

Willowwood Journal

Volume 10

Fall 2002

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.

Willowwood Welcomes John Morse

The Willowwood Foundation is pleased to welcome John Morse, the new Manager of Horticulture for the Morris County Park Commission. John comes to the MCPC with 15 years experience in horticulture and plant collections management at numerous public gardens, including The New York Botanical Garden and Cornell Plantations. As the Curator for the Outdoor Gardens at NYBG, John assisted in the development and management of eight outdoor display gardens at a 250-acre public garden. The NYBG enjoys a yearly visitation of 600,000 visitors and has an annual budget of \$42 million dollars. John's responsibilities included Garden Management, Collections Development, Collections Curation, Garden Design, Plant Records, Education, and Interpretation. As horticulturist for Cornell Plantations in Ithaca, NY, John assisted in the "development, management, and operation of a 200-acre university botanical garden and arboretum with collections representing over 3000 taxa of woody and herbaceous plants of horticultural merit, and an annual bud-



et of \$1.8 million."

In addition to his professional training and experience, John brings to MCPC his boundless creativity, innovative ideas and incredible knowledge.

...I find Willowwood to be impressive in a number of ways. Foremost among these is its natural beauty. The shallow south-facing bowl that Henry and Robert Tubbs selected for their residence in 1908 is an ideal backdrop for an arboretum; the gardens in the level central core lead to shrub and tree collections around the perimeter, all of which is framed by the wooded hill-sides. In addition, the diverse plant collections are some of the most extensive in the region and contain many notable specimens, some of which are New Jersey champions... J. Morse

Manager's Report Fall 2002

Since I started at Willowwood on April 8, it's been a busy time. Planting the gardens in spring, hosting the Lilac Party in May and the Gesneriad Society in July, dealing with the heat and drought of the summer, and becoming acquainted with staff and the ways of the Park Commission have all had their challenges. The phrase "trial by fire" comes to mind. However, a challenge is what I was seeking and I have not been let down. Before coming to Willowwood I was the Curator of Outdoor Gardens at the New York Botanical Garden, and before that was the Plant Records Curator and Greenhouse and Nursery Manager at Cornell Plantations. I find my work at

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Willowwood utilizes my skills from both these experiences.

A number of you have asked what my goals are for Willowwood. For the short term, I'm simply observing. This means learning what things are, how they work, and how things have been done in the past. In addition, I'm trying to learn the history and objectives of the site and of each garden. Beyond that, I wish to maintain the historical integrity that makes Willowwood so special, while at the same time keeping things up-to-date horticulturally and promoting education, interpretation, and research programs that meet the needs of the Willowwood Foundation and of the community. Moreover, I hope to maintain the intimate, private, and in some cases somewhat primitive feeling of the gardens while at the same time not having things appear overgrown or neglected. Long term, my goals are to improve the quality of horticulture in the gardens and arboretum and to follow my predecessor, Fred Spicer, and continue to develop great gardens and great plant collections and the infrastructure necessary to support them. As a person, I have a strong commitment to gardens that are aesthetically pleasing and to plant collections that are diverse. In too many gardens, these seem to be mutually exclusive; I don't believe this necessarily has to be the case.

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the Morris County Park Commission. Speaking of support, one thing that impressed me from my first day is the commitment of our horticulture volunteers. This elite cadre devotes one morning each week to the care of the gardens and works tirelessly in all



types of weather. No matter what the job, from potting minute seedlings to extracting gigantic weeds, this crew greets each task with gusto. Their contribution to the upkeep of the gardens is significant and is greatly appreciated.

It is an exciting time at WWA and I'm looking forward to working with the Willowwood Foundation to further develop collections and programs. One interesting project that is about to get under way is the restoration of the Martha Brookes Hutcheson gardens at our neighboring park, Bamboo Brook. This summer, our propagation activities focused on growing plants for this important project which is expected to get under way in 2003. Interestingly, we have propagated these plants from existing specimens in the Martha Brookes Hutcheson gardens whenever possible.

John Morse
Manager of Horticulture
Morris County Park Commission

Lilac Party 2002 is a Smashing Success!

Supporters of the Willowwood Foundation and the Willowwood Arboretum enjoyed a glorious May afternoon at this year's Lilac Party. Partygoers enjoyed the splendor of the gardens while chatting with friends and enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres. The rich melodies of the University Glee Club drifted from the stone barn and filled the gardens with song as a golden sunset signaled the end of a perfect day.

We would like to thank the many people who contributed their time, talent and financial support to this year's Lilac Party. The Lilac Party is Willowwood's biggest fundraiser of the year and your generous contributions make it possible for the Willowwood Foundation to continue its mission of protecting this horticultural treasure. Please enjoy this wonderful photo essay of the Lilac Party 2002.





*Foundation President
Marshall Jeanes of
Far Hills (left) and
John Morse, Manager
of Horticulture,
Darien, CT (right)*

*(Party photos
courtesy of
Robin Collins)*



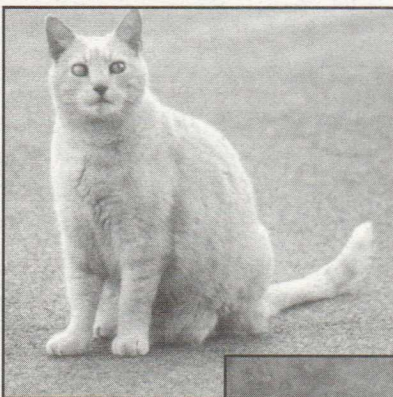
*Trustee Mary Bartow,
Gladstone*



Trustee Austin Buck, Far Hills



*Former Trustee Nancy Strong,
Far Hills*



*Wisly, Lord of
the Manor,
Willowood*

*And for the stars
that really made
the party
special...*

*Richard McGlynn
and his University
Glee Club*



NOTES ON PRUNING

*from Pruningmatters123
by Frances Calvin West*

Plants need pruning for several reasons...

- ❖ To let in light and air.
- ❖ To remove dead, diseased or damaged material.
- ❖ To accentuate a plant's best features.
- ❖ To help a plant in a difficult space.
- ❖ To rejuvenate old and neglected plants.

Pointers...

Relax! Pruning, in moderation, does not kill plants.

Remove only 1/3 of a plant per growing season.

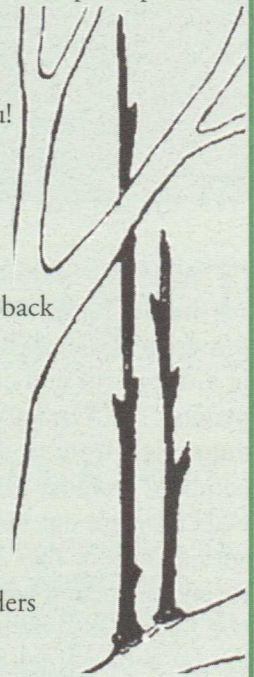
Prune when the spirit moves you!

Prevent accidents.

From time to time, stop, step back and assess your progress.

3 Growth Habits

- ❖ Sentinels
- ❖ Piggyback Riders
- ❖ Free Spirits



For more great info on pruning, go to...

www.pruningmatters123.com

*A Formula for Success -
Maintaining Natural Beauty in
Shrubs and Small Trees
By Frances Calvin West*

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Jack Kelly	Edmund Stiles
Brace Krag	Daniel Will
Peggy Krementz	Alan Willemsen
Royce Lee	

We salute our Horticulture Volunteer Team!

The Horticulture Volunteer Team is a hearty bunch. We would rather be outside in whatever Mother Nature throws at us than any place else. Many times working outside is a dirty, wet and chilly job but there are never any complaints. The GardenWorks is a 12-month program and the volunteers work at everything garden. From cutting back bamboo, pruning, planting, raking, edging and weeding the beds they are out there. When Willowwood Arboretum has special events like the annual Lilac Party, the volunteers spring into action working with the staff to ready the gardens and foil the lilac dividends. When the horticulture volunteers are not in the garden they assist with an assortment of behind-

the-scenes activities including processing collected seed for the Index Seminar, an international seed exchange and plant propagation.



Kate Gutierrez

~ Willowwood Arboretum ~

1st ANNUAL WILLOWWOOD WORKDAY

Saturday, March 29, 2003
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Shake off those winter blues and come help us prepare the Willowwood Arboretum for spring. We will tackle a variety of projects, including garden cleanup, raking and trimming the trails, collecting fallen branches and brush, and pruning the hedgerows. Needless to say, this is a great way to get to know other Willowwood members and experience the arboretum at a beautiful time of year. Come dressed in sturdy gardening attire and bring a lunch. We'll take a break at midday. Join us for all or part of the day.

To sign up, please contact Kate Gutierrez by March 25 at 973-326-7266, or via e-mail at kgutierrez@morrisparks.net.