



◆ Willowwood Journal ◆

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Spring, 2014

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 18, The Lilac Party

The Willowwood Foundation hosts the 19th Annual *Lilac Party* Celebration and Willowwood Arboretum Fundraiser on Sunday, May 18th. This much adored *Lilac Garden Party* tradition, co chaired by Anne Peterson and Becky Terry, starts at 4:30 pm at the Willowwood Arboretum. No longer held under the lilacs as it was during Hal Tubbs and Ben Blackburn's residence, party go'ers now taste scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and sample spring artisanal wines at a wine tasting hosted by Chris Cree, 56 degree wine, under our tent—rain or shine. And of course, during the evening, the renown Somerset Hills men's a cappella chorus "**The Ten**" will offer two performances of their rollicking repertoire in the Stone Barn. The Silent Auction for savvy and newbie gardeners features 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.



Proceeds from the Lilac Party will be used to fund the horticulture intern program and provide needed garden plantings and restoration at the Willowwood Arboretum. 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 908-234-1815 or email wwfoundation@willowwoodfoundation.com. Past photos from the Lilac Party Tradition are on the website: www.willowwoodfoundation.com

Those who cannot attend the party are invited to enjoy the Lilac Collection from late April through May.



Spring Flowers, Mom and Family together on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11. Plan now to celebrate Mother's Day, Sunday May 11, Noon to 4 pm, at two of New Jersey's most beautiful public gardens complete with tours, complimentary light refreshments, and musical entertainment for the entire family to enjoy. Willowwood Arboretum and Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center, two adjoining facilities of the Morris County Park Commission in Chester Township, will be ready in all their springtime splendor to provide the most beautiful backdrop for Mom's pleasure, as well as family photos. These remarkable historic gardens offer jewel-like gardens, lush landscapes, water features, and pristine meadows. You will feel as though you have been transported into another era.

Tours of both gardens will be offered by the horticulture staff as well as the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation will join this celebratory occasion by providing informative meadow walks. Bring your walking shoes!

At Willowwood, 1:30—3:30 pm a blanket or low chair helps to enjoy folk, country and bluegrass music by the A.L.L. Trio.! Dancing on the grass permitted! Light refreshments. Unusual lilacs for sale. A flower craft available for well behaved children. For more information, visit www.WillowwoodArboretum.org.

Free to the Public.

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

Lilacs, Lilacs, Lilacs...In

the *Lilac Party* tradition, every guest receives a gift of a lilac that can be planted in your own garden for years of wonderful Willowwood scents.

For our Benefactors and Patrons:

Syringa x hyacinthiflora **'Sweetheart'**

Blooming up to 10 days before most open their first bud,



'Sweetheart' regales you with powder-pink double flowers in huge, wondrously fragrant clusters. This classic variety is tops for beginning Lilac season with fanfare! 'Sweetheart' is an interspecific hybrid with *hyacinthiflora* heritage. The buds are a rich, dark maroon, opening to light pink and even white blooms. Surprising and beautiful! One of the most fragrant Lilacs in the world, 'Sweetheart' is perfect for cutting. Introduced in 1953 by Clarke.

Syringa x meyeri 'Josée' Introduced by Minier Nursery of France in 1976, this lilac is a dependable rebloomer (possibly 3—4 times). The fragrant panicles of lavender-pink, trumpet shaped flowers are produced heavily in May followed by intermittent bloom through the summer until frost. This lovely lilac grows 4 to 6 feet tall and is very hardy and mildew resistant. Resembles a Dwarf Korean Lilac with glossy dark green rounded foliage.



For our Sponsors:



Syringa vulgaris
'Gortenziya' zone 4-8 A beautiful true lavender-lilac colour, 'Gortenziya' is another Kolesnikov creation.

Introduced in 1930 and is remarkable for its intense, fresh fragrance.



Syringa vulgaris
'Mme Lemoine'

'Madame Lemoine' is a French Hybrid Lilac with a wide, spreading habit of shiny, dark green summer leaves accented with deliciously scented double white flowers. Ideal as cut flowers as one cluster can perfume an entire room! Easy to grow, tolerates light shade but blooms best in full sun. Grows to 8 to 10' and spreads 7 to 10'. A wonderful border specimen that's a magnet for bees, butterflies, and birds.

Syringa x chinensis 'Red Rothomagensis' (Chinese) lilac. A deciduous shrub grows 12 to 16'.



Tiny, reddish-purple flowers are grouped into showy, fragrant, terminal, long clusters. A cloned plant grown as an ornamental. The most authoritative source identifies it as a cross between *Syringa laciniata* and *Syringa vulgaris*.

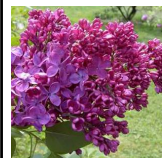
Syringa x hyacinthiflora
'Declaration' This selection, made by Don Egolf of the U.S. National Arboretum, is a hybrid of *S. 'Sweet Charity'* and *S. x hyacinthiflora 'Pocahontas'*. It was selected for the large, fragrant reddish-purple inflorescence that bloom in early spring.



Syringa x josiflexa
'Bellicent' An Award of Merit winner for its striking fragrance. Huge arching clusters of single rose-pink flowers in early summer, this large (to 12't x 15'w) shrub will be enjoyed as hedge or accent (next to a window!).



Blooms two weeks later than *Syringa vulgaris*. Leaves are elongated, resembling the Preston hybrids. Flowers have a burnt, spicy cinnamon scent.



Syringa vulgaris
'Znamya Lenina' a medium sized tree with green heart shaped foliage and stunning dark purple/red heavily scented single blooms in mid spring. Introduced by Kolesnikov in 1963.

The "Lilac Party"

Sunday,
May 19, 2013



4:30 pm - 7 pm

Wine Tasting by
Master of Wine, Chris Cree
56 degree wine

a cappella music by
"The Ten"

Silent Auction:
Many wonderful surprise plants from growers and private collections.

Botanical Artwork

Tickets required.
Call for info: 973 615 4841

Thank you !

Peapack Gladstone Bank
*
56 degree wine
Morris County Park Commission
Tree Tech, Inc.

Thank you To the friends of Willowwood who made generous donations this winter and early Spring to continue the Tubbs/Blackburn tradition:

Thank You!

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Buchanan
Mrs. Beirne Donaldson
The Kirk Kellogg Foundation
Mrs. Veronica Larini
Mr. Rick Perdian

**

Ms. Barbara Sue Nadolny
Ms. Margaret Whiting

And In Memory of
Ruth Hill Thomson:

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Carmel
Ms. Pamela Hill
Ms. Marta McDowell

We greatly appreciate your gifts

Wanted: 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 and work together in three short magical hours. Call Kate!

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. Paid Interns (full- or part-time) are admitted on an as needed basis. All Applicants must possess a keen interest in horticulture and enjoy working outdoors, planting, watering, mulching, propagating etc. To learn more about this program, contact Kate Gutierrez at 973-326-7629 or kgutierrez@morrissparks.net.

Party'ers Wanted!

Contact MCPC Event Specialist Chris Knox at 973-326-7619 or cknox@morrissparks.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.

Garden Notes



Seeds from the Index Seminum now available for your garden.

A current list of seeds from arboreta around the world as well as Willowwood and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum is listed on our website Store: www.willowwoodarboretum.org.

Bloom times: Many friends, in order to plan a visit, have requested email updates for the various bloom times at Willowwood. Bloom Reports are sent 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 will be in bloom through early June.*

Speaking of plants: The Hamamelis (witch-hazel or sometimes called winter bloom) have awakened from winter (they are usually one of the first) and you can find two of these very fragrant shrubs across from the Tubbs' house and in the Winter Garden. Native Americans used witch hazel leaves and bark as a poultice to reduce swelling and inflammation. Witch-hazel has long been among the best known and widely used home remedies. The word "witch" in the name of the herb is actually a derivative from the Anglo-Saxon word *wych* meaning flexible. The word described the flexibility of the branches that Native Americans used to make their hunting bows.

News from the Cottage Garden: The Garden Club of Somerset Hills has awarded a Community Grant for the rejuvenation and remedial restoration of the lovely Cottage Garden located in front of the Tubbs House. Marta McDowell in her book *"The Story of Willowwood"* noted that this garden started out as a kitchen garden adding to the farm's larder and table with herbs and vegetables. And Kriste Shaw, Horticulture Gardener, who tends this charmingly favorite and colorful space, will often tuck herbs and a vegetable or two here and there and up a tuteur in the garden area. The Tubbs gradually added more ornamental plantings but the mid summer colors were always in the spirit of its "gardenesque" design. Over the past few years, each of the main gardens—The Rosarie and Pan's Garden—have been reconditioned and restored and plans are for the Cottage Garden to be next on the agenda. The Somerset Hills Garden Club, the Willowwood Foundation, its donors and the Morris County Park Commission have partnered together on this project. But don't worry—this garden work will be done bed by bed so that it will still be a lovely display garden throughout the season.

And other plantings...as the planting and growing season progresses throughout the gardens, many of the new plants have been made possible through the sponsorship of the Chester Garden Club. By the way, local garden clubs are always looking for new members - they are great sources of plant knowledge, camaraderie, mutual commiseration of aches and pains and lots of joy.

Report on Sandy Damage: As you may know, there were a lot of downed trees and debris at Willowwood. Staff and volunteers helped tidy up over the past year but more heavy duty help was needed so Jim Bellis and Tree-Tech, Inc. staff came to the rescue, spending a day grinding down the stumps and doing more clean up work throughout the property. Thanks, guys!

Earth Day was April 22 but at Willowwood as we dig in the gardens, every day is Earth Day! If you would like to help us GO GREEN, sign up for the Willowwood Journal via email on the website: www.willowwoodarboretum.org.

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

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Save the Dates...

Mother's Day at Willowwood & Bamboo Brook..Sunday, May 11, 2014

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Sunday, May 18, 2014 **Lilac Party** ~ 4:30 PM

Wine tasting with Chris Cree, 56° Wine, plus "The Ten", Unusual Plants, Silent Auction

oooooooooooo

Autumn Open House, Sunday, October 5th, Noon to 4 pm

It is Spring! This is the "Why" of Gardens...

Essential advice for the gardener: grow peas of mind, lettuce be thankful, squash selfishness, turnip to help thy neighbor, and always make thyme for loved ones. ~Author Unknown

When overwhelmed and stressed and unable to think, I go out and garden, it's cheaper than a shrink.
~Author Unknown

Gardening is a kind of disease. It infects you, you cannot escape it. When you go visiting, your eyes rove about the garden; you interrupt the serious cocktail drinking because of an irresistible impulse to get up and pull a weed. ~Lewis Gannit

Gardening gives one back a sense of proportion about everything — except itself. ~May Sarton, *Plant Dreaming Deep*, 1968

It was such a pleasure to sink one's hands into the warm earth, to feel at one's fingertips the possibilities of the new season.
~Kate Morton, *The Forgotten Garden*

Luckily, you don't have to dig to Visit and Enjoy Willowwood, our Treasure.

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