

Ramsey House Plantation
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January 20, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAMSEY HOUSE PLANTATION SPONSORS PHOTO EXHIBIT

In honor of African-American History Month, the Ramsey House Plantation will display author Richard Westmacott's photo exhibit *African-American Gardens and Yards in the Rural South* beginning February 10 and continuing through April 23. The exhibit showcases photographs from Westmacott's 1992 book by the same name and will feature special programs. Westmacott's book will be available for sale during the exhibit.

As a professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Georgia, Westmacott researched the basic functions of African-American yards and gardens by interviewing gardeners and photographing their designs in South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Westmacott's research and exhibit outline the evolution of the garden designs from being a necessary means of survival during slavery to being a present-day "welcome mat" for friends and neighbors. The photos show the decorated gardens and the swept dirt yards that have been a part of the southern landscape for the past 200 years but have just recently received attention from garden historians.

The Ramsey House Plantation will also have special programs for the exhibit, including storytelling and planting seed trays. "Heroes and Hard Times" will be performed by storytellers Sparky and Rhonda Rucker on two different dates. The Ruckers are professional storytellers who travel throughout the United States telling of

African-American Folk Culture. The March 18 performance is only open to public schools and home schools. The performance on March 20 is open to the public and costs \$5 per person. Reservations are recommended.

There will also be the “Planting of an African-American Garden” on April 3 and 17. Children and families can learn about plants of African-American origin that are grown at Ramsey House Plantation. Participants will plant seeds in a tray that they can take home. The programs will be at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. both days and reservations are recommended. The cost is \$5 per participant.

The cost of the exhibit is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children, and free for children six and under. Group tours are available to parties of 10 or more at a discounted rate of \$3 per person. Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more. Home school groups will be given the student price of \$2 per person.

The Southern Arts Federation’s Southern Visions: The Folk Arts and Southern Culture Traveling Exhibits Program is made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the 3M Corporation.

The Ramsey House Plantation is a 1797 historic home on 100 acres in Knoxville, Tennessee. The house and gardens are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. throughout the year. The plantation also has a museum shop, which carries the seeds grown in the heirloom gardens on the property.

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