



# Willowwood Journal

Volume 16, Issue 2

Spring, 2010

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.

## "Lilac Party" Sunday, May 16



The Willowwood Foundation will host its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual *Lilac Party* Celebration on Sunday, May 16th. This much adored *Lilac Garden Party* tradition continues at the Willowwood Arboretum, rain or shine, with a wine tasting by Chris Cree, 56 degree wine, under our tent and of course, the rollicking men's a cappella chorus "The Ten" will perform their diverse repertoire in the Stone Barn.

Since the days of Henry Tubbs, friends and neighbors would gather under the lilacs to enjoy the fragrance of the beautiful flowers and celebrate Spring! In 1996, Mary Bartow chaired the first Foundation Lilac Party as a benefit fundraiser and thank you festivity for the many people who supported the Arboretum and the Foundation's mission to share the wonderful plantings and gardens created by Robert and Henry Tubbs and Dr. Ben Blackburn.

Guests can stroll through the gardens while sipping their favorite libations and enjoying scrumptious hors d'oeuvres presented by Ross and Owren.

This year, a Silent Auction once again features unusual plants donated by local growers, greenhouses and private gardens plus Kristen Krag, Chair, has indicated there might be a few surprise items as well.

Advance Reservations to the *Lilac Party* are required. For ticket information or if you would like an invitation sent to a friend, call the Willowwood Foundation at 908 234 1815 or email [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net).

*Those who cannot attend the party are invited to enjoy the Lilac Collection which generally blooms (depending on the vagaries of Mother Nature) from early May to late June. The Willowwood Gardens are open daily 'til dusk and are Free to the Public.*

**In bloom and coming soon:**  
Cherries, Magnolias—April  
Crabapple trees, lilacs—end  
April, through May  
Pan's Garden—Tulips Now

**Coming this summer:**  
*The Cottage Garden*—Ever  
changing, traditional florals with  
perennials, annuals, flowering  
bulbs and interesting heirloom  
veggies.

*The Rosarie*—Spectacular Medi-  
terranean colorations, herbs,  
spiky foliage plants and other  
plantings that thrive in a sunny,  
protected exposure plus many  
new plants this season.

## "Mothers Day at Willowwood"

*Sunday, May 9, Spend the day with your favorite lady* at

The Willowwood Arboretum, Morris County's hidden treasure. The gardens offer the perfect spots for family photos, you can stroll through the spring flowers and see the incredible lilac collection at the height of its beauty and fragrance. Specially chosen lilacs can be purchased as a gift. Self guided tours. Noon to Four; Cost is free. For more information, call 908-234-1815 or visit [www.morrisparks.org](http://www.morrisparks.org).

Willowwood is open daily, *Free to the Public.*

## Lilacs, Lilacs, Lilacs....As

part of the Lilac Party tradition, a gift of a lilac will be distributed to all our guests. This year, to commemorate our 15th Lilac Party, John Morse, MCPC Manager of Horticulture, has selected seven great choices:

**For our Benefactors and Patrons:** We offer two interesting varieties:

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Sarah Sands' a relatively late bloomer, produces single, wine-purple flowers in spring and was introduced in 1943 by Long Island, New York, breeder Theodore Havemeyer.



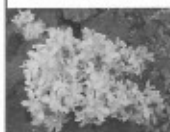
Or *Syringa x chinensis* 'Lilac Sunday' a cultivar from the Arnold Arboretum grown from seed supplied by the Beijing Botanical Garden. The abundant pale purple flowers are fragrant, appear in mid May.



**For our Sponsors:** Choices include : *Syringa x hyacinthiflora* 'Angel White' with clusters of fragrant pure white flowers blooming mid Spring.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Edward J. Gardner' is considered to be extraordinary and one of the very finest double, pink lilacs.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Marie Frances' is a compact lilac with a single very fragrant salmon-pink flower introduced by noted breeder, Fr. Fiala.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Paul Thirion' features deep reddish-pink, double flowers arranged in large clusters with thick green foliage.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Arch McKean' is an extremely heavy bloomer covered with large, single magenta flowers bearing a heavy scent.



## The "Lilac Party"

Sunday,  
May 16, 2010



4:30 pm

Wine Tasting by  
Master of Wine,  
Chris Cree

a cappella music by  
"The Ten"

Thank you !

Peapack Gladstone Bank

\*

56 degree wine  
Morris County Park Commission  
Tree Tech, Inc.

## Guide to the Willowood Arboretum now available.

In bright color, the new brochure funded by the WW Foundation, is now available in the directory by the main parking lot. Filled with helpful details including informative descriptions of each Garden along with seasonal bloom times, the story of Willowood and the Tubbs Family, a map and history of the buildings, it has just enough general information to make your visit a little bit easier and far more enjoyable. And of course, if you see any of the horticulture plantmen in the gardens, they will be happy to answer questions or steer you in the right direction!



## Seeds for Sale!

The Willowood Foundation is offering packets of the following seeds at \$3.00 a package or two for \$5.00 including postage.

These limited supply seeds were collected from the gardens, arboretum, and natural areas by Willowood staff and the Horticulture Volunteers at the Willowood and Frelinghuysen Arboreta.

*Acer cissifolium* ssp. *henryii*  
*Acer saccharum*  
*Arisaema triphyllum*  
*Aruncus dioicus*  
*Asclepias syriaca*  
*Baptisia australis*  
*Cardiocrinum cordatum* var. *glehnii*  
*Carpinus betulus*  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*  
*Cercis canadensis*  
*Cercis chinensis*  
*Chionanthus retusus*  
*Cornus florida*  
*Cornus mas*  
*Echinacea purpurea*  
*Echinacea purpurea* var. *alba*  
*Eupatorium maculatum*  
*Exochorda racemosa*  
*Fagus grandifolia*  
*Gaultheria procumbens*  
*Gentiana andrewsii*  
*Koeleruteria paniculata*  
*Laburnum alpinum*  
*Liatris spicata*  
*Lilium martagon*  
*Lilium superbum*  
*Maackia amurensis*  
*Magnolia tripetala*  
*Magnolia virginiana*  
*Monarda fistulosa*  
*Nyssa sylvatica*  
*Paeonia japonica*  
*Paeonia obovata*  
*Pinus bungeana*  
*Sinocalycanthus chinensis*  
*Stewartia pseudocamellia*  
*Symplocos paniculata*  
*Thalictrum rochebrunianum*  
*Vernonia noveboracensis*  
*Veronicastrum virginicum* f. *album*

Send your order and check to the Willowood Foundation, PO Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934 or Email : [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net)



*Spring brings the Bluebirds of Happiness back to Willowwood.* In early March, these wonderfully blue songbirds are welcomed back to nest in the blue bird boxes (built by local Eagle Scouts) set in a trail just off the drive. The birds seem joyful as they flit from perch to perch amidst the open fields that are their preferred habitat and allow them to feed easily on insects (especially mosquitos) and wild berries. The bluebirds love the open meadows with its scattered trees and bushes and tall grass cover. Bluebirds start to nest by late March

and may have 2-3 broods per season, laying 4—6 light blue eggs. In 2009 there were 19 boxes at WW which produced 18 successful nests and a total of 69 fledged young. Overdevelopment of local farmland and dead tree and woodland clean up has led to the lack of natural nesting sites. And the highly aggressive European Starlings and House Sparrows will often chase away the more timid bluebirds. Only 10-20% survive their first year and will usually return to the same area the next Spring. The MCPC's Senior Naturalist, Mindy Schmitt, started a data collection project three years ago to monitor and hopefully help increase our bluebird population. Trained volunteers check the boxes and watch over the babies to insure their survival. From a garden's point of view, the bluebirds distribute the seeds from plants for germination and protect plants from insect destruction. The rule is watch these graceful birds enjoy Spring but don't open the boxes! The babies might jump out before they are ready to fly!

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**Wanted: Gardeners**  
 Maintaining the beautiful gardens at the Willowwood Arboretum and now Bamboo Brook takes constant dedication and enthusiastic teamwork. The hands on GardenWorks program brings volunteers to the gardens one weekday morning to assist our park staff with various projects throughout the year. Enthusiastic amateurs and friendly master gardeners learn and work together in three short magical hours in beautiful gardens.  
 Contact Kate Gutierrez at 973.326.7266, or [kgutierrez@morrissparks.net](mailto:kgutierrez@morrissparks.net).  
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*New Magnolias were recently added* to the Willowwood Collection as part of the recommendations of John Bierne who will be finishing his evaluation of our collection this Spring. These new plantings are young and won't bloom for a couple of years, but we hope the photos will give you a glimpse of what we have to look forward to. There are many other magnolias at WW that will be in full bloom this Spring!


**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 and generally lists botanical and common name, planting date, etc. OR we can customize the tags with whatever personal or planting information you would like to incorporate.

Purchase customized tags by contacting the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or email your order to: [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net).

Label size: 1 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches.  
Cost: \$20.00 for a minimum order of 10 labels; \$1.75 each additional label

**Planted in the Hacklebarney Field are three great new additions:**  
  
**M. dawsoniana 'Clarke' (DAWSON MAGNOLIA)** The 8" flowers are a rich, deep pink. This planting is native to China.  
**M. 'Pink Royalty'** which has large coral pink flowers and  
**M. 'Roseanne'** whose large flowers are a rich lavender pink with soft pink inside.

**Planted in the Rosarie:**  
**M. grandiflora 'Bracken's Brown Beauty' (SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA)**  
 A hardy selection of a southeast native with an upright habit and rust-colored hairs on the undersides of the leaves. The fragrant creamy-white flowers appear in early summer.

**Planted in the Monarda Meadow:**  
  
**M. sprengeri 'Diva' (SPRENGER MAGNOLIA)**  
 The 8" flowers are rosy pink outside and pale pink inside. Native to central China.

**M. sieboldii 'Colossus' (OYAMA MAGNOLIA)**  
 The nodding, fragrant flowers appear in June and are white with magenta stamens. Native to southern China



**Planted in the Alfalfa Field: M. virginiana 'Henry Hicks' (SWEET BAY)** Fragrant creamy-white flowers appear in May and June with red fruit in fall. This hardy selection of a southeast native has evergreen foliage in the winter months.

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

- Mrs. Elizabeth Plum Doggett
- The Kirk & Megan Kellogg Fdn.
- Mrs. Louise Bristol
- Mrs. Evelyn Sloane Pyne
- Mr. Leonard Sunshine
- Mrs. Nancy Plumeri

*Many thanks for your help!*

**The Willowwood Foundation**  
P.O. Box 218 \* Gladstone, NJ 07934  
908-234-1815 \* [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net)  
[WWW.willowwoodfoundation.org](http://WWW.willowwoodfoundation.org)

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### *Save the Dates...*

Sunday Walk with John Morse—April 18, 2010  
Mother's Day at Willowwood.....Sunday, May 9, 2010

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Sunday, May 16, 2010

**Lilac Party ~ 4:30 PM**

*Wine tasting with Chris Cree, 56° Wine, plus "The Ten"  
Unusual Plants, Silent Auction*

### **Wanted: HORTICULTURE INTERNS**

Each year the Willowwood Foundation helps an individual obtain practical hands on gardening experience by funding an internship at the arboretum.

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 2010, please contact  
Kate Gutierrez at 973-326-7266 or [kgutierrez@morrisparks.net](mailto:kgutierrez@morrisparks.net).

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

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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