



# ◆ Willowwood Journal ◆

Volume 18, Issue 2

Spring, 2012

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.

*The Willowwood  
Arboretum is a facility  
of the Morris County  
Park Commission.*

*300 Longview Road,  
Chester Township*

*Open daily dawn  
to dusk*

*Free to Public*



## *Sunday, May 20, The Lilac Party*

The Willowwood Foundation hosts the 17th Annual *Lilac Party* Celebration on Sunday, May 20th. This much adored *Lilac Garden Party* tradition, chaired by Susie Swayne, starts at 4:30 pm at the Willowwood Arboretum, rain or shine, with a wine tasting hosted by Chris Cree, 56 degree wine, under our tent and of course, the renown men's a cappella chorus "**The Ten**" perform their rollicking repertoire in the Stone Barn.

Unusual plants donated by local growers, greenhouses and private gardens are available in the Silent Auction plus two lovely botanical art pieces by Alana van Rensselaer. One lucky winner and friends or family may celebrate a very special occasion at the Barn Studio, space donated by The Willow School. And for those who wish a very exclusive and private one of a kind experience, the Morris County Park Commission in conjunction with the WW Fdn. is offering a cocktail reception at the Tubbs House. And, John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, will offer a consultation at the top bidder's home garden.

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@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com).

*Those who cannot attend the party are invited to enjoy the Lilac Collection which generally blooms (depending on Mother Nature) from late April through May.*

## **The Willowwood Arboretum Launches New Website:**

Several months ago, the WW Foundation decided to take the plunge and design a new website for Willowwood. We wanted a comprehensive site that answered all visitors' questions. And so we're thrilled to announce the launch of

[www.willowwoodarboretum.org](http://www.willowwoodarboretum.org)!

Now you can learn more about Willowwood, its history, its gardens and lots of FAQ will be answered. This resource includes rotating seasonal images, great garden information and maps and event info – all readily available. Plus a directions page, local garden links and a store to buy our books, plant labels and seeds.

*Continued page 3*

*Sunday,  
May 13,  
Nothing  
says  
Mother's  
Day like  
lots of  
spring  
flowers!*



Pamper your favorite lady with a afternoon visit to the Willowwood Arboretum. The Spring Gardens and Lilacs are in bloom and are a splendid backdrop for that special family photo. Guided tours by horticulture staff. Enjoy folk, country and bluegrass music by the Stoney River Boys! Light refreshments. Unusual lilacs for sale. Noon to 4:30 pm. For more information, visit website!

*Lilacs, Lilacs, Lilacs...*In the *Lilac Party* tradition, a gift of a lilac will be distributed to all our guests. Pamela Wilson, Propagator, has selected:

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

The *Syringa vulgaris* 'Agincourt Beauty' has deep purple fragrant single flowers with very large florets—in fact the largest of all lilacs. It is one of the best purple available today. This lilac cultivar is an upright, deciduous shrub that is easily grown in full sun.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Belle de Nancy' is a deciduous shrub with leaves that are medium green, ovate to heart-shaped, up to 5 inches long. Flowers of Belle de Nancy are mauve and double. This species is sometimes referred to as French lilac that most of us are familiar with. Offers extremely fragrant lilac flowers, on 4 to 8 inch dense panicles, appearing in late spring to early summer.

**Our Sponsors may choose one of the following:**

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Bridal Memories': As the name suggests, the flowers are white (creamy white in this case) and like the bride before she said her vows, single. Fragrant blooms Mid Spring to Late Spring/Early Summer.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Burgundy Queen': A sensational new lilac with burgundy red single florets. Flowers a week earlier than most lilacs. A lovely new variety.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'President Lincoln' is considered the best blue lilac, a classic favorite with orchid-colored buds that open to loose trusses of single, blue-lavender flowers carrying a heady, lilac fragrance.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Violetta' offers double, fragrant, old fashioned/heritage, showy, deep violet flowers. A French lilac cultivated since 1563.



*Syringa vulgaris* 'Prairie Petite' offers intoxicating scent, lovely pink flowers that fade to lavender and is a dense shrub under 4' high.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Lavender Lady' One of the best lilacs for warm winter areas. Spectacular



clusters of fragrant, single lavender flowers. Mid-season bloomer typically flowers in mid-May.

**In bloom and coming soon:**

Cherries, Magnolias — now  
Crabapple trees, lilacs—mid April, through May

~

**Coming this summer:**

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

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

**The "Lilac Party"**



*Sunday,*  
*May 20, 2012*

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.

\*  
Silent Auction:  
Many wonderful surprise plants  
from growers and private  
collections.  
Botanical Artwork

**Thank you** To the friends of Willowwood who recently made generous donations this winter to help fund the Arboretum "Wish List":

**Benefactors:**

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Lonergan  
**Sponsors**  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Gerald Grimm  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holland  
Mr. Marshall M. Jeanes  
Mr. & Mrs. P. L'Hommedieu  
Pierson Family Fdn. Inc.  
Mr. R. Fenn Putman  
**Lilac Party:**  
Mr. Oliver Filley

*Many thanks for your help!*

### 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. Enthusiastic amateurs and friendly master gardeners learn and work together in three short magical hours. Call Kate Gutierrez at 973-326-7629.



### 25 acres in Controlled Burn at

Willowwood in late February. For the second time in three years, John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, reported that the New Jersey Forest Fire Service targeted areas in the meadows to the right of the driveway at WW towards BB for a controlled burn. Setting small and very closely monitored fires to burn grass, leaves, small branches and other flammable materials prevents them from becoming fuel in a larger uncontrolled blaze and also encourages grasses and wild flowers to thrive and regenerate to create a healthier habitat.

### New Willowwood Website, continued from Page 1:

But just because we love our new website doesn't mean it's perfect—it is still a work in progress! What do you like or not like? Are you able to get around easily? Comments or suggestions? Please contact us with your feedback. And a huge thank you to our web designer, Ollie Acheson, who was patient, hard-working and creative, and to Trustees Dan Will, Ray Rogers and the MCPC for their help. By the way, we are still looking for photos....any seasonal shot at WW—we'll post the best!

**If you would like to help us GO GREEN, sign up for the Willowwood Journal via email on the website:** [www.willowwoodarboretum.org](http://www.willowwoodarboretum.org)

### Garden Plant Labels:

As you buy new plants for your garden, embossed metal tags that identify them as found on the trees, shrubs and plants at Willowwood can be ordered to identify these special plants in your garden.

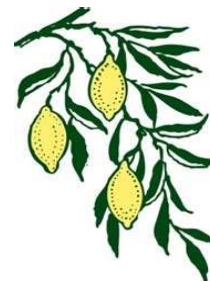
The copper colored tag accommodates 6 lines and generally lists botanical and common name, planting date, etc. OR we can customize the tags with whatever personal or planting information you would like to incorporate.

Contact the Willowwood Foundation at **908-234-1815**.

Label size: 1 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches.

Cost: \$20.00 for a order of 10 labels \$1.75 each additional label

**Mrs. Lonergan's Lemon Chiffon Pie** was made from the wonderful Wilson Lemon in the Tubbs Conservatory. Mrs. Lonergan was cook/housekeeper for Dr. Ben Blackburn and an invitation to one of her dinners was highly desired and then raved about in hopes of another invitation!. Her recipe from Bill Frederick to Marta McDowell, author of *The Story of Willowwood*:



*Recipe uses 2/3 cup sugar in total.*

One envelope gelatin soaked in 1/2 cup cold water

3 eggs separated; beat 3 yolks and add 1/2 cup sugar (save remainder), 1/2 cup lemon juice and 1/2 teas salt. Cook in double boiler until custard consistency, stirring constantly.

Add softened gelatin, stir until dissolved. Add 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel, cool.

When mixture thickens, fold in 3 egg whites stiffly beaten with remainder of sugar.

Place in baked pie shell, chill. Before serving, top with fresh whipped cream.

The Wilson lemon is flowering now in the conservatory. As part of its historical research, the Willowwood Foundation would like to talk with anyone who has stories of Mrs. Lonergan (or her recipes!) or has memories to share. Call 908-234-1815 or email [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com).

### Party'ers Wanted!

Trees with twinkling lights surround the WW Stone Barn & your very own private tent for dancing, create 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 2012 and 2013. Call the *MCPC Event Specialist* at 973-326-7619.

### Wanted: HORTICULTURE INTERNS

Each year the Willowwood Foundation helps an individual(s) obtain practical hands on gardening experience by funding an internship at WW. The program begins early spring through late fall and may run for three to eight months. Paid Interns (full- or part-time) are admitted on an as needed basis. Applicants must possess a keen interest in horticulture and enjoy working outdoors. To learn more about this program, visit our new website or contact Kate Gutierrez at 973-326-7629 or [kgutierrez@morrisparks.net](mailto:kgutierrez@morrisparks.net).

**The Willowwood Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 218 \* Gladstone, NJ 07934**  
wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com  
www.willowwoodarboretum.org

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***Save the Dates...***

Mother's Day at Willowwood.....Sunday, May 13, 2012

oooooooooo

Sunday, May 20, 2012 ***Lilac Party*** ~ 4:30 PM

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

oooooooooo

Autumn Open House , Sunday September 16th, Noon to 4 pm

**Wish List for the Willowwood Arboretum**

Please consider partially funding one of our special requests for the Willowwood Arboretum:

***Be a Benefactor:*** provide our visitors with a comfy teak Adirondack chair to rest and reflect as they view the gardens. ***Or be a Patron:*** the very popular Cottage Garden is expanding and you can help us obtain the perennials and shrubs needed in two new bedding areas. Plans to add a new rustic barn board fence to protect the Cottage Garden can also be implemented with your gift. ***Or be a Garden Sponsor*** with a donation to add additional terra cotta pots with ornamental plants. As a fellow gardener or as one who simply treasures our incredible living museum, please contact the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 if you would like to support the arboretum through one of these opportunities or email the Fdn. at [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com)

**YES! I want to help the Willowwood Foundation continue the work of the Tubbs and Dr. Ben Blackburn.**

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

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