



# Willowwood Journal

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A Publication of the Willowwood Foundation

Autumn, 2017

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WILLOWWOOD  
FOUNDATION IS A  
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ESTABLISHED TO  
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DEVELOPMENT  
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PROMOTE, USE,  
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ABOUT NATIVE &  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
**PHOTO CREDITS:**  
**THANKS TO:**  
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LESLIE ALLAIN

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

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

It has been a very busy and highly productive spring and summer at the Willowwood Arboretum. Aside from the copious quantities of rain, which enhanced growing significantly, the cool spring produced some of the most beautiful blossoms and flowers in recent memory. Additionally, their duration created a spectacular mosaic which drove great attendance to all of the Foundation's events this Spring: the Mother's Day Open House, the Third Annual Tubbs Lecture featuring Executive VP and Director of the Chicago Botanic Gardens well as long time friend of Willowwood, Fred Spicer and, of course, the wonderful Lilac Party.



The Arboretum continues to progress under the direction of Mark Inzano, as John Morse, former Manager of Horticulture at Willowwood, was recently named Director of Horticulture at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Va. John will be missed as his 14 year tenure was marked with strong vision, creativity and leadership. Under his stewardship, the arboretum evolved significantly following the vision of the Tubbs brothers and Dr. Blackburn. We wish John much success in his new gardens.

We are also very excited to welcome Dr. Allan Armitage, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Georgia, renowned speaker, author and scientist, as our 4th Tubbs lecturer on *Sunday, April 29th, 2018*. Dr. Armitage will be available for a book signing for his newest: "Of Naked Ladies and Forget-Me-Nots". To view his bio, view <http://www.allanarmitage.net/>. Tickets will be available in early spring and more details will be forthcoming on our website.

Lastly, our enthusiasm for the Morris County Park System's Willowwood Arboretum Entrance Experience is very high. Some conceptual plans have been provided by park system planners and the entrance, gate and other features are both fitting and very welcome. While the process to implement these improvements can take time, we have total confidence that the outcome will be transformative. As updates and opportunities for both comment and contribution evolve, we will look forward to communicating details.

This update would not be complete without a robust thank you to the many donors, friends, benefactors and contributors to the Willowwood Foundation. Our work would not be possible without your generosity and we are truly grateful. The Tubbs/Blackburn legacy continues to both be preserved and enhanced by your support.

*Warm regards, Brace Krag*

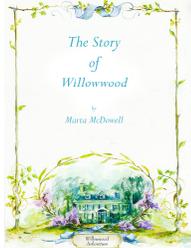
## **Open House Event: Sunday, September 17, 2017, Noon to 4 pm**

The annual Autumn Open House at Willowwood is a perfect pick for a fall afternoon outing! Enjoy autumn's splendor at Willowwood Arboretum. Take a guided tour of the gardens or meadows, or stroll the grounds using your cell phone to guide you. The Tubbs house will be open for a rare peek at the home life of botanizing brothers, Henry and Robert Tubbs. Talks about some of the decorative arts in the house, such as the fine collection of Willowware will be given throughout the day. Horticultural staff share tips on how to properly put your garden to bed and which trees, shrubs and flower are fall-performers. Light refreshments will be provided by the Willowwood Foundation. **Noon to 4 pm: \$5. car fee**

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

## GIFT Books Now Available for the Holiday Season:

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



seasons at the Willowwood Arboretum are now available.

Marta McDowell, noted botanical author and landscape historian, has written a complete history of Willowwood, 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 “Willowwood 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.

Place your order via E-mail to:

[wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com)

**Check out the Willowwood website:**

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

Directions, FAQ, photos, history and wedding and party event info, garden information and maps and our store —

*All included in a user friendly format.*

## Our Corporate Sponsors: Morris County Park Commission Red Hook Management Peapack Gladstone Bank



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*We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness  
and generosity.*

*The Willowwood Foundation is recognized  
by the I.R.S. as a non profit 501 © (3).*

## Willowwood Ties! Perfect for Spring, the Good Life and *Holiday Gifts!*

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. . ***BUT as a Pre-Holiday SPECIAL—1 for \$65, 2 ties - \$125, 3 for \$190!*** plus \$2.50 shipping-Mail checks to Willowwood Foundation, PO Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934.

Email:

[wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation) with your questions/requests.

***“Don’t be another suit...tie on a***

## Arboretum News

On a lovely, but warmish, summer day,



Bill and Valerie Kefauver (Winners of a very special *Lilac Party* Silent Auction item) and their guests enjoyed a lovely shady picnic on the back porch of the Tubbs House. A specially prepared luncheon and a little bubbly provided by WW Fdn. Trustee Hosts Alice Cutler and Meryl Carmel, a charming view of Pan’s Garden, tour of the Tubbs House and a talk by Senior Gardener, Heather Aron, completed this very special afternoon.

Congrats to Brian Ensminger who has recently been promoted to Gardener at the Willowwood Arboretum. Brian has been with the MCPC since 2015 and previously served as a Horticultural Intern at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum as well as an Assistant Gardener at Willowwood. Brian received his A.A.S. in Landscape Design and Management at the County College of Morris.

## Garden notes....

***The following is a little background on our key gardens, all of which will be blooming through Fall. Each garden changes a bit each year and each season, but the philosophies laid down by the Tubbs and Dr. Blackburn remain true with each planting choice.***



### Pan’s Garden

Nestled behind the back porch of the Tubbs house on the site of an old impenetrable blackberry and blueberry patch is Pan’s Garden. Designed by Henry Tubbs, who envisioned a plan similar to a Persian Prayer rug, it is a rectilinear, symmetrical tracing of paths and planting beds. Henry Tubbs was very interested in the illusion of perspective and wanted the garden view to be important, so in order to exaggerate scale and distance, he planted taller yews closest to the house with smaller ones descending towards the statue of Pan (now almost hidden but then quite prominent, atop a column and representing the Greek god of Arcadia’s groves and glens.) Dr. Ben Blackburn reported to friends and fellow gardeners that Henry was delighted with the resulting *trompe-l’oeil*. At one time, the garden was planted with a cool floral palette accented by the silver of lambs’ ears. Today, the plantings are a bit different and the palette offers many shades of white throughout the growing season.

### The Cottage Garden

Through the wrought iron gate, across from the front door of the Tubbs House is the most unpretentious and delightfully welcome burst of color. Filled with vegetables and a cutting garden at one time, later developed by Dr. Ben Blackburn, it now offers a wide selection of a mixture of new and old fashioned annuals and perennials in beds or climbing on rustic tuteurs surrounded by stone pathways with maybe a veggie or two still hidden in plain sight. Take a moment to sit under the shady arbor to escape the late summer sun and just listen to the sounds of the pollinators as they flutter from plant to plant. Idyllic.



### The Roserie



If you think you will see a traditional garden of roses, you will be mightily surprised as you walk along the Chive Walk (few chives but lots of other interesting shade loving plants line the path) and enter a bold Mediterranean designed space centered by a charming clay oil jar fountain. Dr. Blackburn and Henry Tubbs traveled to Italy and other southern European countries to be charmed by the bold colors and plant forms. Designed in the 60’s and 70’s, Blackburn planted the garden with flowering plants that had ‘rose’ like floral shapes. By 2008, however, the Horticulture staff accomplished a major restoration with a cedar fence to simulate a walled garden filled with decorative pots, containers and hanging plants under the Arbor. There is even a wooden door salvaged from work on the Shingle Barn, that actually leads to nowhere or somewhere? The Roserie crescendos in late summer and early Fall and is not to be missed.

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

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

***Open House, Sunday, September 17 -Noon to 4 pm, \$5. admission per car fee***

\*

***Dr. Allan Armitage, Sunday, April 29, 2018***

\*

***23rd Annual Lilac Party, Sunday, May 20, 2018***

### **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.

We need your help! As a fellow gardener or as one who simply treasures our living museum, please contact the Willowwood Foundation via email [wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com](mailto:wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com) for more information.

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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