



# Willowwood Journal

Volume 14, Issue 1

February, 2008

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

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#### PHOTO CREDITS:

#### THANKS TO:

Morris County Park  
Commission Archives

**The Willowwood Foundation announces grants for 2008:** Marshall M. Jeanes, President of the Willowwood Foundation, recently confirmed grant awards for 2008.

Lynn Laffey, Curator of Collections and Exhibits for the Morris County Park Commission, was pleased that her department will receive funding to complete the Willowwood Archival Collection cataloging project. Photographs, negatives and transparencies plus numerous documents collected from the Tubbs' brothers legacy and Dr. Benjamin Blackburn's files will be organized, identified, scanned and inventoried so that researchers and scholars will have access to these fragile historical items during this Centennial year. Photos shown in this article are from these historical archives.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania also received support for their seed propagation project. The Arboretum's Director of Horticulture, Anthony Aiello, indicated that seeds were collected during a Fall, 2007 trip to Honshu, Japan, an area rich in plants of high ornamental value. Henry and Robert Tubbs delighted in exchanging seeds from friends at gardens and arboreta around the world. They experimented with plants in their gardens here at Willowwood as did Dr. Blackburn, a noted botanist. The post card shown was sent to Dr. Blackburn at Rutgers in January, 1948 from a friend at the Botanic Gardens of Tokyo showing the gardens at the Kinkakuji Temple, Kyoto.



Seeds and propagated plants from the Morris Arboretum from their seed collection trips to Europe, China and the Caucasus Mountains have been shared with Willowwood in recent years.

John Morse, Manager of Horticulture for the Willowwood Arboretum, was also presented a grant to cover three projects at Willowwood.



Each year the Foundation has awarded funding to support horticulture interns who use Willowwood's diverse collection of trees, plants, shrubs etc. for both traditional botanical study and hands on training. The interns assist in all aspects of practical garden maintenance, rotating among the different gardens and plant collections. In 2007, two interns Michael Colacurcio and Linda Halpern from the County College of Morris, participated in this program.

*Photo is of Dr. Ben Blackburn working in a Willowwood Garden.*

The Willowwood Foundation Board of Trustees' Arboretum Committee, under the guidance of the late Dr. Edmund Stiles of Rutgers and a Willowwood Trustee, identified nine key plant collections at Willowwood. One of these key genera is the Magnolia Collection, consisting of approximately 85 accessioned specimens located in the developed areas of the Arboretum.

In a radio address on WOR on April 22, 1940, Dr. Blackburn said "Magnolias are among the most magnificent plants that our gardens can boast." He noted that "They grow wild only in the Northern Hemisphere ...in our own eastern states and Central America; ...China, Korea, the Japanese Islands, and Malaya." Due to the importance of magnolias to Dr. Blackburn and to honor the Centennial, the Foundation granted an award to enlist the assistance of a magnolia expert to review and verify the identification of each magnolia specimen (some of which are only identified thru Dr. Blackburn's handwritten records) and submit recommendations to improve their cultivation and care, and to display, interpret and add to the collection which will allow Willowwood to increase visitor interest and interface and also to participate in magnolia research programs.

A project to develop a brochure and map to commemorate the Willowwood Centennial was also approved for funding. Willowwood is often titled "a secret treasure", a wonderful surprise to those who visit for the first time. This brochure will feature descriptions of the gardens and plant collections, detail history, mission and horticultural specialties such as the 9 key plant collections and defined garden areas and will be illustrated with current and historic photos of Robert and Henry Tubbs, their family, Dr. Benjamin Blackburn and the gardens and grounds.

**John Morse, Manager of Horticulture**, announced completed projects at Willowwood that were *Funded in part or all by the Willowwood Foundation*:

1200+ Narcissus bulbs were added to the Winter Garden meadow by the entrance drive.

The Historic Catalpa Allée was pruned in the Bee Meadow.

Lightning Protection Systems were installed in 7 Specimen trees.

The Rosarie Garden Fence was replaced. New plantings to be installed.

A Horticulture Strategic Facilities Master Plan for the enhancement of Willowwood was developed.

***Bride Wanted!***  
**for the last party tent date in 2008!!**

*Friday May 16 or Saturday May 17*

Trees with twinkling lights surround the Stone Barn & your very own private tent with room for 200 + dancing, creating a magical setting for any "very special" event.

The May Gardens are glorious, perfect for photo ops, the scent of lilacs is intoxicating & Willowwood could be the setting for *your perfect party*—wedding, birthday, anniversary, graduation party etc.

This is a *once in a lifetime* opportunity!

Call *Chris Knox* at the MCPC 973-326-7619 or email [cknox@morrisparks.net](mailto:cknox@morrisparks.net).

***Hacklebarney Farm and Cider Mill donates cider donuts to Willowwood Open House:***

On a warm sunny day in September, almost 200 visitors enjoyed cold cider and delicious cider donuts donated by our neighbor Hacklebarney Farm and Cider Mill to help celebrate Autumn in all its glory at Willowwood.

Due to Fall's unseasonably warm weather, the gardens were still at their best, a slide show of historic and seasonal photos of Willowwood entertained our guests and tours of the ornamental walk and gardens were well attended by many families and friends enjoying Sunday afternoon in the Park.



**The World  
at Willowwood:  
Plant Exploration -  
Past, Present & Future  
Symposium**

*Sunday, June 22, 2008*  
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

*featured speakers include -*

Paul Meyer, Morris Arboretum  
Barry Yinger, Asiatica Nursery

*plus*

an "E.H Wilson Walking Tour,"  
Centennial Gifts & Reception  
Details at [arboretumfriends.org](http://arboretumfriends.org)



**Permanent Plant Labels  
for your Garden:**

Did you ever wonder about the embossed metal tags that identify the trees, shrubs and plants at Willowwood? Would you like them to identify plants in your garden?

Pam Wilson, Plant Records Curator, prints these tags with each plant's botanical and common name and planting date for the Arboretum.

You can purchase customized tags for *your home garden* by contacting the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or email your order to: [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net).

Label size: 1 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches with 5 lines of customized type. Copper colored tags.

Cost: \$20.00 for a minimum order of 10 labels.

~ **Notes from the Arboretum** ~

The Willowwood Arboretum can be enjoyed each day of the year.  
*In bloom and coming soon:*

Conservatory—February & March

Helen R. Gardiner Propagation House - Pansies - February/March;  
(planted by the WW volunteers)

Gardens— Snowdrops & Winter Aconite—Late February/March  
Hellebores (The Lenten Rose) & Witch-Hazels—early March/April

**Willowwood Volunteers - A Priceless Treasure**

To maintain the beautiful gardens that highlight the Willowwood Arboretum takes constant dedication and enthusiastic teamwork. The hands on gardening program, GardenWorks, brings a group of volunteers to the gardens each Wednesday morning to assist our knowledgeable park staff plantsmen with horticultural projects throughout the four seasons.

This winter the volunteer team has been kept busy working on the *Index Seminum*, an annual international seed exchange. The volunteers spent early fall identifying and collecting seeds that they cleaned, processed and inventoried. This list was then forwarded to a mailing list comprised of over 397 arboreta, botanical gardens and parks worldwide, who then send their list to Willowwood. Exchanged seeds are propagated and added to Willowwood's Collection.

In late winter, the volunteers prepare flats of pansy seedlings (look for them in the propagation greenhouse) and then will help the staff open the planting beds to prepare the grounds for Spring flower planting and the Lilac Party in May. Volunteers participate in many interesting and varied projects at Willowwood.

If sharing just three hours, once a week, in a beautiful garden site with enthusiastic and friendly gardeners who enjoy working in a variety of special gardens appeals to the amateur or master gardener in you, please contact:

Kate Gutierrez, Horticulture Volunteer Program Specialist  
Morris County Park Commission  
973.326.7266

[Kgutierrez@morrisparks.net](mailto:Kgutierrez@morrisparks.net)



**Thank you!** To the many friends of Willowood who made generous donations this winter to help fund the **Centennial Tubbs' & Blackburn horticultural legacy:**

*The Peter R. & Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation*  
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Mr. Stathis Andris  
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Mr. and Mrs. James B. Cummins

1908—2008

## Willowood Centennial

Robert Tubbs and his wife Carrie moved from Kingston to join their sons Robert and Henry



on their newly purchased farm they quickly renamed Willowood. Henry and Robert were passionate, dedicated gardeners whose gar-

dening friends donated rare and exotic plants. Today, over 3,500 native and exotic plants fill the gardens. In 1950, Henry and his adopted son Dr.



Ben Blackburn turned Willowood into an Arboretum and after Henry's death, Dr. Blackburn worked to open it to the public for all to enjoy.



**Volunteer Wanted** \* Willowood Library. Contact Nancy Strong [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net)

*Continued...*  
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Mr. and Mrs. Michael Delia  
Mr. Albert K. Doggett  
Mrs. Elizabeth Fuerst  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fritz  
Mrs. Sara Gordon  
Mrs. Marjorie S. Graff  
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Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Varney  
Ms. Dorothy Varone  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zimmerman

Many thanks for your help and continuing support! The Willowood Foundation



## The Centennial

### "Lilac Party"

**Sunday May, 18, 2008**

3 pm

Special Benefactor Concert  
Performance with  
Musical selections from  
*Vivaldi's Four Seasons*  
&  
Champagne Reception \*

4:30 pm

### Centennial Lilac Party

Wine Tasting by Master of Wine,  
Chris Cree

a cappella music by "The Ten"

6:30 pm

Sunday Supper

\*  
*Throughout the Evening:*

Dixieland music by  
Dan Levinson's  
Palomar Trio

Silent Auction

& Auction of Rare Plants

For tickets and reservations for this incomparable evening reminiscent of the parties given by the Tubbs' brothers and Dr. Ben Blackburn each spring celebrating the May Lilac Bloom,  
Call: 908 234 1815 or  
Email: [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net).

\*  
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\*  
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**The Willowwood Foundation**  
P.O. Box 218  
Gladstone, NJ 07934  
908-234-1815 \* [wwfoundation@earthlink.net](mailto:wwfoundation@earthlink.net)

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

Mother's Day at Willowwood.....Sunday, May 11, 2008

oooooooooooo

Sunday, May 18, 2008

**Benefactor Concert & Reception & "The Centennial *Lilac Party*"**  
*Wine tasting, Live Auction of Rare Plants plus "The Ten" & Dan Levinson Dixieland Trio*

oooooooooooo

Sunday, June 22, 2008—*Plant Exploration Symposium*

**HORTICULTURE INTERNS AT THE ARBORETUM**

Each year the Willowwood Foundation helps an individual obtain practical hands on gardening experience by funding an internship at the arboretum. In 2007, two interns shared in this program.

Internships begin in early spring and continue through late fall and may run for three to eight months. Interns may work full- or part-time and are admitted on an as needed basis. Applicants must possess a keen interest in horticulture and enjoy working outdoors.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about becoming an intern in 2008, please contact Kate Gutierrez at 973-326-7266 or [kgutierrez@morrisparks.net](mailto:kgutierrez@morrisparks.net).

**YES! I want to help the Willowwood Foundation continue the work of Dr. Ben Blackburn and Russ Meyers.**

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