



Willowwood Journal

A Publication of the Willowwood Foundation

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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:
LESLIE ALLAIN
JOHN MORSE
KAREN WITT



“SUPERSTORM SANDY – NO ‘WALK IN THE PARK’ FOR WILLOWWOOD” says John Morse, Manager of Horticulture for the Morris County Park Commission. Here is his report:

Superstorm Sandy blew through on the night of October 29 and changed the face of the Willowwood Arboretum for years to come. Thankfully, none of our buildings were damaged and our gardens, shrubs, and flowering tree collections escaped relatively unscathed. But several of our shade trees were badly damaged and many trees in our woodlands toppled over. Overall, more than sixty trees were marked for priority removal because they affected the gardens and collections, blocked trails, or had flattened our perimeter deer fence, yet hundreds more still litter the woodlands and hillsides.

Like many of our neighbors, after power was finally restored and immediate safety issues addressed, the grim reality of clean-up began. A contractor removed the largest trees and our staff tackled the rest collecting storm debris from throughout, cutting up fallen limbs and small trees, removing broken branches, and chipping brush. In November and December we devoted nearly thirty person-days to storm clean-up alone and this will continue for many months.

Nearly 300’ of repair is needed on the perimeter deer fence - so critical for preventing deer from damaging plants within the arboretum. After the storm, staff erected temporary barricades in eight locations where the fence had been badly damaged.

And one not-so-obvious effect of Sandy has been that storm clean-up has distracted us from our normal end-of-season arboretum chores. Fortunately, the open winter weather thus far has allowed us to catch-up on some needed winter maintenance projects.

Assessing the damage to Willowwood immediately following the storm was extremely discouraging. Developing an arboretum is a long term venture, the result of many talented and devoted individuals performing seemingly small tasks each day that, over the years, collectively make Willowwood what it is today. To suffer such a monumental step backward, all at one time, was a true challenge. Thankfully though, I am a gardener, which means I’m an optimist – and as the fallen trees are hauled away I can already see opportunities for new plantings. With time, a new generation of trees and shrubs will emerge at Willowwood and the ravages of Sandy will be only a memory. Now, we will begin anew. ..

Magnolia Photo Contest announced: Photographers—get your cameras ready! After the successful Daffodil Photo Contest, the Willowwood Foundation has planned a second contest on Willowwood’s **Magnolias**. Generally in bloom in mid March – late April, Magnolia photos will qualify for contest entry and prize in 2013. Rules: All Magnolia photos must be taken at WW. Photos from the past or this year will qualify. Submit jpegs via email. Questions? More Information? Email: wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com.

Spring Events Planned:

Sunday, March 3 - 2 pm Magnolias—A Spring Centerpiece in Your Garden

John Beirne, noted Magnolia Expert, provides all the answers to your Magnolia questions from choosing the newest or most colorful hybrid, planting, care, pruning, disease control and repairing in the aftermath of Sandy. A great plant explorer E.H Wilson said: "No group of trees and shrubs is more favorably known or more highly appreciated in gardens than magnolias, and no group produces larger or more abundant blossoms".

Join John Beirne for conversation and photos at Bamboo Brook’s Music Room. Light Refreshments.

Time: 2pm - 3:30 pm

Cost: \$15 * Call 973 615 4841

Saturday, April 13 Willowwood: From The Manager’s Perspective

Join John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, for his personal tour of Willowwood Arboretum and learn why this magnificent site is one of the finest horticultural facilities in New Jersey. No one knows the grounds or the plants better, and John shares his unique perspective in this afternoon tour. Meet at the Stone Barn, wear good walking shoes and prepare to be wowed by the beauty of the gardens and the grounds of this very special place. **Time:** 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$12.* Call 973-326-7603.

Thank you! Many friends of Willowood made generous donations in the last six months to help fund the Tubbs' & Blackburn horticultural legacy and to insure that this wonderful place survives for future generations. We can only say "Thank you" for your help...

Mr. Stathis Andris
Mrs. Julie Baron
Chester Garden Club
The Alvin and Linda Dietz Fund
Mr. and Mrs. James Porter
Mr. George Rochat
The Gelfand Family Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Jason Andris
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Colicchio
Mr. H.L. Crawford III
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Davis
Mr. Stephen Kelly
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Woods

In Honor of Mary Bartow:

Mrs. Julie Baron
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Buchanan
Mr. Sidney Dillon
Mrs. Beirne Donaldson
Mr. & Mrs. William Hershey Greer, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Mason
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Mink
Mrs. Patricia Richards
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Willemsen
Ms. Madeleine Reed Wyeth

Many thanks again to all of you for your support

Like Pretty Posies?

Wanna Play in the Dirt?

Enthusiastic amateurs and friendly master gardeners play, learn and work together in three short messy and magical hours in Willowood or Bamboo Brook's beautiful gardens. Dedicated teams and nimble fingers are urgently needed to help maintain the eye appealing gardens.

This hands on program - *Garden-Works* - teaches volunteers at the gardens one weekday morning to assist our horticulture staff. Call Kate Gutierrez, Horticulture Volunteer Program Specialist at 973.326.7629 or email Kate at kgutierrez@morrisparks.net, for more information and schedule.

Spring Events, *continued*

Sunday, May 12 Noon to 4 pm
Mother's Day at Willowood! Bring Mom and the family. Enjoy the Spring Gardens, music by the A.L.L. Trio, photo ops, plant sale and light refreshments.
Free to the Public.

Sunday, May 19, The "Lilac Party" - the Willowood Foundation's annual fundraiser featuring musical entertainment by The Ten, wine tasting hosted by Chris Cree, 56 degree wine, taste tempting hors d'oeuvres, Silent Auction of unusual plants. Lilacs in Bloom!
Time: 4:30—7 pm
Tickets required. Call 973 615 4841

Thursday, May 23
Viburnums: A Must for Every Garden
From leaves to flowers discover why you need this wonderful shrub in your yard. Instructor Bryan Lowe will review all the characteristics of Viburnum in a lecture in the Stone Barn and then get up close and personal with a tour of Willowood's collection. Walking shoes a must!
Time: 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Cost:** \$15
Call 973-326-7603 for reservations

May 18, 2013 Wedding Date is still open!

Contact MCPC Event Specialist Chris Knox at 973-326-7619 or cknox@morrisparks.net for more details.
Experience the ultimate party venue! Trees with twinkling lights surround the WW Stone Barn or your own private tent with room for dancing, creating a magical setting for any "very special" event.
The Seasonal Gardens are glorious and perfect for photo ops. Willowood or Bamboo Brook with its beautiful reflecting pools can be the setting for *your perfect party*—wedding, birthday, anniversary, etc. A few dates still available now but booking 2014 and 2015.

Permanent Plant Labels for your Garden:

Purchase customized tags for your home garden by contacting the Willowood Foundation: 908-234-1815.
Label size: 1 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches with 5 lines of customized type. Copper colored metal tags.
Cost: \$20.00 for a minimum order of 10

Save the Date!



The "Lilac Party"

Sunday,
May 19, 2013

4:30 pm

Wine Tasting by
Master of Wine,
Chris Cree
56 degree wine

*

a cappella music by
"The Ten"

*

Silent Auction
featuring
Unusual Plants

Hors d'oeuvres by
Ross and Owren

Tickets and reservations:

Email: wwfoundation@willowoodfoundation.com

Or Call 908 234 1815

Base Camp and Somerset Hills YMCA Volunteers join MCPC Gardenworks and Willowood Staff to clean up Sandy's Debris:

Kate Gutierrez, Horticulture Volunteer Specialist, offered “A big thank you and a group hug for our eleven Outdoor Friends from BaseCamp & the Somerset Hills YMCA lead by Karen Witt and Tonya Biondi.” Their ‘giving back’ motto and enthusiasm was contagious as Willowood’s regular ‘Gardenworks’ volunteers, staff and three trusty mule trucks worked hard in difficult terrain, mud and fallen debris, to clear trails of Sandy’s massive debris in the Pine and Cedar Hillside. After several hours on January 9th, there were 20 impressive piles of broken tree limbs stacked along the exit road for shredding and seventeen very tired but well satisfied workers for a ‘job very well done’.

The following are some comments from Karen Witt of Base Camp as to why the SH YMCA and Base Camp volunteers gave their time and considerable energy to work on this enormous project:

Kate Witt noted that she and her husband moved to Basking Ridge over 20+ years ago from Wyoming and were avid cyclists who “found” Willowood and have returned many times to lead group hikes in her job as an Outdoor Adventure Program Guide for Base Camp and the Somerset Hills YMCA. “Our Outdoor Programs are geared to getting people outside and active. They are also about giving back to the earth we so enjoy! We like to educate, exercise, and enrich our lives through time spent outdoors. We volunteered at Willowood last year and were glad to return again this year” said Karen.

“We always enjoy being outside especially in such a beautiful location as Willowood! A gem in our state! It is a real pleasure to get a group of willing people together to volunteer for an outdoor clean up project. It is truly amazing what you can do in a short period of time with willing people: “many hands make light work”. Our group is a mixture of hikers, bikers, kayakers - all outdoor enthusiasts. Also, gardeners, herbalists, environmentalists, teachers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, nurses, hygienists, chemists, stay at home moms or dads, students.... a real mixture! The main thing we all have in common is our respect and interest in the great outdoors. We all enjoy the camaraderie that naturally happens after working a few hours together. When we return to hike on the trails or property we have cleaned up, we all feel a sense of pride and accomplishment for the work completed..”

John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, at the MCPC, was delighted at all that was accomplished. For more information as to how you can help—call Kate Gutierrez 973.326.7629 to discuss corporate, group or personal Volunteer Opportunities or the “Gardenworks” program.



Now Available: The Story of Willowood, by Marta McDowell and Willowood in Pictures

The Story of Willowood—Marta McDowell, noted botanical author and landscape historian, has written the complete history of the Tubbs’ brothers, Willowood and its gardens and collections. Many photos from the Morris County Park Commission archives. \$10. plus \$2.50 s&h.



Willowood in Pictures—Over 2500 photos were submitted by local photographers—all in beautiful, seasonal color. The gardens, the buildings and artistic objects are featured in this pictorial walk. A hardcover edition was adapted by Ray Rogers, Garden Book author and winner of top awards at the Philadelphia International Flower Show, and designed by fellow Trustees Dan Will and Leslie Allain. Cost is \$40. + \$2.50 s&h. To order call 908-234-1815 or email: wwfoundation@willowoodfoundation.com



A great gift for Easter, Mother’s Day or Father’s Day or Any Day for the Gardener in your life!

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Save the Dates...

Magnolia Conversation with John Beirne...Sunday, March 3

Mother's Day at Willowwood.....Sunday, May 12

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Sunday, May 19 * "The *Lilac Party*"

A Tasting by 56 degree wine, "The Ten" and Silent Plant Auction

Help with Sandy's aftermath & repairs...

Willowwood's next urgent project is to repair the perimeter deer fence - absolutely critical for preventing deer from damaging plants in the arboretum. Following Sandy, uprooted trees flattened nearly 300' of fence and while staff erected temporary barricades in eight locations where the damage was most severe, we know a fence contractor will be needed to install permanent repairs in these locations. Please make a contribution toward this important repair so that we can continue to keep *deer out of the arboretum* and protect our rare plants. Please call 908-234-1815 or email wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com if you need more information. Thank you for your support.

YES! I want to help the Willowwood Arboretum repair Sandy's damage.

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 or visit www.willowwoodarboretum.org