispute among taxonomists about whether the *Franklinia* was actually a species of *Gordonia* or a distinct new genus. In 1942, *Franklinia alataamaha* became its standardized name.

The *Franklinia* was never seen growing anywhere else in the wild and after 1803 was never again found along the Altamaha. The tree is now known only in cultiva-

tion. All *Franklinias* growing today are descended from the grove the Bartrams discovered in 1765. Through their seed collection and dissemination efforts, the species survives as a treasured specimen planting in public and private gardens.

PURPOSE OF THE CENSUS AND EDUCATION PROJECT

The unsolved mysteries of the *Franklinia alataamaha* story, e.g. origin of the species, reason for extinction in the wild and isolated occurrence, have generated considerable scholarly inquiry and discussion. Its appealing ornamental characteristics, challenging cultural requirements, and extraordinary story make the tree highly desirable to the gardening public. However, it is still not common in cultivation, partly due to the lack of commercial availability. Growers report difficulties attributed to poor rooting ability, root and crown rot of seedlings, and relatively low percentage of viable seed. Other issues include failure during transplant and exacting siting requirements. To provide information about and help perpetuate this rare species the John Bartram Association has developed this *Franklinia* Project.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1

Annual Native Plant Sale, this year featuring the rare and beautiful *Franklinia alataamaha*, in addition to a large selection of native shrubs, trees and wildflowers

May 16-23

Kalmar Nyckel, the world's newest tall ship, sails up the Schuylkill River, docks at Historic Bartram's Garden and opens for tours.

Annual Lilac Party Held May 16th

(Continued from page 1)

has single blooms of creamy white flowers with the fragrance of honey and *Syringa vulgaris* 'Katherine Havemeyer' a French hybrid, has very fragrant large double purple-lavender blossoms, fading to pale lilac-pink.

The benefit will be held at the Willowood Arboretum on Sunday May 16th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. If you have not received an invitation or would like to have an invitation sent to a friend,

please call the office at (908) 234-1815.

Those who cannot attend the party are invited to come enjoy Willowood's wonderful Lilac collection that generally blooms from early May to late July, with the height of bloom around Mother's Day. The collection includes not only some of the finest French hybrids ever developed but also later blooming hybrids and species.

(Bartram's 300 continued from page 2)

May 19-21

Bartram 300: A Gathering, a symposium about John Bartram's Life and legacy, The Academy of natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Author and PBS historian David McCullough presents keynote address May 19th. *Franklinia Census* results announced. Advance registration required.

May 22-23

Bartram 300 Living History Festival featuring 18th century re-enactors,

crafters, music, dance, food: high quality craft show; children's events; tours of the Bartram-House, historic botanical garden and the Kalmar Nyckel. Festival admission: \$5 adults, \$2 children

Unless otherwise noted, events take

place at the Garden: 54th St. and Lindbergh Blvd. In Philadelphia. For more information call the Garden at (215) 729-5281 or e-mail bartram@libertynet.org.



Franklinia alatamaha

Detach here

Morris Arboretum Plans a Trip to China

The Natural Wonders and
Culture of China
September 6-20, 1999

Join the director of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and art historian and Chinese Scholar, Dr. William D. Y. Wu, as they travel to southwestern China and the Jade Dragon Snow Range. On the way you will have a unique opportunity to attend the International Flower Show. This is the first time this large horticultural festival has been hosted by China. Explore the Himalayas as you travel in the footsteps of famous plant explorers Joseph Rock and George Forrest. In the remote villages of Guizhou Province, enjoy the music of the Nansi Tribes and the colorful costumes, distinct architectural style, and savory banquets of the Miao tribes.

Paul Meyer writes "This trip will focus on China's history,

culture, gardens and flora. We will be traveling to Southwestern China and the Jade Snow Range, which is yet unconquered and will have the opportunity to visit the International Flower Show.

Leading the tour with me is William D. Y. Wu, who received his PH. D. from Princeton University in Chinese Art and Archaeology and is a former art professor at Mills and Dartmouth Colleges. Over the past eleven years, he has coordinated many unique tours to China, including two previous tours for the Morris Arboretum.

This will be my ninth trip to China. My trips have included three cultural and garden tours and six plant exploration trips to Sichuan, Jilin, Hubei, and Heilongjiang provinces. From my experiences I know you will enjoy the itinerary that Dr. Wu has planned for us. Both Dr. Wu and I will enrich your tour with mini-lectures on the horticultural, historical and cultural backgrounds of all that we experience."

(Continued on page 4)

- Yes**, I am interested in information about the Willowwood Foundation. Please send 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.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Office _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please complete the above and return this request to:

The Willowwood Foundation, P.O. Box 218 Gladstone, NJ 07934.

**The Willowood Foundation
P.O. Box 218
Gladstone, NJ 07934**

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**Macculloch Hall Historical
Museum Features the Exhibit
“The Nature of Garden Design”**

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum is currently featuring the exhibit, “The Nature of Garden Design” This exhibit explains the hallmarks of the classic 16th century Italian, 17th Century French, and 18th Century English garden landscape designs and how they have been interpreted in the United States.

The exhibit also explores European garden design philosophy and its duplication or interpretation in specific gardens in the United States, especially several local New Jersey gardens. Examples of these classic European prototypes are illustrated in the gardens at Florham located at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, New Jersey, Georgian Court in Lakewood, New

Jersey; Tyron Palace, New Bern North Carolina; and the Governor’s Palace, Williamsburg, Virginia.

In addition, Macculloch Hall’s gardens are also on display. Described as an eclectic interpretation of the English Landscape movement they are recorded as the oldest surviving gardens in Morris County.

The exhibit is running until July 25, 1999. The museum, located at 45 Macculloch Avenue, in Morristown, New Jersey is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 1 –4 PM. Please call (973) 538-2402 for more information.

**Waterloo Foundation
offers Garden
Lecture Series**

Join two noted New Jersey horticulturists for a series of informative lectures and workshops on great garden ideas. Lecture topics include; *Creating Herbal Topiaries, Creating Your Flower Garden, Entertaining with Herbs* and many more interesting topics. For more information call Waterloo Village at (973) 347-0900



(China continued from page.3)

For those who want further adventures, an optional trip extension includes visits to Emperor Qin’s terra-cotta army in Xian and the Great Wall.

- The Tour includes:
- Round trip limo between Philadelphia and New York
 - Round trip airfare from New York

- All land and air costs in China
- Exclusive itinerary designed by Dr. William D.Y. Wu and Paul W. Meyer
- Chinese national and local guides
- Twin bed accommodation in first class or best available hotels
- All entry fees
- Luggage-handling throughout the tour
- 13 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 10 dinners
- Invitation to the International Flower Show
- \$300 donation to the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Tour Price: \$5990

A copy of the itinerary and more detailed information is available at the Willowood Foundation office or you can call San Francisco Cultural Delegation Tours at (800) 666-1288 or the Morris Arboretum (215) 247-5777 ext. 119.