



# ◊ Willowwood Journal ◊

Volume 13, Issue 2

Autumn, 2007

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.

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DENMAN PENISTON  
LESLIE ALLAIN

## *You're Invited to an Autumn Open House Sunday, September 23*

The Willowwood Arboretum will host an Autumn Open House from Noon to 4 pm on Sunday, September 23, 2007. Join the guided tour of the Meadows and gardens and enjoy early fall foliage and notable winter plant features. Don't miss the Ornamental Walk or the beginnings of the fall colorations at the Cypress Pool, especially the crimson gold "Waterfall" maple cascading over the edge of the pool. "Waterfall" was a seedling planted by Robert Tubbs in the 1930's. Tips on fall gardens along with a planting expert ready to answer your questions will be presented by the horticulture staff. Watch a slide presentation on Willowwood's history in the Stone Barn and enjoy light refreshments.

Enjoy a perfect Fall Day in our very special Gardens! *Free to the Public.*



## May's "Lilac Party" Delights Revelers!



Despite wind gusts and torrential rains for a brief 15 minutes, the tent provided ample shelter and the SUN came out as usual! A Spring Wine Sampling by Chris Cree, 56 degrees, incomparable music by "The Ten", and a Silent Auction featuring unusual garden items & plants from the Willowwood Arboretum rounded out a perfect evening.



## *The Gala "Lilac Party" to Celebrate Willowwood's 2008 Centennial set for Sunday, May 18,*

2008... We can't reveal all the details as yet but this is going to be one great party that cannot be missed. Of course, what would the "Lilac Party" be without the "The Ten" who will perform with other surprise entertainment as well. The Tubbs' brothers and Dr. Ben Blackburn would certainly approve of this party so reminiscent of their own famous (infamous?) Spring soirées. Cocktails and an evening supper will be capped by a "Unique and Unusual" Auction filled with Plants guaranteed to woo the hearts of serious collectors or highlight a gardener's special spot. Mark your calendar now!

## *Calling all Artists & Photographers!*

### *Willowwood Art Show - September, 2008*

If you have enjoyed painting over the years at the Willowwood Arboretum or have photographed some of the exotic plantings and would like to participate in a Willowwood Art Show next September, give the Willowwood Foundation a call at 908-234-1815 or email for more information to [wwoffoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwoffoundation@earthlink.net). This exhibit and art show will focus on the ever changing seasons and plantings at the Willowwood Arboretum.

## Willowood Trail Walks:

The Tubbs' brothers planned the landscape of Paradis Farm so they could not only enjoy the wonderful scents and florals in Spring and Summer but to provide visual interest to the artist or gardener throughout the Autumn and Winter months. Plantings with unusual berries, bark or branching delight your eye. Start your tour by the Stone Barn and continue left. Several of the best Ornamentals in the collection are a Weeping European White Birch, a Colorado Spruce with distinctive blue-green needles, a Three Flower Maple with a pinkish tan bark and orange leaves in Fall, a Chinese Witch-Hazel, Paperbark Maple, an Upright European Beech, a Spanish Fir, a Linden Viburnum with bright cherry red berries and russet red leaves in the Fall, a Winterberry Holly with bright red berries, a cranberry Bush with burgundy red foliage, a reddish orange Allegheny Serviceberry, a blue-green Korean Pine, a yellow range fruit filled Toringo Crabapple and a Lacebark Pine. Plants are numbered and more descriptive information can be found in the MCPC Autumn Ornamentals Walk brochure found in the parking lot directory.

The Willowood Foundation has had a long standing relationship with the Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania, supporting seed collecting and plant exploration trips to China and Georgia (formerly of the USSR). This past year, Pam Wilson, Plant Curator, visited and returned with a variety of specimens including a Manchurian Fir, Chinese Paper Birch, Dahurian Larch, Chinese White Pine, a Japanese Tree Lilac and a Mimosa and a Camellia. Some were planted on the grounds while others are still being nurtured in the Arboretum nursery.



Last Spring, as you entered The Arboretum, there were glorious displays of dancing yellow daffodils in the fields and along the trails. This Autumn will find the Plantsmen adding hundreds more to the collection. The exquisitely beautiful tulips will once again be placed in Pan's Garden and by the entrance to the Stone Barn for Spring as well.

## Planning a Party?

Want to dance under the stars? Arrange a wedding? Engagement Party/ Shower? Or...? The Willowood Arboretum is available for celebrations -year round, trees with twinkling lights surround the Stone Barn or your 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.

Plan now (available dates fill up fast). Call Chris Knox at the MCPC for more details: 973-326-7619 or email [cknox@morrisparks.net](mailto:cknox@morrisparks.net).



## 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**

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## Volunteers Make A BIG Difference!

You, too, can learn the secrets of proper fall garden maintenance. Not always a fun job but the Willowood planting 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! Learn the top gardening tips from the professionals!

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 and sign up for a fun opportunity!

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## The "Lilac Party" Thanks:

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Many thanks once again to:  
The "Ten", 56 Degrees, Ross & Owren and all our Silent Auction Partners!

## *Thank you to our Donors:*

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We value your support so highly! Through your contributions we have been able to begin new garden restoration projects and continue the plans of the Tubbs' and Dr. Blackburn.

We are also very grateful to corporate employees who use a Corporate Match Program to double their gifts!

There are many ways to insure our progress and please know that no gift is too small and that all gifts are very important to the Arboretum.

As we enter our 2008 Centennial year, please remember that if Tax Planning plays a pivotal role for you, December 31, 2007 is the deadline for the Pension Protection Act of 2006 which allows IRA holders aged 70 1/2 or older to make up to \$100,000 of tax free distributions (\$200,000 for a married couple) to qualifying charities without paying income taxes on the distributed amounts enabling donors to move assets from their taxable estates tax free. The law applies to both traditional as well as Roth IRAs.

The Willowwood Foundation is a 501 © (3).

Sunday, June 22 from 1 pm—5 pm

## The World at Willowwood: Plant Exploration – Past, Present and Future



The Morris County Park Commission & The Friends of The Frelinghuysen Arboretum proudly present Symposium speakers: **Paul Meyer**, the F. Otto Haas Director of the Morris Arboretum; **Barry Yinger**, Principal, Asiatica Nursery and **James Gorman**.

Outstanding speakers, a fascinating walking tour and delightful refreshments combine to make this symposium a perfect way to celebrate Willowwood's Centennial. Our neighbors at *The Willow School* are providing lecture space and will give a brief tour of their LEEDS certified building and its environmentally friendly grounds. Following Mr. Meyer's and Mr. Yinger's talks, a Plant Explorer's Wine and Cheese Centennial Spread will be available at the Willowwood Stone Barn. A late afternoon saunter through the grounds with Mr. James Gorman to look at the life (and collected plants) of Ernest H. "China" Wilson and his connection to the Willowwood Arboretum concludes this very special day.

Complete program details and registration information will be available at [www.arboretumfriends.org](http://www.arboretumfriends.org).

### *The Cottage Garden*

by

Kriste Shaw

Willowwood Arboretum Plantsman

Once again the growing season in the cottage garden is winding down and what a magnificent year it has been! We were blessed with plentiful amounts of sunshine and precipitation to accommodate most any splendor. Not only has there been constant color throughout the season, but there has been a wonderful accompaniment of user-friendly songbirds and insects that charm everyone who cares to see them.

Of the perennials that I depend on at this time of year, the Japanese anemone hybrids are high on the list. We have *Anemone hybrida* x 'Bressingham Glow' that nods its pink flowers by the iron gate and 'Pamina' which blooms next to the propagation facility. Both are sturdy plants that are easy to grow and begin to bloom when the *Helianthus* sp. begin to fade. *Hibiscus* x 'Red Raspberry' is another winner. It is large and it is red. What more could one want?

Asters are another sure bet to spark interest late in the season. Asters come in all shapes and sizes – and are worth investigating. *Aster novae-angliae* 'Alma Potchke' flowers year after year without complaint, as does *Aster tataricus* 'Jin Dai'. This delight blooms last in the garden and lingers well past frost.

As for late annuals, we are sporting 'Connecticut Yankee' pumpkins, dwarf blue curly leaf kale, and *Vigna caracalla*, the corkscrew vine. This vine has great expectations and I look forward to watching the blossoms unfurl. Lastly, I am ecstatic with the latest introduction into the Cottage Garden. It is a hummingbird feeder – a definite 'must have' for any garden.

So whether it be acquiring a honey-bee hive, drying your favorite flowers to give to a friend, or being blamed for growing the best darn organic tomatoes, we can all certainly do more to cultivate our living spaces. The possibilities are indeed endless as we continue each season in the *Cottage Garden*.

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

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### *Save the Dates...*

*Willowood Autumn 'Open House' - September 23, 2007*

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*Centennial Lilac Party Gala & Rare Plant Auction—May 18, 2008*

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*June 22, 2008-The World at Willowood: Plant Exploration Symposium*

### **Wish List for the Willowood Arboretum**

Help us to maintain the horticultural legacy of Henry and Robert Tubbs by funding one of the Willowood Foundation's initiatives at the Willowood Arboretum. Our ongoing projects include the Rosarie Garden Restoration, funding the horticultural interns who bring interested new eyes and very helpful hands to our gardens, enhancing the meadows with Spring daffodils and enhancing the Cypress Lawn restoration with new planting beds.

We are currently working on plans for some very special projects to celebrate our Centennial year in 2008. But we 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

**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.

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