

## The Root of the Matter:

Searching for William Hamilton's  
Greenhouse at The Woodlands Estate

A presentation by  
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Historic Woodlands Mansion  
([http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bd/Woodlands\\_Mansion\\_NHL\\_Philly.JPG](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bd/Woodlands_Mansion_NHL_Philly.JPG))

Meeting will be held on

**Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

at the

### **Historic Woodlands Mansion**

4000 Woodland Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

**Board Meeting at 10:30 am**

**Lunch at Noon**

**Presentation at 1:00 pm**

**RSVP to Tom Davis by Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>.** Please indicate your choice for lunch. Tom can be reached at 610-828-1650.

## The Presentation

It is more than likely that in 1807, when in Philadelphia, Meriwether Lewis visited William Hamilton at his Woodland Estate to see some of the expedition's seedlings growing in his greenhouse. Fredrick Pursh, who Lewis hired to draw various plants for the publication of the expedition, worked on the estate as a gardener and later traveled to England having stolen pieces of the expedition's botanical specimens.

Hamilton's botanical collection was considered by contemporaries to be the most extensive and aesthetically pleasing collection of native and exotic flora in America. The heart of this collection was the greenhouse, a vast structure over 140 feet in length and said to contain over ten thousand rare and exotic plants, which attracted visitors and students of botany from all over the world.

Hamilton's position as a well-respected botanical collector straddled the space between the diverging trends of "scientific" and "amateur" approaches to botany. Recent archaeological investigations of Hamilton's greenhouse have begun to reveal the complexity of its internal spatial arrangements that embody the changing nature of botany and botanical exchange on local, national, and international levels.



<http://c0486722.cdn.cloudfiles.rackspacecloud.com/woodlands-cemetery-mansion-philadelphia-600.jpg>

## Lunch, Map & Parking

Box Lunch Choices are:

- Roast Top Sirloin of Beef on a Kaiser Roll
- Grilled Chicken Breast with Mozzarella & Spinach on a Croissant
- Baked Virginia Ham on a Croissant
- Roasted Vegetables Wrap

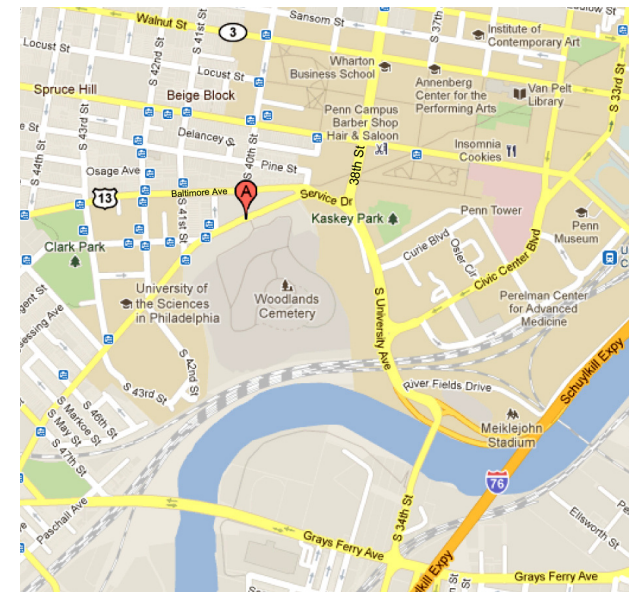
Each box lunch also includes:

Red Bliss Potato Salad  
Fresh Fruit Salad  
Fudge Brownie

Soft drinks or water are also included.

**\$15 per lunch**

Parking is free at the site. Please observe parking signs and policies.



Public transportation is convenient. Please check with SEPTA to plan the most best route for you. (215) 580-7800 or [www.septa.org](http://www.septa.org)