New Marker Unveiled in Fayetteville, North Carolina

T. R. Henderson

The Bartram marker commemorating his visit to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) North Carolina, was unveiled on July 11, 2015 in the ancient Cross Creek Cemetery. It was a very hot summer day, the late morning temperature was probably 95˚F, stil the speakers wore their white jackets and fedoras. There were as many as a hundred people in attendance—too many to fit under the tents set up for the day’s activities. The event was the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Cross Creek Linear Park, which is a walking trail of about 2.5 miles along the banks of Cross Creek, passing through historic parts of downtown Fayetteville, and then joining with the Cape Fear River. William Bartram was the guest of honor in absentia. A citizen’s group has been working for 12 years to make this park happen, and now, here it is.

Harry Shaw presented the keynote address and was honored for his work in the creation of Linear Park and acquiring the Bartram marker. His address concerned the establishment of the park and the historic significance of the site, and Bartram’s visit. Local historian Bruce Daws spoke about William Bartram’s days as a young man in the area and his visits to what was then the settlements of Cross Creek and adjacent Campbellton (his uncle’s plantation was in neighboring Bladen County, just down the Cape Fear River). Other speakers were Dr. Ben McCoy, Mayor Pro Tem Kady-Ann Davy, and State Representative Rick Glazier. During the program Shaw was presented the Governor’s Order of the Long Leaf Pine award.

The Bartram Trail marker was set up temporarily at the entrance to Linear Park for the unveiling and will be moved to a more visible, permanent location on Green Street in downtown Fayetteville.

The eighty acre Cape Fear Botanical Garden is located almost within sight of the Cross Creek Cemetery. The director, Ry Southard, and staff are contemplat- continued on page 2
From the President

As you can see from T.R. Henderson’s report, we are enjoying a revival of interest in marking the Bartram Trail. The new marker style introduced in 2011 bears William Bartram in bas relief, a sculpture based on his only known portrait that was painted by his friend Charles Willson Peale. But how do you get from a two-dimensional portrait to a three-dimensional sculpture?

Enter Donna Weaver. Ms. Weaver and her husband revived the art of miniature bas-relief wax portraiture, which was popular in the United States between 1750 and 1840. Named one of Early American Life Magazine’s best artisans, Donna creates wax portraits judged to be of museum quality. She divides her time between sculpting the wax portraits, gallery exhibits, commissioned work, and participating in living history events from Virginia to Illinois.

A native of Northern Kentucky, Donna pursued a Fine Arts degree at the Art Academy of Cincinnati where she studied sculpting, painting, and print-making, graduating in 1966. She worked for several area toy companies, Kenner Toys and Hasbro, sculpting boy’s action figures and girl’s toys.

Changing direction, Donna became a United States Mint sculptor-engraver in July 2000 and held the job for more than five years, retiring in 2006. She is now part of the Artistic Infusion Program at the Mint and designs for specific coin programs. Among her work for the Mint are designs for twelve state quarters; commemorative coins, including the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial silver dollar; the American Eagle platinum coin; and medals honoring a wide variety of Americans from Jackie Robinson to Charles Schultz. To see her amazing array of historical portraits, go to http://www.waxportraits.com/

Thanks to Donna’s artistry, William Bartram once again gazes across the landscapes he explored so long ago. Make your plans to join us on the Bartram Trail in Palatka as we mark the 250th anniversary of John and William’s first foray to the South. We hope to see you by the river.

Dorinda Dallmeyer, BTC President

Putnam Blueways and Trails Field Trips

Offered in conjunction with the 2015 Bartram Trail Conference

Putnam Blueways and Trails has planned a number of exciting field trips to coincide with the 2015 Bartram Trail Conference in Palatka, Florida. Events include kayak trips on the St. Johns River, walking tours of downtown Palatka, bus tours of nearby Bartram sites, bicycling tours in and around Palatka, and a couple of boat cruises.

Trips begin on Thursday afternoon, October 15, and continue on Friday morning and all day Sunday. There are no trips planned for Saturday, October 17 because we will be in conference all day.

When you register for the conference you will be prompted to go to the Putnam Blueways and Trails web site and sign up for these field trips. To see a list of events go to https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/Field-Trips

Bartram Trail Conference Board 2014–2016

President, Dorinda G. Dallmeyer
Vice President, T.R. Henderson
Treasurer, Anna Martin
Interim Secretary, Chuck Spornick
Board Members: Brad Sanders (Membership Chair), Marc Jolley (Newsletter Editor), Sam Carr, Joel Fry, Kathryn Braund.
Meet us in Palatka!
Bartram Trail Conference Biennial Meeting

October 16–18, 2015

The 2015 meeting of the Bartram Trail Conference will be held on the shores of William Bartram’s beloved St. Johns River in Palatka, Florida. John and William Bartram first paddled up the St. Johns River in December of 1765 and we will convene there almost on the exact date. The dates for the conference are October 16–18, 2015. The conference will be held in the Ravine Gardens State Park and Palatka's Riverfront Park. This promises to be a very exciting conference.

The cost of the conference is $100 for members and $125 for non-members (which includes membership for 2015). There are options for attending the Friday banquet only, or Saturday only.

We are printing here the schedule of events for Friday evening and Saturday. There are a number of exiting field trips planned for the conference that begin on Thursday and run through Sunday.

To see the full list of field trips and to register for the conference please visit our web site, https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/page-1758862.

Friday, October 16, 6–9 PM
Opening Banquet featuring Andrea Wulf, design historian and author of four books including *The Founding Gardeners*. Registration required.

MC: Dorinda Dallmeyer,
 Buffet dinner: Welcome comments by Dorinda Dallmeyer, BTC President; Nancy Harris, Putnam County Commission; Terrill Hill, Mayor of Palatka; Sam Carr, Chair of Bartram Trail in Putnam County Committee. Music by Linda Crider.

Saturday, October 17, Registration required
9–10:30 AM: Panel #1; The Art of William Bartram on the St. Johns River. Moderator: Dorinda Dallmeyer
 Panel: Thomas Hallock, Nancy Hoffman
 Denis Byrd: Discussions of the drawings and literature of Bartram on the St. Johns River.
 Silent Auction begins.

10:45 AM–12:00 PM: Panel #2; The Science of William Bartram on the St. Johns River. Moderator: Thomas Hallock
 Panel: Joel Fry, Dick Franz
 Kent A Vliet: Discussions of the flora and fauna of Bartram on the St. Johns River, the topics unique to the St. Johns River and their current prescience.

12:00–1:00 PM: Lunch Buffet: sandwiches, salads and snacks.

1:00–2:30 PM: Panel #3; William Bartram’s relationships with Indians and slaves on the St. Johns River.
 Moderator: Charlotte Porter

Panel: Kathryn Braund, Pat Wickman, Steve Hale
 “Indians, Africans, and Europeans on the St. Johns River.”

2:45–4:00 PM: Panel #4; Bartram’s Trail on the St. Johns River and throughout the Southeast. Moderator: Chuck Spornick
 Panel: Dean Campbell, Brad Sanders, Walter Wingfield
 Dorinda Dallmeyer: Discussion on the development of the Bartram Trail in Putnam County. How does the BTC begin to connect the “pearls” into a comprehensive Bartram Trail in the United States?

6:00–9:00 p.m.: St. Johns River Frolic; Palatka Riverfront Park & St. Johns River Center. Open to the public. $30 fee for food & beverage.

Presenting Mike Adams as William Bartram; Local musicians, Linda Crider, etc.; Dean Quigly, Mural Artist; Christy Sanford, Bartram art on the Palatka riverfront.

Vintage food and drink celebrating the “Indian Frolic” of Bartram’s *Travels*. River taxi excursions on the river, music and frivolity provided by local artists. Live exhibits in the River Center; Bartram’s “bark,” rattlesnakes, alligators, fish, and tortoises. (Held in conjunction with the Keep Putnam Beautiful ArtoberFest.)

Sunday, October 18
There are various activities to choose from. See the list at our web site and sign up when you register.
Review of William Bartram’s
*Travels in the Western Monthly Magazine*, December 1835.

Joel T. Fry

It has often been assumed that William Bartram’s *Travels* was not well received or much read in the US following its first publication in Philadelphia in 1791. Francis Harper in particular in the introduction to his 1958 “Naturalist Edition” of *The Travels of William Bartram* stressed the poor reception of William Bartram’s book, based primarily on a few widely scattered reviews in US and European publications.

So it may be surprising to discover that a glowing review of Bartram’s *Travels* appeared in a mid-western American magazine—the *Western Monthly Magazine*—in December 1835. This “Retrospective Review” seems to have been written by James Hall, the editor and publisher of the magazine. James Hall (1793–1868) is known today as a writer of short stories and as a western literary figure, first in Illinois and then Cincinnati, Ohio. His best known story is “The Indian Hater” and there is a recent edition of Hall’s writings, edited by Edward Watts and published by Kent State Press in 2009.

James Hall was originally from Philadelphia, from a literary family, and at a young age he served in the “Washington Artillery” during the War of 1812. Hall could have personally known William Bartram, but more probably he knew Col. Robert Carr, another War of 1812 veteran, as both served in the northern campaigns along the Great Lakes and Canadian border. Robert Carr married William Bartram’s niece Ann Bartram in 1809. The Carrs went on to operate Bartram’s Garden after their marriage through 1850 and William Bartram lived with them during his final years. (This 1835 review of *Travels* mentions Robert Carr as superintendent of Bartram’s Garden, and some of the biographical and historic information on John and William Bartram seems to be paraphrased from catalogues of the Bartram Botanic Garden from the early Nineteenth century.)

Hall also co-wrote an important illustrated book on North American Indians with Thomas Loraine McKenney (1785–1859). Hall researched and wrote most of the biographical sketches of principal chiefs for the book, which were accompanied by lithographic portraits. The three volume McKenney & Hall, *History of the Indian Tribes of North America* was published in Philadelphia between 1836 and 1844.

Thomas L. McKenney was also familiar with William Bartram and his writings, and with Bartram’s Garden. McKenney served as US Superintendent of Indian Trade 1816–1822 (initially appointed by President James Madison) and then served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the War Department from 1824–1830. In July 1835, McKenney wrote to the retired Dolley Madison at Montpelier in Virginia with a detailed account of William Bartram’s death, received first-hand from Col. Robert Carr during a visit to Bartram’s Garden. McKenney implies in the letter that both he and Dolley Madison had been frequent visitors to the Bartrams. (Transcribed in Hallock and Hoffmann, eds. *William Bartram: The Search for Nature’s Design*, p. 241–242.)

This late 1835 review of *Travels* appeared in the period when McKenney and Hall were preparing to issue the first volume of their *History of the Indian Tribes*. Hall and McKenney were for their time among the best informed writers on North American Indian tribes.

Retrospective Review

*Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee country, the extensive territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek Confederacy, and the country of the Choctaws; containing an account of the soil and natural productions of these regions; together with observations on the manners of the Indians.* By William Bartram. Philadelphia: James & Johnson. 1791.

It is not often that we are so fortunate as to lay our hands upon a volume of such undoubted excellence, and rare interest as the one before us. Published more than forty years ago, it is now to be met with only in those collections in which valuable books are treasured up with a care proportionate to their worth. The country over which the author travelled, forms an extensive, as well as a highly interesting portion of the United States; but one of which less is generally known than of almost any other. He saw it at a time when the most considerable part was a mere wilderness; and when it was impossible to anticipate the great changes which have since taken place in those sunny regions.

Mr. Bartram was a naturalist; a devoted lover of the natural sciences, a patient and philosophical observer. His father, John Bartram, was botanist to the king of England, and was a person of considerable repute for his knowledge of that branch of science especially, and for his love of philosophy, and natural history in general. About the year 1728 he commenced a botanical garden in the neighborhood of Philadelphia. It was situated on the west bank of the Schuylkill river, and contained eight acres of ground. We are not aware that any other similar establishment was begun in North America at that early period, except that of Dr. Clayton of Virginia, which, though smaller, contained a great variety of plants. The works of the great Linnaeus had not then been published, and Mr. Bartram had no other aid than his own genius to direct his investigations. He soon furnished his grounds with the curious and beautiful vegetables of the vicinity, and by degrees, with those of more distant places; arranging them with system, either in his garden, or his farm, which was large.
The novelty of this enterprise, and the skill and perseverance with which it was conducted, attracted the notice of learned men in England, and a number of them united to encourage the founder to undertake journeys toward the frontiers, to discover and collect the non-descript productions of nature, with a view to have specimens sent to Europe. Thus this excellent garden became the great horticultural emporium, from which the earliest specimens of American plants were distributed in foreign countries.

The indefatigable founder lived to see his garden flourish beyond his most sanguine anticipations, and its reputation extended, at home and abroad. It descended to his son, the writer of the travels before us, in whose hands it continued to enhance in value and repute, and finally to the granddaughter of the founder, whose husband, Mr. Robert Carr, now superintends it.

William Bartram was one of the earliest patrons of Alexander Wilson, the ornithologist; and it was in his garden, and under his advice that this great observer of nature first began to study the habits of birds. If Bartram had no other claim to the grateful recollections of posterity, his agency in bringing forward Wilson from penury and obscurity, into a career of brilliant usefulness, should immortalize his name.

In 1773, Mr. Bartram was induced, by the request of the celebrated Dr. Fothergill, of London, to undertake the journey which is described in the volume before us, 'for the discovery of rare and useful productions of nature, chiefly in the vegetable kingdom.' The work, therefore, is of a much higher character than ordinary books of travels; and besides containing an interesting recital of the author's adventures, is rich in scientific details. There is no book more frequently cited by our writers upon natural history. In common with most of those who have been distinguished by their zeal in the pursuit of this kind of knowledge, William Bartram seems to have been a man of great simplicity and benevolence. He speaks of animals with the kindness of one who loves them; and describes nature with the fervor and piety of a mind deeply imbued with admiration and gratitude. His language is plain, unadorned, and direct; evincing no ambition to shine through the means of a polished style, but with all its effluvia of poetic expletives, which altogether, give it a peculiar character. There is, it is true, a quaintness, and occasional awkwardness of expression, and the occasional use of restrained and limited terms; but these become agreeable when we begin to enter into the spirit of the writer, and give to his style a flavor, which, through unpalatable at first, soon becomes agreeable.

Our worthy traveller was so great a lover of nature, and had an almost insatiable thirst for the knowledge of all the rare and useful productions of nature, chiefly in the vegetable kingdom. He says: 'I never before this was afraid at the sight of an Indian; but at this time, I must own, that my spirits were very much agitated. I saw at once, that being unarmed, I was in his power; and having now but a few minutes to prepare, I resigned myself entirely to the will of the Almighty, trusting to his mercies for my preservation. My mind then became tranquil, and I resolved to meet the dreaded foe with resolution and cheerful confidence.' Such was the man: harmless and inoffensive himself, carrying no defensive weapons, relying on Providence for protection, he passed through fatigue and dangers which would have tried the courage of the hardiest warrior.

In his descriptions he is inclined to run off occasionally into the sentimental; a taste that is not peculiar to himself, but runs somewhat in the great family of naturalists. We give the following as a specimen:

'It was now about the middle of the month of May; vegetation in perfection appeared with all her attractive charms, breathing fragrance everywhere; the atmosphere was now animated by the efficient principle of vegetative life; the arbustive hills, gay lawns, and green meadows, which on every side invest the villa of Augusta, had already received my frequent visits; and although here much delighted with the new beauties in the vegetable kingdom, and many eminences have their sequestered residence near this place, yet, as I was never long satisfied with present possession, however endowed with every possible charm to attract the sight, or intrinsic value to engage and fix the esteem, I was restless to be searching for more, my curiosity being insatiable. Thus it is, with regard to our affections and attachments, in the more important and interesting concerns of human life.' p. 34.

Among his many adventures, he tells of having, when a boy, killed a rattlesnake of immense size. 'I was sorry, however,' he says, 'after killing the serpent, when coolly recollecting every circumstance; he certainly had it in his power to kill me almost instantly, and I made no doubt that he was conscious of it. I promised myself that I would never again be accessory to the death of a rattlesnake, which promise I have invariably kept.' p. 272.

Our worthy traveller was so great a lover of nature, and had preserved his sensibilities so free from the perversion of artificial tastes, that he even admired the music of a frog concert—a taste which however unashionable, was far from being inconsistent with sound philosophy. He says: 

continued on page 6
Book Review

Sara L. Van Beck’s Daffodils in American Gardens, 1733–1940 (University of South Carolina Press, 2015) seeks to document the history of this popular spring-flowering bulb by “written word and planted bulb.” (viii) Today, there are over 28,000 hybrid daffodils, most of them registered with the Royal Horticulture Society of England. This enormous variety sprang from wildflowers found in the Mediterranean basin, particularly Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. Early references from Egyptian sources and passages in the Song of Solomon attest to the early popularity of these flowers. Van Beck concentrates on the history of the daffodil in Britain and the Netherlands, particularly the interest (even obsession) with the flower beginning in the sixteenth-century by Europeans who used them for medicinal and ornamental purposes. By the end of the sixteenth century, collecting rare bulbs, largely imported through Constantinople, had become the rage and a necessity for those whose status was displayed via increasingly complex gardens. Displays of power and wealth combined with an interest in botany to usher in the golden age of the bulb trade. Like the more well-known tulip craze, narcissus, along with hyacinths, ranunculus, anemones are others were all highly sought for pleasure gardens. Although the Dutch growers dominated the markets, the bulbs were popular elsewhere as well, including Britain and her American colonies.

Van Beck follows the fortunes of daffodils through the mid-twentieth century in four chapters, which cover the federal, antebellum, Victorian, and modern periods. There is also a chapter on heritage daffodils found in cemeteries in which Van Beck explores the changing traditions of ornamental plantings in such settings. Her book concludes with case studies of historic gardens, including Bartram’s Garden, where the tour guide was curator Joel Fry, a BTC member.

The Bartrams (John and William) were important in documenting the history of daffodils in America. According to Van Beck, some of the earliest and most comprehensive data concerning daffodils in early America comes from John Bartram’s correspondence with London friend and patron Peter Collinson and Colonel John Custis of Williamsburg, beginning in the mid-1730s. Collinson’s shipments of bulbs to John undeniably helped spread the plants in the colonies. Their correspondence also documents specific varieties. Many historic characters familiar to BTC members, including Henry Laurens, Philip Miller, Mrs. Lamboll of Charleston, and William Hamilton also enter the discussion of early American daffodils. Moreover, Van Beck notes that some of the earliest recorded commercial activity between Dutch bulb companies and Americans date to 1782 with a reference to William Bartram. Moreover, the garden catalog of 1807 lists daffodils, likely being grown and sold from the garden.

The lavishly illustrated book contains 134 color photos and 58 black-and-white illustrations, along with an extensive bibliography. Included are two appendices. The first provides a discussion and color illustrations of common strains found in historic gardens and other sites. The second lists historic catalogs featuring daffodils. Based on meticulous research, this scholarly study will delight readers as much as daffodils delight the eye in the springtime. Gardeners, students of garden history and those interested in the historic landscape will find the book useful. Moreover, while some may be more interested in the spread of daffodils and the types available over time, preservationists, landscape architects, and historians who attempt to document historic structures and gardens increasingly rely on plant identification to assist in dating and this reference will surely be of immense value to them.

Reviewed by Kathryn H. Braund
“Set Off for Georgia…”

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of John and William Bartram’s Natural History Expedition in Colonial Georgia

August 22–October 10, 2015

University of Georgia Special Collections Library, Athens, Georgia

John Bartram (1699–1777) was a third-generation Pennsylvania Quaker imbued with a curiosity and reverence for nature as well as a passion for scientific inquiry. His travels—by boat, on horseback, and on foot—took him to New England, as far south as Florida, and west to Lake Ontario. He collected seeds and plant specimens, and established a trans-Atlantic hub of plant exploration through his exchanges with prominent patrons and scholars in Europe who sought out plants from Bartram’s Garden. In 1765, Bartram was appointed the “Royal Botanist” by King George III and, with his son William, set out for South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida on a collecting trip that would last two years.

The Bartrams visit to Georgia will be celebrated with exhibits and lectures at the University of Georgia Special Collections Library. Based on John Bartram’s journal account of their travels, this celebration marks their sojourn in Georgia between September 3 and October 8, 1765. The gallery exhibit at the UGA Special Collections Library features original manuscripts, engravings, and maps from the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library as well as specimens from the Georgia Natural History Museum. A series of six lectures will further explore the natural and cultural history the Bartrams saw in colonial Georgia. All events are free and open to the public. The exhibit will run through December 23.

This 250th anniversary observance is sponsored by the Bartram Trail Conference, the UGA Special Collections Library, the Georgia Natural History Museum, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, the UGA College of Environment and Design, and the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts.

Unless otherwise indicated, all events will be held at the Special Collections Library, Richard B. Russell Building, 300 South Hull Street, on the University of Georgia Campus. Parking is available at the Hull Street parking deck immediately adjacent to the Library.

Schedule of Events

Grand Opening: Saturday, August 22 7:00 p.m., Special Collections Library Auditorium (Second Floor)

“William Bartram—Puc Puggy’s Travels through the South” presented by J. D. Sutton.

Thursday, September 3 5:30 p.m., Special Collections Library Auditorium (Second Floor)

“An Itinerary of Discovery—Tracing the Bartrams Across the South” presented by Brad Sanders.

Thursday, September 17 5:30 p.m., Special Collections Library Auditorium (Second Floor)

“Rediscovering the Southern Landscape of the Late 18th Century” presented by Philip Juras and “The Art of William Bartram” presented by Janice Simon.

Thursday, October 1 5:30 p.m., Special Collections Library Auditorium (Second Floor)

“Natural Curiosity and Natural History: John Bartram’s Observations on the Land and Life in Georgia” presented by Dorinda G. Dallmeyer

Closing Events:
Saturday, October 10, 2015

State Botanical Garden of Georgia: 1:00 p.m., Callaway Building

“The usefull, the beautifull, the singular or the fragrant, are to us the most material—John and William Bartram and Southern Plants in the Garden” presented by Joel T. Fry, Curator, Historic Bartram’s Garden

3:00 p.m.

Bartram Plant walk, led by horticulturist Linda Chafin.

This garden tour will highlight plants discovered by the Bartrams now featured in the Garden’s collection. Bartram plants also will be available for purchase during the annual Fall Plant Sale.

Special Collections Library Auditorium (Second Floor)

7:00 p.m.


New Book commemorates the Bartrams’ exploration of the St. Johns River

Commemorating the 250th anniversary Bartrams’ 1765–66 tour, the University Press of Florida will publish John and William Bartram: Travels on the St. Johns River. Edited by Thomas Hallock, Richard Franz and Matthew Jackson, this volume will include selections of John’s Diary, William’s Travels as well as images and correspondence. Dick has updated the scientific identifications, longtime St. Johns Water Management District employee Dean Campbell has crafted a beautiful map; and Tom and Matt have painstakingly restored the language the Bartrams discovered now featured in the Garden’s collection. Bartram plants also will be available for purchase during the annual Fall Plant Sale.

This garden tour will highlight plants discovered by the Bartrams now featured in the Garden’s collection. Bartram plants also will be available for purchase during the annual Fall Plant Sale.

The Journal of Florida Studies will release Issue Four, “Travel and Travels,” guest edited by Thomas Hallock, in December 2016. This exciting issue will include the latest scholarship on the Bartrams and their world, as well as continued journeys through the Sunshine State today. Learn more about the journal at www.journaloffloridastudies.org.