



# Bartram Trail Conference

October 16–18, 2015

Ravine Gardens State Park, 1600 Twigg St, Palatka, Florida

## Friday October 16, 6–9 p.m.

### Banquet and Keynote Speech

Presiding: Dorinda G. Dallmeyer, president, Bartram Trail Conference

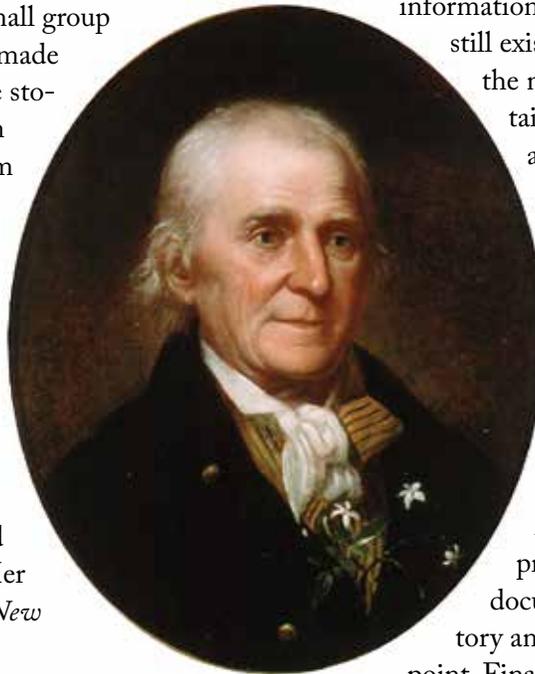
*Welcome* by Nancy Harris, Putnam County Commission; Terrill L. Hill, Mayor of Palatka; and Sam Carr, chair of the Putnam County Bartram Trail Committee.

### Keynote Speech

*The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire, and the Birth of an Obsession* by Andrea Wulf.

In this beautifully illustrated talk, award-winning author Andrea Wulf tells the tale of a small group of eighteenth century naturalists that made England a nation of gardeners. It's the story of a garden revolution that began in America with the farmer John Bartram who transformed the English landscape with the introduction of hundreds of American trees and shrubs.

Andrea Wulf was born in India, moved to Germany as a child, and now lives in Britain. She is the author of several acclaimed books. *The Brother Gardeners* won the American Horticultural Society 2010 Book Award and was long-listed for the Samuel Johnson Prize 2008. Her book *Founding Gardeners* was on the *New York Times* Best Seller List.



## Saturday, October 17

9:00–10:30 a.m.

**Panel:** *The Art of William Bartram on the St. Johns River.*

Moderated by Dorinda G. Dallmeyer, president, Bartram Trail Conference

*A 2014 Census of William Bartram's Travels (1791)*

Dr. Nancy Hoffmann, Villanova University, (nehoffmann@comcast.net)

In August 1791, when William Bartram registered his book for publication in Philadelphia, *Travels* was largest

original book published in America up to that time. In addition to being a first-person narrative of the author's experiences, it provided valuable new descriptions of native plants, animals, topography and the culture of Native Americans. It also was a significant and adventurous enterprise taken at some risk. *Travels* was printed by the partnership of James and Johnson on condition that two hundred subscribers would be enrolled. How many books were actually printed is unknown, and the number of accompanying plates varied in individual copies. We do know that the book was distributed well beyond the original subscribers. The objective of the census is to recover information about as many copies of *Travels* as still exist. The provenance of a particular copy, the number of plates it included, and details about its original location may give an enhanced understanding of how a book traveled in post-revolutionary America. It should also indicate its market appeal to readers as a book of American natural history, as well as provide better understanding about the conditions of authorship in the late 18th century. The census will more definitively establish the importance of the *Travels* in early American literature as both a literary production and as the most significant documentation of American natural history and Native American culture up to that point. Finally, the talent and effort of its author may be more fully appreciated, and the arts of printing, illustration and engraving at the time recognized for their achievement in publication.

*River to Text, Text to River: A Bartram Edition on the St. Johns River*

Thomas Hallock, University of South Florida St. Petersburg, (thallock@mail.usf.edu)

All readers of William Bartram have their favorite passages, usually reflecting an individual geographic loyalty, but from a narrative-literary standpoint the St. Johns leg of *Travels* represents the book's liquid heart. This talk provides

a preview of the forthcoming volume, *John and William Bartram: Travels on the St. Johns River* (University Press of Florida), which includes selections from John Bartram's 1765–66 *Diary*, the relevant chapters of William's famed *Travels*, plus selected images and correspondence. *Travels* is not necessarily a work that "requires reading front to back," as novelist Charles Frazier quipped, and by focusing on one single region, we better understand the textures of Bartram's remarkable work.

#### *What is the "Art" of William Bartram?*

Bill Belleville, author, Sanford, Florida, (billybx@gate.net)

First explored by naturalist William Bartram in the 1760s, the St. Johns River stretches 310 miles along Florida's east coast, making it the longest river in the state. The first "highway" through the once wild interior of Florida, the St. Johns may appear ordinary, but within its banks are some of the most fascinating natural phenomena and historic mysteries in the state. Through his writing, Belleville weaves together the biological, cultural, anthropological, archaeological, and ecological aspects of the St. Johns, capturing the essence of its remarkable history and intrinsic value as a natural wonder. This wonder may be realized by paddling a kayak in the full darkness of night, scuba diving or snorkeling, hiking in the bottomlands of a remote swamp—or simply walking its shoreline.

#### *Bartram's Trail as Artistic Inspiration and a Resource for Interdisciplinary Education*

Denis Byrd, Community Christian School, Stockbridge, Georgia, (studio@denisbyrd.com; denis.byrd@community-christianschool.net)

Research often provides the foundation for art creation. William Bartram and the Bartram Trail have the potential to provide a wealth of information to inspire artists and writers as well as students in the classroom. Not only can research on Bartram serve as artistic inspiration but the act of art creation may also serve as a form of research itself. In my research I used Bartram's *Travels* as the background for a series of plein air paintings created along the Bartram Trail and the paintings became the foundation for further studio work. This experience was the basis for strategies later used in the classroom to guide students through a research-based approach to art creation and encourage interdisciplinary learning. William Bartram provides a link between history, science, the environment, and art allowing students to engage with these subjects and Bartram on a deeper and more personal level.

**Break 10:30–10:45 a.m.**

**10:45–12:00**

**Panel: *The Science of William Bartram on the St. Johns River.***  
Moderated by Thomas Hallock, University of South Florida and past president of the Bartram Trail Conference

#### *The "White Tail'd Buzzard": New Evidence for William Bartram's Painted Vulture from Florida*

Joel Fry, Curator of Bartram's Garden, the home of John and William Bartram in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, (jifry@bartramsgarden.org)

A survey of Bartram historical evidence and an exhaustive survey of the ornithological literature on William Bartram's "Painted Vulture" (*Vultur sacra* of *Travels*) by the ornithologist Noel Snyder have produced strong evidence this bird existed in eighteenth century Florida. It was observed by William Bartram in both 1765–1766 and again in 1773. And a published illustration from 1734 of a comparable bird held captive in London under the name "Warwovwen or Indian Vulture" also seems to confirm the onetime existence of this white-tailed vulture species or subspecies related to the King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) of Central and South America.

#### *Road-Cruising for Bartram's Pawpaws*

Richard Franz, Associate Scientist Emeritus, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, (lrfranz08@gmail.com)

Ten species and at least six hybrids of pawpaws (*Asimina*) are documented from Florida. Two, possibly three, of the species were described by William Bartram in *Travels*. Bartram reported *Annona incana* (*Asimina incana*) from south of the Altamaha River in Georgia, and from Charlotta and a scrub upland, 5–6 miles west of the lower Spalding's store (near the town of Rodman). Bartram also reported a second species, *Annona pigmea* (*Asimina pygmea*), from the Rodman scrub. Fry (2010) suggested Bartram's showy *Annona* (possibly *Asimina obovata*) may occur there too. Recent surveys found that both *A. incana* and *A. pygmea* exist on the Rodman upland, and *A. obovata*, on an isolated scrub island on Hewitt Lake Road, about five miles west of the Rodman site. Harper predicted that the Trader's Path passed through the Rodman upland, crossed Deep Creek, then traveled around Hewitt Lakes, and onto Halfway Pond in the Cowpen Lake basin. So, maybe Harper was RIGHT ON!

#### *The Science of Bartram's Observations of Alligators*

Kent A. Vliet, University of Florida, Department of Biology, Gainesville, Florida, (kvliet@ufl.edu)

Bartram made observations of alligators during his travels through East Florida, and later recorded many of these observations in his widely read *Travels*. Bartram wrote of

aspects of alligator behavior and life history, as well as his own interactions with the animals. Almost immediately upon publication of *Travels*, Bartram's alligator observations came under public ridicule. Although not without technical errors, Bartram recorded numerous observations of alligators now known to be essentially correct. Bartram originally wrote of many observations of alligators in his 1775 *Report to Dr. Fothergill*. Bartram reported on alligator behavior, including dominance and vocalizations; described alligator nests and eggs; detailed parental protective behaviors and hatchling social groups. Bartram's descriptions of congregations of alligators feeding on large numbers of fish may represent early accounts of cooperative feeding in alligators, a behavior now well documented from alligators and several other crocodylian species.



*Mico Chlucco the Long Warrior or King of the Seminoles, from William Bartram's Travels.*

Lunch 12:00–1:00 pm

1:00–2:30 pm

**Panel:** *William Bartram's Relationships with Indians and Slaves on the St. Johns River*

Moderated by Charlotte M. Porter, Ph.D.

*The Congress of Picolata, 1765: Economy and Politics in British East Florida*

Kathryn H. Braund, Hollifield Professor of History and past president of the Bartram Trail Conference, (braunkh@auburn.edu)

John and William Bartram's excursion to witness the first official meeting between Creeks Indians and the new British owners of East Florida in 1765 was a seminal event in early Florida history. The British establishment, including the new governor James Grant and Superintendent of Indian Affairs John Stuart, sought to display the power and wealth of the British Empire in America. For their part, the Creek Indians from the Chattahoochee River towns, who claimed hegemony over the Florida peninsula, were there in force as well to assert their authority over the local towns of "Seminoles." The entire affair was an exemplar of British-Indian diplomacy in which both sides sought to impress and promote peaceful relations. The event sheds light on hybrid diplomatic rituals, reveals insight into British hopes for East Florida's economy as well as the Creeks' views on their valued trading partners and even included a rattlesnake dinner.

*Cultural Sovereignty in the Midst of War: Indians and Blacks in the Bartram Era*

Patricia Riles Wickman, Ph.D., Wickman Historical Services, Tallahassee, Florida, and former Director, Dept. of Anthropology & Genealogy, Seminole Tribe of Florida, (prw@wickmanhistoricalservices.com)

As we in the non-Indian world today rapidly break down ethnic and cultural barriers, we often fail to understand the high value placed by the American Indians upon maintaining cultural frontiers. William Bartram had an obvious sensitivity to the Indian people whom he met, but he was still a person of his own times and his own culture. By placing Bartram's observations in the context not of his culture

but of that of the Maskoki peoples of the Southeast, we can begin to appreciate their long and continuing determination to maintain their cultural frontiers in the face of misunderstandings that would severely erode that culture that they have fought so desperately over the millennia to preserve, as well as the potentially adverse ramifications upon their national sovereignty.

*Cowkeeper and the Long Warrior: Their arrival in Florida, their cattle industry, and their fate as the British returned control to the Spanish*

Stephen Hale, Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Florida 1989, (Satsuma\_Steve@hotmail.com)

An examination of maps following the relocation of the Creeks from Palachicola Fort near the present day Savannah Shipyards detailed their movement back to the area south of present-day Fort Benning, Georgia in 1716. The meetings of the Creeks and General Oglethorpe list the heads of the towns that were present for the conferences. Cowkeeper killed eighty-three Spaniards settling Alachua, Florida, and established a large herd of Andalusian Cattle. Long Warrior and Bowlegs involvement in that cattle business will be detailed. The invasion by American troops to capture slaves and cattle ended this business.

Break 2:30–2:45

2:45–4:00 p.m.

**Panel:** *Bartram's Trail on the St. Johns River and Throughout the Southeast*

Moderated by Chuck Spornick, past president of the Bartram Trail Conference  
The authors of the *Bartram Heritage Report* (1979) sought federal recognition of the Bartram Trail as either a national

recreational trail or national historic trail. Although their efforts were not successful, they did develop a concept of the Bartram Trail as a “string of pearls”—historic sites, recreational trails, gardens, all brought together by reconstructions of the travels of William Bartram in the southeast in the 1760’s and 1770’s.

When talking about the Bartram Trail, what does that mean? Where do you start? Retracing the route of John and William Bartram through the Southeast is as challenging as it is rewarding. One challenge is that the Bartrams travelled through regions of Georgia and Florida that were either uninhabited or so thinly settled that roads were not well documented on contemporary maps. Another challenge is that, in many places, what was wilderness in 1765 is now urban and suburban communities with modern roads and a lot of traffic. This panel also features planners and managers of two significant sections of that trail. What does it mean to manage the Bartram Trail? How are all these “pearls” brought together? How can they, and how should they be brought together?

*An Itinerary of Discovery: Tracing the Bartrams Across the South*

Brad Sanders, author of *Guide to William Bartram’s Travels* and the publisher of *The Traveller*, the newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference (bsanders@fevertreepress.com).

Dean Campbell, member of the Bartram Trail Putnam County Committee; author of *Planning the Bartram Trail on the St. Johns River*

Walter Wingfield, President of the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society

*Where Do We Go From Here? Completing the Work of the Bartram Trail Conference Founders*, by Dorinda G. Dallmeyer, president of the Bartram Trail Conference

6:00–9:00 p.m.

St. Johns River Frolic at the Palatka Riverfront Park and St. Johns River Center.

*The 2015 Bartram Trail Conference is sponsored by these organizations*

