



◆ Willowwood Journal ◆

Volume 17, Issue 2

Spring, 2011

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 15



The Willowwood Foundation will host its 16th Annual *Lilac Party* Celebration on Sunday, May 15th. 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.

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.

" Mom's the Word" at Willowwood"

Sunday, May 8, Spend the day with your favorite lady at The Willowwood Arboretum, Morris County's hidden treasure. The Lilacs are in bloom and make a splendid back drop for that special family photo. Tours of the lilac collection and gardens. Children may wish to make a paper flower bouquet—a new family heirloom! Light refreshments and unusual lilacs for sale. Noon to 4:30 pm; Cost is free. Craft fee \$2. per flower. For more information, call 908-234-1815 or visit 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. John Morse, MCPC Manager of Horticulture, has selected:

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

We were delighted to find *Syringa vulgaris*

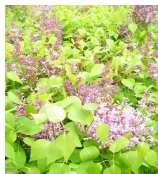
'*Firmament*', one of Lemoine's first blue lilacs, and seldom available for sale. A choice lilac for your collection! 'Firmament' was introduced in 1932 by famed French Breeder Victor Lemoine. In late spring it produces outstanding fragrant, large, single, pale-sky blue flowers in densely branched spikes above medium-green, heart-shaped leaves. Prune by July if needed. Perfect for shrub border. Native to eastern Europe, cultivated since 1563.



Or

Syringa x hyacinthiflora '*California*

Rose' can grow to 15-20' and spread to 10'. Full sun to light shade. Blooms from late Spring. Dark pink buds turn to pale lilac pink flower clusters. Needs good drainage. Winter hardy. A Descanso Hybrid Lilac bred by Sobek with 'Lavender Lady' ancestry for the warmer Southern California climate; the name was registered in 1966.

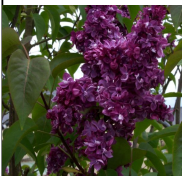


For our Sponsors:
Choices include :

Syringa vulgaris
'*Adelaide Dunbar*'

Introduced in 1916.

Sweetly fragrant double purple flowers appear above excellent dark bright green foliage. Mildew resistant. Sun. Named for New York park horticulturist John Dunbar's wife (the man responsible for creating "Lilac City" in Rochester), this classic variety has never been equaled.



Syringa vulgaris
'*Charm*'

Charm has extremely single pink fragrant flowers on 4 to 8" dense panicles.

Blooms Late Spring. Next years' buds are produced by midsummer, prune before July. Very hardy. Native to eastern Europe, cultivated since 1563.



Syringa
'*Fiala Remembrance*'

Yellow buds open to fragrant clouds of large, fully double, creamy white flowers in Mid/late May – a fitting tribute to Fr. Fiala. Well utilized as hedges. Adaptable to seashore conditions. 8-10'.

Syringa '*Wonderblue*' A beautiful mid spring blooming French hybrid with intensely fragrant showy pale blue flowers in upright panicles; compact habit, very hardy, tends to sucker, ideal as a low screen; full sun; well-drained soil.

Excellent for cutting. Bluish-green foliage.



Seeds for Sale!

The Willowwood Foundation is offering packets of seeds at \$3.00 a package or two for \$5.00 including postage. List available by email.

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

Orders filled promptly. Mail check to the Willowwood Foundation, PO Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934. Email: wwfoundation@earthlink.net

The "Lilac Party"

Sunday,
May 15, 2011



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.

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

Mr. and Mrs. David Callard

IMO Mrs. Fern Blackburn

Mrs. Amy Daley

Mr. Salvatore P. Giardina

Mr. Robert Groff IMO

Tim Groff

Mr. and Mrs. John Hamann

IHO Mrs. Janet Allocca

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holland

The Kirk and Megan Kellogg
Foundation.

Mr. John Sulpy, Jr.

Ms. Denise Ullem IHO

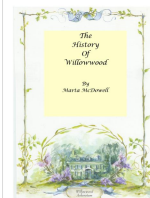
Mrs. Gail Kreitzer

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zimmerman

The Willowwood Foundation announces new book project:

Last Fall, after successful completion of the *History of Willowwood* by noted horticultural author, Marta McDowell, it was decided that a companion book of color photographs featuring Willowwood and its wonderful gardens portrayed in all four seasons was needed. A request was made to local and visiting photographers to submit their very best photos. Literally several thousand incredible choices poured in! Trustees Ray Rogers and Dan Will began the difficult task of choosing and compiling the 'best of the best' photographs this winter and recently announced that *A Walk Through Willowwood* - a four color book would be available for pre-publication orders at Mother's Day and the *Lilac Party* this May.

The History of Willowwood by Marta McDowell, commissioned by the Willowwood Foundation after the 2008 Centennial year, is the result of many months of intensive research within the Morris County Park Commission, Rutgers and Drew University and several Somerset Hills Garden Clubs archives, the Tubbs and Blackburn papers and interviews with many local friends of Hal Tubbs, Dr. Ben Blackburn and the Willowwood Foundation. Filled with historical photos and personal remembrances, Ms. McDowell has created a colorful picture of the Tubbs' family, Dr. Blackburn and their dreams of establishing a public arboretum. The Foundation plans publication this Spring in time for sale at Mother's Day and the *Lilac Party*.



Wanted: Gardeners

Maintaining the beautiful gardens at the Willowwood Arboretum and now Bamboo Brook takes constant dedication and enthusiastic teamwork. The hands on Spring thru Fall *Garden-Works* 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 973.326.7629, or kgutierrez@morrisparks.net.



Observation Platform to honor Dr. "Ted" Stiles, Past President of the Willowwood Foundation and long term trustee, will be built this Spring and should be completed early summer. John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, said that a 16x16' grade level platform made of Trex would be located between two



walking trails at the eastern edge of the Hacklebarney field just beyond the Lilac Collection and north west of the Tubbs' House. The platform, a perfect site for Ted's friends and fellow hikers to rest in the warmth of the sun and enjoy one of the places Ted loved so much, faces down a

gentle slope to the west towards the meadows and Bamboo Brook.

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. An ardent conservationist, Ted was responsible for preserving thousands of acres of meadows and precious green spaces remaining open throughout New Jersey.

At Willowwood, 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 21,000 plant accessions and more than 9300 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 especially the key collections. One of his graduate students' projects was to photograph every lilac on the property and note it on his plant map.

Ted also served on the Willowwood Arboretum Committee, helping to shape its horticultural future. Ted Stiles was the epitome of an environmentalist, a conservationist and a true steward of the land, its flora and fauna.

Garden Plant Labels:

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**.

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

Party'ers Wanted!

Trees with twinkling lights surround the WW Stone Barn & your very own private tent with room for 200 + dancing, creating a magical setting for any "very special" event.

The Seasonal Gardens are glorious and perfect for photo ops. Willowwood or Bamboo Brook with its beautiful reflecting pools can be the setting for *your perfect party*—wedding, birthday, anniversary, etc. Now booking 2011 and 2012.

Call the MCPC Event Specialist at 973-326-7619.

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

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Save the Dates...

Mother's Day at Willowwood.....Sunday, May 8, 2011

oooooooooooo

Sunday, May 15, 2011

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(s) 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 2011, please contact Kate Gutierrez at 973-326-7629 or 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© (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

+

Directions to Willowwood Arboretum: 300 Longview Road. Follow Rt. 206 to turn at Pottersville Rd. (Rt. 512). Proceed 1/2 mile to right on Lisk Hill Rd. Follow signs to Willowwood.