



# Willowwood Journal

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A Publication of the Willowwood Foundation

Autumn, 2015

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WILLOWWOOD  
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NATURAL WORLD  
THROUGH ITS  
SUPPORT OF  
PUBLIC  
EDUCATION,  
ACCESS TO  
LITERATURE  
RELATING TO  
PLANT SCIENCE  
AND THE  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF FACILITIES TO  
PROMOTE, USE,  
AND ACCESS  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT NATIVE &  
EXOTIC PLANTS.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

300 Longview Rd.,  
Chester Township

Open daily 8 am  
to dusk  
Free to the Public

enjoy the  
experience  
morris county park commission



## Willowwood Foundation elects New Officers:

With the departure of current President Rob Diemar and his family to warmer climes (although Rob will remain a Trustee for the Tubbs Trust), 15 year veteran Trustee Brace Krag has been named President by the Board of Trustees. Other new officers include Jason Andris, Vice President, Kate Burke Walsh, Secretary and Stathis Andris continues as Treasurer.

### *A note from President, Brace Krag:*

From Willowwood's inception in 1908, the vision of its originators, Robert and Henry Tubbs, has been capably stewarded by a handful of dedicated and passionate leaders through the last century. It is with great honor that I assume the responsibilities of the position of President of the Willowwood Foundation in this tradition. On behalf of the board of Trustees, I would like to recognize and thank Rob Diemar for providing skillful direction as Trustee and President of the WW Fdn. for the last 11 years. His even handed style and devotion has contributed greatly to significant growth in WW's programming, financial wellness and recognition in the community.

I want to share my perspectives and vision for the near term and next century at Willowwood. My involvement at WW began in 1990 as I was introduced to both Willowwood and Bamboo Brook by my wife who grew up as a child across Longview Rd. Our passion for the parks, gardening and surrounding area led us to purchase contiguous property almost 20 years ago. Becoming a Trustee in 2002 solidified the commitment and provided many years of opportunity to both learn and appreciate this incredible resource.

As I reflect on the upcoming challenges and opportunities, I am highly focused on the interdependence with WW's Stewards, the Morris County Park System. As a public-private partnership, we have mutual interests and unique strengths. Working effectively together is a critical success factor and has been shown as a highly successful model for over three decades. Our MCPC colleagues are among the most devoted group with whom I have had the pleasure to work. Plus, the countless volunteers whose time, effort and expertise has been focused on the betterment of WW must also be acknowledged. In short, as I am fond of saying, "it takes a village". This is a top notch village.

In the near term, we have prioritized making improvements in the aesthetics of the entrance and signage to enhance the initial "Willowwood experience". Continued focus on providing educational resources, programming, Horticulture Internships and Garden enhancement is consistent with our mission in conjunction with John Morse, Willowwood's Manager of Horticulture. We are also very mindful of the challenges of climate change and invasive species which have effects on the ecosystem but provide educational opportunities to be incorporated into our programs. As key learnings and best practices are identified by horticulture experts and plant biologists, we must implement and teach their beneficial findings. It is not enough to just enjoy what we have today, but we must anticipate and plan for changes and challenges ahead.

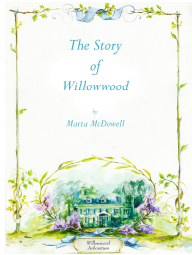
I look forward to the Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> Open House, 12:00-4:00PM, and invite suggestions, comments and perspectives from everyone, either in person or via "contact us" on our website.

*Warm regards, Brace Krag*

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

## GIFT Books Now Available for the Holiday Season:

The Willowood Foundation is pleased to announce that signed copies of “*The Story of Willowood*” by Marta McDowell, (\$10 + s&h) and “*Willowood in Pictures*”, (\$40 + s&h) a full color hardcover pictorial



walk through the seasons at the Willowood Arboretum are now available.

Marta McDowell, noted botanical author and landscape historian, has written a complete history of Willowood, the Tubbs brothers, the gardens and collections and has included many photos from the Tubbs-Blackburn archives now preserved by the Morris County Park Commission.

Many local amateur photographers submitted over 2500 incredibly beautiful seasonal photos of the gardens, buildings and artistic objects for “*Willowood in Pictures*”, adapted by Trustee Ray Rogers, garden book author and winner of over 397 blue ribbons and 88 top awards at the Philadelphia International Flower Show, and designed and edited by fellow Trustees Dan Will and Leslie Allain.

Both books—companion volumes—are a great holiday gift or treasured remembrance for an out of town friend or beloved gardener or WW enthusiast.

Call 908-234-1815 or email:  
[wwfoundation@willowoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowoodfoundation.com)

Check out the Willowood website:  
[www.willowoodarboretum.org](http://www.willowoodarboretum.org)  
Directions, photos, contest and wedding and party event info, history, garden information and maps and our store —  
All included in a user friendly format.

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*Spring ~ Summer, 2015*

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## Arboretum News

### Special Open House Event: Sunday, October 4, 2015

The annual Autumn Open House at Willowwood is a perfect pick for a fall afternoon outing! Garden tours, cell phone tour plus the Tubbs House will be open for viewing.

**Noon to 4 pm: \$5. car fee**



Members of the Chester Garden Club visited WW's Cottage Garden this Spring to view the new planting beds with John Morse and Gardener Kriste Shaw.

The Willowwood Foundation recently received a grant from the Chester Garden Club for 2015. The Club's very generous donation last year was used towards renovation and new plantings at the Cottage Garden. Invasives were removed, beds enlarged, restored and re-planted with new and interesting plants in this wonderful garden. The 2015 donation will be used toward one of several new projects and initiatives planned for Willowwood's gardens.

### Japanese Flowering Cherries: A 100 Year Long Love Affair

were the topic of the 2015 Tubbs Lecture on Sunday, April 19 at Willowwood presented by Professor Anthony Aiello, Director of Horticulture at the Morris Arboretum, who detailed the history of the cherry tree's rise to popularity. A tour of Willowwood's Cherry Collection followed. The program, presented in the Stone Barn is the first of the planned Annual Tubbs Lectures. "Japanese flowering cherries were a favorite of Henry and Robert Tubbs and are an important component of the spring landscape at WW. The Cherry collection contains 41 different cultivars" said John Morse, Manager of Horticulture.



## Willowwood Arboretum - Highlights from the Decorative Arts Collection

by Lesley Parness, Superintendent of Horticultural Education

The Front Parlor of the Tubbs residence is home to a variety of Asian artwork. We know that Henry Tubbs was the one most often found in antique shops here in New Jersey and New York. His artist's eye was quick to find the beautiful and the unusual. There are two examples of his passion for collecting on exhibit in the Front Parlor: (see them on October 4th!)



What is particularly interesting about these pieces is the material that they are painted on – pith paper which is made from the stem of the Tetrapanax papyrifer tree. Also known as the Fatsia or Rice Paper plant, this evergreen shrub is native to Southwest China and grows in Taiwan and throughout East Asia where it is called "tung-tsoa," meaning "hollow-plant." A member of the Araliaceae family, it is used in traditional Chinese medicine as a diuretic and was not adopted for use in painting until the early 1800's. At that time, craftsmen created images on pith paper for the tourist trade. Accounts from diaries of visitors to Canton suggest that there was a flourishing trade in pith paintings. Westerners in China snatched up such artwork, depicting local customs, costumes, birds, bees, and flowers. Tourists called them rice-paper paintings from the mistaken notion that this distinctive paper was made from rice. The pith

paintings were inexpensive, light, and easy to pack.



Tetrapanax papyrifer can grow to as high as 30', and its wood is hard and dense. A craftsman with skill and a big knife can slice its pith, the spongy cellular tissue in the stem, into a sheet of smooth, bone-white paper. The paper has great strength in its youth, and

when damp may be stretched and folded into almost any shape. For centuries, the Chinese have used pith paper to make artificial flowers and decorative hairpins. It absorbs watercolors or tempera readily, creating a relief texture with a velvety visual depth. Because of its honeycomb cellular structure, the gouache used by the Chinese sat on its the surface and produced a bright, sparkling, jewel-like effect. As chinoiserie, (the romanticized European imitation of Chinese art eventually copied by the Chinese themselves for export) works on pith paper served to whet the western appetite for emblematic motifs of Chinese art.

There are collections of paintings on pith in such prestigious museums as the Ashmolean, the British Museum, the Fitzwilliam, the Hermitage, the Peabody/Essex Museum in Massachusetts and the Hong Kong Museum of Art. However, because paintings on pith are not in general regarded as fine art, they are usually found in specialised collections so we are very fortunate to have two beautiful examples of this unusual artwork right here in Morris County.

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

***Open House, Sunday, October 4 -Noon to 4 pm, \$5. admission per car fee***

\*

***20th Anniversary Lilac Party, Sunday, May 16, 2016***

### **Wish List for the Willowwood Arboretum**

Help us continue the dreams of Henry and Robert Tubbs by funding a Willowwood initiative at the Arboretum. Each year the Foundation funds horticulture interns as well as garden plantings. It is the Willowwood Foundation mission to insure Willowwood remains as the very special treasure it is. Or please volunteer a few hours each week in our gardens in the *GardenWorks* Program—contact Judy Schaible 908-234-0061.

We need your help! As a fellow gardener or as one who simply treasures our living museum, please contact the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or via email [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com) to discuss the possibilities.

**Go Green!** If you would prefer to read this newsletter via email in a pdf version or if you have changed your eMail or Mailing address, ***Please let us know:*** [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com).

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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