



Cultivating the Wild

The enduring legacy of William Bartram,
America's first environmentalist



“The Wilderness holds answers to more questions than we have yet learned to ask.”
— Nancy Newhall

Have you ever viewed a landscape and wondered,
What did this look like in the past?



Cultivating the Wild is a one-hour documentary that focuses on six Southerners committed to reclaiming the nature of the South through art, science, and culture.



Their inspiration is William Bartram, 18th century naturalist and America’s first environmentalist. From 1773 to 1777, a plant-collecting trip took Bartram through Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana. Far more than a botanical catalog, Bartram’s 1791 book *Travels* provides a captivating window into the past, continuing to fire the imagination of readers over 200 years later.

Despite the passage of time, Bartram’s words speak to current issues of critical importance: climate change, environmental degradation, preservation of life-giving ecosystems, and an increasingly urban population.

Cultivating the Wild responds to an America hungry to re-connect with the natural world around us, an America increasingly focused on sustaining this planet we call home.



Often called *the South’s Thoreau*, Bartram’s reverence for all aspects of nature lies at the heart of these modern environmental movements and in the people we meet in *Cultivating the Wild*.

CULTIVATING THE WILD FEATURED ENVIRONMENTALISTS



Wayne Hartley has served for four decades as Principal Investigator for manatee research at Blue Spring State Park, Florida, where he has compiled one of the longest running manatee databases in existence. Wayne's expertise and personal knowledge of individual manatees continues to be instrumental in developing public support for conservation of Florida's state marine mammal.



James Holland has spent years on Georgia's Altamaha River fishing, hunting, and working its coastal reaches as a commercial crabber. In 1999, he became the first Altamaha Riverkeeper, protecting the river and raising awareness statewide about its protection. Among numerous awards and honors, he was named one of the Most Influential Georgians by *Georgia Trend* magazine.



J. Drew Lanham is the author of *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*, which received the Reed Award from the Southern Environmental Law Center and the Southern Book Prize, and was a finalist for the John Burroughs Medal. A birder, naturalist, and hunter-conservationist, Drew is the Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Clemson University.



Artist **Philip Juras** explores patterns in nature, especially ecologically intact environments. His subjects include southeastern barrier islands, fire-adapted landscapes, tall-grass prairies, and the Colombian Andes. His award-winning exhibition catalog, *The Southern Frontier: Landscapes Inspired by Bartram's Travels*, reimagines the southern wilderness as William Bartram saw it in the 1770s.



Janisse Ray has published five books of literary nonfiction, including the acclaimed *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* and *The Seed Underground*. She has received an American Book Award and the Arlene Eisenberg Award for Writing that Makes a Difference, among many others. She holds an M.F.A. from the University of Montana. In 2015, Ray was inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame.



Jim Sawgrass is a native Floridian of Muscogee Creek (Mvskoke) descent. For the last thirty years, he has been sharing his knowledge of the Native American tribes of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. His living history demonstrations have been presented around the United States and featured on many television networks such as History Channel, Travel Channel, and Discovery Channel.

**CULTIVATING THE WILD
PRINCIPAL PRODUCTION CREW**



Eric Breitenbach has produced documentaries for National Geographic Television, Sundance Channel, Lifetime and PBS. His most recent feature documentary, *Hoppin' Rattlesnakes*, details the history of auto racing on Daytona Beach and its eventual transformation into NASCAR.

He has had over 20 solo exhibitions of his still photographs throughout the US and is represented in the permanent collections at The Duke University Center for Documentary Studies, The Carpenter Center at Harvard University and The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



Scott Auerbach is a filmmaker with 30 years' experience in broadcast and non-broadcast production. His award-winning work spans multiple genres, including documentary television, advertising, and children's educational television. His client list includes several television networks and dozens of Fortune 500 companies.

He is best known for his cinematography and editing work on nine seasons of the Emmy Award-winning documentary series, *Andrew Young Presents*, which appears in over 140 markets nationwide. He is currently EP and director on an independent feature documentary, *Tune In Tomorrow*.



Dorinda G. Dallmeyer's professional life at the University of Georgia has gone hand in hand with her lifelong curiosity about the natural world. An award-winning author, photographer and radio producer, since 2001 she has focused her research and writing on Southern environmental history. A native of Macon, Georgia, she holds advanced degrees in both earth science and law from UGA.

She edited *Bartram's Living Legacy: The Travels and the Nature of the South*, which the American Library Association called "a timeless book... a reminder of what the world has lost and a tocsin to save what is left." *Bartram's Living Legacy* is the companion book for *Cultivating the Wild*.



Bailey White is instantly recognizable to NPR listeners for her distinctive voice and intimate commentaries on life in rural south Georgia. Raised on the remnants of an old longleaf pine plantation, she writes of a Southern landscape inextricably linked with the characters who inhabit it.

She is the author of three story collections, *Mama Makes Up Her Mind*, *Sleeping at the Starlight Motel* and *Nothing with Strings*, and a novel, *Quite a Year for Plums*. She was inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame in 2008.