



◊ Willowwood Journal ◊

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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.

PHOTO CREDITS:
THANKS TO:
Morris County Park
Commission Archives
Leslie Allain



Daffodil

The Daffodils are coming... Do not despair, Spring will be on its way very soon and John Morse, MCPC Manager of Horticulture, recently reminded the Willowwood Foundation that since the fall of 2005, with funding provided by the Foundation, over 4750 *Narcissus* have been planted in meadows at Willowwood. The Foundation recently joined the NJ Daffodil Society to support Willowwood and encourage visitors. This fall, to add to the collection, staff and volunteers placed 1700 daffodils in the south facing lawn of the Winter Garden along the entrance drive. Recent additions include *Ataea* (poeticus type), 'Ceylon' (yellow w/ orange cup), 'Pink Charm' (w/pink cup), 'Quail' (yellow), and 'Stainless' (white). At planting, daffodils are a low maintenance, pre-programmed, self contained flower machine ready to grow and bloom, providing many years of enjoyment. The Horticulture staff says that daffodils are deer-resistant, but cautioned they do require well-drained soil and a half day or more of sun to continue to perform well annually.

A true harbinger of Spring, before the daffodils arrive, visitors will see the newly planted carpet of 4000 brilliant dark purple crocus among the Nordmann Firs in Hacklebarney Field. Dancing in the April winds, the sunny yellow daffodils remind us that winter is well over, so come and enjoy!

Historic Find!

According to Obie and Moira Filley, dear friends of Willowwood and Dr. Ben Blackburn, Ben, the "quintessential gentleman farmer" loved to give parties at Willowwood at any time of the year. And they, like many others, enjoyed many dinner parties with wonderful food and conversation. But two of their favorite memories were videotaped by Mr. Filley — two tours of the Willowwood landscape with Dr. Blackburn in the mid 1980's. The Filley's recently came across these tapes and gave them to the Willowwood Foundation for preservation. In the tapes, Dr. Blackburn, who traveled the world collecting specimens to enhance the gardens, leads the Filleys on a personal tour through several of the gardens, describing plantings that he and Hal Tubbs started from seed and talks about others they got as seedlings and planted at Willowwood. In 1950 Henry Tubbs and his adopted son, Professor of Botany at Rutgers and Drew University, Dr. Ben Blackburn, turned Willowwood into a private arboretum. Dr. Blackburn was the executor of the estate and played a major role in the continuing development of Willowwood until his death in 1987.



The Foundation is looking for photos, videos, remembrances of any kind and would be delighted to have a conversation with anyone who knew Ben and/or Henry Tubbs and visited Willowwood to add to our archival memories.

Thank you! One of our recent donors sent a note "thank you for your beautiful grounds. They offer renewal of the soul and restoration of memories...of long sun-filled days in meadows and fields... are no words for your countless LILACS". This note typifies the thoughts of the many friends of Willowood who made generous donations in the last six months to help fund the Tubbs' & Blackburn horticultural legacy and to insure that this wonderful place continues. We can only say "Thank you" for your help...

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

On a wonderful 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 Willowood.

Due to Fall's unseasonably warm weather, the gardens, especially the newly restored 'Rosarie' Garden were at their colorful best and tours of the winter ornamental walk and gardens by the horticulture staff entertained our guests. Unusual plants including *Stewartia koreana* seedlings were for sale. Many families and friends picnicked and enjoyed Sunday afternoon in the Park.

* Volunteer Wanted *

Willowood Library
wwfoundation@earthlink.net

Continued...

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Mr. John Charles Smith
Mr. and Mrs. David Southerland
Ms. Wendy Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zimmerman

Many thanks for your continuing support!

The

"Lilac Party"

Sunday,
May 17, 2009

4:30 pm

Wine Tasting by
Master of Wine,
Chris Cree

a cappella music by
"The Ten"

*

Silent Auction

Unusual Plants

Hors d'oeuvres by
Ross and Owren



Tickets and reservations:

908 234 1815 or Email:
wwfoundation@earthlink.net.

*

Thank you

Peapack Gladstone Bank

*

56 degree wine
Morris County Park Commission
Tree Tech, Inc.



The Willowwood Foundation announces 2009 grants:

Marshall Jeanes, President of the Board of Trustees for the Willowwood Foundation, recently presented a 2009 grant to Lynn Laffey, Curator of Collections & Exhibits, for an intern to continue organizing, re-housing and digitizing the Tubbs' and Blackburn photograph collections, making research of the Willowwood Archival Collection more easily accessible. The 2008 intern Sara Parmigiani who will again assist with this project has a BFA, specializing in the history of photography and previously interned at the Thomas Edison Archives.

John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, also received a 2009 grant for Plants & Seeds for Willowwood gardens and plant collections. Additional plants are needed to broaden the diversity of the Willowwood collections and to increase the educational value and aesthetic appeal of the arboretum. Planting projects for 2009 include adding new plants to the lilac, willow, and shrub collections, and expanding the *Narcissus* collection. In addition, the grant will further help develop the Rosarie Garden (*John is searching for a large rustic urn that can be converted to a fountain for the Rosarie, if anyone has one!*) and renovate and add new plantings in Pan's Garden and the Woodwalk area. John also received a separate grant for a Horticulture Intern for the 2009 season.

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?

Tags may feature each plant's botanical and common name and planting date or whatever other information you may want to include.

Purchase customized tags for your home garden by contacting the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or email your order to: wwfoundation@earthlink.net.

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

HISTORIC SHINGLE BARN RESTORED FOR CENTENNIAL



The Shingle Barn located adjacent to the Stone Barn is one of the first structures visitors see when they arrive at the arboretum. Deeds

speculate the barn was built in the early 1800s and was originally used for housing horses and other farm animals. Interestingly, the barn has been modified several times. At some point the south end was extended and during the Tubbs tenure two storm windows were added to the hay mow so that it could be used as a studio. Currently it is used by the Horticulture staff as a workspace. The new roof was completed in Spring, 2007. The deteriorating asphalt shingles were stripped away and replaced with new cedar shakes to replicate the original materials. Many of the support purlins and fascia boards were replaced, as well.

During the winter of 2008, the old cedar shake siding was removed and once "undressed" the carpenters discovered and repaired several hidden problems: rotted sills and deteriorated undersheathing. Old windows and those in the hay mow were refurbished and new doors were constructed to resemble the originals and create a more historic façade. The project was completed by late April.

The restored barn was admired by guests at the Centennial Lilac Party last May and by visitors throughout the summer and fall. With its new roof and siding, it should remain an integral part of the Willowwood landscape for many years to come.

Reported By John Morse, Manager of Horticulture

~ 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

2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

162 trees and shrubs were planted in the Willowwood gardens and plant collections, most notably in the Brocade Hillside, Hacklebarney Field, Monarda Meadow, and the newly restored Rosarie Garden plus 1700 daffodils were added to the Winter Garden and 4000 crocus were planted along the entrance drive.



The wonderfully intrepid Horticulture Volunteers led by Kate Gutierrez, Horticulture Volunteer Program Coordinator and Pam Wilson, Plant Records Curator & Propagator contributed 1028 hours towards propagation and maintenance of the gardens and plant collections.



The Nursery grew 13,092 plants from seed and 585 plants from cuttings.

The international seed exchange list consisting of small samples of seeds collected by the WW volunteer corps was mailed to 102 botanical gardens, resulting in 72 packets of Willowwood plant seed being sent to 12 organizations. 48 packets of

rare and hard to find seeds in exchange from European Gardens are now ready to be planted at Willowwood this Spring.

The Willowwood Foundation Horticulture Intern, Tim Dunham, a student in the County College of Morris Horticulture Program, worked 564 hours rotating among the different gardens and plant collections in all aspects of garden maintenance, including soil preparation, planting, dividing, mulching, weeding, pruning, fertilizing, watering, mowing, propagating, and record keeping. That's called "sweat equity"!



As of December 31, 2008, the diverse plant inventory of the Willowwood Arboretum collections contained 2078 different kinds of plants.

Many of these projects have been funded partially or in full by the gifts so generously donated to the Willowwood Foundation by our many friends and supporters this Centennial.

The Willowwood Foundation
P.O. Box 218
Gladstone, NJ 07934
908-234-1815 * wwfoundation@earthlink.net

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Save the Dates...

Mother's Day at Willowwood.....Sunday, May 10, 2009

oooooooooooo

Sunday, May 17, 2009

"The *Lilac Party*"

Wine tasting, Silent Auction & Unusual Plants plus "The Ten"

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HORTICULTURE INTERNS AT THE ARBORETUM

Each year the Willowwood Foundation helps a horticulture student obtain practical 'hands on' gardening experience by funding an internship at the arboretum. In 2007 and 2008, three 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.

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(c)(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