



◆ 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 15, *The 21st Anniversary Lilac Party*



The Tradition continues for the 21st *Annual Lilac Party* Celebration hosted by the Willowwood Foundation.

The much beloved Willowwood Arboretum Fundraiser will be held this year on Sunday, May 15th. 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.

The original *Lilac 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 artisanal wines at a wine tasting hosted by Andrea Maranca, Tewksbury Fine Wine & Spirits, Oldwick, under our tent—rain or shine—accompanied by harpist and vocalist, Kristy Chmura.

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 20 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. Additionally, the Foundation provides funds for plantings, garden restoration and is planning improvements at the entrance, new garden signage and an historic educational kiosk to provide the proper context and to honor the vision of our founders.

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

Those who cannot attend the party are invited to enjoy the Lilac Collection from late April through May. 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

Sunday, May 22: 2nd Annual Tubbs Lecture: Bennett Saunders "Growing Beautiful Boxwood". Last chance to sign up....

Time: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. At the Willowwood Arboretum, Stone Barn
Cost: \$20 per person. call 973-326-7601 NOW to register - (reservations are required as space is limited). Eligible for 2.0 Rutgers Master Gardener CEU's

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 'Nadezhda' is a superb introduction from Kolesnikov offering large panicles of very fragrant, double, lilac-blue flowers from rose-purple buds in late spring. Stunning blossoms have very large florets. *Syringa* 'Nadezhda' is a profuse bloomer, in flower for a good length of time. Its Russian name translates to "Hope". Grows 8-10'.

Syringa vulgaris 'Firmament' is one of Lemoine's first light blue lilacs introduced in 1932.

'Firmament' offers showy large single richly fragrant flowers the color of the sky.



Very hardy. Grows 8-12' tall.



Syringa Tinkerbelle 'Balibelle'

Your Tinkerbelle Lilac is in the Fairytale series with its ethereal and magical beauty, abundance of flowers, scent and form. Deep red buds appear in spring, opening to 5-inch long panicles of gloriously pale pink flowers in May. The spicy fragrance provides a strong lure for pollinators. 3-inch long, oval leaves of vibrant dark green into fall. Needs 3 years but grows up to 6' and 5' wide. U. S. Plant Patent PP12,294 issued December 18, 2001.

For Sponsors: Two choices



Syringa vulgaris 'Charles Joly'

Was introduced in 1896 and is a French Hybrid lilac that is considered the best in its color class! Its shiny purple buds open into double violet magenta flowers. The effect of the spring bloom is stunning, showing off the vivid coloration of its deep, wine-red flowers. Grows to 12' with a 10' spread. Prefers full sun but will tolerate some shade.



Syringa vulgaris 'Fiala Remembrance'

One of Father Fiala's most spectacular creations! Large, highly fragrant fully double creamy white flowers develop from yellow buds in large panicles. An upright growing Lilac with extremely healthy foliage. Superb for cutting. Use *Syringa* 'Fiala's Remembrance' as part of a shrub border or near a patio to enjoy its fragrance. Grows 8-10' tall/wide.

Lilacs are low maintenance shrubs and most have a light to strong fragrance that can be intoxicating in the Spring to your favorite pollinators: bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. And Lilacs are generally deer resistant.

Lilacs generally prefer full sun with rich well drained soil. Deadhead flowers and prune by July 4 if needed for shaping. Add an all purpose fertilizer after pruning.

The Willowwood Arboretum has many varieties of Lilacs that bloom starting end April with some into June depending on Mother Nature! See the website for a current list of WW Lilacs.

The 21st "Lilac Party"

Sunday,
May 15, 2016

4:30 pm - 7 pm



Wine Tasting by
Tewksbury Fine Wine

a cappella music by
"The Ten"
& Harpist Kristy Chmura

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

Tickets required.
Call for info: 973 615 4841 or
email: wwfoundation
@willowwoodfoundation.com

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:

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Buchanan
Mrs. Alice Cutler
Mrs. Beirne Donaldson and
Mr. Wood Huntley
Hon. Joseph Metelski
Ms. Deborah Meyer
Mrs. Rebecca Terry
Verisk Analytics
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Willemsen

**

Mr. and Mrs. David Callard
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Colicchio
Mr. and Mrs. James Fiorello
Ms. Rosemary Lohrmann
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Mink
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Saladino

Thank you!

Willowwood Ties! Perfect for Spring, the Good Life and the Lilac Party! The WW Fdn. now offers Limited Edition vineyard vine handmade 100% imported silk ties in either yellow or pink, imprinted with our lovely Willow Logo.

An elegant conversation starter yet fun whenever a tie is a necessity! Immediate Delivery, Each tie Is \$70. plus \$2.50 shipping. Email wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation with your particulars. We accept checks made out to The Willowwood Foundation or visa/mastercard.

“Don’t be another suit...tie on a Willowwood vineyard vine tie!”



Wanted: Volunteers

Maintaining the beautiful gardens at the Willowwood 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 propagation and gardening techniques in three short magical hours.

Internship Program: Each year the Willowwood 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. Contact Patti Millar at 973-326-7629 or via email, pmillar@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. Willowwood or Bamboo Brook with its beautiful reflecting pools can be the setting for *your perfect party*—wedding, birthday, anniversary, etc. A few 2017/18 dates available.

Garden Notes:

Bloom times: Many of our friends, in order to plan a visit, have requested email updates for the various bloom times at Willowwood. 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@willowwoodarboretum.org. *By the time you receive this newsletter, Willowwood’s wonderful lilacs should be starting their bloom through early June.*

Earth Day is April 22 and Arbor Day is April 29th—but at Willowwood as we dig in the arbors and gardens, every day is Earth Day! If you would like to help us GO GREEN, sign up on the website for the Willowwood Journal.



Decorative Arts Highlight: The Conservatory

By Lesley Parness, Superintendent of Horticultural Education

The botanizing of brothers Henry and Robert Tubbs was a year round passion. So, in 1930 they decided to add a greenhouse to their home, joining a long line of gardeners seeking to extend their horticultural pleasure throughout the year.

The earliest known conservatories date from the 17th century. At that time they were stone structures used by the scientific community, nobility and the landed gentry to protect plants, especially those that they had collected on their European tours and wished to grow back in the colder climate of England. The first conservatory in Britain was constructed in the Oxford Botanic Garden.

With their unerring ability to discern the “best,” the Tubbs chose a Lord & Burnham conservatory. The Lord and Burnham Company was started in 1849 in Buffalo, N.Y. Their first commission to create a 12,000 square foot conservatory similar to that in Kew gardens, England, led to many others and the firm went on to become the premier source for custom conservatories at botanic gardens and large American estates.

Although at 12’x25’ in size, the Tubbs conservatory is relatively small by comparison to other Lord & Burnham greenhouses, it held an impressive variety of plants, both tender and tropical. Its interior finishes as well reflect the artistic nature of the Tubbs brothers. Their friendship with Henry Chapman Mercer, owner of the Moravian Tileworks in Doylestown, PA came into play, as the small fountain and its tiling were provided by Chapman. The tiles have now acquired a lovely aged patina and the soothing sound of water in the fountain can still be heard. These decorative elements re-enforce an American Arts and Crafts feel at Willowwood that can also be seen in Henry’s stenciled fabric wall hangings on display in the entry hall.

How pleasant it must have been to open the glass doors on the side of the parlor and enter this warm and fragrant space. In keeping true to the Tubbs’ aesthetic, many of the same kinds of plants grown by them almost 100 years ago, still thrive in the Conservatory. A potted lemon, blooms and bears fruit, as they have done since Roman times when preservation of citrus was done in limonaia, stone pergola with wooden walls. A cut leaf philodendron and numerous succulents tastefully clutter its benches, harkening the Golden Age of Plant Exploration, which both Henry and Robert studied.

The greenhouse at Willowwood Arboretum in one of just a handful of extant Lord & Burnham conservatories and is open daily so visitors can enjoy the colorful plantings and fragrant smells year ‘round. More pics on the website.



The Willowood Foundation
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www.willowoodarboretum.org

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Save the Dates...

Tubbs Lecture Series– Bennett Saunders, “Boxwood” May 22

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Sunday, May 15 * “The Lilac Party”

Celebrate the 21st Anniversary of this Garden Party

Wine Tasting by Tewksbury Fine Wine & Spirits, Oldwick

Silent Plant Auction

Music by “The Ten” and Harpist Kristy Chmura

sponsored by Murphy Capital Management, Inc., Peapack Gladstone Bank

Morris County Park Commission

Rain or Shine under the Tent

For tickets: 908-234-1815

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

Please add me to your mailing list. Email _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to The Willowood Foundation.

All donations are tax deductible under section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

Mail to: *The Willowood Foundation, PO Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934* or call *908-234-1815* for more information