
The Sentinel

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Society of Florida

Spring, 2022

Welcome to our Inaugural Issue!

President's Report

Dear Members and Friends,

The Bartram Trail Society of Florida is a quickly expanding entity. We are currently working with St. Johns County, Duval County, Nassau County and Alachua County to develop Bartram Trails like we enjoy in Putnam County and Volusia County.

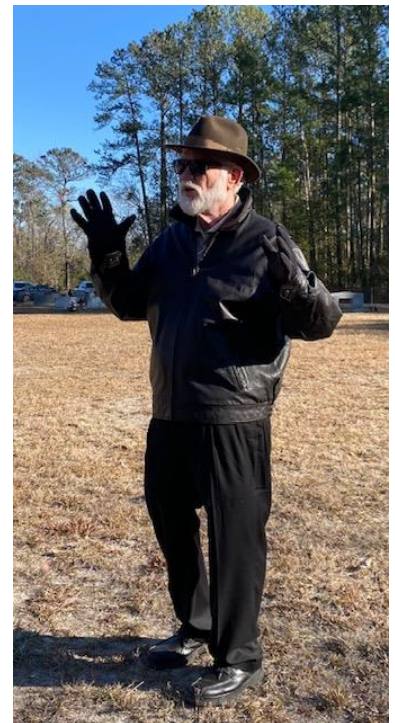
From our humble beginnings as the *Bartram Trail in Putnam Committee* in 2013 to becoming the *Bartram Trail Society of Florida* in 2019, it has been an effort that Past Commissioner Nancy Harris said, "it was meant to be", culminating with the designation of our trail as the *Bartram Trail of Putnam County National Recreation Trail* in 2016.

Now we are preparing to hold our 7th annual St. Johns River Bartram Frolic, April 22-24, 2022. We launched a state-of-the-art website. We have our own YouTube Channel with hours of Bartram videos. The Frolic on the St. Johns Education Program has become part of the Putnam County School District's annual curriculum. And as mentioned, we are expanding up and down the St. Johns River and beyond – everywhere William Bartram traveled in Florida.

This has been a real fun trip for those of us involved and we hope you will join us in the fun of reliving the Bartram inspired culture, history, art, and natural science. Please come hike, bike, or paddle with us at this year's Frolic.

We are finally starting to find ways to communicate with you more, including this new publication. I apologize it has taken so long. Rest assured we value your membership in the Bartram Trail Society of Florida. We have used your membership fees to help us get to where we are now. Thank you for your continuing support. We look forward to interacting with you.

Sam Carr, President



History of the Bartram Trail Society of Florida

By Janice and Ken Mahaffey

The Bartram Trail Society of Florida was originally established in 1977.

The original intent was to establish a Trail throughout the southern states that John and William Bartram travelled, recording the flora and fauna of the “southern colonies”.

The Bartram Trail concept began in Alabama, with then Governor George Wallace agreeing to establish a relationship with adjoining states’ governors embracing the complete trail of the naturalist’s travels.

Throughout the initial process, local garden clubs were approached to establish a state survey and organizations under the guidance of Robert N. Peck, appointed by President Carter to coordinate and author the final report for the establishment of the Trail.

The Florida’s leader at the time was Mrs. Van Blanchard of Pensacola, President of the Florida’s Garden Clubs. She reached out to Putnam gardener, and wildflower president, Mrs. Dot Driggers of East Palatka.

Mrs. Driggers approached local outdoor enthusiasts, Wyman Long and Ken Mahaffey, who were appointed as officers. Mr. Long was designated President and Ken Mahaffey, Vice President of the Bartram Trail Society of Florida.

Among the major accomplishments that were made locally was the establishment of the Bartram Scenic Highway, State Road 13 in St. Johns County. Representative Hamilton Upchurch spearheaded the designation and accomplished it for the Society.

However, the young organization was short lived – by 1981 the efforts of the original Bartram Heritage organization was unimportant to the political climate that had just begun undertaking the task of the Trail.

Through the interests of Putnam County Commissioner, Nancy Harris, a commission was established to explore the natural resources that our county had and to develop it into a comprehensive program in 2013.

Putnam County’s Blueways & Trails focused on our rich resource, the St. Johns River, establishing bicycle, hiking, and paddling trails. We have grown from this rich foundation to reclaim the original incorporation of the Bartram Trail Society of Florida.



Highlights of 2022 Bartram Trail Conference



Florida Contingent at the Bartram Trail Conference in Darien, GA

By Dean Campbell

The Bartram Trail Society of Florida was well represented at this year's meeting of the Bartram Trail Conference held in the quaint southern town of Darien, Georgia during the weekend of January 28-30, 2022.

The Conference activities began with a field trip to the historic site of Fort Barrington on private property on the shores of the Altamaha River. William Bartram visited the Fort during his year-long stay in Darien during his travels across the southeastern United States. It was here that he discovered the *Franklina*, a native tree endemic to the region and named after Benjamin Franklin. The outing was hosted by The Fort Barrington Hunt Club whose members have preserved and protected the site through a conservation easement. The

Conference attendees were invited to tour the site of the fort and were given guided hiking tours along the colonial era "Post Road," which is still in use today. It is a side road off the historic King's Highway connecting Savannah to St. Augustine.

The field trip was followed by a workshop on creating the William Bartram National Historic Corridor. It was well-attended – both in-person and virtually – and the presentations by the National Park Service and personnel associated with an existing Historic Corridor were both informative and eye-opening.

The Conference symposium was, as usual, outstanding. Attendees enjoyed several informative and entertaining presentations by Bartram scholars, artists, and authors. Each presentation was followed by lively discussion. After

the symposium, the group visited the McIntosh Family Cemetery and met two direct descendants of Donald McIntosh, who was William's host during his stay in Darien nearly 250 years ago.



The culmination of the event was a banquet dinner featuring original Bartram songs by Linda Crider, stories by Billy Bartram (aka Mike Adams), and a keynote address by Christi Lambert, Coast and Marine Director of Conservation at The Nature Conservancy.

Winter Orchids and a bit of History...

Bartram's Tree Orchid / Green Fly Orchid

By Mike Adams

On January 26, 2022, photographer **Lorraine Conover**, member of **The Bartram Garden Club and the Orchid Society of Jacksonville, Florida**, spotted this rare orchid on the low branch of a live oak nestled amongst resurrection ferns at the Garden Club of Fernandina Beach. After some careful research she identified it as **Green Fly Orchid**, also known as **Bartram's Tree Orchid** (*Epidendrum magnoliae*, sometimes called *Epidendrum conopseum*).

Bartram's Tree Orchid is the most northern-growing epiphytic (air plant) orchid in North America, found wild in the southeastern United States from Louisiana to North Carolina and in northeastern Mexico. This orchid can grow on the branches of evergreen and deciduous trees at low coastal elevations. Leaves are broadly elliptical, up to 4 inches long, thick, and almost leathery. One plant will produce 6-14 flowers, an almost translucent pale green to butter to bronze colored. They will survive a wide range of temperatures.

Bartram's Tree Orchid flourishes with a symbiotic relationship, not harming the host tree. Look for one on your next bike, hike in a live oak hammock or paddle along the St. Johns River!

Photo credit: Lorraine Conover, Jacksonville, FL



Our Living History



Trader Job Wiggins
(Robert Wilson)



The Long Warrior
(Jim Sawgrass)



William 'Billy' Bartram
(Mike Adams)



Mr. and Mrs. Ben Franklin
(Anne and Tom Berkey)

We have a lot going on...

Recent Events

Date	Location	Event	Description
11/27/21	Palatka, FL	Downtown Palatka Annual Christmas Parade	Billy, his sister Elizabeth & 'cousin' Mary (along with Sam & Janis) in parade float
1/4/22	Eustis, FL	Lake County Camilla Garden Club meeting	Billy discussed his travel adventures and Sam shared Heritage Corridor & legacy of FL Federation of Garden Clubs
1/11/22	Jacksonville, FL	Loblolly Bay Garden Club meeting	Billy and Sam gave Heritage Corridor & garden club presentation
1/27 to 1/30/22	Darien, GA	2022 Bartram Trail Conference	National conference with field trips and presentations – see article page 3 for conference recap!
2/19/22	Palatka, FL	History & Genealogy Exposition	Display table and living history with Billy, Elizabeth, Mary and Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Franklin interacting with visitors

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event	Description
4/9/22	St Augustine, FL	Bartram Bash	Annual event at Alpine Groves Park in St. Johns County
4/21 to 4/24/22	Palatka, FL	St. Johns River Frolic	Our big annual event! See flyer on next page for details
5/7/22	Hawthorne, FL	Little Orange Creek Festival	We will have a display at the annual festival. The Preserve & Nature Park covers 2,900 acres of the upper Little Orange Creek watershed

Officers and Board Members

President – Sam Carr
Vice Pres. – Mike Adams
Treasurer – Larry Mikelson
Secretary – Janis Brown
Kalia Baillene
Dean Campbell
Linda Crider
Mary Garcia
Ken & Janice Mahaffey
Robert Virnstein, PhD





St. Johns River Bartram Frolic

Explore history on our river!

April 22-24, 2022

Palatka's riverfront comes alive with faces from the past as we follow the footsteps of artist and naturalist William Bartram whose writings chronicle a journey through the unspoiled nature of 1774 Florida. With living history interpreters from all walks of life, children's activities, and tours by bike, boat, and kayak with expert guides, there's something for everyone at the 2022 St. Johns River Bartram Frolic!



Bartram Trail Society of Florida Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

_____ I am a New Member

_____ I am renewing my membership

_____ Individual \$25

_____ Family \$30

_____ Student \$15

_____ Contributor \$50

_____ Sustainer \$100

_____ Sponsor \$250

_____ Patron \$500

_____ Affiliate \$0

Primary Areas of Interest in the Bartram Trail Society of Florida – *consider fun and exciting volunteer opportunities!*

Your dues support our newsletter, web site, The Frolic, and other Bartram Trail Society projects.

Please send membership form and payment to address below or [click here to join online](#).

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YouTube: [Bartram Trail Society of Florida - YouTube](#)
Bartram Trail Conference: [Bartram Trail Conference - Home](#)
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