



# Willowwood Journal

Volume 16, Issue 3

Autumn, 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.

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**PHOTO CREDITS:**  
THANKS TO:  
LESLIE ALLAIN  
D. PENNISTON

## Solve a Mystery!

In our search for photos for “*The History of Willowwood*” that the Willowwood Foundation plans to publish next



Spring, a reader whose family founded the Morey LaRue business

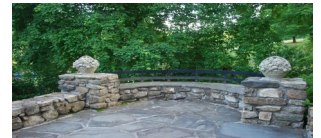
over 100 years ago, found this photo from the ‘90’s in their files. The director chair was on the Stone Cottage porch. The Foundation would love to hear from you if you know the story behind the chair or if you have any interesting anecdotes to share with us or photos to include in our book. Contact us for deadlines.

## Bamboo Brook Gardens and Reflecting Pools now Open!

The WW Foundation, many generous donors and the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust funded this extensive and historic garden restoration at Bamboo Brook, the home of Martha Brookes Hutcheson, one of the first female landscape architects trained in the US and neighbor of Willowwood. A “thank you” reception to honor the major donors, the Hazen J. Baron Memorial Donors, the Bamboo Brook Garden Restoration Committee, Mrs. J. Duncan Pitney, who helped with the re-creation of the stone baskets, Heritage Landscapes, the architectural consultant and Joseph Csakvary, Inc., the ever patient contractor, was held on June 11 with the public opening the following day. John Morse, Manager of Horticulture and Jay Jordan and his team of gardeners more than succeeded in their efforts to replicate and plant the gardens as per photos and garden plans in the archives. The MCPC is offering this beautiful property for private parties or celebrations either on the terraced lawns or under a tent on the tennis court. For more details on event or party



planning at Willowwood or Bamboo Brook, Call Scott D’Agostino at 973-326-7628.



## Willowwood Annual Fall “Open House” is scheduled on Sunday, September 19th!

The Willowwood Arboretum will host its annual Autumn Open House from Noon to 4 pm on Sunday, September 19, 2010. Join guided tours of the Meadows and the Rosarie and Cottage Gardens and enjoy early fall foliage and notable winter plant features. Plan on seeing the Ornamental Walk, Pan’s Garden and 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.

John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, will highlight various historic plants including those discovered by notable plant collector and explorer E.H. Wilson, renown for his trips to China and Japan. Tips on fall gardens, demonstrations plus the Horticulture Gardeners are ready to answer your planting questions. Enjoy a perfect Fall Day with cider and light refreshments from nearby Hacklebarney Farm.

**Free to the Public.**

*Thank you to our Donors:  
Spring ~ Summer, 2010*

Chester Garden Club  
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Mr. Robert G. Groff *IHO* Tim Groff  
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Puffer

Through contributions this year we funded garden restoration and new planting projects and continue both our Oral History Project and restoration of the Tubbs' and Dr. Blackburn personal photos and archived materials. We value and appreciate your support! And as 2010 comes to an end, remember that a Corporate Match *doubles your gift* and the deadline is December 31 if Tax Planning or IRA charitable withdrawals play a pivotal role for you. The Willowood Foundation is recognized by the I.R.S. as a non profit 501 © (3).



**GCA Zone  
IV Hosts  
Willow-  
wood Luncheon and  
Tour**

On a beautiful day this May, NJ GCA Zone IV proudly hosted a garden tour at Willowood for Garden Club of America members attending the Annual meeting in NJ. Attendees toured several private Somerset Hills Gardens before coming to Willowood for a luncheon. The Lilacs were in bloom and many indicated they enjoyed seeing Willowood and would visit again.



The "*Lilac Party*" gratefully recognizes our supporters:

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And of course, many thanks to...

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Pat Tummillo—The Music Den  
&  
The Willowood Gardeners and Volunteers



**Erwin Konetschny:** As we delve into the archives and memories, we find wonderful stories about Willowwood people. Ever admire the incredible stone bench and circular stone patio and wall work in the Cottage Garden? All of this was done by Erwin Konetschny who was originally hired by Russ Myers as a MCPC mechanic at Lewis Morris Park.



Born in Germany, Erwin and his step father went to Russia in 1925 and then fled to the Sinkiang province of China in 1933. He was a self taught mechanic who could fabricate replacement auto parts and this expertise got him a job at the US Embassy in Tihwa, China. When Communist Chinese forces accelerated their attacks, the Consul closed and he, his wife and two small sons and other consul staff fled 1600+ miles over the Himalayan mountains to Nepal, India. He arrived in NJ via Teheran in 1951 and in '57 started at the MCPC. However, his greatest love was plants and he worked Saturdays and then every Wednesday for many years at Willowwood with Dr. Ben Blackburn in the gardens. Jay Jordan said he was a "plant salvager" and still has some red dahlias he gave him. Jay also remembers Erwin, building the stonework with Russ Myers directing. Erwin was also responsible for setting some of the statuary outside Pan's Garden. He told Jay that "Stones are forever" but he never found any treasure but his beloved plants with his digging.

### Garden Labels Available:

Place your Order for permanent aluminum arboretum plant tags customized for your garden. Blending into the landscape yet an enduring record of gifts of love, hard work and beauty, these labels can be shipped in 10-15 days.

Label size: 1 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches with 5 lines.

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

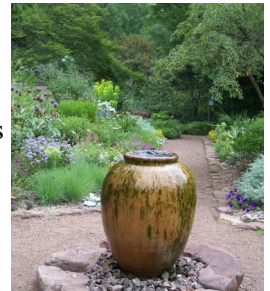
Email: [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net)

## Arboretum News:

**A Sunday Walk in the Park...** Meet with Judy Schaible, Gardener, at **2 pm, Sunday, September 12**, for a one hour tour. Judy will walk you through an intimate tour of the Rosarie, Winter Garden, Cottage Garden and Stone Barn plantings and explain how the gardens evolve each year and how and why plantings are chosen. Judy's specialty is container gardening and she will answer your questions on "How to", "Why not", "Which plants go with?" and "What can I do to camouflage this plant mistake?"

Wear comfortable shoes, dress for the weather, bring bug spray, your water bottle and your camera! The gardens' late summer and fall flowers will be in bloom and the meadows have colorful vistas. Sponsored by *Friends of Freylinghuysen*, the cost is \$15. **ADVANCE Registration is Required:** Call 973-326-7603.

Ruth Thomson donated a lovely urn last fall and this Spring it was converted to a water fountain feature centered in the Rosarie. Softly falling water now adds a gentle, soothing melody midst the colorful garden. Installed by Clayton Graba of "A Frog's Dream Aquatic Center", Long Valley, Mr. Graba donated his time and labor as well as the circulation pump, water vault, pipes, hoses, and fittings. It is delightful! Thank you both!



Elizabeth Plum Doggett donated an Adirondack chair in memory of her husband Alby to honor his love of the great outdoors and especially the fragrant lilacs he loved at Willowwood. Tish had a great view of the last of our late blooming lilacs at the *May Lilac Party*.

Lilacs are one of our most popular key collections with visitors and are a lovely and aromatic feature at *Mother's Day at Willowwood* and the Willowwood Foundation *Lilac Party* in May. This Spring, the collection was expanded with the addition of *Syringa* 'Anabel', *S.* 'Atheline Wilbur', *S.* 'Avalanche', *S.* 'Betsy Ross', *S.* 'Excel', *S.* 'Father John', *S.* 'James MacFarlane', *S.* 'Maiden's Blush', *S.* 'Redwine', and *S.* 'Wedgwood Blue'. Regrettably, they do not bloom immediately upon planting, but we can anticipate some lovely colors and with these new varieties.

The Cornelian Cherry Bed (the area between the drive in front of the Tubbs' house and the Rockery, left of Conservatory entrance), has been renovated and a new pudding stone retaining wall installed. The new planting features a combination of woody and herbaceous plants including Lace-cap Hydrangea, Boxwood, Summersweet, Japanese Anemone, Meadow Rue, Rusty Foxglove, and the old-fashioned Bleeding Heart. In addition, the border was pulled back to provide a more generous entrance to the Rockery and Pan's Garden at the rear of the house. This bed is named for the large Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*) that forms the backdrop for this area.

Interested in Seed Collecting?! Join the Willowwood Volunteers 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 to sign up and learn the secrets for next year's garden.

**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...***

Willowwood "Walking Tour" - September 12, 2 PM

*Autumn Open House*—Sunday, September 19, Noon to 4 pm

\*

*Lilac Party*, Sunday, May 15, 2011

**Wish List for the Willowwood Arboretum**

Help us to maintain the dreams of Henry and Robert Tubbs by funding one of the Willowwood Foundation's initiatives at the Willowwood 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 crocus and preserving our primary horticultural collections.

We are currently working on plans for some very special projects to celebrate our next 100 years. But we need your help! As a fellow gardener or as one who simply treasures our living museum, please contact the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or via email [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net) if you would like to support the arboretum through one of these opportunities.

**Go Green!** If you would prefer to read this newsletter via email in a pdf version or if you have changed your Mailing address, *Please let us know:* [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net). Thank you for your help!

**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© (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.)

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