



# Willowwood Journal

A Publication of the Willowwood Foundation

Volume 21, Issue 1

February, 2015

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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MORRIS COUNTY  
PARK  
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## Garden Notes....Get ready for Spring!

In 2014, there were several new projects that will add some lovely new color to the Arboretum this coming Spring. Under the guidance of John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, and Judy Schaible, newly promoted Superintendent of Horticulture, the incredible team of gardeners and volunteers have performed outstanding garden housekeeping revitalization.



A new Lilac Annex with all new plants and 20 cultivars was started to the left of the entrance – NE corner of the Hacklebarney Field. This area is cooler for lilacs and has good drainage. Many of the new lilacs are ones featured at previous *Lilac Partys*. This new area was previously predominantly meadow and over the past 5 years, magnolias such as the beautiful yellow ‘Lois’ plus new flowering cherries donated by the Morris Arboretum were planted and over time more spring flowering plants will be added.

The east side of the shingle barn had been a popular area and the bed was filled with an older magnolia, hosta, lily of the valley and other plantings. The 2014 Horticulture team’s goal was to spruce it up. So they have cleaned out the bed and planted a collection of meadow plants that were grown from collected seed – Joe Pye weed, coneflowers, bee balm, swamp milkweed (which attracts Monarch butterflies) and other plants – a showcase of meadow plants within a landscape setting.



The Cottage Garden is one of the most popular gardens filled with lovely colorful plantings from May to September. After some research into the original designs of the beds, it was decided to extend two of the beds. One unusual plant is a hardy Japanese Banana plant they will try to overwinter (hopefully Mother Nature will be kinder to us this year!). The beds were planted this past fall with traditional plants like digitalis, anemones, purple cornflowers, canna and other annuals and perennials. Lots of spring flowering bulbs were added to be up and blooming when Spring arrives.

Along the drive, an additional 2000 daffodil bulbs have been planted. So start counting the days!



## Tabbs Lecture Series: Sunday, April 19th Japanese Flowering Cherries

What better place and time to talk “cherries,” than early spring at Willowwood Arboretum, whose own Cherry collection is outstanding and in bloom!

In this lecture, Tony Aiello, Director of Horticulture and Curator of the Living Collection at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, will discuss the introduction of flowering cherries into the U. S.

2012 marked the 100th anniversary of the planting of the famous flowering cherries surrounding the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. And flowering cherries have long been a captivating presence in Japan and throughout the U.S.

Along with his interest in the history of cultivation of flowering cherries, Tony has been using the Morris Arboretum’s cherry collection as a model for preserving our horticultural heritage. Tony has worked with other botanic gardens in the Northeast to identify, propagate, and share rare varieties of flowering cherries. Tony’s expertise will be matched by the beauty of Willowwood’s own Cherry collection with a short walking tour.

**Time:** 1:30 pm at Willowwood. **Cost:** \$20. Call 973-326-7603 to register **after** March 30, 2015.

**Thank you!** Many friends of Willowwood 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...

Mrs. Janet D. Allocca  
Mrs. Julie Baron  
The Gelfand Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. James Porter  
Mr. and Mrs. L. Keith Reed  
Garden Club of Somerset Hills  
Tree -Tech Inc.—*in kind*  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Colicchio  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Davis  
Ms. Shirley MacLean  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Zibelli, Jr.

*In Memory of Mary Pearson How*  
Mr. and Mrs. Gates Helms Hawn  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Neely Mallory

*In Memory of Mrs. Sidney Morse*  
Mrs. Pamela Wilson

*In Memory of Ruth Thomson*  
Mr. John R. Sorrenti

*In Honor of Louis Carbonetta*  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCarthy.

*Many thanks again to all of you for your very generous support.*

### **Late Fall/Winter Photo**

**Contest announced:** Photographers—get your cameras ready! After the successful Daffodil, Magnolia and cherry Photo Contests, the Willowwood Foundation has planned a Late summer/Fall/Early Winter contest. Your photos of Willowwood's flora and fauna during these wintry seasons will qualify for contest entry and prize in 2015.

**Rules:** All photos must be taken at WW. Photos of anything in the gardens or meadows including animals, from the past year or this year will qualify. Submit jpegs via email. Max. 3 jpegs per email. No limit to submissions. Questions? Need More Information? Email: [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com) or visit our website to view past winners.

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

**Submission deadline: 4/15/15**

## **Spring Events**

**Sunday, May 10 *Mother's Day at Willowwood!*** One of the most enjoyable times of the year to bring Mom and the family and visit one of New Jersey's most beautiful public gardens filled with Lilacs and flowers. A perfect post brunch or a lovely prelude to dinner, your Mom or Favorite Lady can enjoy a leisurely stroll through the Spring Gardens.

***No Reservations Required***

**Sunday, May 17, The "Lilac Party"** is one of this area's most anticipated spring garden parties. Presented by the Willowwood Foundation, this **20th** annual fundraiser features musical entertainment by the incomparable 'The Ten', a Spring Artisan Wine Tasting hosted by 56 degree wine, taste tempting hors d'oeuvres, Cheese table and Open Bar. Bidding is always brisk at the Silent Auction of unusual plants. And heavenly scented Lilacs in Bloom and Spring Gardens are just right for romantic strolling!

Time: 4:30—7 pm Rain or Shine  
**Tickets required.** Call 973 615 4841  
\* or email:  
[wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com).

**Party Dates still open!** Contact MCPC Event Specialist Chris Knox at 973 -326-7619 or [cknox@morrisparks.net](mailto: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. Willowwood 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 in 2015 but now booking 2016 and 2017.

## **Save the Date!**



### **The 20th Anniversary "Lilac Party"**

**Sunday,  
May 17, 2015**

4:30 pm

*Wine Tasting*  
Hosted by  
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@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com)  
Or: Call 908 234 1815



## Willow Ware at Willowwood

The Tubbs brothers' keen interest in the decorative arts included the practical, everyday items of life. At Willowwood, their interest in all things Asian is reflected in statuary, paintings and even dinnerware. The corner cupboard in the Dining Room is filled with Willow Ware. The Blue Willow pattern is one of the most recognizable tableware patterns ever produced. First introduced in England in the late 18th century, the pattern evolved from Chinese landscape painting and contains multiple elements: a mandarin's pagoda and garden; the mandarin and his hunting party on a bridge; a fisherman who rescues the lovers; the lovers' hideaway; two birds representing the lovers; a crooked fence and, of course, the Willow.

Included in the Tubbs collection are dinner plates, serving plates, cup and saucers, bowls of every shape imaginable, sugar pots, creamers and even some very sweet egg cups which we imagine held freshly laid eggs from the family chicken coop. Some are chipped, others marked with the tracery of use, however, they bare witness to the fact that Willowwood was a true home, well-used, and the Dining Room, the heart of it.

The Chinese first produced porcelain using kaolin, a local clay. In the 13th century, Chinese craftsmen used Iranian cobalt to create a vibrant blue and white finish. It is believed that the original Willow pattern was used by the secret Hung society to communicate their propaganda and plans. Manchu rulers discovered this and destroyed all of the Willow ware they could find, but having been introduced into England by that time, it was later re-introduced into China in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

From the late 17th to the early 18th century, England had begun importing inexpensive Chinese dinnerware, including a blue and white pattern called "Two Birds," the "parent" of the Willow pattern. Over time, many English china producers created their own Willowware including Minton, Spode and Worcester. The "Blue Willow" china pattern became popular in Europe and America, which created a high demand for the pieces. even today, Blue Willow is a stock pattern in many stores.

The romantic legend behind the Willow pattern is said to have been invented by English pottery houses as an 18<sup>th</sup> century marketing tool. It tells of a Chinese girl from a Royal family who was promised in marriage by her father to a Duke. However, she fell in love with a lowly accountant in her father's court. Her father



was so angry that he constructed a fence around his house so his daughter could not meet with her lover. The Duke, bearing jewels as gifts, traveled to the girl's house in a boat. The wedding was set for the day after the Willow tree shed its blossoms. On the evening of the day that the Willow shed its leaves, the lovers escaped, making off with the jewels. The two ran over a bridge and escaped to safety on an island where they lived happily for a number of years. The jilted Duke, continued searching for them and upon discovering their hiding place, sent soldiers to capture the lovers and put them to death. The Gods then intervened and transformed the lovers into a pair of doves.

*By Dr. Lesley Parness, Superintendent of Horticulture Education*

## Openings for Seasonal Gardeners and Interns at Willowwood and Frelinghuysen Arboreta

**Seasonal gardener positions** for those with experience in horticulture or



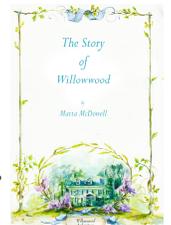
gardening are available now at the Arboreta for the 2015 growing season. Gardeners participate in all aspects of garden and arboretum management including planting, mulching, watering, weeding, pruning, fertilizing, mowing, propagating, and record keeping. Gardeners rotate through the different specialty gardens and collections and may select an area of concentration.

**Internship Program:** Each year the Willowwood Foundation helps an individual(s) obtain practical hands on gardening experience by funding an internship at WW. The 2014 intern recipient was Marcus Chin. Beginning early spring through late fall (may run for 3 to 8 months), paid Interns (full- or part-time) are admitted on an as needed basis and must possess a keen interest in horticulture and enjoy working outdoors.

To learn more about each program, or if interested, send resume to Judy Schaible, Superintendent of Horticulture, Morris County Park Commission, PO Box 1295, Morristown, NJ 07962 or email: [jmschaible@morrisparks.net](mailto:jmschaible@morrisparks.net) or call 908.234.0061

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

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



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

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

**The Willowwood Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 218 \* Gladstone, NJ 07934**  
**908-234-1815**  
**wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com**

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

Tubbs Lecture Series– Anthony Aiello, “Cherries” April 19

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**Sunday, May 17 \* “The Lilac Party”**

**Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of this Garden Party**

*Wine Tasting by 56 degree wine, “The Ten” and Silent Plant Auction*

**Earth Day is April 22 and Arbor Day is April 24th** but at Willowwood as we dig in the gardens, every day we celebrate the earth and its green treasures. 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 notes:** Bloom times are always a bit uncertain in Spring but if you send your email address to: [Contactus@willowwoodarboretum.org](mailto:Contactus@willowwoodarboretum.org) we will let you know when each of the flowering collections begins its bloom!

**Seeds from the Index Seminum:** List available soon at the Store on [www.willowwoodarboretum.org](http://www.willowwoodarboretum.org).

**YES, I want to help the Willowwood Foundation and Willowwood Arboretum in 2015:**

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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