



◆ 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

The Story of Willowwood by Marta McDowell, a well researched compendium of information about the Tubbs' brothers and Dr. Benjamin Blackburn, has been completed, providing a wealth of personalized information on the plants, the gardens, the Tubbs' family and Henry Tubbs' adopted son, Dr. Ben Blackburn. Not only did Marta review photo and letter archives and files at Willowwood plus Garden Club files at local and university libraries, she was delighted to interview many people who had worked at Willowwood or were friends of Ben and Henry Tubbs, who had attended the original Lilac Parties held under the lilacs. She also interviewed family members, particularly his sister in law Fern Blackburn who was able to identify many family photos and found Ben's diplomas which were forwarded onto our archives. The Foundation is very grateful to all those who participated in the project for their help, suggestions and wonderful stories.

In addition, Phase III of the cataloging of the Tubbs/Blackburn photo archives will be completed in early Spring. 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 memories.

Magnolias: There has always been a love affair with magnolias at Willowwood. In 1911,

the Dorances, Pennsylvania friends of the Tubbs' family sent saucer magnolias named "Alexandrina" which were planted in Pan's Garden. A pink flowering Kobus magnolia was purchased by Robert Tubbs in 1912. Unfortunately, neither of these original plants survive today. On a Tubbs' family outing "down Jersey" sweetbays were collected as small plants in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Later, additional magnolias arrived from many eminent gardeners. Dr. Ben Blackburn loved magnolias and was an expert in the taxonomy of the genus. One of the finds in the archives is his WOR radio script on his magnolia program. In Spring, 2009, Magnolia expert, John Bierne, began a project funded by the WW Fdn. to verify, catalog and photograph all the magnolias as they are now considered one of the key collections at Willowwood. Last year, due to frosty weather conditions early in Spring and then a spell of unseasonably hot days, many bloomed early but over 25 specimens were photographed to illustrate their habits and evaluated for vitality. Mr. Bierne has noted that the WW collection is diverse and varied with deciduous Asiatic species as well as hybrid types and include some rare specimens such as Magnolia stellata 'Rubra'. Plans for the Magnolia Collection include propagating clones, identifying new planting sites and recommendations for new hybrid cultivars to add different blossom color, fragrance and blooming habits. Mr. Bierne will be back during bloom time mid April—early May this year to continue this project. Plan your visit then too!

Winter Ornamental Walk...

The Tubbs' brothers and Dr. Ben Blackburn enjoyed Willowwood's



landscape year 'round and particularly in the Winter—"You can see the structure of the trees". Many of the plantings are especially ornamental. Some are evergreen while others are deciduous with interesting fruit or bark and reveal the beauty of their branching design. Start your walking tour opposite the Stone Barn and continue to the left. Look for viburnums, birches, maples and beeches as well as pines, spruces and a Chinese Witch-Hazel.

And after your walk, go home and taste Dr. Blackburn's favorite pre dinner snack—(per his sister in law, Fern) - crackers with peanut butter and horseradish and maybe a glass of sherry by the fire.

Thank you! many friends of Willowood 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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Continued...

Party'ers Wanted!

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 Seasonal Gardens are glorious and perfect for photo ops. Willowood is the setting for your perfect party—wedding, birthday, anniversary, etc. Now booking 2011. Call the MCPC Event Specialist at the MCPC 973-326-7628 or email sdagostino@morrisparks.net

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Many thanks for your continuing support!

Save the Date!



**The
"Lilac Party"**

**Sunday,
May 16, 2010**

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

*



Peak Bloom Bliss Walk at Willowwood

Sunday, April 18 at 2pm to 3:30 pm

Bring your camera, wear comfy shoes and enjoy Willowwood at its

Spring Best! Daffodils by the dozens, flowering cherries, creamy Star Magnolia blossoms plus lots of Spring flowers.

This is a leisurely stroll with John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, who will talk about Willowwood's trees and plantings and answer your Spring and Summer gardening questions.

Enjoy Morris County's *Hidden Treasure: Willowwood*

Sponsored by the Friends of Frelinghuysen

Cost: \$10 members, \$15 Non Members

Register: by April 5 at 973 326 7603

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.

34th N.J. Daffodil & American Daffodil Society North East Regional Show:

Starting mid April plan on visiting Willowwood to savor the beauty of the ever enlarging collection of garden worthy daffodils. Over 1500 new bulbs were planted this past fall in the Winter Garden. These large sweeps of sunny color under the trees and in the fields are guaranteed to banish all thoughts of winter. Then hike or walk over to Bamboo Brook and delight in the over 1000 narcissus planted in the newly restored Waterworks area, now open to the public.



But, if you still crave SPRING!, on Friday, April 23 from 2 to 4PM and Saturday, April 24 from 10AM to 3PM, visit the Frelinghuysen Arboretum where a room full of ribbon-winning daffodils will be exhibited as single stems, vases of three, various collections and include over 24 different varieties. Enjoy familiar trumpet daffodils, fragrant jonquillas, lush double daffodils, and more.

For more information contact Ray Rogers at (732) 249-9282 or rayro@optonline.net.

The Willowwood Foundation is a member of the Daffodil Society

~ 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

2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

John Morse, Manager of Horticulture, reports that despite the vagaries of Late Summer and Fall's weather, planting, with the help of the WW Fdn. interns Jeanne Lardino and David Dempsey who worked 1427 hours, was on schedule this year.

- 3000 Royal Purple crocus were added to the Nordmann fir grove along the entrance drive (end March/April bloom)
- 55 trees including some new magnolias and shrubs—some raised through over 143 packets of seeds provided by the International Seed Exchange—were planted in the Fentondale, Alfalfa Field and the Rosarie.
- The incredible Horticulture volunteers contributed over 1028 hours toward the propagation of 10,718 plants from seed and 601 plants from cuttings. And still had time for maintenance in the gardens!
- As part of an on going improvement plan, the Woodwalk was upgraded with new herbaceous plantings supplemented by a gift of native wildflowers including yellow lady's slipper, white trillium, merry bells and Christmas fern, donated by Barbara Gegan.
- As of the end of 2009, The Willowwood plant collections were comprised of 4527 accessions representing 2008 *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.

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

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Save the Dates...

Spring Bloom Walk at Willowood—Sunday, April 18

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Mother's Day at Willowood.....Sunday, May 9

oooooooooooo

Sunday, May 16, 2010

“The *Lilac* Party”

Wine tasting, Silent Auction & Unusual Plants plus “The Ten”

Wish List for the Willowood Arboretum

Be a Patron and fund one of the Willowood Foundation's initiatives at the Willowood Arboretum. Staff has been restoring many of the garden areas and would love to add some comfy Adirondeck chairs for admiring visitors. Or be a Sponsor and help us replace some worn and broken terra cotta pots and a four handle earthenware urn. As a fellow gardener or as one who simply treasures our living museum, please contact the Willowood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or via email wwfoundation@earthlink.net if you would like to support the arboretum through one of these opportunities.

YES! I want to help the Willowood 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 Willowood Foundation.

All donations are tax deductible under section 501(c)(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*