



◀ 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,
AND ACCESS
INFORMATION
ABOUT NATIVE
AND EXOTIC
PLANTS.

PHOTO CREDITS:
THANKS TO:

ROBIN COLLINS
KATE GUTIERREZ
JOHN MORSE
LESLIE ALLAIN



The "Lilac Party" A May Tradition Sunday, May 21st

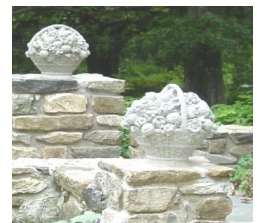


Put on your best bib and tucker and reserve your ticket now for the traditional May "Lilac Party". Walk in the fragrant flowering Lilac gardens, nibble on tasty delights, taste a variety of light Spring and Summer wines chosen by Christopher Cree, Master of Wine and owner of "56 Degrees" in Bernardsville, and enjoy the wonderful music of "The Ten" of the University Glee Club while you bid on that very special *Silent Auction* item for you, *your home and garden*. Tickets available by Reservation only. RSVP by May 15th to 908-234-1815. *Rain or Shine!*




Rare and Unusual Silent Auction Items Tempt ...

the intrepid gardener and shopper! Offerings include Garden antiques, rare replicas of the Martha Brookes Hutchinson designed flower and fruit baskets now displayed at the Bamboo Brook coffee terrace, botanical artwork by Beth Rundquist, a lilac party inspired amethyst and 14 kt. Gold beaded bracelet by Kathy Shepperly, K.T. Shepperly designs, Dining Gift certificates for lunch at Café Azurro, dinner at Pierre's or for deep root tree feeding from Tree Tech, extraordinary rustic bird houses (the crème de la crème in aviary residences) signed by David Robinson, Natural Edge, from Somerset Feed & Grain, rare horticultural books from the Willowwood Library, a signed copy of Jack Turpin (continued . 3)



For over 20 years, Christopher




Wine Tasting Hosted by Chris Cree, M.W.

Cree, M.W., one of only 20 Americans to pass the demanding Master of Wine examination, has reveled in his passion for the beauty and wonder of wine. Founder of Wine Experts LLC, Chris specializes in wine education and lecturing to a wide array of corporate and private clients and is the proprietor of "56 Degree" in Bernardsville. Chris has also chosen a wine basket to include in the silent auction.

Mother's Day at the Willowwood Arboretum

Such serendipity! The Willowwood Arboretum's lilacs are in bloom just in time for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14. You and your favorite mom can enjoy a self guided tour of the lilac collection or tour with an expert who will answer your gardening queries along the way. Demonstrations of lilac propagation and lilac pruning will help you care for your lilacs. And Unusual lilac cultivars for sale make an ideal gift for a happy mother. Learn the background of Willowwood's historic lilac collection which features the best lilac species and cultivars for use in northern and central New Jersey. Enjoy light refreshments. Bring your camera—there are great spots for that family photo that will bring wonderful memories for years to come. *Free to the public from Noon to 4 pm.*

Willowood 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. A Willowood Trail Guide, available at the park entrance, is filled with history and plant information. Be sure to walk through the cottage garden developed by Dr. Benjamin Blackburn. Flower filled, each season brings new color and delight. Meander through the metal gate past the Tubbs House to a narrow, stream side trail filled with sculptures collected by the Tubbs brothers. To the west of the house is the cypress pool with a red Japanese Maple *Acer palmatum* as its centerpiece. In summer, the various textures and diverse greens of the plants offer cool serenity and comfort even in the heat of an afternoon. Around the main house you will find the formal "Pan's Garden". A small bust of Pan is tucked at the end of the garden. Once an old berry patch, developing this garden was Henry Tubb's particular delight. The design was based on a Persian prayer rug. Notice how the path between the two main beds is narrower at the end further from the house— it creates the illusion that the garden is longer than it really is.  You can rest a bit on the shaded porch, listen to the birds and inhale the wonderful scents of spring perfumes) and a rock garden. Peak into the conservatory; on sunny days, the door is open. Enjoy the fragrance and the flowering plants. The Rosarie garden is currently under repair and restoration. There is a baby nursery nearby where baby plants who grow better in the ground than in pots are nurtured for future plantings.

In addition there are acres full of trees and shrubs in the Monarda Meadow to wander or paths to follow towards Bamboo Brook.

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

New Jersey Life Magazine

recently listed the nearly 100 foot tall Dawn Redwood tree at the corner of the circa 1823 mottled purple puddingstone cottage (also known as the John Baldwin house) as #98 on its list of favorite people, places and things in New Jersey.



Volunteers wanted!

Learn to garden and prune! Join the Willowood Volunteers from Wednesdays from 9 AM to Noon and celebrate the opening of the Spring Gardens! Unearth those tender green plants to bask in the warm rays of the sun and start another flowering season! Wear Gardening clothes, bring gloves and a lunch! Call Kate Gutierrez, Horticultural Volunteer Program Specialist, at 973- 326-7266 to sign up!

To prove Spring really is on its way, Pam Wilson, Plant Records Curator & Propagation Specialist, the Willowood staff and Kate Gutierrez, and her team of volunteers have filled the propagation shed with pansies and other bedding plants just ready to pop with color!



Willowood Mapping Project Complete:

In the early 90's, the Arboretum was manually surveyed but our Willowood intern finally continued their work and completed this long awaited mapping project. Identifying, tagging and locating all the plants and trees was just part of this painstaking job. Each bit of plant data was entered into a database. Exact measurements of exactly where each plant was located was verified and then this data was merged into a GIS mapping program allowing the botanical staff to create custom maps based on plant names, donors or specific sources and then using the maps physically locate the plants on the grounds.

Practical application of this information enabled production of a "Guide to the Lilac Collection at the Willowood Arboretum" describing all the Lilac specimens and creating a map to find them. Guides will be available for "Mothers Day", the "Lilac Party" and walking tours in May.

Willowood's Lilac Collection:

Lilacs are members of the Olive family (Oleaceae) along with privet and forsythia. The Willowood lilacs are native to Europe and Asia. Started by the Tubbs brothers, then added to by Dr. Blackburn there is diversity in colors, shapes and bloom periods.

1. *Syringa sweginzowii* Chengu Lilac— native to Northwest China, late flowering with rosy lilac flowers fading to pale pink.
2. *Syringa vulgaris* 'President Lincoln' - native to the Balkans, medium blue flowers.
3. *Syringa xprestoniae* 'Francisca' - developed in the 1920's, deep purple single blossoms.
4. *Syringa pubescens* Clove Lilac—early bloomer native of northern China with lilac pink blossoms.
5. *Syringa vulgaris* 'Charles Joly' - Introduced by Victor Lemoine, a famous lilac hybridizer, in 1896. Double magenta-purple blossoms.
6. *Syringa xhenryi* 'Lutece' - Medium violet, mid season bloomer.
7. *Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim' - Grown from seed collected in Korea, a heavy bloomer with feathery light lavender flowers with dark green foliage that becomes burgundy red in Fall. A great choice for a garden.
8. *Syringa pekinensis* Peking Tree Lilac—an uncommon species with creamy white flowers, blooms in early June. Native to Beijing.
9. *Syringa villosa* Late Lilac—Rosy pink blooms in late May with coarse foliage and grey bark.
10. *Syringa xprestoniae* 'Agnes Smith' - Introduced by Dr. Owen Rogers at the University of New Hampshire in 1970, this is one of the finest white lilacs.
11. *Syringa xchinensis* Chinese Lilac—one of the best for landscape use as the plants grow to 8-12 feet, small leaves & fragrant lilac purple flowers.
12. *Syringa josikaea* Hungarian Lilac—a spreading multi stemmed shrub, native to Hungary and Romania with lilac-violet flowers in late May.
13. *Syringa vulgaris* 'Leon Gambetta' - Introduced in 1907, it is one of the best purples with double blossoms.
14. *Syringa laciniata* Cutleaf Lilac—This species has distinctly cut or lobed leaves, pale lilac flowers & blooms mid May.
15. *Syringa xhyacinthiflora* 'Lamartine' Early flower fragrant rosy pink blossoms, introduced in 1911.

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: 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 Willowood Arboretum. All gifts are tax deductible. For details, contact John Morse: 908-234-0992



Silent Auction Items at Lilac Party: and W. Barry Thomson's Volume Two of New Jersey Country Houses: The Somerset Hills.

Plants and seeds from the Willowood Arboretum's own gardens and several rare plant specimens specially chosen by John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, a "Spring Wine" basket filled with artisan wines chosen by Chris Cree, a finery gift certificate from the Red Toad, and computer instruction for those who want to learn how to surf horticultural sites by A.F. Scott, Computer Consultants, round out a few of the auction choices.



The Tubbs House has been under going some needed minor repairs and was recently Spring cleaned and topped off with a fresh coat of paint!.

Plans for the repair and restoration of the 1930's Lord & Burnham Conservatory are now complete and work should be started sometime later this summer to replace the deteriorating mullions and framing as well as to repair the fountain.

The Tubbs House at Willowood Arboretum:

Originally known (circa 1783) as "Honelsdale Farm", in the 19th century the property belonged to Henry and Julia Kennedy in who renamed it "Paradise Farm". With four children, they expanded the Federal Style main house and added some Colonial Revival style details. On July 27, 1908, brothers Robert and Henry Tubbs, who worked in New York but longed to return to a rural lifestyle, purchased this somewhat run down but actively farmed property and renamed it "Willowood Farm" owing to impressive weeping willows found along a stream. The Tubbs brothers maintained the property as a working farm and added fruit trees but their main interest was in horticulture and with help from friends, widened their collection with a variety of plant species.

Their aging parents and sister Claire later moved to the farm from their home in upstate New York and in 1920 the Tubbs extensively renovated the main house, enclosing a rear porch to enlarge the dining room, adding a kitchen wing with second floor servant's rooms and adding dormers to the attic. Most of the furnishings in the house today originated in the Tubbs family. The Asian furniture and decorative pieces were collected by Robert who preferred Chinese pieces and Henry Tubbs who purchased those of Japanese style and origin.

The dining room served as a kitchen, workspace and central family space when the house was first built in the 18th century and features an open hearth fireplace where cooking was done as evidenced by the crane that is still intact. Above the fireplace are three panels stenciled by Henry Tubbs.

The front formal parlor was used to entertain visiting guests. The Tubbs brothers added a number of Asian pieces including six paneled wall hangings that depict family, military and official life. There are also two paintings of the last Empress Dowager and Emperor, circa 1850.

The rear reading room was also added by the Kennedy family and features ornate classic molding, pilasters, paneled walls and built in bookcases—legend says a relative hand crafted these as payment for a loan.

The greenhouse was added in the 1930's and features Moravian tiles from Henry Mercer's company in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He was a good friend of the Tubbs brothers and examples of his tiles can also be found in the cottage garden.

Dr. Benjamin Blackburn was the last resident of the Tubbs House. He was a famous botanist and professor at Drew and Rutgers University. Introduced by Martha Brookes Hutcheson in the 1930's, he visited "Willowood" falling in love with the gardens. During WWII, he was stationed in Japan and brought back many new plant varieties and worked with Henry to rejuvenate the plant collections. In 1949, he was adopted by Henry. When Henry died in 1958 at 80, Dr. Blackburn worked with Russ Myers to preserve Willowood as an arboretum, open to the public and available to botany and gardening students.

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

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Save the Dates...

Mother's Day at Willowood.....Sunday, May 14, 2006

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“The *Lilac* Party”.....Sunday, May 21, 2006

Wine tasting, Silent Auction and “The Ten”

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 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