



◆ 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.

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Willowwood's ORNAMENTAL CHERRIES *By John Morse*

One of the most popular springtime displays at Willowwood is the spectacular flowering of the Asian ornamental cherries. The trees are covered with short lived blossoms ranging from pink to white, beginning early April through mid May. Cherries are in the botanical genus *Prunus* and are tough, easy-to-grow plants that are not fussy about soils and require little care once established.

One of the first projects after the Tubbs family settled at Willowwood was to plant peaches but in the first War years, the peaches died with scale and disease so Robert Tubbs obtained several species from Dr. William W. Wilson of Montclair and planted many ornamental cherries in the arboretum. Among these were the *Yoshino Cherry*, which is generally one of the first to bloom and features pale pinkish-white flowers, the *Higan Cherry*, which bears so many pink blossoms that the tree resembles a strawberry parfait from afar, the *Sargent Cherry*, which has an upright habit and pale pink flowers, and the traditional *Japanese Flowering Cherry*, which blooms later and has large pink, pendulous, double flowers. Visitors marvel at one of Willowwood's most unusual cherries - *Prunus serotula* 'Asagi' with its curious apple-green flowers.

Unfortunately, many of the original Willowwood cherry specimens are in poor health due to their age. Several years ago these older specimens were preserved by propagating new plants from cuttings. As a result, last year two young saplings of *Prunus* 'Tai Haku' (large single white flowers) were placed in Hacklebarney Field. In 2011, this project continues with planting young saplings of *Prunus* 'Shirofugen' (double white flowers that fade to pink) and *Prunus incisa* 'Plena' (double deep pink flowers).

In addition to preserving old cultivars, we are also working to display some of the newer introductions. Recent additions to our collection include *Prunus* 'Dream Catcher' which displays large, medium pink flowers in early April. 'Dream Catcher' was introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum in 1999 and is insect and disease resistant, easy to propagate, and grows rapidly. Also added were *Prunus* 'Rosy Cloud', double pink flowers, and *Prunus* 'Shirotae' which has double, pure white flowers.

Spring will be here before you know it (we hope!)! Flowers will return to Willowwood:

In bloom and/or coming soon (always depending on Mother Nature!):

Conservatory: February & March

Gardiner Propagation House:

Pansies in Late February /early March (planted by the WW volunteers)

Gardens: Snowdrops & Winter Aconite—Late February/March

Hellebores (The Lenten Rose) & Witch-Hazels—early March/April

Meadows: Bluebirds, Daffodils & Crocus—late March/early April

*

Seeds Now Available for Purchase!

The volunteers have assembled packets of over 40 different kinds of seed from Willowwood gardens.

\$3.00 a package or two for \$5.00 including postage. Email us at:

wwfoundation@earthlink.net

And we will send you a complete List plus we offer *Immediate shipment* so you can start your seeds now.

*

WANTED: Bluebird Nesting Box

Volunteers: There are currently 63 bluebird nesting boxes at Willowwood, Bamboo Brook and the Kay Center, creating important nesting sites for native cavity nesting birds. In 2010, 326 young birds fledged including 208 bluebirds. The data compilation and the maintenance of the boxes depends almost solely on the hard work and dedication of volunteers. **Currently, we need a volunteer to take on data monitoring of the 25 boxes at Bamboo Brook.** Training for new volunteers begins in early March. Contact Mindy Schmitt : 973-635-6629 or mschmitt@morrisparks.net for more information

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 survives for future generations. We can only say "Thank you" for your help...

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Party'ers Wanted!

Trees with twinkling lights surround the WW 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 or Bamboo Brook with its beautiful reflecting pools can be the setting for your perfect party—wedding, birthday, anniversary, etc. Now booking 2011 and 2012. Call the MCPC Event Specialist at 973-326-7628 or email Scott at sdagostino@morrisparks.net

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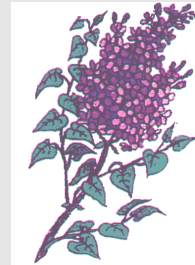
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Mrs. Hillary Clayton
Mr. Clayton Graba, A Frog's Dream
Morris Arboretum
Ms. Jennifer Uhrhane in memory of
Cheryl Murray Uhrhane

Many thanks again to all of you for your continuing support!

Save the Date!



The "Lilac Party"

**Sunday,
May 15, 2011**

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

*

Friday, April 1 *Spring Pruning Workshop at Willowwood*

Plantsman Scott Scarafile offers this workshop on how to prune for maximum results. Starts at the Stone Barn for a talk on safety and equipment then go outside to prune. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate shoes. **Time:** 10:30 a.m. - Noon. **Cost:** \$12.*

Thursday, June 9 *Gardening without a Garden -- The Art of Gardening in Containers at Willowwood*

Potted gardens offer versatility and portability. Beth Riley owner of The Potted Garden (www.thepottedgarden.biz.) discusses and demonstrates the basics of container gardening using Siebert and Rice containers. **Time:** 10 a.m. - Noon. **Cost:** \$20.*

Advance Registration required: *Contact the Friends of Freylinghuysen: Ann Abrams 973.326.7603 or www.arboretumfriends.org to register

Permanent Plant Labels for your Garden:

Do you find the embossed metal tags that identify the trees, shrubs and plants at Willowwood helpful? Would you like them to identify plants in your garden?

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

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

The 35th N.J. Daffodil & American Daffodil Society North East Regional Show :

Starting early/mid April visit Willowwood to enjoy the ever enlarging collection of garden worthy daffodils. Over 1500 new bulbs were planted again this past fall. Banish all thoughts of our winter with vast vistas of sunny color under the trees and in the fields. 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 15 from 2 to 4PM and Saturday, April 16 from 10AM to 3PM, visit the Freylinghuysen Arboretum. A room full of ribbon-winning daffodils will be exhibited - up to 24 different variations of familiar trumpet daffodils, fragrant jonquillas, lush double daffodils, etc. Discover the intriguing diversity among the miniature and historic selections. The show also includes classes for cut and potted specimens of plants that bloom along with daffodils in our gardens. Six New Jersey member clubs of the Garden Club of America will stage flower arrangements. Contact Ray Rogers at rayro@optonline.net.

Wanna Play in the Dirt?

Maintaining the eye appealing gardens at the Willowwood Arboretum and now Bamboo Brook takes constant dedication and enthusiastic teamwork. The hands-on *GardenWorks* program brings volunteers to the gardens one weekday morning to assist our park staff with various projects throughout the year. Enthusiastic amateurs and friendly master gardeners play, learn and work together in three short messy & magical hours in our beautiful gardens. Call Kate Gutierrez at 973.326.7629 or kgutierrez@morrisparks.net for more details.

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

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..

*62 trees and shrubs were planted in the Alfalfa Field, Brook Path, Cornelian Cherry Bed, Cypress Lawn, Hacklebarney Field, Highland Park, Laburnum Bed, Lilac Collection, Orchard, and Osier Hollow. Among these were 13 *Magnolia recommended by John Bierne, our Magnolia expert* (M. 'Angelica', M. 'Apollo', M. 'Daybreak', M. 'Elizabeth', M. 'Galaxy', M. 'Golden Gift', M. 'Iufer', M. 'Ivory Chalice', and M. 'Sayonara'. Plus two *M. virginiana* that were grown from seed from the International Magnolia Society.). Also included were 4 *Prunus*, 20 *Syringa*, and 4 *Viburnum*.

*4000 early Crocus were added to the Winter Garden and adjacent to the Visitor's Parking Lot. 2000 Camassia were planted in the Alfalfa Field.

*The Nursery propagated 10,999 plants from seed and 267 plants from cuttings.

*213 packets of seed were received from 15 institutions via the International Seed Exchange (*Index Seminum*).

*The Horticulture Volunteers contributed 1302 hours toward the maintenance of the gardens, plant collections, propagation, and seed collecting.

*Joshua Mont and Giancarlo Sarullo were the Willowwood Foundation interns in 2010. They worked a total of 385 hours.

*The Willowwood plant collections were comprised of 4,476 accessions representing 2,058 different kinds of plants at year end.

*66 bluebirds were fledged from 21 bluebird boxes.

The Willowwood Foundation
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Gladstone, NJ 07934
908-234-1815 * wwwfoundation@earthlink.net

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Save the Dates...

Mother's Day at Willowwood.....Sunday, May8

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Sunday, May 15, 2011

"The *Lilac* Party"

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

Wish List for the Willowwood Arboretum

Be a Patron and fund one of the Willowwood Foundation's initiatives at the Willowwood Arboretum. Several of the garden areas have been restored and we would love to add additional teak Adirondack chairs for Visitor R&R. Or be a Sponsor and help us add several new terra cotta pots for ornamental displays or two ceramic oil jars for the Tubbs' House back porch. As a fellow gardener or as one who simply treasures our incredible living museum, please contact the Willowwood Foundation at 908-234-1815 or via email wwwfoundation@earthlink.net if you would like to support the arboretum through one of these opportunities.

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.)

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Mail to: *The Willowwood Foundation, PO Box 218, Gladstone, NJ 07934* or call 908-234-1815 for more information

