The Bartram Trail Conference biennial conference will be held in Palatka, Florida where Bartram aficionados are invited to paddle, hike and bike the same route traveled by William Bartram. The locals are proud of Bartram's description of Palatka's inhabitants, “They were civil and appeared happy in their situation.”

The conference will celebrate the 250th anniversary of John and William Bartram's trip to the St. Johns River.

Keynote speaker:
Dr. Judith Magee, Curator of the Bartram Exhibits for the Natural History Museum of London and author of *The Art And Science Of William Bartram*, will be the keynote speaker. The Conference begins Friday evening with a banquet featuring Magee, who assisted the Palatka group with their Bartram Trail project. The full list of presenters is impressive.

The conference:
All meetings will be held at the Ravine Gardens State Park. The conference will feature four panels on Saturday discussing Bartram's St. Johns River travels. The first will be “The Art of William Bartram” moderated by Dorinda Dallmeyer with Judith Magee, Thomas Hallock, Denis Byrd, and Nancy Hoffmann. The next panel will be “The Science of William Bartram” moderated by Thomas Hallock and include Joel Fry, Bill Belleville and Dick Franz, a local natural historian. Kathryn Braund will moderate the third panel whose subject will be “Bartram and the slaves and Indians on the St. Johns River.” Speakers will include Braund, Kathleen Deagan and Pat Wickman. Finally Chuck Spornick will moderate a discussion of “Bartram’s Trail on the St. Johns River.” The conference hopes to create a movement to connect the “string of pearls” that make up the Bartram trails throughout the United States. Included on the panel will be Dean Campbell, a local trail designer and river scientist, writer Brad Sanders, and a speaker from the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society. There will be time for discussion at the end of each panel. This is a most impressive gathering of Bartram scholars.

The frolic:
And there will be fun too. After the meetings on Saturday the conference will “Frolic” on Palatka's riverfront featuring Billy Bartram and his favorite foods and beverages. There will be local entertainment and access to the new St. Johns River Educational Center. A moonlight cruise on the St. Johns is planned.

Tours by foot, boat, bike or bus:
The Putnam Blueways and Trails Citizen Support Organization will offer tours of Bartram sites on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday that will take you to many of the
Bartram at the Museum of Alabama

By Terry Henderson

In 1775 and 1776, William Bartram journeyed through the Creek territory that was to become Alabama. That story became part of Travels of William Bartram, to be enjoyed by generations of those who love great literature, Southern nature, Native Americans, colonial history, and adventures. Travels continues to be an important resource in the study of the Southern colonial landscape, inhabitants of the colonial frontier, and the Southern Indians of historic times.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) recently revised and expanded its exhibition galleries, which now consist of The Land of Alabama, The First Alabamians, Alabama Voices, and Alabama Treasures, collectively known as the Museum of Alabama.

Bartram Trail Conference (BTC) member Dr. John Hall led the design effort for the gallery’s telling the story of the “Land of Alabama,” and is the narrator for the 10-minute video included in the exhibit. Though Bartram is not mentioned in the display, Hall says that Bartram observed the Civil War, industrialization, world wars, civil rights, the race to the moon, and more. One of those voices is that of William Bartram whose descriptions of the Creek Indians, the culture, and their towns are central to the exhibition on the Creek Indians.

Auburn University Professor of History and former BTC President Kathryn Braund, retired Auburn University Montgomery professor of Anthropology Craig Sheldon, University of South Alabama professor Greg Wessel, and the team at ADAH redrew areas of archaeological and historical sources, including narratives and sketches by Bernard Romans, Benjamin Hawkins, and particularly William Bartram to create displays highlighting Creek Indian history. The Native American exhibits were well researched and provide very precise, detailed information through handsome displays.

The first thing one sees upon entering the Alabama Voices Gallery is a dugout canoe pulled up on the bank of some imaginary Alabama stream against a backdrop of river cane, as if Bartram has just left it to check out a mound or an old town site. Nearby is a diorama of a typical Creek town, largely based on Bartram’s writing and drawings of characteristic Creek towns. Quotations from his works are also featured in the exhibit. A pattern in the floor centered in a sitting area represents the spiral fire of the rounda structure of the town. On display is one of the French four-pounder cannon that Bartram observed at the old Fort Toulouse, along with the kinds of household utensils, trade goods, and tools of daily life that Bartram observed at the old Fort Toulouse, along with his precise description, supplemented by his drawings, were used along with archaeological findings as well as the testimony of other first-hand observers to produce a fine visual representation of an 18th century Creek town that Bartram would immediately recognize.

Braund says of Bartram: “Bartram was more than 40,000 visitors and hosted approximately 525 school groups.”

By Dick Franz, Natural Historian, University of Florida

American beautyberry (Callicarpa americana), Bartram’s airplant (Tillandsia bartramii), brilliant violet berries still on the tree, and many more oddities.

3 sites identified within the county. Visit the site of Spalding’s Lower Store, see smoking alligators, climb Mt. Royal, see the 6-foot “trout” sculpture, and enjoy the “beautiful and delicate” blind mosquitoes just like William Bartram did on his adventures on the St. Johns River. You will be offered guided paddling trips, biking tours, boat tours, motor coach tours, and walking tours. Signups will be available before the conference from a link on the BTC website.

Registration:
Later in March registration for the conference will be available on the Bartram Trail Conference website, so stay tuned. Hotel information will be provided. For local information you may contact the Bartram Trails in Putnam County at bartramputnam@gmail.com or visit their website at http://bartram.putnamfl.com. They will be glad to send their brochure detailing the 80 miles of waterways and many miles of biking and hiking trails.

Sam Carr, BTC Director, Chair of the Bartram Trail in Putnam County Committee
386-937-3901, Scan304Paul.com

See plants that Bartram identified on the St. Johns River

As a conference goer, you may have the opportunity to see plants that William Bartram described as he wandered the St. Johns River valley. Many of these special plants are unique to Florida, and some will still be in flower during the conference. We encourage conference attendees to take advantage of the bike, water, and bus tours to Bartram sites. See plants that Bartram identified in the 6-foot “trout” sculpture, and enjoy the brief shade for him.

The Museum of Alabama is an all-day destination. In the Alabama's capitol, at 624 Washington Avenue, admission is free. The Museum of Alabama is housed in the former state capitol building, on the site of the 18th century community of Montgomery. The building was designed by the architects of the new State Capitol, James B. and William Collins. The museum is dedicated to the story of the “Alabama” as both a name and a state. The story of the “Alabama” is told through a range of themes, including: First Alabamians, Alabama Voices, and History and former BTC President Kathryn Braund says of the exhibit: “Bartram’s writings are incredibly valuable for their wide range of topics as well as the minute details about ordinary things. I consulted Bartram for specifics about clothing, foodways, architecture—you name it—throughout the long planning phase. His work was particularly helpful for the diorama, when his precise description, supplemented by his drawings, were used along with archaeological findings as well as the testimony of other first-hand observers to produce a fine visual representation of a Creek town that Bartram would immediately recognize.”

Sheldon says of Bartram: “Bartram was not only one of our best observers of 18th century Creek culture, but he populated the towns with actual people going about their daily lives.” One interesting Bartram connection not on display, but residing in storage along with other treasures of Alabama’s past, is an oak tree stump thought to be from the council oak at the important Creek town of Tuskabatchee, a town Bartram visited. Possibly this oak provided brief shade for him.

The Museum of Alabama is housed in the Alabama Department of Archives and History, right across the street from Alabama’s capitol, at 624 Washington Avenue. Admission is free. The Museum of Alabama is an all-day destination. In the calendar year 2014 the museum counted more than 40,000 visitors and hosted approximately 525 school groups.
Bartram Trail Conference members are well aware, historical markers referencing William Bartram’s passage2 dapple southern environs. Indeed, there are several texts that rely on Bartram’s trace to invigorate discovery of the parklands and scenic byways through the south. While his mark on American natural history is indelible, it is worth noting the historical context for Bartram’s Travels. As a result of the Seven Years’ War and the Treaty of Paris in 1763, British acquired territories east of the Mississippi River, including Florida. Georgia and regions west were very much Indian Territory, and Florida, though some parts were settled by the Spanish, was essentially unknown to the British at the time. In short, from the Western European perspective, the regions Bartram travelled were terra incognita.

Travels is a particularly curious document with regard to geographical knowledge. Indeed, it is well documented that Travels does not accurately follow Bartram’s true trajectory and timeline. Why he would have written so is subject to informed speculation, many believing the vagueness is a product of something other than scattered notes or uncertainty accruing through the fifteen years that passed between the travels and the Travels’ publication. It is certain that historians and enthusiasts work diligently to locate Bartram’s trace in the landscape. Those familiar with Louis De Vorsey may recall that inclusion of the Bartram maps was for the bicentennial and Cappon felt he did not engage a cartographer or create a map himself. Lester Cappon and Petchenik’s reliance on Harper to create larger scale maps in their efforts to establish Bartram park areas.

An exploration of cartographic knowledge at the time perhaps may illuminate his geographical uncertainties. Three factors seem to be relevant, the information that Bartram would have had available to him at the time of his journey, the cartography and survey knowledge available to him in the regions he visited, and the information he derived from his travel companions and guides.

What maps would Bartram have viewed before venturing south? Representations of places were found in maps, atlases, geography, and travel accounts of the time. Famous British cartographers of the period include John Mitchell, Emanuel Bowen, Patrick Gordon, John Senex, Thomas Jefferys, and Thomas Kitchin. Many of these based their work on the earlier maps of Herman Moll. Their maps resembled more what Robert Pauldett describes as a “relational and processional geography,” noting the names of rivers and towns in the order they are encountered. Traders saw themselves as holders of proprietary knowledge of place, and would have been reluctant to share information about location on modern maps for fear of losing economic advantage by precisely fixing the locations of trading partners and trading routes. Perhaps Bartram respected this in creating the map.

Perhaps most relevant to Bartram as he set out on his northern journey was a cartographer’s knowledge and well-developed conceptions of space and place. Nevertheless, Bartram’s descriptions of his progress are so vivid and detailed that Bartram’s true trajectory and timeline. Perhaps most relevant to Bartram as he set out on his northern journey was a cartographer’s

## Book of Interest

Eleanor Stanford, Bartram’s Garden: Carolina Mennock Press, 2015. This is part one of a three-part poem called “Bartram’s Garden.”

1. What appears untidy and lacking in design is in fact intentional: quiet milkweed beside the configuration of red fireweed, the braackst. Schuykill and Delaware Valley. John knew the author lays his borders, then steps back. General Washington, strolling the overgrown river trail, pursed his lips; what sort of father lets his seed run wild, allows entanglements between sweetspire and the common daisy?

Eleanor Stanford is the author of one other poetry collection, The Book of Sheep, and a memoir Historia, Historia: Two Years in the Cape Verde Islands.


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William Bartram, Naturalist and Traveller

By Stephen Goldfarb

The enduring interest in and the importance of the life and work of William Bartram (1739–1823) can be found in the recently published The Golden Age of Botanical Art (University of Chicago Press, 2013) by Martyn Rix. In this beautiful volume, Bartram receives only a single page, which is a reproduction of a lovely watercolor of sugar maple leaves and seeds he painted. This artwork is dated 1755, when Bartram was still an adolescent.

One of numerous children, young Billy, as he was known to his family and friends, spent the first decade of his adult life failing at several mercantile ventures and as a plantation owner in Florida. By the age of thirty, Billy had few prospects and a lot of debt. Bartram was, however, not without talent, most notably as a draftsman and painter (as evidenced in his watercolor of the sugar maple leaves). This led to a career-changing turn of events.

Bartram’s father John had sent several of his son’s artworks to England, where they came to the attention of John Fothergill, a wealthy physician who was interested in botany. Fothergill financed William Bartram’s research and travels so that previously unknown plants could be added to his private garden, second in size only to the garden at Kew. Research trips were not new to William, as he had traveled extensively with his father in search of new botanical specimens, including a journey to Florida in the mid-1760s.

Bartram’s travels, which began in the spring of 1773 and ended in January 1777, resulted in his Travels Through the Southern States of North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, a testament to the continued interest in and influence of Bartram on contemporary historians and environmentalists. If reading Bartram’s Travels has piqued the reader’s interest, he or she may visit the website of the Bartram Trail Conference at bartramtrail.org.

Stephen Goldfarb holds a PhD in the history of science and technology, but he also brought new attention to the humid climate in which the mostly wooden structures were built. Subsequent archaeological excavations have verified the accuracy of Bartram’s descriptions, as found in his Travels. And some of these structures were not associated with Bartram’s contemporaries but with earlier peoples, about whom the present residents could supply little information, even though Bartram quizzed them extensively about what he thought might be their ancestors.

There are also essays on Bartram’s botanizing, the one on his discovery of the large flower evening primrose (Oenothera deltoidalis), which he described as “perhaps the most pompous and brilliant herbaceous plant yet known to exist,” is especially engaging. An image of this plant rendered by Bartram graces the cover of this book.

The second collection of essays, Bartram’s Living Legacy: The Travels and the Nature of the South (Mcnes University Press, 2010), edited by Dorinda Dallmeyer, is a very different book, but one that is no less interesting. These essays are in the main by those who are carrying on Bartram’s legacy of discovery and conservation, and they tend to be more personal.

In one essay Kathryn Braun makes an important though often forgotten point as she draws attention to the comparison between the landscape that Bartram traversed and that of today’s Southeast—a land of cities, suburbs, highways, shopping centers, and rural areas that have been logged and are still extensively farmed. Braun points out that the environment Bartram traveled through was hardly forest primeval, as European intrusion had caused natural vegetation to give way to many of De Soto’s explorations of the sixteenth century, more than two centuries before Bartram. Not only had Europeans introduced new plants, animals, and technology, but they also brought new attitudes toward the land and its resources.

This volume also contains a reprint of Bartram’s Travels. There is a temptation to leap in and begin reading. However, the twenty-first-century reader is likely to find Bartram’s late eighteenth-century prose tough going. A better plan might be to read through the essays in these two volumes before setting out on what may be a longish journey through the American Southeast in the era of the American Revolution. The four well-designed maps in this volume will be a welcome guide to Bartram’s (and the reader’s) perambulations.

These books are a testament to the continued interest in and influence of Bartram on contemporary historians and environmentalists. If reading Bartram’s Travels has piqued the reader’s interest, he or she may visit the website of the Bartram Trail Conference at bartramtrail.org.

Fothergill Research Award

The Bartram Research Conference is now accepting applications for its Fothergill Research Award. One or more fellowships of $500 are awarded annually to an advanced graduate student or recent PhD whose research promises to lead to publication—book, article, dissertation, or other substantive product in studies related to William Bartram. Appropriate areas of scholarship include but are not limited to the natural sciences, history of science, literary studies, journalism, history, biography, archaeology, art, photography, and ethnohistory. Recipients are asked to make an informal report on work in progress to be published in the BTC newsletter, Traveller, and/or a presentation at the annual meeting of the BTC (at the discretion of the program committee). Deadline for receipt of applications is March 29, 2015, with the announcement of the award on April 6, 2015. The award is for use in 2015–2016. For more information and to receive an application form, please contact Dorinda G. Dallmeyer, dorrin@uga.edu, 706-542-4935.

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, whether or not you like to hike, read, garden, etc.)

Annual Member Dues
Please check one.

☐ Individual $25
☐ Family $30
☐ Student $10
☐ Contributor $50
☐ Sustainer $100
☐ Sponsor $250
☐ Patron $500

Please check one of the choices:
☐ I am a new member.
☐ I am renewing my membership.
Date: ____________________________

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

You may also join online at: https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/page-1655351
All you need is a PayPal account!
As the weather warms, we think of William Bartram leaving his winter quarters to set out for another collecting season in the South. I cannot imagine his excitement at seeing new plants, animals, landscapes, and cultures for the first time. What about you? Have the familiar scenes around you become just a backdrop for your life?

Here at the University of Georgia, I often take visiting scholars on a campus tour designed with them in mind—a great way to see things with fresh eyes. Your visitor doesn’t even have to be alive. Several years ago our community celebrated the life and work of American conservationist Aldo Leopold. I thought “Where would I take Aldo on campus?” I opened my dog-eared copy of a “Sand County Almanac” looking for inspiration although fearful that the book’s focus on the Gila National Forest and Wisconsin would make for slim pickings. Was I wrong! When I finished reading it again, my book bristled with sticky notes marking Leopold’s words that speak directly to my homeplace here in Georgia’s Piedmont.

Where would you take William Bartram if he were still among us? Thumb through your copy of the “Travels” and think about the special places you would want William to know as well as you do. Maybe it’s a site he visited that still looks as he described it. Maybe it’s a place that has changed as dramatically as the view he had looking west over the Oconee River at what would become Athens. The forested granite promontory where he stood on the east side of the river now sports a massive student apartment complex. On the river’s west bank, I imagine he would be astonished to see a major university crowning the hill where only Indian territory lay in 1773.

William Bartram’s words have led so many of us back into the landscape of the 1770s. Now it’s your turn to lead him into the 21st century on your trail.

See you in Palatka!

Dorinda G. Dallmeyer