

The Traveller

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Spring, 2017



Members of the Baton Rouge organizing committee with the new Bartram Trail marker at Magnolia Mound Plantation. L to r: Terry Tuminello, Pam Sulzer, Michèle Deshotels, Cheryl Stromeyer, Peggy Coates, Randy Harelson.

T.R. Henderson

President, Bartram Trail Conference

The Bartram Trail Conference 2017 took place in the beautiful East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library on March 24 through the 26. The building, facilities and grounds were well suited for the conference. There is even a newly installed Bartram Marker on the grounds.

Baton Rouge was found to be a wonderful location for lovers of colonial history, archaeology, gardens, art, good food and gracious people—all things Bartram.

Speaking of gardens, tours for the long weekend included Hilltop Arboretum, Burden Gardens, Windrush Gardens, and LSU Rural Life Muse-

um. There were tours of the homes and grounds of Magnolia Mound Plantation and LeJeune House. For the artist, a Friday afternoon tour of The Special Collections at LSU Hill Memorial Library featured works by John and William Bartram, Mark Catesby, John James Audubon, and several original water colors by Margaret Stones, from her *Flora of Louisiana* project.

A Friday afternoon meeting between representatives of the National Park Service and BTC officers and board members was very promising concerning the potential for NPS recognition of a national Bartram trail corridor—something we should all be excited about.

A Friday evening reception at the beautiful Magnolia Mound Plantation



Dorinda Dallmeyer and Philip Juras visited the new Bartram Trail marker located in the Plains section of Zachary, Louisiana.

featured the unveiling of a brand-new Bartram Trail marker.

The Saturday program, at the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library, included a Silent Auction of donated, interesting items and a number of very well presented talks which took attendees into the Mississippi River world as seen by William Bartram;

Taylor McGaughy: *Peregrinations to Pontchartrain: William Bartram's Westerly Wanderings*—an explanation and overview of Bartram's visit to the area. Taylor is a Fothergill grant recipient.

Dennis Jones: *Sweet Home Alabama: Evidence for an 18th Century Native American Occupation at the Chatsworth Plantation Site (16EBR192) in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana*—The Native American group called the Talapoosa of the Alabama Tribe left the Tallapoosa River area of the future State of Alabama approximately 1772 to settle on the Mississippi River at



During Friday of the conference, participants were treated to a free tour of Magnolia Mound Plantation and gardens.

present day Baton Rouge, and were at this location at the time of Bartram's visit.

Dorinda Dallmeyer: *White Cliffs, Deep Time: William Bartram and Geology*—an excellent explanation of the white cliffs and the historic curiosity about the origin.

Peggy Davis Coates: *Louisiana's Bartram Trail Revisited*—the revival of interest in Bartram in the area and the six recently installed Bartram markers.

Sam Carr: *Regional and National Bartram Trail Efforts*—success on the St. Johns River of Florida, and efforts to play off what was learned there to establish a national trail or heritage corridor.

Andy Ross: *Within a Few Inches of Your Eye: Visual and Narrative Meditation in Bartram's Travels*—the recipient of a Fothergill grant, discussed Bartram's artistic rendition of his observations and how his work draws readers into being observers and participants in his experiences.

Elizabeth Athens: *A Lively Animated Picture: William Bartram and Drawing Ad vivum*—the recipient of a Fothergill grant, discussed Bartram's

very effective use of drawing to represent his experiences in the field.

Randy Harelson: *Native Flora of Louisiana: the Watercolor Drawings of Margaret Stones*—an engaging examination of some of the work of Stones and discussion of favorite plants represented in Stones' work.

Thomas Hallock: *Remembering John Hall: The Work of the BTC and the Good Nature of Environmental Education*—A remembrance of Bartram's significance to us all, how we connect to the natural world, and how John Hall reminded us of that significance.

Forty Years on: The History of the Bartram Trail Conference—a roundtable discussion featuring charter members of the Bartram Trail Conference from Louisiana—Charles Fryling, Sally Daigle, and Polly Williams—discussed their early adventures and their hopes for the future of the Bartram Trail Conference. Moderated by Chuck Spornick.

The keynote speaker for the banquet on Saturday night at the East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library was Daniel H. Usner: "*A prospect of the grand sublime.*" *The Louisiana-Florida Border-*

land Seen and Unseen by William Bartram—a glimpse into the cultural and economic scene in the Baton Rouge region of the late eighteenth century.

Sunday morning was a tree stroll and brunch at LSU Hilltop Arboretum, where the food was of local inspiration and most excellent. The stroll was packed with information about local flora and was a very pleasant way to spend the morning. Afterwards was a short road trip up the river to Point Coupee Parish for a visit at the beautiful home and garden of Le Jeune House and nearby St. Francis Chapel.

The Bartram Trail Conference and the LSU Hilltop Arboretum sponsored the 2017 conference with the cooperation of the following partners: East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library, Magnolia Mound Plantation, Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge, Botanic Garden at Independence Park, LSU Shirley C. Tucker Herbarium, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Burden Museum and Gardens, Visit Baton Rouge, and a special grant from Georgia-Pacific.

Thank you to those who spent the last eighteen months working out the program, plan and logistics, and then making it happen: Peggy Davis Coates, Kathryn Braund, Brad Sanders, Dorinda Dallmeyer, Diane Sanders, Anna Humphries, Randy Harelson, Michèle Deshotels, and Sam Carr.

Bartram Trail Conference Board 2016–2018

President, T. R. Henderson

Vice President, Sam Carr

Treasurer, Anna Humphries

Interim Secretary, Chuck Spornick

Board Members:

Brad Sanders (*Membership Chair*),

Dorinda Dallmeyer (*Newsletter*

Editor), Joel Fry, Kathryn Braund

Jean Louis du Mesnil de St. Pierre



Downtown Willington, South Carolina

by Brad Sanders

In Chapter V of *Travels*, William Bartram writes of commencing his trip to Mobile in the company of a group of traders,

BEING returned from the Cherokee country to Dartmouth, I understood that the company of adventurers for West Florida were very forward in their preparations, and would be ready to set off in a few weeks, so that I had but a little time allowed me to make provision and equip myself for the prosecution of so long and hazardous a journey.

OUR place of rendezvous was at fort Charlotte, on the opposite side of the river Savanna, and about a mile from fort James. Having a desire to make little botanical excursions towards the head of Broad river, in order to collect some curiosities which I had observed thereabouts, which being accomplished,

JUNE 22d (1775) set out from fort Charlotte in company with Mr. Whitfield, who was chief of our caravan. We travelled about twenty miles and lodged at the farm of Mons. St.

Pierre, a French gentleman, who received and entertained us with great politeness and hospitality. The mansion-house is situated on the top of a very high hill near the banks of the river Savanna, which overlooks his very extensive and well cultivated plantations of Indian Corn (Zea) Rice, Wheat, Oats, Indigo, Convolvulus Batata, &c. these are rich low lands, lying very level betwixt these natural heights and the river; his gardens occupy the gentle descent on one side of the mount, and a very thriving vineyard consisting of about five acres on the other side.

Bartram's host was Jean Louis du Mesnil de St. Pierre, a prominent citizen of New Bordeaux, South Carolina. His plantation was successful and his house was well known in the area for it was painted during a period when most houses were not. St. Pierre was a native of Normandy and leader of a group of French Protestants that sailed from England in 1768, bound for Nova Scotia, but forced to land in Charleston because of bad weather. St. Pierre and his fellow passengers resolved to stay in South Carolina and petitioned the government for a grant of land.



Sara Juengst at the Willington History Center

They were given land in the Huguenot community of New Bordeaux, in Hillsborough Township ninety miles north of Augusta, and £1,197 for their support. The Bounty Act of 1761 provided a cash payment for anyone who established settlers in the Upcountry where they could serve as a barrier between the populous coast and the Cherokee Nation.

The community of New Bordeaux was established in 1764 at the forks of



Savannah Valley Railroad Trail trailhead, located at the intersection of SC-7 and Huguenot Parkway. It is a five mile hike to downtown Willington from here.

Long Cane Creek and Little River in present day McCormick County. Prior to the Revolution New Bordeaux produced silk and small quantities of wine, but the community consisted mostly of subsistence farms rather than the large plantations like that of St. Pierre. Much of the area of New Bordeaux is now included in Savannah Lakes Village, Hickory Knob State Park, and Baker Creek State Park. The oldest remaining structure from New Bordeaux is the Andre Guillebeau House, built about 1764, which has been moved to Hickory Knob State Park and restored.

St. Pierre quickly rose to prominence in the New Bordeaux community. He travelled to Europe in the winter of 1771–1772 and returned with more settlers and vine cuttings. He wrote a book, *The Art of Planting and Cultivating the Vine*, and by one account the first wine shipped from the British colonies came from St. Pierre's vineyards. He was lieutenant of the Fort Charlotte garrison, serving under Captain George Whitefield (also Whitfield). Three weeks after Bartram's visit St. Pierre was pres-

ent when Whitefield surrendered Fort Charlotte, the artillery, and powder to the Patriot militia. Whitefield was probably a patriot sympathizer and it seems that St. Pierre shared his sentiments.

There are a couple of references to St. Pierre's death in a skirmish with Cherokees near Clemson in 1776. Because the Cherokees were allied with the British, this means that St. Pierre was working with the Patriots. There was a skirmish with Cherokees on June 26, 1776 when South Carolina Rangers under Captain James McCall were ambushed near Seneca town (Clemson University campus) and four of his party were killed. There was another skirmish near Seneca on August 1 where only one was killed. The identity of the casualties is not recorded for either of these conflicts. The location of his grave is unknown, but it seems probable that he is buried somewhere on or near Clemson University.

About 1800 Moses Waddel moved from Columbia County, Georgia, to Vienna in Abbeville County, South Carolina where he preached and taught the

young men of the community. Waddel, being a fluent speaker of French, became the minister to the nearby French congregation in New Bordeaux. In 1804 Waddel moved his academy six miles to the town of Willington. This is meant in the literal sense as the physical building was rolled to the new location, which was chosen for its freedom from malaria. The Willington Academy became prominent for educating the sons of prestigious families from Georgia and South Carolina. Waddel purchased St. Pierre's house, known as Orange Hill, for his family's residence. The house burned sometime in the early twentieth century and the land is now property of the Army Corps of Engineers. Waddel left Willington for ten years, 1819–1829, to help revive the foundering Franklin College in Athens, Georgia (later the University of Georgia).

The town of Willington enjoyed its days of prosperity in the late 1800s and early twentieth century as a railroad depot and cotton boom town. Arrival of the boll weevil and the Great Depression forced many residents to leave town and seek employment elsewhere. By the late twentieth century Willington had become a near ghost town, prompting local citizens to form "Willington on the Way," which revitalized and rebuilt the town's commercial buildings. Willington is part of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor and is known today as the "Book Town" because of its popular bookstore whose profits support restoration of the buildings. Sara Juengst operates the history museum, open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For fans of William Bartram the few pieces that remain of the Bartram exhibit from the Clarks Hill Dam Visitor Center are on display in Willington. The northern trailhead for the Savannah Valley Railroad Trail is located in the center of town.

For more information about visiting Willington, email willington@wctel.net or you may call Sara Juengst at 864-391-2218.

William Bartram Heritage Corridor Project



by Sam Carr

Vice President, Bartram Trail Conference

On March 24, 2017 at the Bartram Trail Conference (BTC) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana a National Bartram Trail Workshop took place. The purpose of the workshop was to consider reviving the effort to establish William Bartram's travels as a national historic corridor of the Lewis and Clark National Trail pattern.

Members of the BTC board conducted the meeting, including President TR Henderson, Vice President Sam Carr, and Brad Sanders. Two representatives from the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service joined the workshop. Jaime Doubek-Racine, Florida Projects Director, attended the workshop in person and Ben West, Chief of Planning and Compliance, was on teleconference. There were a total of twelve others in the meeting.

The workshop reviewed the original purpose of the Bartram Trail Conference which includes the following: "The Bartram Trail Conference was established in 1976 as part of America's Bicentennial observance to locate and mark the route

of the pioneering Philadelphia naturalist William Bartram (1739–1823) through eight southern states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana." And, "The Conference works to promote interest in developing public access recreational trails (hiking, canoeing, biking and horseback riding) and botanical gardens within the corridor of Bartram's route through the individual states and to coordinate a regionally unified effort toward that end." The original group produced the *Bartram Heritage Report* in 1978 (<http://bit.ly/2qnXdoE>).

In February, 1982 a *Bartram Trail National Scenic/Historic Trail Study* (https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/trails/bartram_trail.pdf) was published by the National Park Service using the BTC's *Bartram Heritage Report* as the primary resource. The report stated "Bartram's travels, writings and illustrations were significant contributions to the natural science and literature of his era and are of significance to a present day understanding of the southeastern part of the nation during the 18th century." Their conclusions did not recommend a National Historic Trail

but **did** recommend action to form a national Bartram Heritage Project using the following framework:

1. Establishment of a Bartram Heritage Advisory Council including federal leadership (Dept. of the Interior), state representation and private (Bartram Trail Conference) representation.
2. Establishment of a Bartram Heritage Project Office and staff to coordinate the effort.
3. Development of a Detailed Master Plan within 2 years.
4. Establishment of a \$300,000 budget.
5. The Project would have included the following:
 - Designation of a Bartram Heritage Corridor
 - Designation and development of Bartram National Scenic Trail segments
 - Designation of Bartram National Recreation Trails (there are 6 already)
 - Designation of Bartram Scenic Waterways

- Designation of Bartram Memorial Highways
- Development and designation of Bartram Heritage Centers
- Designation of Bartram Heritage Cities

This all sounds great, but nothing happened. As one of our original Bartram Trail Conference members said, “it died because of politics.” There were no congressional or state champions to carry the effort forward. It literally sits in the archives of the Department of the Interior like Indiana Jones’ Ark of the Covenant.

The conclusion of the workshop was that at the time of the 1982 report, state and federal support died. We also concluded that due to changes in the National Trails Act and the National Parks Service designations our trail qualifies for designation. The National Parks Service representatives provided invaluable insight as to where we should go from here. We have a current inventory of eight National Recreation Trails; 32 other established trails; 17 Bartram routes and

120 dedicated sites—many of which are already on federal, state or other public lands. The following actions were suggested to the BTC Board of Directors by the Workshop:

1. Begin re-writing the *Bartram Heritage Report* considering past concerns and adding new information (cultural considerations, scholarship updates, and additional trail segments). We have a story to tell!
2. Create a data base to organize and coordinate the effort.
3. Begin to gather state by state collaborative support—Garden club federations, historical societies, Audubon societies, Indian tribes, state parks, and other national and regional groups.
4. Connect with the National Lands sub-Committee congressional representatives and other congressional representative state-by-state.
5. Gather by state an inventory of sites, trails, parks, cultural sites linked to Bartram’s *Travels*.

6. Gather a portfolio of Bartram articles, videos, publications, recognitions.

The Bartram Heritage Corridor map has been updated by Brad Sanders. A press release has been written to assist us in initial contacts with our collaborating congressional officers and groups. Initial contacts have been very promising. Documents are on our web site at <http://bit.ly/2pT5jSN>.

So what can you do? Please connect with us to offer assistance with any of the above actions. You may contact Sam Carr, scarr304gm@gmail.com, or Brad Sanders, bsanders@fevertreepress.com. We need to establish state coordinators and congressional contacts. We have tools you may use. Can you imagine celebrating a 2,000 mile **Bartram Historic Corridor** on the 250th anniversary of William’s journey through the Southeast? It may happen—get in the ‘bark’—we are paddling downstream with the wind at our back.

For more information contact Sam Carr, scarr304gm@gmail.com, 386-937-3901



St. Johns River Bartram Frolic

Join us as we celebrate the St. Johns River and the 243rd Anniversary of William Bartram's Travels through Putnam County.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2017

Downtown Palatka Riverfront

- Historic Seminole, Trader & European Reenactors
- Pride of Palatka Riverboat Tours
- Hiking, Biking & Kayaking
- Art Exhibits
- Artisan Vendors
- Live Music

Find us on Facebook 

For more information visit bartram.putnam-fl.com
Email: bartramnputnam@gmail.com • 386-326-2704




2017 St. Johns River Frolic



Palatka Riverfront

The Bartram Trail of Putnam County and the City of Palatka are planning to establish an annual fall festival—The St. Johns River Bartram Frolic. They believe the historic St. Johns River should be celebrated for its beauty and heritage by recognizing William Bartram's visits in 1765 and 1774. The 2017 festival will be September 29, 30 and October 1, 2017.

This will actually be the fourth Frolic in Palatka—the first documented in *Travels* in July of 1774 at the Lower Store, the second in October of 2015 during the Bartram Trail Conference, and the third in September of 2016 during the celebration of the designation of the Bartram National Recreation Trail. The festival will be based at the St. Johns River Center—the Trail headquarters.

The festival will feature historically themed reenactors—Seminoles, European traders, Indian maids, British governors, troops and of course William Bartram and his bark. The Putnam Blueways & Trails CSO will organize paddling tours, biking tours and guided hikes. Tours of Palatka's historic districts will be offered. The **Pride of Palatka** excursion boat will offer river tours including a sunset wine cruise to Rollestown and Dunn's Little Island.

There will be music on the riverfront. Nature-based vendors will offer their

wares and civic clubs will offer food and services on the riverfront. There will be art shows including 25 life-sized Bartram drawings from the Natural History Museum of London sketched during his Florida visit. The local art league will have a show featuring local art inspired by nature. Saturday evening will feature a wine stroll/frolic through downtown Palatka.

Sunday will include a Bartram prayer stroll on the riverfront and more touring and paddling opportunities. Later, Bar-

tram lectures will take place in the Larimer Arts Center with a previewing of the film *Cultivating the Wild—William Bartram's Travels* produced by Dorinda Dallmeyer and Eric Breitenbach.

For more information visit the website, <http://bartram.putnam-fl.com/>. If you would like to participate in the festival, please contact Ken Mahaffey @ somewhereinfl@gmail.com and 386-916-9160 or Sam Carr @ scarr304gn@gmail.com and 386-937-3901.



Bartram Trail Conference members visit the site of Spalding's Lower Store, William Bartram's headquarters in 1775.

The Traveller
c/o Brad Sanders
189 Hidden Hills Lane
Athens, GA 30605

Barttram Trail Conference Membership Form

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.

Please send payment to:
Barttram Trail Conference
c/o Anna Humphries
168 N Crest Road,
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Primary Areas of Interest in the Barttram Trail:(try to be specific about
geographic locations and activities, i.e., specific Barttram sites, and whether or not you
like to hike, read, garden, etc.)

Trail Conference projects.

You may also join online at:

<https://barttramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/page-1655351>
All you need is a PayPal account!

Your dues support our newsletter, web site, Fothergill Fellowship Awards and other Barttram