



◆ Willowwood Journal ◆

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THE
WILLOWWOOD
FOUNDATION IS A
NON-PROFIT
EDUCATIONAL
ORGANIZATION
INCORPORATED
IN THE STATE OF
NEW JERSEY.
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.

Sunday, May 17, The 20th Anniversary Lilac Party



The Tradition continues for the 20th Anniversary Annual *Lilac Party* Celebration hosted by the Willowwood Foundation.

The much beloved Willowwood Arboretum Fundraiser will be held this year on Sunday, May 17th. This much adored *Lilac Garden Party* tradition, once again co-chaired by Anne Peterson and Becky Terry, starts at 4:30 pm to 7 pm at the Willowwood Arboretum.

In Marta McDowell's book *The Story of Willowwood*, she notes that "Willowwood's Lilacs have long provide a cause for celebration. Annual Lilac Parties by Dr. Blackburn and friends started as far back as the 1960's." "Mary Bartow" (the late Trustee who began the tradition of today's Lilac Party Fundraiser) "remembers these as simple affairs—groups of friends gathering among the lilacs for tea or perhaps something stronger, with prayers offered to the weather god for sunshine. The parties signaled that the growing season was now in full swing." No longer held under the lilacs as it was during Dr. Ben Blackburn's residence, party go'ers now taste scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and sample spring artisanal wines at a wine tasting hosted by 56 degree wine, Bernardsville, under our tent—rain or shine—accompanied by the versatile classical guitarist Carlos Cuestas.

And of course, during the evening, the renown Somerset Hills men's a cappella chorus "The Ten" of the University Glee Club, will offer two performances of their rollicking repertoire in the Stone Barn. "The Ten" have performed 19 years at this party to rousing applause—they are a not to be missed entertainment! The Silent Auction for both savvy and newbie gardeners features unusual flowering plants, hard to find veggies and a few wonderful surprises from Willowwood, local growers and private gardens plus botanical art and garden works.

Proceeds from the Lilac Party are used each year to fund the essential horticulture intern program at Willowwood. Each year one or more interns get practical hands on experience in the gardens. Openings exist for this year's growing season—so interested applicants should contact Judy Schaible at jmschaible@morrisparks.net for more information.

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. Past photos from the Lilac Party Tradition are on our website: www.willowwoodfoundation.com

Spring Gardens are open daily at the Willowwood Arboretum from 8 am to Dusk. The Cell Phone Tour provides interesting info about the gardens, plantings and structures. Visit in April, May and June for colorful flora, fragrant flowering cherries and lilacs! Come back often as the gardens change almost daily and plan a trip again in mid late Summer and Fall to explore the multi colored meadows in bloom!

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

300 Longview Road,
Chester Township

Open daily 8 am
to dusk
Free to the Public

enjoy the
experience
morris county park commission

Lilac Party "Lilacs" for our Guests...

As is the Tradition, each guest attending the *Lilac Party* receives a gift of a very special lilac plant for their garden specially chosen by the Willowwood Foundation.



For Benefactors and Patrons:

Three choices to complete their collections:



Syringa vulgaris 'Congo' cultivar was introduced in 1896 by French breeder Lemoine. 'Congo' brings rich dark colors to border and vase with its

intense bright burgundy buds which fade to magenta flowers. Light, pleasant, lasting fragrance.

Syringa vulgaris 'Yankee Doodle'

is a profuse Fr. Fiala bloomer and one of the deepest and darkest of the purple Lilacs. It features large panicles of deep rich purple flowers and is strongly fragrant with blue green heart shaped foliage.



Syringa vulgaris 'Monge' is an outstandingly showy and fragrant French Hybrid Lilac that produces an abundance of red-purple single flowers in May. It is a consistent heavy bloomer and it has the true lilac scent. This upright growing shrub has blue-green foliage that turns purple in the fall.

For more information about these lilacs or questions about reservations and tickets for the Lilac Party on May 17th, please email the Willowwood Foundation at wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com

For Sponsors: Three choices



Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y' (Beauty of Moscow) is a Russian hybrid-weather resistant, extremely hardy, with a long

bloom time.

The unusually large double flowers of this hybrid Lilac resemble pink pearls in bud, but open to pure white. The striking combination of buds and flowers creates a beautiful bicolor effect. Developed in 1943, delightfully fragrant, the large panicles are exceptionally full, making this a superb garden plant, as well as a perfect choice for cut flowers.

Syringa vulgaris 'Katherine Havemeyer'

is an exquisite spring blooming very fine French Hybrid lilac featuring magically fragrant showy lavender buds opening to eye catching double soft mauve pink flowers in stunning abundant upright panicles. Blueish green heart shaped leaves.



Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Purple Glory'

is a early mid May bloomer with a delicious fragrance that permeates the air surrounding the luxuriant deep purple flowers and provide a long lasting bloom. New leaves will emerge in spring with a purple blue blush, and in fall these purple highlights return. Dense foliage fills branches low to the ground making Purple Glory an attractive specimen plant. Famed lilac hybridizer, Father John Fiala, rated Purple Glory very fine to excellent and we could not agree more.

The 20th Anniversary "Lilac Party"

Sunday,
May 17, 2015

4:30 pm - 7 pm



Wine Tasting by
56 degree wine

a cappella music by
"The Ten"
& Classical Guitarist,
Mr. Carlos Cuestas

Silent Auction:

Many wonderful surprise plants from growers and private collections.
Botanical Artwork

Tickets required.

Call for info: 973 615 4841

Thank you !

Morris County Park Commission
Murphy Capital Management
Peapack Gladstone Bank

*

Thank you To the friends of Willowwood who made generous donations this winter and early Spring to continue the Tubbs/Blackburn tradition:

Thank You!

The Kirk Kellogg Foundation

**

Mrs. Beirne Donaldson and
Mr. Wood Huntley

Mr. John Hedden and
Ms. Stacy Ackerman

Ms. Deborah Meyer

**

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Colicchio

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zimmerman

Wanted: Volunteers

Maintaining the beautiful gardens at the Willowood Arboretum and now Bamboo Brook takes constant dedication and enthusiastic teamwork. The hands on *Garden-Works* 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 Judy!

Internship Program: Each year the Willowood Foundation helps an individual(s) obtain practical hands on gardening experience by funding an internship(s) at WW. The program begins in spring to late fall and may run for three to eight months. Paid Interns (full- or part-time) are admitted on an as needed basis. All Applicants must possess a keen interest in horticulture and enjoy working outdoors, planting, watering, mulching, propagating etc.

Contact Judy Schiable, Superintendent of Horticulture at 908-234-0061 or jmschaible@morrisparks.net

Party'ers Wanted!

Contact MCPC Event Specialist Chris Knox at 973-326-7619 or cknox@morrisparks.net to ***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.

Garden Notes



Seeds from the Index Seminum now available for your garden.

A current list of seeds from arboreta around the world as well as Willowood and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum will be listed soon on our website Store: www.willowoodarboretum.org.

Bloom times: Many of our friends, in order to plan a visit, have requested email updates for the various bloom times at Willowood. Bloom Reports are emailed out almost weekly during the season. We are happy to add your email address to our list—just let us know at contactus@willowoodarboretum.org. *By the time you receive this newsletter, Willowood's wonderful lilacs should be starting their bloom through early June.*

Speaking of plants:

News from the Cottage Garden and other plantings...as the planting and growing season progresses throughout the gardens, particularly in the on going renovation of the Cottage Garden, many of the new plants have been made possible through the annual sponsorship of the Chester Garden Club. By the way, if you have a yen to learn more about plants, local garden clubs are always looking for new members - experienced members are happy to help newbies with their practical plant knowledge, camaraderie, mutual commiseration of aches and pains and lots of joy. Check out our "Links" page on the website for contact info on garden clubs as well as helpful *Lilac Party Silent Auction* Plant suppliers.

2nd Report on Sandy Damage: As you may know, we had a lot of downed trees and debris at Willowood. Staff and volunteers have helped tidy up over the past year but more heavy duty help was needed so Jim Bellis and his Tree-Tech, Inc. staff came to the rescue, spending a day grinding down the remaining stumps and doing more clean up work throughout the property. Thanks, guys!

Sunday April 19 at 1:30 pm: CHERRIES! The 2015 Tubbs Lecture "Japanese Flowering Cherries: A 100 Year-Long Love Affair," presented by Professor Anthony Aiello, Director of Horticulture at the Morris Arboretum, will detail the history of the cherry tree's rise to popularity. A tour of Willowood Arboretum's Cherry Collection will follow, along with light refreshments.

"Japanese flowering cherries were a favorite of Henry and Robert Tubbs and are an important component of the spring landscape at Willowood. The Willowood Cherry collection contains 41 different cultivars" explains John Morse, Morris County Park Commission Manager of Horticulture.

This program is presented in partnership with the Willowood Foundation.

The cost of this program is \$20. To register, please call 973-326-7601.

Saturday April 25 at 10 am: LILACS! Marc Zukovich, President of Sterling Horticultural Services, will talk about the many different varieties of Lilacs, how to prune, feed and care for them. A stroll through the Willowood Arboretum's Lilacs will follow. Sponsored by the Friends of Frelinghuysen.

The Cost of this Program is \$15 for members/\$20 for non members.

To register, please call 973-326-7601.

Earth Day is April 22 and Arbor Day is April 24th—but at Willowood as we dig in the arbors and gardens, every day is Earth Day! If you would like to help us GO GREEN, sign up for the Willowood Journal via email: www.willowoodarboretum.org.

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

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Save the Dates...

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

oooooooooo

“Lilacs: Varieties & Care” a Lecture: April 25th at 10 am

oooooooooo

Sunday, May 17 * “The Lilac Party”

Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of this Garden Party

Wine Tasting by 56 degree wine , Bernardsville

Silent Plant Auction

*Music by “The Ten” and Carlos Cuestas, Classical Guitarist
sponsored by Murphy Capital Management, Inc.*

Rain or Shine under the Tent

For tickets: 908-234-1815

YES Rob! I want to help the Willowwood Foundation continue its support of the Willowwood Arboretum.

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