



◆ Willowwood Journal ◆

Volume 23, Issue 2

A Publication of the Willowwood Foundation

Spring, 2017

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 21, *The 22nd Anniversary Lilac Party*



The 22nd Annual Lilac Party Celebration hosted by the Willowwood Foundation once again continues the much beloved Willowwood Arboretum Garden Party. This annual Fundraiser will be held this year on Sunday, May 21st. 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 under the tent at the Willowwood Arboretum.

The original *Lilac Parties* held under the lilacs during Dr. Ben Blackburn's residence signaled that the growing season was now in full swing. Now, under our tent—rain or shine—or both—party go'ers now sample scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and review artisanal wines at a wine tasting hosted by Andrea Maranca, Tewksbury Fine Wine & Spirits, Oldwick, accompanied by wondrous music by pianist and composer Amir Mortezaei.

And of course, during the evening, the renown 5 Star Somerset Hills men's a cappella chorus "**The Ten**" of the University Glee Club, will offer TWO performances of their rollicking and vast repertoire in the Stone Barn. "**The Ten**" have performed 21 years at this party to rousing applause—they are a not to be missed entertainment!

Savvy or newbie gardeners will find a myriad of 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 in our Silent Auction.

Each year Proceeds from the Lilac Party are used to fund the essential horticulture intern program at Willowwood. Yearly, 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 908-615-4841 or email wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com. Past photos from the Lilac Party Tradition are on our website: www.willowwoodfoundation.com

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

Mother's Day at Willowwood, Sunday May 14

Noon to 4 pm. Specially chosen Lilacs for Your favorite Lady on Sale!

Those who cannot attend the Lilac Party are invited to enjoy the Lilac Collection from late April through May. The Spring Gardens are open daily at the Willowwood Arboretum from 8 am to Dusk including Mother's Day. The Cell Phone Tour provides interesting info as you stroll about the gardens, plantings and structures. And it is a perfect photo op day for the family.

Or 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!

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 'Edward J. Gardner', a French hybrid, is considered to be one of the very best with showy fragrant star shaped purplish buds and double light pink blooms in mid Spring. Grows to 9 ft.



Syringa x 'Colby's Wishing Star' was selected by Frank Moro of Select Plus International Lilac Nursery, Quebec, Canada, as a seedling offspring of Syringa 'Josee'.



This compact, disease-resistant, dwarf lilac offers profuse clusters of extremely fragrant, soft pink florets in spring and if dead headed, to fall. Named in honor of Frank's son, Colby, who was born with Down syndrome.



white centers starting late spring. Full sun. Cultivated since 1563. A very old favorite!

Syringa x 'Belle de Nancy', a French Lilac, offers heart shaped medium green leaves and large broad heads of heavily fragrant double deep mauve florets with

For Sponsors:

Syringa x 'Primrose' is a unique cultivar that bears highly fragrant, creamy yellowish white blossoms with heart shaped dark green foliage in midseason. Grows to 12 feet'. Between a bush and a tree, this Syringa requires space to be at its best. Plant in a sunny location.



Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Declaration' features large, abundant, fragrant, dark reddish-purple flowers and has nearly one foot long flower clusters. It has an open, upright growth habit to 8.5.



Perfect for small urban spaces or sited near a patio where the perfume will be readily apparent. This early Spring lilac is the result of a cross between *Syringa 'Sweet Charity'* and *Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Pocahontas'*.

Syringa 'Sweet Charity' and *Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Pocahontas'*.

Cut-leaf lilac (*Syringa x laciniata*)

Synonyms: S. x persica 'Laciniata'

This graceful hybrid produces fragrant, pale lilac flower clusters up to



4 inches long in late spring with airy, finely textured lacy, deeply cut medium green foliage. 6' to 8' tall and wide.



Syringa x 'Sensation' is an upright, deciduous shrub which grows 8-15' tall. Deep purple to wine red, sweetly fragrant, single flowers with white edges are arranged in dense, pyramidal, terminal clusters (panicles) which cover this shrub in late April to early May. An outstanding lilac.

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 Willowwood Lilacs.

For more information about these lilacs or questions about reservations and tickets for the Lilac Party on May 21st, please call 973-615-4841 or email us at :

**WWfoundation
@willowwoodfoundation.com**

The 22nd "Lilac Party"

Sunday,
May 21, 2017

4:30 pm - 7 pm



Wine Tasting by
Tewksbury Fine Wine

a cappella music by
"The Ten"
& Pianist Amir Mortezaei

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
Red Hook Management LLC
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. Beirne Donaldson and
Mr. Wood Huntley
The Kirk Kellogg Foundation
Hon. Joseph Metelski
Ms. Deborah Meyer
Dr. Howard C. Passmore

**

Mr. and Mrs. Grosvenor Blair
Mr. and Mrs. David Callard
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Colicchio
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duffy
Ms. Merrill Medansky iho
Leslie Allain

Thank you!
We greatly appreciate your gifts and on going commitment to this Garden Treasure.

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 soft rose, Imprinted with our lovely Willow Logo.

An elegant conversation starter yet fun whenever a tie is a necessity! Immediate Delivery, Each tie is normally \$70. plus \$2.50 shipping. **BUT as a LILAC PARTY SPECIAL—1 for \$65, 2 ties - \$125, 3 for \$190!** Mail checks to PO Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934.

Email wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation with your questions/requests.



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.

and 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.

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 28th—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 via email.



A Visit to The Cottage Garden

by Brian Ensminger, Ass't Willowwood Gardener

After you drive down the Willowwood entrance road this Spring, past thousands of blooming daffodils, start your walk under the cedar arbor on the right of the stone barn. Don't miss the wisteria vines trailing up the barn behind unique evergreen trees. Walk through the grass and peer into the glass propagation house to see hundreds of new annuals and perennials just waiting to be planted in the gardens. Just below the propagation house, with a backdrop of blooming magnolias and cherries, tucked between the Tubbs house and stone cottage, sits the Cottage Garden.

The early cottage gardens were practical and often held a bee hive and perhaps a chicken coop. This was the main kitchen garden for the Tubbs brothers, (Henry was very proud of his tomato plants!). Today, the Cottage Garden holds true to its historic roots. A harmonious blend between ornamental plants, colorful annuals and perennials for cutting, an assortment of vegetables and herbs, a cottage garden represents the dream of generations of gardeners disregarding formality in the pursuit of grace and charm.

Spring in the Cottage Garden only begins the story that is told all year. It is not enough to see the Cottage Garden once. Through early Fall to Frost when witnessing the changing of weather and watching life and growth paint their cool pastel colors across the garden can the true essence be captured. Find a seat on one of the benches under the arbor to listen to the subtle sounds of nature that the garden brings.

Look for historic elements of herbs and vegetables amidst old-fashioned flower favorites. Find beets, kale, and sugar snap peas, amongst flowering iris and peonies. Touch and smell a leaf of oregano or parsley while gazing into the meadows and rolling hillsides in the distance. Or face the Tubbs house and peer through the intricate cast iron gate to catch a glimpse of the sea of blue, pink, and white bulbs blooming in the rockery in early spring. Let any path take you to your next garden moment among the treasures of Willowwood waiting beyond.

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

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Save the Dates...

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Sunday, May 21 * "The Lilac Party"
Celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of this Garden Party
Wine Tasting by Tewksbury Fine Wine & Spirits, Oldwick

Silent Plant Auction

Music by "The Ten" and Pianist, Amir Mortezaei

*sponsored by Red Hook Management, LLC., 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 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