



# Willowwood Journal

Volume 8, Issue II

Summer 2001

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.

## *Hedgerows and Other Corners of Natural Diversity in Our Countryside Gardens*

Whether you manage a small back yard, a 10-acre homestead or a 500-acre farm, it's possible to walk more lightly on the land by allowing natural communities of wild plants and wildlife to thrive here and there.

Patches, corners and strips of natural diversity - a meadow let go, a wet field bottom, a part of the yard - can achieve a wonderfully rich sensation of habitat. As native plants grow up, or are encouraged by deliberate planting, the native songbirds, insects and mammals will return to enjoy

*(continued on page 2)*

*Foundation Plans  
Trip To  
Philadelphia Area  
Gardens  
September 25th  
See inside*



## *2000-2001 Foundation Grants Are Announced*

The Willowwood Foundation is pleased to announce the 2000-2001 Grant Awards. The Foundation was very pleased with the breadth of grant requests they received this year. The grants totaled \$71,150 in requests for the year. After careful consideration and regret that not all the grants could be funded the Foundation awarded seven grants totaling \$49,650. 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 \$32,000 to support a multitude of projects to benefit the care and maintenance of Willowwood Arboretum. The grant monies will be used to supply equipment for the Elizabeth Gardiner Propagation Facility, install lightning protection for the

champion trees at Willowwood, purchase a new Hermes display label system for the garden and employ a horticultural intern for 2001.

- ❖ The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia received \$3,000 to support a plant collections trip in the Southeastern United States. The objective is to collect and document wild-collected seed from native species. By increasing the genetic base of native germplasm they can better achieve the mission to conserve native plants, educate the public about the importance of native plants, and pursue research opportunities.
- ❖ Historic Morven, Princeton, NJ received \$5,000 to continue restoration of the garden. This will also include the development of garden tours and educational programs for all ages.

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the food, shelter and nesting places and the natural tangle. Hedgerows and unmowed areas are wildlife highways as well as its homes and supermarkets. Natural areas provide vital travel corridors for birds, insects, toads and others amid the expanses of empty green lawn that act as barriers to animal movement and native plant dispersal.

These natural places, spared the obliterating force of mowers and weed eaters can create islands of wild beauty on your land. Plan these "let go" places with the same care that you give your more manicured areas and you'll find them as rewarding as your mowed lawn and wooded garden. Perhaps more so, as an uncut strip of lawn or field can offer a natural succession of bloom from spring dogwoods to fall asters.

As the 21<sup>st</sup> century dawns, mankind cannot rely solely on public lands to safeguard the planet's natural diversity of life.

Private landowners who recognize the responsibility and opportunity that their ownership gives them can help ensure the survival of the world's wild plants and wildlife. Together, many individual private stewards of the planet can achieve much more than any public agency or government policy.

So look out on your personal landscape. What do you see? A perfect expanse of green grass achieved through hours of labor with weedeater and gas guzzling lawnmower? A manicured landscape that depends entirely on heavy applications of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and water during our hot dry summers? Or a more casual combination of lawn, taller growth and hedgerow, home to briar and black-eyed susan, butterflies and goldfinch, rabbits and turtles, frogs and fireflies?

Just a little less tidiness can help restore the natural beauty and ecological health of our countryside. The choice is yours.

## How You Can Create Hedgerows and Preserve Habitat

**Identify Possibilities.** Look for fencelines, woodland edges, the corners of a field or garden, wet bottom land, a pond edge or hard-to-mow hillside.

**Think corridors.** How does wildlife move from one place to another? Hedgerows can be vital highways as well as a place for wild creatures to live and find food.

**Mow Less.** This saves energy and your time, and helps reduce air and noise pollution. Mow regularly close to houses but cut lawns farther away from dwellings only every four to six weeks. Mow meadows annually or every two years.

**Control Your Weedeater.** Clean ragged edges selectively and leave native plants whenever possible. The livelihood of natural communities is in your hands.

**Help Nature Along.** Preserve and plant key native species: these shrubs, vines, trees and wildflowers are ideally suited to our climate and will thrive through the years with much less care from you.



### Some Plants of the Hedgerow

(The following are some examples of the kinds of hedgerow plants that grow naturally in much of the eastern United States. Plants with an \* following are non-native and Spp. identifies multiple species that are of merit.)

#### TREES

- Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
- Cherry (*Prunus spp.*)
- Crabapple\* (*Malus spp.*)
- Dogwood (*Cornus spp.*)
- Hackberry (*Celtis spp.*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus spp.*)
- Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

- Holly (*Ilex Opaca*)
- Maple (*Acer spp.*)
- Mulberry (*Morus rubra*)
- Paw-Paw (*Asimina triloba*)
- Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

#### SHRUBS

- Black Haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)
- Blackberry, Raspberry (*Rubus spp.*)
- Blueberry, Deerberry (*Vaccinium spp.*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

#### VINES

- Grape (*Vitis spp.*)
- Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*)
- Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*)

Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

(Leave dead trees standing wherever you can. They provide natural nesting cavities, as well as grubs and insects for birds, especially woodpeckers. Snags provide lookout perches.)

Many of these species will appear on their own if the habitat is right. You can also plant seeds or buy propagated plants from commercial growers.

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- ❖ The Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ received \$2,500 to support an education program entitled *Lives of the Tree*. This exhibit will focus on the interdependence between forest communities and human, as well as the interaction between soil, plants, and animals and the importance of tree products in our daily lives.
- ❖ The Leonard J. Buck Gardens, Far Hills, NJ received \$5,000 to begin implementation of a master plan for its future development and

sustainability.

- ❖ Rutgers University, Cook College Campus, Department of Plant Biology, New Brunswick, NJ received \$5,150 to continue research on the endangered *Aconitum noveboracense* (Northern Monkshood) and other species in the genus.
- ❖ The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, Mendham, NJ received \$2,000 to strengthen its web site ([www.anjec.org](http://www.anjec.org)) by establishing a

section that provides tools for Open Space Preservation. This web site will enable a much larger audience of local officials, citizens and land trust members to access practical information that will help them preserve open space more effectively.

The Foundation will be sending out applications in the next month for the 2001-2002 grant round. Applications are due back by August 1. Any organization that may be interested in applying for a grant can call the office at (908) 234-1815 for an application.

## Please Join Us for a Trip to Inspiring Gardens and Arboreta in the Philadelphia Area

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

### ITINERARY

**MORNING:**

**The Morris Arboretum** - A private tour with the Director of the Arboretum Dr. Paul Meyer. We will have a chance to see many of the plants that were collected in Korea and China on plant expeditions supported by the Willowood Foundation.

**LUNCH :**

Boxed lunches will be provided by The Morris Arboretum Cafe.

**AFTERNOON:**

**Meadowbrook Farms** - A private tour of J.L. Pennock's beautiful garden. Following the tour we will be able to shop the nursery before heading home.

Yes, I would like to go on the Willowood Trip. Enclosed is a check for \$60.00 made out to the Willowood Foundation to reserve my place.

Mail checks to P.O. Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

The trip will be held rain or shine. Space is limited to 20 people.  
The Willowood Foundation (908) 234-1815

No, I am not interested in attending the trip to the Philadelphia area, but would like to make a tax exempt donation to The Willowood Foundation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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## Permanent Plant Labels For The Garden Available From The Willowood Foundation

Are you tired of looking at plastic labels from the nursery on your plants? Maybe the labels have broken off and been lost so you don't remember what you have, or worse, the lettering has faded so you can't read it. The Willowood Foundation is now offering the same permanent plant labels that are used at Willowood Arboretum for your garden. These deluxe labels are made of lightweight, brown anodized aluminum and will be custom-embossed with your text. Tested in the gardens of Willowood and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum the brown labels will last for many years and will blend naturally into any garden or landscape setting.

- The label size is 1¾" x 3½" and accommodates up to four lines of customized type (29 characters per line).
- The cost is \$20.00 for a minimum order of 10 labels and includes shipping. Add \$1.75 for each additional label you require.

Please call us for an order form or mail your own list directly to us, using the example given below or your own format. You can also Email us at [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net). Please remember to print clearly and enclose your name, shipping address and a check or money order made out to the Willowood Foundation. Your labels will be shipped to you in 3-4 weeks.

*Actual plant tag size:*

**SAMPLE FORMAT** (29 characters per line):

(Line 1) Botanical Name

(Line 2) Common Name

(Line 3) Family Name or Flower Color

(Line 4) Planting date

