



Willowwood Journal

Volume 14, Issue 2

Spring, 2008

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:

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Centennial "Lilac Party" Sunday, May 18

Honorary Lilac Party Chair, Mary Bartow, who replicated the traditional Tubbs'/Blackburn Spring Party for the Willowwood Foundation, asked Anne Peterson, to be the 2008 Lilac Party Co-Chair with her daughter Kristin Krag. And Anne promises a gala event to celebrate the Centennial. "Starting off the celebration is our favorite musical troupe "The Ten" a men's a cappella group and Lilac Party tradition, plus the Dan Levinson 'Palomar Trio' will attract foot tappers with Dixieland and swing reminiscent of Benny Goodman's clarinet and 1935's band throughout the evening. And we are reinstating the 'Sunday Supper' with wonderful fare to tempt the palate during a live sale of unusual plants donated by many major arboreta, plant societies and plant aficionados, with Kathy Shepperly, formerly a Christie's auctioneer, wielding the gavel. Other tempting garden oriented items will be available for bid in the silent auction. And once again, Chris Cree of 56° Wine, another Lilac Party tradition is presenting wonderful Spring wines for tasting. So we have the ultimate party—wine, music and incredible lilacs and gardens! Come enjoy the evening!"



Lilac Party Concert for Benefactors & Patrons

Kristin Krag, Lilac Party Co-Chair, has planned an extra special event at 3pm for Lilac Party Benefactors and Patrons. A garden party concert and champagne reception features the incredible music of the Solo String Quartet, four incomparable concerto artists performing selections from Vivaldi's Four Seasons and other wondrous spring garden pieces. Christopher Collins Lee, violinist, U.S. State Department Musical Ambassador, and co-founder of the group, has been acclaimed world wide and applauded by the New York Times as "an impressive, stylish violinist with something special to say".

Centennial "Mothers Day at Willowwood" Sunday, May 11

The Tubbs' brothers purchased Willowwood in 1908 and their parents Benjamin and Carrie came to visit and stayed. In West Virginia that same year, Anna Jarvis gifted flowers to all Mothers attending services at her local church to honor her late mother. Since then Mother's Day has been a very special day to recognize Mom, Grandmom and Moms to be - a day to be joyful and also to bring the family together—a perfect day for lunch or brunch or just an outing in the wonderful Spring season. The Willowwood Arboretum will be dressed for a party Sunday, May 11, Mother's Day, Noon to Four PM with fragrant lilacs in bloom, colorful spring flowers in the gardens and great places for family photos midst the dancing daffodils or in Pan's Garden. So plan on celebrating the day—come for a stroll, there will be garden tours, lilacs for sale, light refreshments and a beautiful day to spend with your favorite lady.



Carrie Tubbs

Willowwood is open daily, Free to the Public.

The Wine

Master:

Chris Cree of 56° Wine, has a 25 year love affair with wine and once again allies with the



Lilac Party to offer a very special Spring Wine Tasting for our guests. One of only 248 people world wide who holds the *Master of Wine* designation, Chris has met vintners, growers and producers far and wide, finally selecting wines produced by small family wineries that handcraft their wines in a truly artisanal manner—pure, natural wines with soul and character, that capture the spirit of the countryside. So where better to experience some of these wonderful tasting selections but at the gardens of Willowwood, a place where the plantings and landscape were planned to complement each other, and like the growers Chris represents, where the Tubbs' and Blackburn tradition honors the environment with strong respect for the land and a responsibility to preserve and pass it on vibrant and healthy to future generations. **56° Wine**, Bernardsville, and Chris will also provide the Champagne for our Benefactors and Patrons at the *Lilac Party* Concert Reception.



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

*The Peter R. & Cynthia K. Kellogg Fdn.
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Lonergan*

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Mr. and Mrs. John C. Woods*



Many thanks for your help and continuing support! The Willowwood Foundation

1908—2008 Willowwood Centennial

Since the early 18th century the landscape of The Willowwood Arboretum has been managed for particular plant-based purposes. The rolling topography was a component of the Wetherall Tract, a larger French Huguenot farm that also included the property now known as Bamboo Brook. The primary focus of the Tubbs' efforts was the collection and cultivation of distinctive plants and they spent 40 years transforming the site into a designed landscape for their evolving plant collection. Their design philosophy is encapsulated in their words—“Nature is the guiding hand.” They developed several new planting areas, paths, and other garden features with the assistance of colleagues—most notably, Dr. Benjamin Blackburn of Rutgers and Drew Universities. Dr. Blackburn moved to the property in 1946 and helped transform Willowwood into a public arboretum for Tubbs in 1950. Martha Brookes Hutcheson, neighbor at Bamboo Brook and renowned landscape architect, assisted as well. Other horticultural experts including Ernest “Chinese” Wilson, Dr. F. V. Coville, and Dr. William Wilson contributed plants and planning advice. Upon the death of Henry Tubbs in 1958, Dr. Blackburn, as executor of estate, transferred Willowwood to the Wildlife Preserve. A desire to protect the horticultural collections prompted Rutgers University—under the guidance of Dr. Blackburn—to assume management responsibility in 1967. Title was transferred to the Morris County Park Commission in 1980. The self touring gardens and plant collections of The Willowwood Arboretum have been improved each year to enhance passive recreational opportunities. John Morse is the current Manager of Horticulture.

The Centennial

“Lilac Party”

Sunday May, 18, 2008

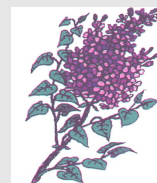
THANK YOU!

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Ray Rogers
Song Sparrow
Fred Spicer
Susie Swayne
Tri-State Hosta Society
Willowwood Fdn. Library

And to our *Lilac Party* Supporters, a very Special Thanks

Black River Journal
Kate Gutierrez, MCPC
Lynn Laffey, MCPC
Chris Knox, MCPC
John Morse, MCPC
Music Den
Prestige Party Rental Inc.
Ross & Owren
Constance Silverman
The Ten
Willowwood Horticulture Staff
Willowwood Horticulture
Volunteers
Pam Wilson, MCPC



My Lilac won't bloom....why?

Lilacs are well adapted to life in northern New Jersey and should flower when provided with a half day or more of sunlight. If your lilac is planted in a site that does not provide this, then you might consider moving it to a sunnier location. If, however, your lilac receives adequate sunlight, then its failure to bloom may mean that it simply needs time to mature. Former Lilac Party guests report that the starter lilacs we distribute each May begin to flower in three to five years when planted in full sun. Plants growing in partial shade will take longer to bloom. Also, excessive fertilization can promote vegetative growth which may delay flowering. Lastly, the reason your lilac is slow to bloom may be genetic; some cultivars are just less floriferous than others.

Permanent Plant Labels for your Garden:

Did you ever wonder about the embossed metal tags that identify the trees, shrubs and plants at Willowwood? Would you like them to identify plants in your garden?

The copper colored tag accommodates 6 lines with botanical and common name, planting date, etc.

Purchase customized tags 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.

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

WANTED..... Memories, video tapes, memorabilia about Willowwood and its history. The Willowwood Foundation is looking for historical information on the Tubbs' and Dr. Ben Blackburn.

We "heard" that someone has a video tape of Dr. Blackburn walking through the gardens and describing plants and plans for the Arboretum.

If you have anything you would like to share, please contact the Foundation at:

wwfoundation@earthlink.net
or call 908-234-1815.

Willowwood Lilac collection ...

Is located northwest of the Stone Barn and includes some of the best lilacs for growing in north-central New Jersey. It contains eighty-two different lilac species and cultivars that begin to flower in late April and continue through mid June.

One of the oldest lilacs in our collection is *Syringa vulgaris* 'Alba', the white form of the common lilac. Our records claim this plant was acquired by Henry and Robert Tubbs in 1910 from the garden of their grandmother in Kingston, Pennsylvania.

Our largest and perhaps most unusual lilac is *Syringa pekinensis*, the Peking Lilac. This is one of the so-called "tree lilacs" and is native to northern China. Our specimen was planted in 1952 and is 35' tall, and has a trunk that is 12" in diameter. It bears large heads of creamy-white blossoms in early June and has papery exfoliating bark.

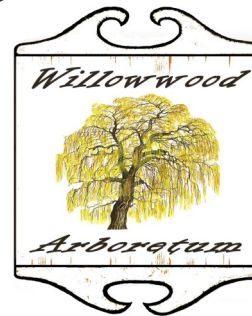
One our most interesting lilacs is *Syringa vulgaris* 'Azurea Plena'. This cultivar has small, lavender-blue *double* flowers that may seem insignificant when compared with today's large-flowered hybrids. However, this is one of the most important cultivars in all of lilacdom; it was used by Victor Lemoine in France to breed the first double-flowered hybrid lilacs in the late 1800s and its influence can still be found in many of the lilacs that are popular today.

In bloom and coming soon:

Hellebores (The Lenten Rose) - April
Witch-Hazels—April
Cherries, Magnolias & daffodils—April
Crabapple trees, lilacs—end April, May
Cottage Garden- now open, ever changing
Pan's Garden—Tulips Now

2008 Willowwood Arboretum Centennial Symposium The World at Willowwood: The Past, Present and Future of Plant Exploration

Celebrating 100 Years



1908 - 2008
Of Collection & Curation

Sunday, June 22-1pm to 5pm

Extraordinary speakers, splendid refreshments, and centennial gifts.

The histories of the Willowwood Arboretum and the Golden Age of Plant Exploration are intertwined. Hear these fascinating stories told by modern day plant explorers in a perfect setting. Tour Willowwood to see the plants for which ships set sail, fortunes traded and lives risked.

Paul Meyer: *The Willowwood & Morris Arboreta:
Partners in Plant Exploration*

~
Barry Yinger: *Exploring The Future of Plant Exploration*

~
James Gorman: *Plant Discoveries of E. H. Wilson Walking Tour*

Fee includes admission to programs, cocktails and hor d'oeuvres
Complete program details at www.arboretumfriends.org
or call 973.326.7603 for a brochure. Reservations are a must!

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

Marshall Jeanes, President
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Save the Dates...

Mother's Day at Willowood.....Sunday, May 11, 2008

oooooooooooo

Sunday, May 18, 2008

Concert & Champagne Reception ~ 3 PM

With the Solo String Quartet

& "The Centennial **Lilac Party**" ~ 4:30 PM

Wine tasting with Chris Cree, 56° Wine, Live Auction of Rare Plants, Silent Auction, Sunday Supper plus "The Ten" & Dan Levinson Palomar Dixieland Trio

HORTICULTURE INTERNS AT THE ARBORETUM

Each year the Willowood Foundation helps an individual obtain practical hands on gardening experience by funding an internship at the arboretum. In 2007, two interns shared in this program.

Internships begin in early spring and continue through late fall and may run for three to eight months. Interns may work full- or part-time and are admitted on an as needed basis. Applicants must possess a keen interest in horticulture and enjoy working outdoors.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about becoming an intern in 2008, please contact Kate Gutierrez at 973-326-7266 or kgutierrez@morrisparks.net.

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