



◆ 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:

Leslie Allain
John Morse
Richard Padgett



The "Lilac Party" A May Celebration Sunday, May 20th



Indulge your senses! Fragrant flowering Lilac gardens, sweetly lovely spring gardens, warm, sunny breezes, and an evening of pure pleasure as you tempt your palate with heavenly tid bits, tantalize your lips with a variety of light Spring and Summer wines chosen by Christopher Cree, Master of Wine and owner of "56 Degree" in Bernardsville, and rollick in the joyous tones of "The Ten" of the University Glee Club. Bid on that very special *Silent Auction* item for you, your home and garden. Tickets available by **Reservation only by May 15th to 908-234-1815. Rain or Shine!**

Temptations galore at "Lilac Party" Silent Auction...



Offerings include the last, rare replicas of the Martha Brookes Hutcheson designed flower and fruit baskets now displayed at the Bamboo Brook coffee terrace, a guache Willowwood inspired painting by Constance Silverman, Gift certificates for an elegant dinner for two at Pierre's or for deep root tree feeding from Tree Tech, an extraordinary rustic bird house (the aviary residences) signed Natural Edge, Award winning Truffles from Renee Chocolatier, rare horticultural Exploration, Forest Trees and Wildflowers from the Willowwood Library, a charming garden plate from Eagles Nest, an opportunity to host a private party at the Willowwood Stone Barn, and a delightful sterling silver bracelet with a "BlueBell" charm donated by Willowwood Trustee and premier antique jeweler, Janet Mavec, who told us "the bluebells at Willowwood are one of my favorite signs of Spring and one of my strongest inspirations...and I especially like the way my bluebells chime!" Other items will include a "Spring Wine" basket filled with organic



crème de la crème in by David Robinson, ning Chocolates and Rohrbach, the Madison tural books on Plant

For over 20 years, Christopher Cree, M.W., one of only 20 Americans to pass the demanding Master of Wine exam, 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.

Wine Tasting Hosted by Chris Cree, M.W.



Mother's Day at the Willowwood Arboretum

The Willowwood Arboretum's lilacs will be in full bloom and full scent just in time for Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13. Enjoy a self guided tour of the lilac collection and the beautiful spring gardens with your favorite Mom, Grandmom or Aunt. 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. Explore the Arboretum, stop, smell the flowers and then stroll through Pan's Garden, filled with wonderful white flowers. Refresh with cool lemonade and cookies while you peruse our selection of unusual lilac cultivars as a memorable gift for a happy mother. 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.**

Thank you! To the many friends of Willowood who made generous donations this winter to help fund the Tubbs' & Blackburn horticultural legacy:

*

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Zimmerman

Many thanks for your help and continuing support!

The Willowood Foundation

In Memoriam

Dr. "Ted" Stiles
Past President of the Willowood Foundation and long term trustee,



Dr. Edmund W. "Ted" Stiles was a Rutgers Professor and scientist whose passion was the natural world. His students went on to conserve wildlife habitat around the world. A conservationist, he led the movement to save tens of thousands of acres with the Baldpate Mountain preservation in Mercer County and the Hutcheson Memorial Forest, where he served as director for over 20 years, considered to be among his major achievements.

At Willowood, Ted's greatest contribution was to oversee the plant collections' curation so that the botanical history was preserved. He developed a computerized database into which all Ben Blackburn's handwritten plant notes were transcribed. Still in use today, it contains over 20,000 plant accessions and more than 8500 plant names. A stickler for botanical accuracy he developed protocols to ensure all plants were correctly identified and labeled. He also developed a computerized plant mapping program to map all of the trees and shrubs.

Ted also served on the Willowood Arboretum Committee, helping to shape its horticultural future in accordance with the wishes of the Tubbs' and Dr. Blackburn.

Ted Stiles was the epitome of an environ-

Ted Stiles was the epitome of an environmentalist, a conservationist and a true steward of the land, its flora and fauna.



In the Gardens...

Early - late April—Snowdrops, Winter Aconite, Hellebores, Witch-Hazels, Daffodils

May—Cherries, Magnolias, Lilacs

Plus, lots of surprises to find throughout the gardens and walk ways. Look for the *Viburnum dilatatum* (Linden Viburnum) with its creamy white flowers or the *Viburnum trilobum* (Cranberry bush) with its very showy white ones or the *Malus sieboldii* (Toringo Crabapple) with pink/white blossoms in May along the Ornamental Walk.



Willowood's Lilac Collection:

15 of the most noteworthy lilacs to see on your self guided tour: Native to Europe and Asia, the collection was 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:

Did you ever wonder about the embossed metal tags that identify the trees, shrubs and plants at Willowwood? Pam Wilson, Plant Records Curator, prints these tags with each plant's botanical and common name and planting date from her brand new machine directly from our computerized plant records BG Base database...easy, accurate and fast! You can purchase customized tags for *your home garden* by contacting the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or email your order to: wwfoundation@earthlink.net. Label size: 1 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches with 5 lines of customized type. Copper colored tags. Cost: \$20.00 for a minimum order of 10 labels.

"Lilac Party" Silent Auction:

5 hours of computer instruction for those who want to surf horticultural sites by A.F. Scott, Computer Consultants. Finally, *just for the Gardener*, a chance to do a "backstage tour for four" at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, hosted by Anthony Aiello, *The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator*, Plants and seeds from the Willowwood Arboretum's own gardens plus selections from the Morris Arboretum and rare plant specimens specially chosen by John Morse, MCPC Manager of Horticulture, will round out your choice(s)!

Thank you... "Lilac Party"

Partners:

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Peapack—Gladstone Bank

Corporate Sponsors:

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Notes from the Arboretum:



The *Autumn Open House* held last October on a cloudy Sunday afternoon had many intrepid visitors including Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Tubbs, pictured here with John Morse, Manager of Horticulture. We were not able to fully explore their genealogy but they may have been related to Robert and Henry!



removed some small trees and brush and did a general clean-up to improve the hedgerow view.

The maintenance barn (behind and to the side of the Stone Barn) had its roof replaced in early February. Crisp, cold winds did not deter the workman as they replaced collar ties to make the roof more structurally sound and then finished the job with new traditional cedar wood shakes .



Spring cleaning has been in progress at Willowwood over the winter: First, the staff began by planting thousands of daffodils in the fields—evidence the bits of yellow now dancing in the fields and under the newly pruned and trimmed Monarda Meadow trees. Magnolias and Camellias (plants donated by Morris Arboretum) were also planted



in the
Meadow.

Monarda

Lightning is scary but when it hits the Arbo-
retum trees, the damage can be irreparable. During the last three years, two trees were struck and their long term survival is questionable. The Willowwood Foundation funded an on going protection plan over 10 years ago but recently 7 additional specimen trees were cabled including three *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood), two *Taxodium distichum* (Bald Cypress) in the Woodwalk, a *Carya illinoensis* (Pecan) and a *Quercus rubra* (Northern Red Oak).



In the center of the Bee Meadow, a hedgerow of *Catalpa speciosa* (Western Catalpa) was planted by Robert and Henry Tubbs –from plants their father Benjamin had raised (“from a pound of seed obtained from a nursery in Indiana or some nearby state”) - shortly after they moved to Willowwood. Now, almost 100 years later, this historic hedgerow was approximately 55 feet tall . In February, the trees were and shaped pruned by professional arborists and the Catalpa Alle-
e with its heart shaped leaves should be in bloom with white flowers in June. The horticulture staff mulched the deadwood, removed



For almost two years the Rosarie Garden (west of Pan's Garden) has been under siege! Originally filled with shrub roses, herbaceous perennials, annuals and vines, it had fallen into garden despair! First, the horticulture staff cleared out dying plants, worked on overgrown plantings and then fought the battle of the invasive *Pinellia* weeds. Finally, in March, new rough sawn western red cedar fencing was installed and the naturalistic red cedar wisteria arbor was rebuilt. Soil was added to improve grading and now the fun begins as they replant the garden!

In February, Jim Bellis, Tree Tech co-owner and Willowwood Foundation Trustee, donated his Managing Arborist, Richard Heller and crew for a day to prune ten trees in the arboretum including a chestnut oak in the Rosarie and the majestic ginko in Pan's Garden plus several honey locusts near the Visitor's Parking Lot. Thanks, Tree Tech!



Finally, on a sad note, our beloved “guardian”, Wisley the Cat, died this past January under the care of his devoted staff. He had the body of an “old fellow” but the mind and wild spirit of a cocky, young protector, defending his territory and scaring away those who would dig in the planting beds. He will be missed....



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

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Save the Dates...

Mother's Day at Willowood.....Sunday, May 13, 2007

oooooooooo

“The *Lilac Party*”Sunday, May 20, 2007

Wine tasting, Silent Auction and “The Ten”

oooooooooo

Autumn Open HouseSunday, September 23rd.

oooooooooo

2008 Centennial Events.....next issue

Wish List for the Willowood Arboretum

Help us to maintain the horticultural legacy of Henry and Robert Tubbs by supporting a fund for the 2007 Willowood Foundation's initiatives at the Willowood Arboretum.

In 2007, the restoration of the newly fenced Rosarie garden will continue with many new plantings. We will once again fund a summer Horticulture Intern, add lighting protection to additional important specimen trees to insure their long term survival and support the pruning of the historic *Catalpa speciosa* hedgerow that was planted by Robert and Henry Tubbs soon after they moved to Willowood in 1908. This work will begin the project to improve the Bee Meadow.

As a fellow gardener or as one who simply treasures our living museum, please contact the Willowood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or via wwfoundation@earthlink.net if you would like to support our future plans.

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.)

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