

The Traveller

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Spring, 2014

Bartram Trail Marker Update

A new Bartram Trail marker graces the Wormsloe Historic Site, located on the Isle of Hope south of Savannah. A stunning avenue sheltered by more than 400 live oaks leads to the tabby ruins of Wormsloe, the colonial estate of Noble Jones (1702–1775). Jones served the Georgia colony as a doctor, constable, Indian agent, Royal Councilor and surveyor, laying out the towns of Augusta and New Ebenezer. He also commanded a company of marines based at Wormsloe who were charged with defending the Georgia coast

from the Spanish. In 1765, Jones hosted John and William Bartram on their way to Florida. The new marker notes that the Bartrams observed Wormsloe's cultivated figs, oranges, peaches, nectarines, and, according to John, "very delicious pomegranates." The state of Georgia acquired most of the plantation in 1973 and designated it as Georgia's first historic site.

On Saturday, April 26, a new BTC marker will be dedicated to commemorate the visit by John and William Bartram

continued on page 2

Bethesda Academy Marker

The scheduled installation of the Bethesda Academy William Bartram Trail marker will be the second marker to be installed by the Bartram Trail Conference commemorating John and son William Bartram's visit to Savannah in 1765. The Wormsloe marker was installed in Fall 2013, the Bethesda marker will be installed in Spring 2014. The effort's to obtain the Bethesda marker was coordinated by the Bethesda Women's Board and the Bartram Trail Conference. Three people were instrumental in obtaining the marker: Mrs. Archibald (Betty) Morris of the Bethesda Women's Board; Mr. Terry R. Henderson with the Bartram Trail Conference; and Dr. Elliott O. Edwards Jr., past Chairman of the Bartram Trail Conference. The marker has been installed next to the museum where a mulberry tree will be planted behind it and will be visible at the end of the sidewalk. There is much interest in the Bartrams at these two institutions and these markers are expected to promote the growth in this area of our natural history because the explorations of John and William Bartram continue to enthuse natural historians since the Bartrams' first trip to the south in 1765.

John Bartram (1699–1777) was just appointed Botanist to King George III, where he was to travel to Florida on a one-year assignment to Georgia and Florida that would include a survey at Shell Bluff, Georgia, taking his son William Bartram (1739–1824), age 26, to collect seeds and specimens for the King, friends, and fellow gardeners. This was

continued on page 2



Left to right are marker donors Craig and Diana Barrow, BTC president Dorinda G. Dallmeyer, one of their tour guides Jesse dressed in British marine uniform, site manager Jason Allison, and Philip Juras, BTC member and the only person tall enough to help us get the drape off the marker! BTC board member Brad Sanders also attended the dedication. The marker is located just outside the Wormsloe interpretive center to serve as a meeting point for the beginning of their guided trail walks. For more on the Wormsloe Historic site, see <http://gastateparks.org/Wormsloe>

Louisiana Bartram Trail Project

LSU's Hilltop Arboretum is leading a regional partnership to mark Bartram's trail of discovery in Louisiana. Partners and locations have been identified for four historical markers and three other potential sites are under consideration. Hilltop is working closely with the Bartram Trail Conference to assure appropriate locations are selected for the markers.

The four sites currently identified include Hilltop Arboretum, Burden Museum and Gardens, downtown Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parish.

Located in Baton Rouge, and open to the public free of charge during daylight hours seven days a week, Hilltop is dedicated to preserving native vegetation, including the plants of the ridge area overlooking the floodplains of Bayou Manchac and the Mississippi River. Donated to LSU by Emory Smith, Hilltop has an extensive collection of native trees and shrubs, many collected by Emory Smith. Hilltop has a strong community outreach and educational program and holds several gardening events each year including

a popular annual symposium. Its 2014 plant symposium, focused on the work of the Bartrams, both in the States and in England, was the incentive for this project to mark William's trail in Louisiana and to celebrate pockets of the natural vegetation he may have seen.

Burden Museum and Gardens, also open to the public, is part of the Manchac drainage area. The land came into the Burden family in the mid 1800's and Windrush Plantation remained with the family until the land was donated to LSU. The complex contains the Rural Life Museum focused on early life styles, research gardens and includes several natural areas, including the "Windrush Natural Area" registered with the Louisiana Natural Area Registry Program through the Louisiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. According to its registry, this area contains one of the best examples of "old growth" bottomland hardwood forest in Louisiana.

Downtown Baton Rouge is the location of old "New Richmond" identified in Bartram's Travels. The Beauregard Town

Civic Association, which represents one of two residential areas in downtown Baton Rouge listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has stepped up to partner with Baton Rouge's Downtown Development District to sponsor a third historical marker. This marker will be located at the South Boulevard Trailhead being developed for a levee top trail open to walkers, runners and cyclists. The trail, part of which is already constructed, will soon be 15 miles in length, stretching along the Mississippi River from downtown Baton Rouge to Bayou Manchac.

The Pointe Coupee Historical Society has taken on the task of sponsoring the fourth marker and is in the process of identifying and selecting an appropriate location in Pointe Coupee Parish. This marker will celebrate the conclusion of Bartram's trip to the west and the hospitality extended to him by the people of this community. Pointe Coupee Parish, home to some of the earliest settlers of Louisiana, has long been recognized for the key role it has played in Louisiana's history, culture and economy.

Peggy Davis Coates

Executive Director

LSU Hilltop Arboretum

Marker Update, *continued from page 1*

on September 25, 1765, to the Bethesda Orphanage south of Savannah. Meaning "House of Mercy," Bethesda was founded in 1740 by evangelist George Whitefield to care for the numerous orphans living in the colony. Along with learning a variety of trades, students grew most of the orphanage food. Ever the plantsman, John wrote that the grounds featured many fruit trees but that the largest trees and most numerous were mulberry—a testament to the early plans for the Georgia colony to produce silk for export to Britain. Although no longer an orphanage, Bethesda Academy continues to offer a residential education program for boys in grades 2-12. The marker is being erected by the Women's Board of Bethesda and the Bethesda-Union Society of Savannah, Inc., in cooperation with Bethesda Academy. For more information on Bethesda's history, please see <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/bethesda>.

Bethesda Academy Marker, *continued*

from page 1

William's first botanical expedition and would inspire him to lay the groundwork for his own career as a naturalist. While on the expedition, they stopped off in Savannah September 25, 1765. They would visit George Whitefield at the Orphan House (Bethesda) and later in the day travel to Wormsloe, property of Captain Noble Jones, father of Revolutionary patriot, Noble Wymberly Jones.

These markers, hopefully, will encourage visitors to learn more about the Bartrams that will certainly lead to a greater appreciation of their significant contributions to science. The marker commemoration will be part of an all day family event with several anniversaries being celebrated on Saturday, April 26, 2014. Dr. Elliott Edwards will be presenting a paper on the Bartrams' visit to Savannah in 1765 to the Georgia Academy of Science at the annual meeting March 28 – 29, 2014, to be held at the Regents University in Augusta,



Georgia. The paper will be given to the Bethesda Academy and Wormsloe Historic Site as background history on the Bartram's and their visit to Savannah as part of the commemoration.

Following in the Bartrams' Footsteps

March 19–June 17

Sponsored by the Cherokee Garden Library at the
Atlanta History Center

130 West Paces Ferry Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

Exhibition open on Tuesday–Saturday 10:00 am–5:00 pm; Sunday, noon–5:00 pm

Early American explorers, John Bartram and his son, William, traversed the eastern wilderness of the American colonies from the 1730s to the 1790s, recording the region's flora, fauna, and Native American culture. A new American Society of Botanical Artists' traveling exhibition, *Following in the Bartrams' Footsteps: Contemporary Botanical Artists Explore the Bartrams' Legacy*, comes to Atlanta in spring 2014, featuring world-class contemporary botanical artwork depicting plants discovered and introduced by two generations of the Bartram family. The plant portraits reflect John and William Bartram's passionate observation and discovery of nature, which has influenced generations of artists and explorers throughout the world. The illustrations will be on display in McElreath Hall at the Atlanta History Center.

A companion exhibition featuring holdings from the Cherokee Garden Library and Atlanta History Center collections will include historic books, rare maps of the Southeast; and artifacts of Native American culture. An outdoor living component in the Mary Howard Gilbert Memorial Quarry Garden of the Atlanta History Center brings the exhibition artwork to life.

To mark the opening of the exhibition, Joel Fry will present the Ashley Wright McIntyre Lecture "Following in the Bartrams' Footsteps" at the Cherokee Garden Library on Wednesday, March 19, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Fry, Curator of Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia and member of the BTC board, will present a survey of William Bartram's illustrations and exam-

ine the scope and influences of his career as a seminal American natural history illustrator. Fry, who is widely published, is a leading scholar on both John and William Bartram and their botanic and collecting careers in the eighteenth century.



Opening night of *Following in the Bartrams' footsteps* at the Atlanta History Center.

Fry's lecture will be followed by a reception and an opportunity to explore the exhibition, curated by the American Society of Botanical Artists.

For more information on the exhibition and related programming, call 404.814.4000. To schedule a group tour, please call 404.814.4062 or email GroupTours@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com.

On April 27, 2014, at 3:00 pm Kathryn Braund will be speaking at the Atlanta History Center with a reception and book signing (*Fields of Vision*) following.

For generations, writers have celebrated William Bartram's southern journey to

the "natural" places of the early South, or as one author described it, a "new green world." Who has read Bartram's *Travels* and not been moved by the "sublime scenes of primitive nature" (107) so beautifully revealed in Bartram's romantic prose? The purpose of his expedition—to collect new and exotic plants from regions relatively unknown to 18th century natural scientists—reinforces this notion of the kind of place to which Bartram traveled, as do his drawings of native plants. And yet, scholarly emphasis on Bartram's encounters with nature distorts the reality of his travel and his legacy. For careful reading of his work reveals that Bartram traveled not to a wilderness, but to a country manipulated and managed by people culturally distinct from Europeans. It could be argued that the true value of Bartram's *Travels* lies not in that it describes a pristine wilderness, but rather, the world of the southeastern Indians. Moreover, Bartram traveled not to a "new" place, but to land whose history extended far back into time. Historian as much as naturalist, Bartram catalogued abandoned monuments, towns, and agricultural fields of former inhabitants, thereby populating the Southern landscape with a storied tradition of long occupation as well as a tradition of movement and conflict. Finally, Bartram's world was not static. Indeed, the landscapes Bartram visited had been radically changed by the native inhabitants, as well as the recently arrived Europeans, and Bartram constantly noted the myriad changes wrought by Indian, European, and African intrusion into the Southeast. This essay will explore these three interlocking themes that present a surprising new view of Bartram's South: an ancient world populated and shaped by native peoples as well as newcomers and a world in the midst of dramatic change.

Kathryn Braund, former BTC president and member of the Board. She is author of *William Bartram and the Southeastern Indians*, co-edited with Gregory Waselkov (University of Nebraska Press, 1995) and editor with Charlotte M. Porter of *Fields of Vision: Essays on the Travels on William Bartram* (University of Alabama Press, 2010). She is the Hollifield Professor of Southern History at Auburn University.

“Anecdotes of an American Crow” by William Bartram

In 1804 William Bartram published “Anecdotes of an American Crow” in a miscellany edited by Benjamin Smith Barton, the Philadelphia Medical and Physical Journal. Barton’s Journal did not circulate widely and Bartram’s charming sketch about the crow named Tom fell into obscurity. Thomas Slaughter included the essay in the Library of America volume, *Travels and Other Writings*, although to my knowledge, “Anecdotes of an American Crow” has not appeared elsewhere. The neglect is unfortunate, for this seeming occasional piece contains the best of Bartram’s thoughts on nature—not to mention the best of his writing. What compelled William Bartram to produce these observations? No doubt his growing friendship with Alexander Wilson, the Scottish poet who had settled recently near the family’s garden on the Schuylkill River, and who was turning his thoughts from poetry to birds. In 1808 Wilson completed the first volume of his *American Ornithology*, a work to which William Bartram and his niece Nancy contributed greatly. Wilson’s work would soon be supplanted by John James Audubon and the *American Ornithology*, alas, now remains out of print. But the crow essay has a definite place in American literary history. It is the earliest example in the United States of a proud if now forgotten genre, the Ornithological Biography.

Thomas Hallock

It is a difficult task to give a history of our Crow. And I hesitate not to aver, that it would require the pen of a very able biographer to do justice to his talents.

Before I enter on this subject minutely, it may be necessary to remark, that we do not here speak of the crow, collectively, as giving an account of the whole race (since I am convinced, that these birds differ as widely as men do from each other, in point of talents and acquirements), but of a particular bird of that species, which I reared from the nest.

He was, for a long time, comparatively a helpless, dependent creature, having a very

small degree of activity or vivacity, every sense seeming to be asleep, or in embryo, until he had nearly attained his finished dimensions, and figure, and the use of all his members. Then, we were surprised, and daily amused with the progressive development of his senses, expanding and maturing as the wings of the youthful phalena, when disengaged from its nympha-shell.

These senses, however, seemed, as in



American crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*
reprinted courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

man, to be only the organs or instruments of his intellectual powers, and of their effects, as directed towards the accomplishment of various designs, and the gratification of the passions.

This was a bird of a happy temper, and good disposition. He was tractable and benevolent, docile and humble, whilst his genius demonstrated extraordinary acuteness, and lively sensations. All these good qualities were greatly in his favour, for they procured him friends and patrons, even among men, whose society and regard contributed to illustrate the powers of his understanding. But what appeared most extraordinary, he seemed to have the wit to select and treasure up in his mind, and the sagacity to practise, that kind of knowledge which procured him the most advantage and profit.

He had great talents, and a strong propensity to imitation. When I was engaged in weeding in the garden, he would often

fly to me, and, after very at tentively observing me in pulling up the small weeds and grass, he would fall to work, and with his strong beak, pluck up the grass; and the more so, when I complimented him with encouraging expressions. He enjoyed great pleasure and amusement in seeing me write, and would attempt to take the pen out of my hand, and my spectacles from my nose. The latter article he was so pleased with, that I found it necessary to put them out of his reach, when I had done using them. But, one time, in particular, having left them a moment, the crow being then out of my sight, recollecting the bird’s mischievous tricks, I returned quickly, and found him upon the table, rifling my inkstand, books, and paper. When he saw me coming, he took up my spectacles, and flew off with them. I found it vain to pretend to over take him; but standing to observe his operations with my spectacles, I saw him settle down at the root of an apple-tree, where, after amusing himself, for awhile, I observed, that he was hiding them in the grass, and covering them with chips and sticks, often looking round about, to see whether I was watching him. When he thought he had sufficiently secreted them, he turned about, advancing towards me, at my call. When he had come near me, I ran towards the tree, to regain my property. But he, judging of my intentions, by my actions, flew, and arriving there before me, picked them up again, and flew off with them, into another apple-tree. I now almost despaired of ever getting them again. However, I returned back to a house, a little distance off, and there secreting myself, I had a full view of him, and waited to see the event. After some time had elapsed, during which I heard a great noise and talk from him, of which I understood not a word, he left the tree, with my spectacles dangling in his mouth, and alighted, with them, on the ground. After some time, and a great deal of caution and contrivance in choosing and rejecting different places, he hid them again, as he thought very effectually, in the grass, carrying and placing over them chips, dry leaves, &c, and often pushing them down with his bill. After he had finished this work, he flew up into a tree, hard by, and there continued a long time, talking to him self, and making much noise; bragging, as I supposed, of his achievements. At last, he returned

to the house, where not finding me, he betook himself to other amusements. Having noted the place, where he had hid my spectacles, I hastened thither, and after some time recovered them.

This bird had an excellent memory. He soon learned the name which we had given him, which was Tom; and would commonly come when he was called, unless engaged in some favourite amusement, or soon after correction: for when he had run to great lengths in mischief, I was under the necessity of whipping him; which I did with a little switch. He would, in general, bear correction with wonderful patience and humility, supplicating with piteous and penitent cries and actions. But sometimes, when chastisement became intolerable, he would suddenly start off, and take refuge in the next tree. Here he would console himself with chattering, and adjusting his feathers, if he was not lucky enough to carry off with him some of my property, such as a pen-knife, or a piece of paper; in this case, he would boast and brag very loudly. At other times, he would soon return, and with every token of penitence and submission, approach me for forgiveness and reconciliation. On these occasions, he would sometimes return, and settle on the ground, near my feet, and diffidently advance, with soft-soothing expressions, and a sort of circumlocution; and sit silently by me, for a considerable time. At other times, he would confidently come and settle upon my shoulder, and there solicit my favour and pardon, with soothing expressions, and caressing gesticulations; not omitting to tickle me about the neck, ears, &c.

Tom appeared to be influenced by a lively sense of domination (an attribute prevalent in the animal creation): but, nevertheless, his ambition, in this respect, seemed to be moderated by a degree of reason, or reflection. He was, certainly, by no means tyrannical, or cruel. It must be confessed, however, that he aimed to be master of every animal around him, in order to secure his independence and his self-preservation, and for the acquisition and defence of his natural rights. Yet, in general, he was peaceable and social with all the animals about him.

He was the most troublesome and teasing to a large dog, whom he could never conquer. This old dog, from natural fidelity,

and a particular attachment, commonly lay down near me, when I was at rest, reading or writing under the shade of a pear-tree, in the garden, near the house. Tom (I believe from a passion of jealousy) would approach me, with his usual caresses, and flattery, and after securing my notice and regard, he would address the dog in some degree of complaisance, and by words and actions; and, if he could obtain access to him, would tickle him with his bill, jump upon him, and compose him self, for a little while. It was evident, however, that this seeming sociability was mere artifice to gain an opportunity to practise some mischievous trick; for no sooner did he observe the old dog to be dozing, than he would be sure to pinch his lips, and pluck his beard. At length, however, these bold and hazardous achievements had nearly cost him his life: for, one time, the dog being highly provoked, he made so sudden and fierce a snap, that the crow narrowly escaped with his head. After this, Tom was wary, and used every caution and deliberation in his approaches, examining the dog's eyes and movements, to be sure that he was really asleep, and at last would not venture nearer than his tail, and then by slow, silent, and wary steps, in a sideways, or oblique manner, spreading his legs, and reaching forward. In this position, he would pluck the long hairs of the dog's tail. But he would always take care to place his feet in such a manner as to be ready to start off, when the dog was roused and snapped at him.

It would be endless (observes my ingenious friend, in the conclusion of his entertaining account of the crow) to recount instances of this bird's understanding, cunning, and operations, which, certainly, exhibited incontestible demonstrations of a regular combination of ideas, premeditation, reflection, and contrivance, which influenced his operations.

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2014–2016**

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A Word from the President

This winter's snow and ice working on our landscapes here in Bartram country remind us why William chose to leave his fieldwork behind to enjoy the firesides, companionship, and conviviality of his hosts along the coast. But BTC members are busy nonetheless. New markers are going up in Georgia and are in the works for Louisiana; many thanks to our BTC marker chair T.R. Henderson. (see story in this newsletter) "Following in the Bartrams' Footsteps," the marvelous exhibition of works by contemporary botanical illustrators inspired by the work of John and William Bartram, has appeared in Philadelphia and Bradenton, and will be moving to the Atlanta History Center for a run from March 19–June 17. (see this newsletter) And with the invaluable help of BTC board member Sam Carr, we have begun to plan for the 2015 Bartram Trail Conference in Palatka, Florida, on October 16–18. Thanks to all the local Bartram supporters and the Palatka and Putnam County governments for inspiring a renaissance of awareness regarding the Bartram heritage in their region. Save that date and in the meantime, visit their website bartram.putnam-fl.com to whet your appetite for a visit.

I'm also pleased to see how William Bartram continues to inspire young people. Last fall a group of students from the New Media Institute Certificate Program at the University of Georgia created a website exploring Bartram sites in the Athens area. (Please see <http://bartram.mynmi.net/wordpress/>) In addition to text, the site offers audio and video interviews with poet Philip Lee Williams, BTC board member Brad Sanders, landscape artist Philip Juras, forest biologist Scott Merkle, and me. I appreciated the great excuse to get out of the office and sit on the banks of the Oconee River at the foot of the hill where Bartram took in the view in 1773! I hope this project by Kaitlyn Park, Chelsea Brewer, Jenna Huckaby, and Jason Flynn will inspire you to do the same for your part of Bartram country.

Dorinda G. Dallmeyer

Fothergill Report

It is my pleasure to report to the Conference how the Fothergill Research Award advanced my graduate career and historical training. In 2013 I completed my masters thesis, "Visions of Terrestrial Happiness: Natural History, Empire, and the Environment of Colonial North America, 1751-1791" at North Carolina State University under the direction of Judy Kértesz. I began that project because of my interest in John Bartram's *Observations* and William Bartram's *Travels*, and in part because of my research background in the history of science, environmental history, and imperial history. I argued in my thesis that interpreting the careers of the Bartrams necessarily entailed recog-

nizing the overlapping routes, objectives, and trajectories of natural history and empire-building in eighteenth century North America. I organized the project into three chapters. Chapter one queried the *Observations* for its political and scientific context, including John Bartram's speculative ethnographic notes on Native Americans. Chapters two and three examined William Bartram's description of the southeastern landscape, arguing that the *Travels* preserved, and complicated, in the early republic a style of natural history informed by an imperial imaginary formed in the British American colonies. Using funds from the Fothergill Award, I conducted archival research at the American Philosophical Society Library, The Library Company, and the John Bowman Bartram Special Collections Library

at Bartram's Garden, where Joel Fry assisted my research. During that research trip I investigated sources relating to the Bartram family and other natural histories written in the colonial period and the early republic. In Fall 2013 I began a PhD in History at Rutgers University. I intend to continue research on early American natural history and Native American environmental history. I am privileged to be a student of James Delbourgo, a leading historian of science in the Atlantic World. Thank you for this generous award and for your continued support of scholarship on the Bartrams.

Christopher M. Blakley
PhD student, Rutgers University
February 2014

Bartram Trail Conference Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Primary Areas of Interest in the Bartram Trail

(try to be specific about geographic locations and activities, i.e., specific Bartram sites, and whether or not you like to hike, read, garden, etc.)

Your dues support our newsletter, web site, Fothergill Fellowship Awards and other Bartram Trail Conference projects.

Annual Member Dues.
Please check one.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 |
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Please check one of the choices:

- I am a new member.
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You may also join online at <http://www.bartramtrail.org/pages/join.html>
all you need is a PayPal account!



CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY AT THE ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER PRESENTS

*F*OLLOWING *in the* BARTRAMS' FOOTSTEPS

Come explore world-class botanical artwork, rare books, historic maps, intriguing artifacts, and a beautiful outdoor exhibition that brings the exhibition artwork to life!

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A companion exhibition featuring holdings from the Cherokee Garden Library and Atlanta History Center collections will include historic books, such as William Bartram's *Travels* (1791) and William Stork's *A Description of East-Florida with a Journal Kept by John Bartram of Philadelphia, Botanist to His Majesty for the Floridas* (1769); rare maps of the Southeast; and artifacts of Native American culture. An outdoor living component in the Mary Howard Gilbert Memorial Quarry Garden of the Atlanta History Center brings the exhibition artwork to life, featuring the very plants that are depicted and many more the Bartrams studied and documented. Arguably the most important of the hundreds of plants they found on their travels was the Franklin tree, *Franklinia alatamaha*, which is now believed to be extinct in the wild. The State Champion Franklin tree is in the Quarry Garden and will be a central feature to this outdoor exhibition.

March 19 – June 17, 2014

Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday, Noon – 5:00 PM

For more information: AtlantaHistoryCenter.com/Bartram or 404.814.4000

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