

Willowwood Journal

Volume 11, Issue I

Summer 2003

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.

PHOTO CREDITS:
THANKS TO:

- ROBIN COLLINS
- KATE GUTIERREZ
- JOHN MORSE
- LESLIE ALLAIN

Blue Birds & Artists visit Willowwood's Spring Gardens

Spring was not very "Spring like" at 'Paradise Farm' but still the Blue Birds returned to nest and Artists, paint and canvas in hand, delighted in the flowering vistas. Daffodils and Narcissus bordered the drive and naturalized in the fields. Flowering trees wafted perfumed fragrances in the air. Though few sunny days appeared in May and June, visitors walked through the gardens enjoying early signs of a most welcome Spring!



The Lilac Party—A May Tradition



Designed several years ago by former trustee Mary Bartow as the Foundation's primary fundraiser, the Lilac Party patterns the original "Lilac Parties" given by John Bradshaw and Dr. Ben Blackburn to celebrate the end of winter and the awakening of the beautiful lilac blooms at Willowwood.

Mother Nature smiled this past May 18th and gave partygoers one of the two sunny days in May. Soft, gentle breezes scented with fragrant nuances, and a warm sunny sky greeted the guests as they toured the lilacs and gardens. Tasty bites of delectable food and drink accompanied them as they talked and mingled with old friends and new and listened to the melodious music of "The Ten" led by Richard McGlynn.



Left: Marshall Jeanes, President of the Trustees and Kate Gutierrez, Horticulture Volunteer Program Specialist



Right: retired MCPC Secretary-Director, Quentin C. Schleider and Lilac Party Guest.

Many thanks to our friends and corporate sponsors:

- ❖ Morris County Park Commission
- ❖ The Willowwood Volunteers
- ❖ Ken Selody, "Atlock Farm"
- ❖ Peapack Gladstone Bank
- ❖ John Charles Smith
- ❖ Tree Tech
- ❖ Turpin Real Estate
- ❖ Richard McGlynn and "The Ten"
- ❖ Ross and Owren Caterers
- ❖ And our generous guests and supporters



Tubbs House Curator- Renee Nisivoccia

Morris County Park Commission Curator of Collections, Renee Nisivoccia has spent several months this year working on the collections of memorabilia, papers and furnishings owned by Robert and Henry Tubbs and Dr. Ben Blackburn, owners and residents of the Tubbs House at the Willowood Arboretum.

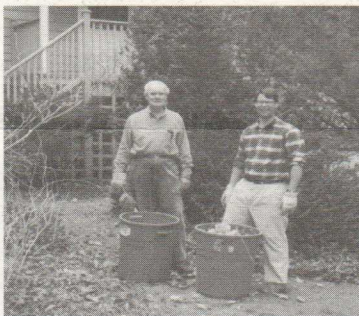
Archiving hundreds of photos, family correspondence and publications has been a revealing insight into these men who transformed the "Paradise Farm" into an Arboretum filled with landscaped gardens within the framework of a Colonial Revival home. The Tubbs brothers designed the gardens so that the front door of the house is aligned with a wrought iron gate in the cottage garden, while from the back door, one can see directly down the center of the enchanting Pan's Garden.

Conservation of the house and furnishings has also been a time consuming task from the care of the

open hearth cooking utensils in the dining room to the Chinese and Japanese furniture and decorative pieces collected by the Tubbs Brothers and found within the parlor and book room.

The 1st Annual WillowoodWork Day

On one of the more "Fall" like days in early Spring, warmly dressed volunteers tackled a variety of cleanup tasks at the Willowood Arboretum. Raking wet wintered leaves and leftover winter storm debris from the flower beds, a crew of Willowood Trustees and horticultural volunteers prepared the gardens for Spring plantings. Over 5 pick up truck loads of debris were carried away. Thanks for the help, everyone!



Trustees Alan Willemsen and Brace Krag

2002 Willowood Grants announced:

"To assist with gifts and to cooperate in fostering municipal, county and state projects related to the preservation of land and the conservation of natural resources with emphasis on plants and fauna" is the mandate of the Willowood Foundation.

In 2003, a grant of \$25,000 was issued to the MCPC to fund improvements and enhancements to the Willowood Arboretum and \$2,000 was designated as well to help fulfill retired MCPC Secretary-Director and Willowood Trustee, Quentin C. Schleider's dream of completing exhibits at the Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area's Visitor's Center.

Additional funds supported projects at the Leonard J. Buck Gardens, the Morris Museum, The Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania, the Reeves-Reed Arboretum and the Cora Hartshorn Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary.

Applications for 2004 grants can be obtained by calling 908-234-1815. Submission deadline is August 15.



Morris County Park Garden Day Trips

Over 3,500 kinds of native and exotic plants currently flourish at the Willowood Arboretum. You will experience beautiful gardens and charming homes as part of the MCPC Historic House & Garden Day Trips.

Tour with a professional guide at the Willowood Arboretum and then either Fosterfields, Historic Speedwell, the Cooper Grist Mill or the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Have lunch and browse the Frelinghuysen Cottage Gift shop. Call 973-326-7644 for more information and to reserve your opportunity to recharge your spirit in our horticulturally diverse gardens.

Permanent Plant Labels for *your* Garden:

Are you tired of looking at those ugly plastic labels on your plants or worse yet, not remembering exactly what this wondrous plant is? The Willowood Foundation has the answer. We can provide permanent aluminum arboretum style tags customized for you and your garden. Blending into the landscape, unobtrusive yet an enduring record of gifts of love and beauty, these labels can be shipped within 10-15 days.

Label size: 1 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches with 4 lines of customized type.

Cost: \$20.00 for a minimum order of 10 labels including shipping.

Call for an order form: 908-234-1815

Planning a Party?

A wedding? Engagement Party/Shower? Or...? The Willowood Arboretum is available for celebrations. The Stone Barn, surrounded by gardens with twinkling lights in the trees, is a wonderful setting for a very special event. Call Chris Knox at the MCPC for more details: 973-326-7619.

June 7, 1942 "Tubbs Journal"

"*Hydrangea petolaris*—very fine, petals flr, dipping"

"*Magnolia virguarna*—superb"

"*Risa gallica*—starting"

"*Risa* Hundred leaf *Risi*—charming"

"*Deutzia seala*—at best, and very full"

"*Chinanthus virginica*—finished"

Horticultural Memorial Tributes:

"Trees are the best monuments that a man can erect to his own memory. They speak his praises without flattery, and they are blessings to children yet unborn."

Lord Orrey, 1749.

What a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate the birth of a grandchild or commemorate a special birthday! Or just as a unique and thoughtful gift for the special gardener in your life. Choose from a variety of Memorial/Tribute plantings or garden accessories placed at the Willowwood Arboretum. All gifts are tax deductible. For details, contact John Morse 908-234-0992

Willowwood Trail Walks:

A 45 minute walk through the Arboretum will take you past formal gardens, woodland paths, rock gardens, the lilac collection and in summer, colorful flowering meadows. While cross country skiers can't appreciate the plantings in winter, spring and summer trail walkers will find hidden nooks of shade and wide reaching vistas preserved for today's enjoyment and tomorrow's generations.

A Willowwood Trail Guide, available at the park entrance, is a handy booklet filled with history as well as pertinent plant information to help plan your walk.

The Arboretum features over 3500 kinds of native and exotic plants and most are permanently tagged for quick identification.

Enjoy!

Willowwood Garden Tour:

Join Manager of Horticulture, John Morse, for a personalized plant intensive tour of these very special gardens in this lovely Morris County Park.

John's tours are scheduled for Saturday, September 13 and Saturday, October 18 from 10:30 to noon. The first tour will focus on the core gardens such as the Cottage Garden and Pan's Garden with hidden sculptures and shaded nooks.

The second tour will focus on surrounding planting collections.

Each tour is \$8. or both are \$15. Sign up at 973-326-7603. Sponsored by the Friends of the Frelinghuysen.



Water Gardening in Containers... "Can cool a sun drenched patio, change colors at a whim and offer a serene setting on summer nights," says Ken Selody, Willowwood Trustee and owner of Atlock Farm. Whether you have a sprawling patio/deck or a private balcony, various types of pots and containers can be filled with abundant, variegated foliage and flowers (Cannas or Lotus), contrasting textures (African Papyrus or spidery Cyperus) and unusual colorations (Black Taro).

Choosing your pot or grouping of pots is the first step—anything that holds water from a whimsical old birdbath to artistic terra cotta or ceramic planters will do—whatever makes you happy and is in line with your garden décor. Remember, pots are moveable and can be re-arranged, rotated and replanted quickly. The larger the pot, the easier to maintain as there is more surface area to grow beneficial algae and keep the water temperature stable. Aquatics generally need full sun (4-6 hours daily) and can be planted mid-late June, or earlier if Mother Nature agrees.

Now is your chance to experiment with aquatic plantings. Choose the unusual. You will use so few that the cost is minimal but the effect is dramatic. Tiny plants grow dramatically in the first few weeks. Options include vertical grasses or even an ornamental cultivar rice plant (in a pot without drainage), clustering types such as True Bacopa or the Mosaic Plant. Or choose floaters: Water Lettuce, Water Hyacinth or Water Fern. Experienced nurserymen can present wonderful contrasting selections to maximize your container shapes and sizes. Before you plant, however, vigorously rinse the roots to remove any unwanted water nymphs, algae or unexpected microscopic vegetation.

Some varieties of waterlilies work best in soil-filled mini pots. Use plumber's epoxy to plug any drainage holes. Spread vari-colored gravel on the top of the pot to retain the soil. To shade the water and keep it clean and cool, floating plants as well as snowflake or duckweed should cover at least 2/3 of the water surface to control algae growth.

Don't over fertilize! Use a slow release formula specifically for aquatics. If the water is too richly nutrient, the algae will explode! Remove immediately. If plants get too full, splash in the water, cool off and weed them out!

Tropical aquatic plants can winter below a greenhouse bench or in a cool (not freezing—60° min) garage. However, it is more fun to buy new each June—visit the Frelinghuysen Arboretum plant sale!

YES! I want to help the Willowwood Foundation continue the work of Dr. Ben Blackburn and Russ Meyers.

Please add me to your mailing list. Email _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to The Willowwood Foundation.

All donations are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

Mail to: The Willowwood Foundation, PO Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934 or call 908-234-1815 for more information

The Willowwood Foundation
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Save the Dates...

2nd Annual Willowwood Spring Work Day.....Saturday, April 3, 2004

"The *Lilac Party*"Sunday, May 16, 2004

Wish List for the Willowwood Arboretum (is there an early Santa out there?)

Help us to maintain the horticultural legacy of Henry and Robert Tubbs by funding one of the following much-needed items for the Willowwood Arboretum. Please contact the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 if you would like to support the arboretum through one of these opportunities.

SPRING-FLOWERING BULBS:

Each spring carpets of daffodils delight Willowwood visitors in the Winter Garden, Orchard, and along the entrance drive. Help us expand our display with a gift of *Narcissus*. Daffodils, \$425 per 1000 bulbs.

TEAK GARDEN FURNITURE:

The Bee Meadow is an ideal place to pause as one explores the northeast arboretum. Help us acquire two teak armchairs and a teak side table to grace this area. This is the perfect spot to experience the butterflies, birds, and exuberant meadows at Willowwood on a summer day. Chairs, \$530 each; side table, \$195.

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE:

Help us maintain Willowwood's gardens and grounds with a John Deere "Gator" brand all-terrain vehicle. This light-weight three-wheeled go-cart has a dumping body and can transport staff, plants, and maintenance supplies to sensitive areas where a pick-up cannot go. \$6800.