

The Traveller

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Spring, 2024



We are excited to hold this year's 2024 Bartram Trail Conference in gorgeous Cowee, in the heart of Western North Carolina. We hope you'll join us in exploring local arts, cultural history, and wonderful outdoor activities, all inspired by William Bartram's incredible journey through the region. Please visit <https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/2024-Conference> to register for the conference. If you would like to pay by check, please use the form on page 2.

We will be hosted by the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy. The meeting venue is the Cowee School, 51 Cowee School Drive, Franklin, NC 28734.

Wednesday, May 2

5–7:00 p.m. Kinship Photography Art and Photography Exhibit at Cowee School.

Thursday, May 30

5–8:00 p.m. Bartram Trail Conference Beer Release at Lazy Hiker Brewing.

Friday, May 31

3–6:00 p.m. Registration and hors d'oeuvres Cowee School.

6–8:00 p.m. Lazy Hiker Brewing Reception.

Saturday, June 1

8–9:00 a.m. Registration and Reception, Bent Willow Bakery.

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Dorinda Dalmeyer.

9:10 a.m. Brent Martin, *Bartram in Cherokee Country*.

9:30 a.m. Susan Patrice, *Reimagining Bartram/Listening to the Land*.

10:00 a.m. Annette Clapsaddle, *Cherokee Perspectives*.

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Jordan Smith, Executive Director, Mainspring Conservation Trust; *Little Tennessee River Landscape Conservation*.

11:45–12:15 p.m. Tyler Hayes, *Bartram Trail Cultural Corridor Expansion Project*

12:15–12:30 p.m. Loss Glazier.

12:30 p.m. Pick up box lunches.

12:45–4:00 p.m. Field Trips

- “The Great Vale of Cowee,” Cultural and Ecological Tour with Elaine Eisenbaum, Executive Director of the Nikwasi Initiative.

- Bartram Rapture and Astonishment Driving Tour with Brent Martin, Wayah Bald, Burningtown Gap, Nantahala Gorge.

- **Hands on Bartram Art Workshop** at Cowee School with Kim Keelor.
- **Cowee Mountain Elysium** with Ben Banick (Alarka Laurel).
- **Little Tennessee River Birding and Botanical Walking Tour** with Angela Martin.
- **On your own:** Cherokee Museum, Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum, Scottish Tartans Museum.

5–6:00 p.m. Reception

6:15 p.m. Banquet

7:30 p.m. Keynote with Charles Frazier.

Sunday June 2nd

Optional Little Tennessee Cultural and Natural History Kayaking Trip with Alarka Expeditions. This easy seven-mile trip traverses one of the most culturally rich landscapes in Appalachia, past the Cherokee town sites of Watauga and Cowee and through numerous native American fish weirs. Email Angela Martin at blueyodel32@gmail.com for reservations. \$65 person.

Optional Hike: Bartram Trail, Jones Gap to Whiterock Mountain. This 4.5-mile round trip hike follows the Bartram Trail along the crest of the Fishhawk Mountain Range to one of the most outstanding views and to one of the most botanically rich sites on the Bartram Trail. Moderate difficulty.

2024 Bartram Trail Conference Registration

Choose a registration type and indicate number of participants:

	# participants		Total
Full registration (Members): includes Friday reception, Saturday lectures & lunch, & Saturday evening banquet	_____	@ \$150 each =	_____
Full registration (Non-members): Includes all events and membership in the Bartram Trail Conference for 2024	_____	@ \$175 each =	_____
Saturday lectures only, includes lunch (Member)	_____	@ \$75 each =	_____
Saturday lectures only, includes lunch (Non-Member) Includes membership in the Bartram Trail Conference for 2024	_____	@ \$100 each =	_____
Saturday lectures only, includes lunch (Student)	_____	@ \$35 each =	_____

Accommodations

Hotel: We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn, Franklin. Reference “Bartram Trail Conference”
Phone: 828–369–0600

Website: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/fknnchx-hampton-franklin/>
Address: 244 Cunningham Rd, Franklin, NC 28734

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JJ61z4VoaWVYEQUk8>

Directions from Hampton Inn to Cowee School (8.8. Miles)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/9et6y4phsYrNhhDy6>

AirBNB: There are a lot of lovely cabins and homes in the area that are available to rent. Here’s a link to local AirBNB’s. Please visit the registration web site for a link to available accommodations.

Indicate number of T-shirts desired

_____ XS	x	\$25.00	=	_____
_____ S	x	\$25.00	=	_____
_____ M	x	\$25.00	=	_____
_____ L	x	\$25.00	=	_____
_____ XL	x	\$25.00	=	_____
_____ 2XL	x	\$25.00	=	_____
_____ 3XL	x	\$25.00	=	_____

Total Payment Due = _____

Name _____

Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to Bartram Trail Conference.

Send registration to:

Bartram Trail Conference
c/o Brad Sanders
189 Hidden Hills Lane
Athens, GA 30605

NOTE: for online registration and payment with credit card visit
<https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/event-5660383>

Regional News

Florida



Ahaya, played by Jim Sawgrass, at the Bartram Celebration at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park.

By Sam Carr

The Bartram Trail Society of Florida has been busy with the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of William Bartram's visit to Florida.

On April 13th, we began the celebration in Nassau County as part of its county-wide William Bartram Month Celebration. We paddled on historic Egans Creek and Billy Bartram (Mike Adams) spoke to the crowd.

On April 20th, we celebrated Bartram's birthday at Clay County's Camp Cowenaw Eco Fest (site of Governor Tony's indigo plantation). Billy Bartram and Job Wiggins (Robert Wilson) were in attendance.

On April 27th the Ninth Annual St. Johns River Bartram Frolic took place in Palakta; with paddling, hiking, biking and the Bartram Symposium. Brad Sanders presented details of Bartam's journey to Tallasohatchte. Christopher Robinson told us about Bartram's influence on the science of bird migration. Over 1,800 folks joined in the frolicking over the five days.

On May 4th, Bartram Days Celebration took place at the Alachua Savannah (Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park). Over 1,400 Bartram fans met Ahaya, known as the Cowkeeper (portrayed by Jim Sawgrass), Trader Job Wiggins and of course Billy Bartam himself. Bartram Troubadour Lee Pinkerson introduced her new songs *Ahaya* and *Tallasohachte*, telling the of Bartram's visit to Alachua Savannah. A reenactment of the naming of Billy Bartram as PUC-PUGGY was performed to everyone's delight.

On May 11th the celebration moved



Mike Adams as William Bartram and Robert Wilson as Job Wiggins posing with Billy's barque, the Puc Puggy.



The limited edition commemorative tee shirt for the 250th anniversary celebration was a popular item.

to St. Johns County's Alpine Grove Nature Park with appearances by the Bartram Troubadour Lee Pinkerson, Billy Bartram, the Long Warrior, Job Wiggins and of course, the Bartram Trail Society of Florida.

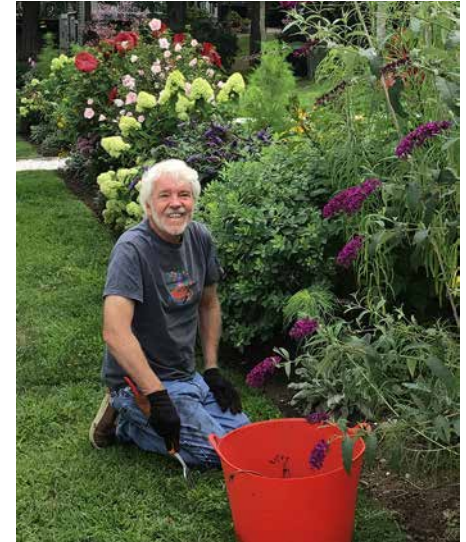
We estimate we have touched over 4,000 folks with Bartram's story of visiting Florida 250 years ago.

North Carolina

The Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy sponsors almost weekly events for Bartram fans, including hikes, trail work days, and natural history workshops. They have been extremely busy planning

for the upcoming Bartram Trail Conference to be held on May 31 and June 1, in Cowee just north of Franklin. Visit the web site and become a member to receive their newsletter, <https://blueridgebartram.org>

Louisiana



Randy Harelson

October 4, 1951–March 5, 2024

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Randy Harelson of New Roads, Louisiana. Randy was the president of the Southern Garden History Society, member of the Bartram Trail Conference, an avid gardener, an author and historian. He was instrumental in organizing the 2017 Bartram Trail Conference in Baton Rouge. Read his obituary in the [Advocate](#).

Photo used with the permission of the Southern Garden History Society.

Bartram Trail Conference Board

*President, Dorinda Dallmeyer
1st Vice President, Matt Jennings
2nd Vice President, Sam Carr
Treasurers, Ken & Janice Mahaffey
Secretary, Michele Deshotels*

Board Members:

*Brad Sanders (Newsletter Editor)
Matt Jennings (Fothergill Award Chair)
Kathryn Braund
Dean Campbell
Brent Martin*

William Bartram in Western North Carolina

The map below shows William Bartram's probable routes while exploring the Middle Cherokee Towns. His route is indicated by a blue dashed line.

