The Bartram Trail Conference
October 11–13, 2013
The Mountain, Scaly Mountain, North Carolina

The Bartram Trail Conference will be holding its biennial conference along the Bartram Trail in North Carolina. This fall we will meet at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center—just west of Highlands, NC. The Mountain is perched on Little Scaly Mountain on the Blue Ridge at 4,200 feet, with outstanding views of the Blue Valley below. Two miles to the west is the Bartram Trail, extending to the south into Georgia and to the north over Scaly Mountain. We will hike a short segment of the trail on Sunday morning. The conference will start on Friday evening with a display of traditional 18th Century Crafts:

1. Rivercane Basket making—Ramo- na Lossie
2. Stamped Pottery—Mary Thompson
3. Moccasin making and blowgun demonstration—Sonny Ledford

On Saturday morning we will have an exciting program that will feature:

1. “A Cherokee Looks at William Bartram”—presentation by Tom Belt
2. Botany Panel lead by Dan Pittillo
4. “The Cowee Townsite and Cherokee History”—presentation by Tyler Howe

On Saturday afternoon we will take a driving tour into the “Vale of Cowee,” ending our trip at the Cowee Mound along the Little Tennessee River. On Sunday we will finish our gathering on the foot trail with a hike.

A schedule of events and instructions for registration are found on page 2.

Looking forward to seeing you in North Carolina!

Conference Registration
1. There are two options for participants:
   - Full Registration
     2 nights lodging, 6 meals and the full program
     The fee for full registration is $225 (double occupancy fee per person for two sharing a room). This fee includes lodging (double occupancy), all meals and events. Given the limited number of rooms at The Mountain, we are encouraging as many registrants as possible to sign up for double occupancy—that is having a roommate. If that will not work, we can make on a request basis a single occupancy room available for $295. Please note that fees listed here do not include North Carolina sales tax.

Please hurry up and register! Given the popularity of The Mountain as a fall resort we are encouraging you to register as soon as possible. We are likely to lose any rooms that we do not reserve by the middle of August.

continued on page 2

Officer and members of the board
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Board: Kathryn Braund (Alabama), John Hall (Alabama), Thomas Hallcock (Florida)
Bartram Trail Conference Schedule

Friday
4:00–6:00 . . . . Check-in and Late Registration
   Registration fee: $225 for double occupancy
5:30 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Reception
6:30 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Dinner
7:30 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Welcome to The Mountain—Chuck
7:45 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Demonstration of traditional Eighteenth Century Crafts:
   Ramona Lossie, rivercane basket making
   Mary Thompson, stamped pottery
   Sonny Ledford, moccasin making and blowgun demonstration

Saturday
9:00 . . . . . . . Open the meeting
9:15 . . . . . . . “A Cherokee Looks at William Bartram”
   Tom Belt, Elder-in Residence, Cherokee Language Instructor at Western Carolina University
10:00 . . . . . . . Botany Panel: “The Botany of the Cherokee Mountains, Then and Now”
   Dan Pittillo, Ed Schwartzman, Jack Johnston
11:00 . . . . . . . Break
1:15 . . . . . . . “The Cowee Townsite and Cherokee History”
   Tyler Howe, Tribal Historic Preservation Specialist, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
2:00 . . . . . . . Following Billy into the Vale of Cowee
   Leave The Mountain by van for a driving tour down river to Nikwasi, Watauga, and Cowee, with the customary “repast” at Cowee—Cowee Mound, north of Franklin, NC on SR 28.
6:00 . . . . . . . Return to the Mountain
7:00 . . . . . . . Dinner

Sunday
9:00–1:00 . . . . Hike on The North Carolina Bartram Trail to Scaly Mountain
   Lunch and Tour of the Bartram Botanical Trail at the Highlands Biological Station

Angela Fay Martin, Brent Martin, and Debbie Boots inspecting Cowee Mound
The First Retail Sales of William Bartram’s Travel s in Philadelphia and the Mystery of the Eight Extra Plates

By Joel Fry

Earlier this year Nancy Hoffmann, Bill Cahill, Jim Green of the Library Company of Philadelphia, and I had some back and forth discussion via e-mail about the publication of William Bartram’s Travels in Philadelphia in 1791. This led Jim to search through digital versions of a number of historic Philadelphia newspapers, and he discovered what seems to be the first advertisement for retail sale. The Philadelphia printer and bookseller Thomas Dobson announced Travels for sale January 4, 1792 in the newspaper The Mail or Claypoole’s Daily Advertiser:

Just Published Sold by THOMAS DOBSON, BARTRAM’S TRAV-ELS Into the back Parts of North and South Carolina, Georgia, and East and West Florida, with a number of elegant Engravings.

Price Two Dollars.

N. B. Those Gentlemen who may choose to have the extra Plates, (eight in number) maybe supplied with them, either plain or coloured,

By Thomas Dobson

Jan. 3.

This short advertisement adds a great deal of new and significant information to the few facts that have been available about the publication of William Bartram’s book.

Much of the available story of the publication of Travels was gathered together by Francis Harper over the course of his research on Bartram from the 1930s–1950s. Harper wrote an article for the American Philosophical Society Library Bulletin for 1945 that detailed what he had discovered about the two successive subscription efforts to get Travels in print from 1786 and 1790. And a summary of the same chronology appeared in the introduction to Harper’s “Naturalist Edition” of Travels in 1958. But Harper remained unsure about when Travels was published in Philadelphia—“sometime after August 26, 1791” or how many copies might have been printed—“It would be surprising if more than a thousand copies of the 1791 edition were ever sold.” The copyright notice at the front of the Philadelphia edition of Travels, records the book (or maybe only the title) was registered in the District of Pennsylvania “on the twenty-sixth day of August, in the sixteenth year of the Independence of the United States of America”—which is August 26, 1791.

The discovery of this January 4, 1792 ad brings to light when the general public could first buy copies of the new book. Subscribers may have got their pre-paid copies slightly before this date, at the end of 1791. This ad also finally solves the mystery of the eight large engraved illustrations labeled “Bart. Journ.” that appear folded into a few rare copies of the 1791 edition of William Bartram’s Travels. These “Extra Plates,” engraved from drawings by William Bartram, were part of the original publication of the book in Philadelphia. But they were a more expensive option for “Those Gentlemen who may chuse”—and from the very, very few known examples of these extra illustrations; few people choose to pay for the extra plates.

Thomas Dobson, the advertiser, was one of the best known booksellers and publisher/printers in Philadelphia at the end of the 18th century. Dobson did not either publish or print William Bartram’s Travels, but he seems to be the first to offer copies of the book for retail sale—likely after copies were distributed to the subscribers. According to Jim Green’s search through Philadelphia newspapers, no one else advertised Travels for sale until June 1792 when it appeared in a list of the printer and book dealer Mathew Carey, along with other book titles.

The first subscription prospectus for William Bartram’s Travels was announced by the Philadelphia printer Enoch Story, Jr. in 1786, and the proposed octavo book was to be priced “One Dollar in blue boards” with three shilling and nine pence paid on subscribing. All the subscription locations Story listed in his proposal were Philadelphia booksellers. Little is known why this first effort failed. About all that is known is Story wrote Benjamin Franklin in 1786 to enlist his support for the subscription, and by the end of 1787 something had gone wrong, possibly financial, or possibly but not certainly a result of interference by young Benjamin Smith Barton.

In 1790 a new printing partnership of James & Johnson in Philadelphia launched a new subscription effort. The prospective book doubled in price—“two Spanish milled dollars, in an handsome octavo volume, neatly bound and lettered.” The new prospectus asked for subscriptions for 200 copies before the printing would begin. And in the second effort subscriptions were taken in Philadelphia, New York, Charleston, South Carolina, and Worcester, Massachusetts, “and the principal book-sellers on the Continent.” This suggests there were at least 200 subscribers and maybe the full run of the first edition might have been 400 or 500 copies, but no one really knows.

Until now, it has never been known that Travels was marketed in Philadelphia in three versions: the subscription version with eight small engraved illustrations and a map; and in two versions of a deluxe or extra illustrated edition with eight additional large engraved natural history illustrations, either plain or colored.

A few rare copies of the extra-illustrated version of the first edition of Travels have been known for some time. William Bartram gave an uncolored copy with the extra plates to the Darby Library Company.
ny in 1793 (now at the Library Company of Philadelphia), and a colored copy with the extra plates owned by William's friend William Hamilton of The Woodlands is now at the Morton Arboretum Library. Another copy with extra plates may be at Cornell University, and an unbound colored set of the extra plates was owned by Benjamin Smith Bartram (now at the APS Library). These few extra-illustrated copies of *Travels* have been considered a mystery or ignored. Francis Harper writing in 1946 thought the extra illustrations were only engravers proofs, and “never published.”

This new advertisement from January 1792 confirms that the eight extra plates were published and were considered a luxury option for the first edition. This two or multi-tiered mode of publishing books was a common practice in Europe. The $2 subscription fee did not cover these extra illustrations, so a question remains, who funded the engraving and printing of these extra plates—the publishers, or William Bartram himself or a wealthy sponsor? *Travels* was an expensive subscription book, and likely expensive to put in print. Eight quarto format engravings added a substantial expense. The rare copies of the book with the extra plates suggest it was an expensive experiment in multi-tiered publishing in the young United States that failed. At present there is no evidence that these eight extra plates for the first editions of Bartram’s *Travels* ever made it to Europe, and none of the many European editions of *Travels* ever included these extra illustrations. The standard Philadelphia subscription version of the first edition was copied in London in 1792, and all the subsequent European editions likely copied from the first London edition. Ironically, copies of the extra plates might have found a more willing audience among wealthy collectors in Europe.

All eight of the extra plates are signed “W. Bartram Delin. Trenchard Sculp.”—meaning that original illustrations by William Bartram (the originals are now lost) were engraved on copper plates by James Trenchard, a well-known Philadelphia engraver, who also signed the frontispiece engraving of the “Long Warrior” for *Travels*.


There isn’t room to reproduce all eight extra plates here, but they have been put in print recently in several places and are easiest to find in Tom Hallock and Nancy Hoffmann’s edition *William Bartram, the Search for Nature’s Design*, University of Georgia Press: 2010, where they were reproduced together on pages 293–301, as figures 69–76. The unbound set at the American Philosophical Society once owned by Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton can also be viewed through the APS Digital Collections http://diglib.amphilsoc.org/collections/animations but it takes some searching to pull them out of the many William Bartram illustrations and engravings in the Violetta Delsfield-Benjamin Smith Barton Collection.

Even before discovery of this 1792 advertisement, Nancy Hoffman, Bill Cahill, and I were planning a census of all the copies we can find from the first Philadelphia edition of William Bartram’s *Travels*. There is an often-repeated sense that *Travels* on its first appearance in Philadelphia in 1791 was a failure, and in part this idea comes from Francis Harper’s many writings. But there really aren’t facts available to demonstrate much about success or failure. A census of copies of the 1791 edition in libraries and private hands may produce a better estimate of how many copies were printed for the first edition, and may help demonstrate who owned and read William Bartram’s book. And we may turn up a few more copies with the extra plates.

We will eventually have a form and likely a web link where information on copies from the first edition can be submitted. Anyone interested can send an e-mail about known copies of the 1791 *Travels* to me at Bartram’s Garden: jfry@bartramsgarden.org.

**References**

Harper, Francis


**Using the story of a rock-star naturalist to drive tourism**

*By Ron Cunningham*

PALATKA -- Before there was John Muir, before there was Archie Carr, there was William Bartram. A rock star among naturalists.

He was the son of a Royal Botanist who went on to eclipse his father, John.

He wrote perhaps the first scientific book ever published in the Colonies, his wildly popular *Travels*, in 1791.

He ventured from civilized Philadelphia to the East Florida wilderness on a voyage of discovery to draw and record subtropical flora and fauna that few of his contemporaries had ever seen.

He eluded mean-tempered alligators and once waded ashore to kill a very large rattlesnake on the banks of the St. Johns River at the request of the local Seminoles. Why, Indiana Jones himself hated and feared snakes.

Bartram was a personal friend of Long Warrior, the “King of the Seminoles.”

And he rubbed elbows with Long Warrior’s brother, Cowkeeper, who, I suppose, you might call the Prince of Paynes Prairie.

Cowkeeper nicknamed Bartram “Puc-puggy,” flower hunter.

I’m just saying that the man rocked.

“There was no more popular naturalist..."
than Mr. Bartram,” is the way Sam Carr puts it in a near reverential tone.

And Carr ought to know because he is the chair of Putnam County’s Bartram Trails Committee.

As a matter of historical record, William Bartram was also Florida’s first “ecotourist.” And on at least four occasions between 1765 and 1774, he passed through what is now Palatka on his expeditions up and down the St. Johns and as far west as the great Alachua Savannah, near present-day Gainesville.

Bartram’s unofficial headquarters was Spalding’s Lower Store, near Palatka’s Stoke’s Landing. And he is known to have indulged in the occasional smoke and watermelon feast with the locals in the course of his jaunts up and down river.

“Here being seated or reclining ourselves after smoking tobacco, baskets of the choicest fruits were brought and set before us,” he wrote.

These days, Bartram’s life and times matter a great deal to Carr and others who live in and around this struggling paper mill town.

Because they believe that Palatka’s and Putnam County’s economic destiny can be rebuilt on a base of nature and history tourism. On greenways and blueways; hiking, biking and paddling paths. And, mostly, on an insatiable human curiosity to learn more about those who came here before us and what they did and why.

“We own it, this is our history,” Carr says.

Admittedly, this is something of a leap of faith in a state that built its tourism empire on theme parks and golf courses and beach condos and outlet malls.

But bringing Bartram back to life, telling his story in an interesting and compelling fashion, is already something of a cottage industry around here. It is also an enterprise that has joined together in common cause the city of Palatka, Putnam County, the St. Johns Water Management District, the Florida Council for the Humanities, local business and civic organizations, environmentalists and others.

To help enlighten the curious there will be a Bartram Headquarters kiosk erected not far from where the lower store was located. There are miles of marked bicycle and driving routes—including a 100-mile circuit to Paynes Prairie and back to commemorate Puc-puggy’s encounter with Cowkeeper.

There is under construction a website devoted to Bartram’s writings and observations about Florida’s great, slow, north-flowing river. There are designated kayak trails and hiking paths that enable modern-day naturalists to trace Bartram’s movements from Beecher’s Point, to Mount Royal, to Lake George, to Drayton Island, to Salt Springs and points north and south. There are ambitions to bring water taxis to the riverfront. And to tie it all together posted QR codes along the way will enable travelers equipped with smartphones to take self-guided, virtual Bartram tours.

Putnam County is coming relatively late to the Bartram Trail market. There are trails and markers and monuments dedicated to Bartram that stretch from Philadelphia, through the Carolinas and beyond.

But Carr argues that the great body of Bartram’s most meaningful work was done right here in Northeast Florida. On the St. Johns. And that Palatka is, by rights, Bartram Central.

“We want to make this an adventure,” he says of Putnam County’s ambition to be the nature-and-trails hub of Florida ecotourism. “We want people to be able to retrace his steps.”

If Carr is right, it might be the beginning of an economic renaissance for this small city on a great river.

According to National Geographic, 55 million Americans can now be accurately described as "geotourists.” “These travelers have ceaseless expectations for unique and culturally authentic travel experiences that protect and preserve the ecological and cultural environment,” National Geographic says. “These groups are different, but all are affluent, travel frequently, and have strong geotourism inclinations.”

Listen, nobody says you have to come down here and wrestle alligators or kill rattlesnakes to earn your ecotourist spurs. But you don’t have to linger very long on the banks of this broad, eternal river to sense that William Bartram was onto something when he left the comforts of home and set his sights on this magnificent wilderness we are this 500th anniversary year calling “La Florida.”

“We had a pleasant and prosperous voyage down the grand St. Johns,” Bartram wrote of his Travels.

William Bartram was here. The St. Johns flows on still.

Ron Cunningham is former editorial page editor of The Sun and executive director of Bike Florida.

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Alexander Wilson: The Scot Who Founded American Ornithology

Edward H. Burtt, Jr.
William E. Davis, Jr.

Audubon was not the father of American ornithology. That honorific belongs to Alexander Wilson, whose encyclopedic American Ornithology established a distinctive approach that emphasized the observation of live birds. In the first full-length study to reproduce all of Wilson’s unpublished drawings for the nine-volume Ornithology, Edward Burtt and William Davis illustrate Wilson’s pioneering and, today, underappreciated achievement as the first ornithologist to describe the birds of the North American wilderness.

Abandoning early ambitions to become a poet in the mold of his countryman Robert Burns, Wilson emigrated from Scotland to settle near Philadelphia, where the botanist William Bartram encouraged his proclivity for art and natural
Bartram Trail Conference 2013 Biennial Meeting

Important!
Call for Silent Auction Items

There will be a Silent Auction at the meeting in October! All proceeds will go to support the Bartram Trail Conference.

Here is the procedure!
Donate outdoor, natural history or Bartram-related items that our members might like to bid on. Donate from your own collection, buy specifically for this auction, arrange to have them donated through your business or business associates, collect it off the beach..... These can range from relatively minor to fairly expensive. A tax letter verifying your gift will be provided, upon request.

Here are some Ideas from previous auctions:
- Framed color poster of the town of Yuchi as it appeared when Bartram visited
- 1928 Birds of Florida book
- Franklinia tile trivet
- Give basket of souvenirs from Florida
- Hand drawn, matted copy of one of Bartram’s drawings
- Lighting whelk shell
- Pair of alligator salt shakers
- Hand-blown Williamsburg reproduction bottle
- Antique clay jug from Alabama
- Any Bartram or Bartram site related book
- Coffee-table book on Alabama Rivers
- Prints and paintings on nature or 18th century historic subjects

Please let me know what you are bringing:
Contact: TRHenderson
Cell Phone: 229-255-1395
E-mail: trhender@gapac.com
Address: 720 South Main Street, Headland, AL 36345

Knowing Nature: Art and Science in Philadelphia, 1740-1840
Edited by Amy R. W. Meyers; with the assistance of Lisa L. Ford

Philadelphia developed the most active scientific community in early America, fostering an influential group of naturalist-artists, including William Bartram, Charles Wilson Peale, Alexander Wilson, and John James Audubon, whose work has been addressed by many monographic studies. However, as the groundbreaking essays in Knowing Nature demonstrate, the examination of nature stimulated not only forms of artistic production traditionally associated with scientific practice of the day, but processes of making not ordinarily linked to science. The often surprisingly intimate connections between and among these creative activities and the objects they engendered are explored through the essays in this book, challenging the hierarchy that is generally assumed to have been at play in the study of nature, from the natural sciences through the fine and decorative arts, and, ultimately, popular and material culture. Indeed, the many ways in which the means of knowing nature were reversed—in which artistic and artisanal culture informed scientific interpretations of the natural world—forms a central theme of this pioneering publication.

Two chapters of special note:

Amy R. W. Meyers is Director of the Yale Center for British Art.
Lisa L. Ford is Associate Head of Research at the Yale Center for British Art.
9 ½ by 12, 432 pages, 325 color illustrations, $65.00
John Bartram and his family influenced generations of artists and explorers, by modeling passionate observation and discovery of nature. The American Society of Botanical Artists, in collaboration with Bartram’s Garden in Philadelphia, PA, has curated an exhibition of original contemporary botanical artworks depicting plants discovered and introduced by the Bartrams, American pioneers in botany and horticulture.

Focusing on the native plant discoveries made by John and William Bartram in their travels throughout the eastern wilderness between the 1730’s and 1790’s, the exhibition of forty-four original artworks allows a fresh look at their seminal body of knowledge and art. An illustrated, full-color booklet has been published to elucidate the exhibition’s artworks and their links to John and William Bartram. Individual artwork captions and introductory panels help viewers interpret this important history, as well as the role contemporary artists play in depicting these plants for today’s audience and preserving their record for generations to come.

For more information, contact
Carol Woodin, Director of Exhibitions
American Society of Botanical Artists
at The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY 10458-5126
866.691.9080 exhibitions@asba-art.org www.asba-art.org