



The Wyck Association

Preserving a National Historic Landmark House and Garden

For Immediate Release, Please

JPEGS available upon request

Contact: Barbara Overholser

215-848-1690

boverholser@wyck.org

Wyck Historic House and Garden in Germantown Presents
The Old Rose Symposium, Sponsored by the Heritage Rose Foundation
Saturday, May 21, 2011

January 10, 2011, Philadelphia, PA – **On Saturday, May 21, 2011 Wyck Historic House and Garden will celebrate its extraordinary rose garden with its 3rd Old Rose Symposium, sponsored by the Heritage Rose Foundation.** Wyck's rose garden dates to the 1820s and is the *oldest rose garden growing in its original plan in the United States*. Included in the garden are several of the original rose plants from the 19th century design. **Wyck is located at 6026 Germantown Avenue in Philadelphia, PA.**

The program will run from **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** and will include lectures from experts in the field of roses including **Jane Baber White, Jennie Watlington, Stephen Scanniello, Nicole Juday, and the Reverend Douglas Seidel.**

Jane Baber White is Restoration Chairman, Director, and Director *Emerita* of the Old City Cemetery, Lynchburg, Virginia. Jane undertook rehabilitation of the long-neglected Old City Cemetery after a major storm did extensive damage there in 1993. The cemetery is now the nation's only arboretum of 19th century plants, and the collection of rare antique roses there is of national importance. Jane is the author of two books about the cemetery: *The Book of Attributes of the Living Horticultural Collections of the Old City Cemetery* (2008), and *Once Upon a Time... A Cemetery Story* (2009).

Jennie Watlington is a former president of the Bermuda Rose Society which was formed in 1954 by a group of rose lovers who gave themselves the task of identifying all the roses growing on the island at that time, a total of 30 different varieties. Over the years the society has identified many of the old roses; those left are now called Bermuda Mystery Roses. With the new identifying techniques of today like DNA, they continue to research the possible origins of those roses.

Stephen Scanniello, President of the Heritage Rose Foundation, is author of *A Year of Roses* and co-author of *A Rose By Any Name*, *Roses of America*, and *Climbing Roses*. Scanniello is the gardener known for transforming the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's rose garden into one of the world's most acclaimed. At the Old Rose Symposium he will look at Philadelphia's long-time relationship with roses with his presentation: "Heritage Roses in America: the Philadelphia Story."

The Reverend Douglas Seidel is a prominent expert in the field of roses and is a consultant to the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants at Monticello. He worked with the late rosarian Leonie Bell on Wyck's rose garden in the 1970s.

Nicole Juday is Wyck's Horticulturist and Curator of the Living Collections. Besides her work at Wyck, she writes and speaks about urban gardening, old roses, and historic plants, and writes a garden column and blog for WHYY's NewsWorks website.

A delicious boxed lunch from **Geechee Girl Rice Café** is included in the **\$95 program fee**. In addition there will be an **auction with an opportunity to bid on rare and virus-free heritage roses including a complete collection of Bermuda Mystery Roses** - all suitable for our gardening zone. There will also be plenty of opportunities to ask the experts your most vexing rose questions.

Wyck's rose garden features numerous heritage roses and is open for tours through the summer. Beginning with *Rosa spinosissima* in early May and ending with *Rosa moschata* in late October, Wyck's roses are remarkable for their beauty and fragrance which fills the garden. Wyck is a rare wonder for garden lovers and an important repository of plants that have disappeared from other historic gardens. Included in the garden are several of the original rose plants from the 19th century design. Several old roses in cultivation today had been thought lost until they were discovered growing at Wyck, and all specimens of these varieties in the trade descend from Wyck plants.

Wyck's 2.5 acre site also include a c. 1797 smoke house, an 1836 ice house, a 1794 coach house, and a 1920s greenhouse. The main house is an accumulation of 18th-century parts and has been little altered since 1824 when Philadelphia architect William Strickland dramatically rearranged its interior spaces to create an open plan. Wyck's Home Farm is traditionally managed and supplies our seasonal Farmers Market with fresh, pesticide-free produce, at below-market prices for our community.

For symposium registration information visit www.wyck.org or call 215-848-1690.

###