



# Willowwood Journal

Volume 12, Issue 1

Autumn, 2006

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  
RICHARD PADGETT  
LESLIE ALLAIN

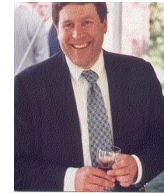
## You're Invited to an Autumn Open House

The Willowwood Arboretum will host an Autumn Open House and festival from Noon to 4 pm on Sunday, October 22. Join the guided tour of the Meadows and gardens and enjoy colorful fall foliage and notable winter features. Don't miss the wondrous red hues of the Japanese Maple Collection, especially the crimson gold "Waterfall" maple which cascades over the edge of the Cypress pool. "Waterfall" was a seedling found by Robert Tubbs in the 1930's. Timely demonstrations on fall planting along with a 'helpful tips' program on putting your garden to bed for the winter will be presented by the horticulture staff. You can also purchase a specially selected package of minor bulbs that are Spring features at Willowwood. Top off your visit with hot cider and doughnuts and a slide presentation on Willowwood's history in the Stone Barn.

Enjoy a perfect Fall Day! *Free to the Public.*

A wine tasting to benefit the Willowwood Foundation & Arboretum will be held at the "Stone Barn" on **Sunday, October 15.**

**Wine Tasting Hosted by Chris Cree, M.W.**



Taste Rieslings from around the World from 3—5 pm, complimented by Asian appetizers and sweets from Ixora and cheeses from Valley Shepard, Long Valley. Music by local guitarist Victor Keremedjiev. Call *56 Degree Wine* at **908-953-0900** to reserve your tickets.

## The "Lilac Party" is a



**Success!** Despite torrential downpours hours before, partygoers in their Spring finery and gardening boots, enjoyed sunny skies, balmy breezes and great conversation at the 11th "Lilac Party".

Welcomed by Foundation President, Marshall Jeanes, the celebration included a wine tasting by Chris Cree, M.W., melodies by "The Ten", a Silent Auction of Willowwood grown plants, rare replicas of the Martha Brookes Hutcheson Bamboo Brook fruit baskets, jewelry by K.T. Shepperly, Artwork by Beth Rundquist, Garden Art by Tendenze Designs, plus gourmet appetizers and the bewitching scent of the Willowwood lilac collection in full bloom. Proceeds from this event will support various garden projects at the Arboretum.



## Willowwood Centennial year begins in 2008.

The deed was recorded on August 4, 1908 finalizing the sale of "Paradis Farm" owned by Arabella and Ellis Tiger of Bedminster to Benjamin R. and Carrie L. Tubbs of Kingston, Pa., parents of Robert and Henry Tubbs. Both the Willowwood Foundation and the Morris County Park Commission Horticulture Staff are busy working on event plans to commemorate a hundred years of significant plant collection, study, propagation and botanical research by Robert and Henry Tubbs and their adopted son, Dr. Benjamin Blackburn, noted horticulturist and university professor.

## Willowood Trail Walks:

One of the best features of living in North-west New Jersey is the change of seasons and nowhere is it more lovely than at the Arboretum.

Warm sunny days and cool nights and our slightly damp summer insure lots of fall color in the gardens. Willowood is classified as a "lesser known gem" by *Horticulture Magazine* which suggests a self guided tour and meandering pace to lead you through grounds that feature over 3,500 native and exotic, wild and cultivated plantings.

Tucked in a corner across the drive from the Cypress pool is the NJ Champion towering dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) planted as a seedling in 1950. Now over 100 feet, it is a deciduous conifer and was donated by the Arnold Arboretum after a seed collecting expedition to China in 1947.

Did you know that the Foundation supports an Index seminum program? The horticulture staff collects seeds from various plantings at Willowood—some from plants that were raised by the Tubbs' brothers—and offers them in exchange to various arboreta throughout the world who then forward their rare and unusual seeds to Willowood for cultivation. You might see Pam Wilson, *Plant Records Curator & Propagation Specialist*, through the windows of the Helen R. Gardiner propagation house tending and potting some of these new seedlings. Other plants that fare better when transplanted directly into the ground can be found in our nursery garden near the Rosarie. The very knowledgeable horticulture staff loves to answer questions, so ask away!

There are garden benches tucked into quiet sunlit spots—so pack your camera and a snack and enjoy this very special time of year.

Once winter and the snow arrives, come back again for a different kind of visit. Hiking, walking on the field trails or once the snow covers the grounds, Cross country skiing on the trails is very popular with moms during school hours and families on weekends. The gardens are quiet but after the holidays, trays of early spring pansies will be in the greenhouse. The best harbinger of Spring are the hellebores (Lenten rose) tucked around the front of the Tubbs' House.



\*\*\*\*\*

## Volunteers Make A Difference!

You, too, can learn the secrets of proper fall garden maintenance in preparation for (dare we say it?) Winter. Burr... But the beds must be readied and spring bulbs planted now for the glorious color you will see next Spring. Get your gloves a bit dirty helping with propagation and potting!

Join the Willowood Volunteers from Wednesdays from 9 AM to Noon.

Wear Gardening clothes, bring gloves and a snack.

Call Kate Gutierrez, Horticultural Volunteer Program Specialist, at 973-326-7266 to sign up!



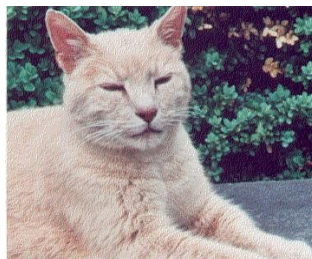
## Wisley the Cat, Willowood guardian!

No ordinary feline, this intrepid fellow showed up at the Arboretum around 16 years ago and endeared himself to staff and regular visitors alike.

You may not always "see" him as he has a habit of tucking himself under a shady bush on hot days or you might find him in the cottage garden basking on a sunny rock in Autumn.

And he has been known to defend his territory around the barns scaring away chipmunks and squirrels who love to burrow into the planting beds.

He is gentle and good around considerate and kind children and loves to have his photo taken!



Wisley is not really a "house" cat. However, don't worry about his well being as he is more than well fed by the horticulture staff who also care for him diligently, taking him regularly to the vet's for his shots and making sure he has a warm nest in winter.

He loves to sneak into open cars—we think he's been planning a trip or two. So look out for an extra passenger!

## The "Lilac Party" Thanks:

### Our Sustaining Partners

Ken Selody, Atlock Farm  
Peapack Gladstone Bank

∞

### Corporate Sponsors

Tree Tech \* Turpin Real Estate

∞

### Benefactors

Mr. and Mrs. George Allport  
Mr. Stathis Andris  
Mrs. Hazen J. Baron  
Mrs. Philip K. Bartow  
Mrs. John W. Bristol  
Mr. Finn M.W. Caspersen  
Ms. Patricia D. Chambers  
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Dana  
The Hon. Peter H.B. Freylinghuysen  
Mr. and Mrs. Gates Helms Hawn  
Mr. and Mrs. David Helmer  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Henry  
Mr. and Mrs. Burton How  
Mr. Andrew Huston  
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Jeanes  
Mrs. Neils W. Johnsen  
The Peter R. & Cynthia K. Kellogg Fdn.  
Mrs. Alexander Keyes  
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Koven  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Krementz, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. William B. McKnight  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Peter Mercer  
Ms. Janet Mavec  
Mr. Philip Norkeliunas  
Mr. and Mrs. James Porter  
Mr. Quentin C. Schlieder  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shapiro  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Silverman  
Mrs. William T. Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Storms  
Mr. and Mrs. Thompson Swayne

### Patrons

Mrs. Philip Allen  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Allocca  
Mr. Jason Andris  
Mr. and Mrs. Willard W. Brown  
Mr. Russell Buchanan  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Austin Buck  
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Cameron  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Collins  
Mr. Putnam Lee Crafts, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Harden L. Crawford III  
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver D. Filley  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ganzenmiller  
Mrs. Marjorie Graff  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Harms  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kreyer, Jr.  
James H. Maynard, Esq.  
Mrs. Mary Mason  
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McAlpin  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Jeff Mennen  
Mr. Frederick C. Mueller  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Parker  
Ms. Lesley Parness  
Mrs. Edwin Peet  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Richards  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Slack  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Steele  
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Stephenson  
Mrs. Robert D. Veghte  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Will, III  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Willemssen

## 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 Willowwood 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: 908-234-1815

## Horticultural Memorial Tributes:

Remember a loved one, celebrate the birth of a grandchild or commemorate a special birthday! Or as just a unique and thoughtful gift for the special gardener in your life. Choose from a variety of plantings or garden accessories such as this bench, placed in one of the gardens or meadow viewing sites at the Willowwood Arboretum. All gifts are tax deductible. For details, contact John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, 908-234-0992



## Planning a Party?

Want to dance under the stars or arrange a wedding? Engagement Party/Shower? Or...? The Willowwood Arboretum is available for celebrations of any kind. Year round, trees with twinkling lights surround the Stone Barn or tent, creating a magical setting for a very special event. From spring through fall, the gardens are glorious and the cottage garden is especially charming for wedding ceremonies with its flower vined gazebo.

Plan now (as available dates fill up fast) to call Chris Knox at the MCPC for more details: 973-326-7619.



## Dr. Blackburn's Rules for a Garden Paradis

1. "Plants go in places where we think (and hope) they will grow well...no point in having plants that look shabby and unhappy"
2. "Plants look appropriate where they grow"
3. "Education—we strive to meet the needs of students, so they can find related plants growing together...and more easily make comparisons."

**Willowwood: How it all began...** Robert was a banker and Henry worked at Scribner's. But their passion dictated their life long efforts to transform a farm of cultivated fields and peach orchards into a place filled with their unusual collection of exotic plantings. With their parents, they purchased Paradis Farm in 1908, and renamed it Willowwood for the huge Weeping Willows along the brook. Firs, apple, pear and peach trees were added to the orchards. Then a small dairy herd and vegetable gardens for the family's use comprised the farm.

But Robert and Henry were determined to fulfill their dreams. As they cleared tangles of blackberry bushes at the back of the house, they gradually formulated their ideas of how they wanted the gardens around the house to appear. Plants from their parents' home garden where both Robert and Henry were enthusiastic gardeners and hemlocks from their grandfather's summer place in the mountains soon found a place on the property.

As Spring began in 1911, a visit from long time friends, the Benjamin Dorrance Family, resulted in the dream gift of an entire freight car filled with plants at the Gladstone train station. Dozens of Syringas, Hydrangeas, Spiraeas, Forsythias, Roses, Lilies, Peonies and Conifers would now surround the drive and shape the gardens.

What a gift! But it was the first of many. Neighbor, Martha Brookes Hutcheson, contributed ideas on design and composition. And of course, the family would eagerly await Robert's Friday afternoon train which carried specially chosen treasures from the New York city markets—the bald-cypress, blue atlas cedars and dwarf alberta spruces among them.

Robert and Henry loved to entertain and invited their Gardening friends "to the country" on weekends and all contributed seeds or plants.

Correspondence with world renowned China plant explorer Ernest H. "Chinese" Wilson at the Arnold Arboretum led to propagating materials of original specimens of Chinese Lacebark Pine, Waterlily Magnolia and Chinese House Lemon.

In the early 1930's, a friendship with Dr. F. V. Coville of the US Department of Agriculture resulted in Franklinia being planted. Pink Ladyslippers were successfully established in the Pine hillside by Dr. William Wilson of Montclair who scattered the seeds and was delighted to see them in full bloom a few years later.

As early as 1939, the Tubbs' brothers who had collected and grew thousands of plants and tested many gifted to them from friends all over the world, talked of making Willowwood an arboretum. But lack of funding, WW II and Robert's death in 1942, stymied Henry's enthusiasm. By 1946, the meadow and woodland along the upper section of the brook where Robert had planted choice plants was overgrown with thickets and vine honeysuckles as well as sumacs, white ash and slippery elm seedlings. Thus began a long and arduous project to reclaim this treasure trove.

From *The Story of Willowwood*, MCPC, updated in 1989.

**The Willowood Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 218**  
**Gladstone, NJ 07934**  
**908-234-1815**

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GLADSTONE, NJ  
PERMIT NO. 78

Marshall Jeanes, President  
Brace Krag, Vice President  
Katie Porter, Secretary  
Finn Caspersen, Treasurer

Grania Allport	Janet Mavec
Stathis Andris	Jane McKnight
Mary Bartow	Jane Mercer
James Bellis	Preston Moore
Karolee Brown	Anne Peterson
Joan Buck	Kathryn Porter
Nick Cameron	Ken Selody
Finn M.W. Caspersen	Constance Silverman
Jim Collins	Anita Shearan
David Helmer	Nancy Strong
Mary How	Edmund Stiles
Marshall Jeanes	Susan Swayne
Brace Krag	

### *Save the Dates...*

October 15, 2006—Chris Cree “Wine Tasting”

October 22, 2006 Willowood *Autumn 'Open House'*

### Wish List for the Willowood Arboretum

Help us to maintain the horticultural legacy of Henry and Robert Tubbs by helping to fund one of the Willowood Foundation's initiatives at the Willowood Arboretum. In the past year, phase one of the Rosarie garden renovation has been completed, lightning protection was installed in some of the most important specimen trees, propagation and planting of new Willow specimens was continued in order to restore this waning collection, two horticultural interns were hired and over 1500 spring-flowering bulbs were planted in the entrance meadows. In 2006 we hope to complete the Rosarie garden, upgrade our famous Lilac Collection and begin renovation of the Monarda Meadow and the Oak Collection. We have many other plans but need your help! As a fellow gardener or as one who simply treasures our living museum, please contact the Willowood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or via email [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net) if you would like to support the arboretum

**YES! I want to help the Willowood 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 Willowood Foundation.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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