

2024 St. Johns River Bartram Frolic Symposium

3:00 PM: Sam Carr – 250TH Anniversary of William Bartram Travels to Florida

Sam Carr is president of the Bartram Trail Society of Florida and past president of the Bartram Trail Conference. He will share his passion for William Bartram's travels to Palatka, and its legacy. "The Bartram Trail in Florida was created by William Bartram 250 years ago this month. His TRAVELS creates for us a wonderful and meaningful heritage of nature, art, science and literature the Bartram Trail Society in Florida seeks to preserve."

3:30 PM: Dr. Christopher Robinson - Bartram's Contributions to the Discovery of Bird Migration

Dr. Robinson teaches psychology and neuroscience at Reinhardt University and has been researching and writing on William and John Bartram for nine years. He has mapped and written a critical edition of John Bartram's Onondaga trip and is currently working on a new edition of William Bartram's Travels. "For centuries, people have recognized that birds disappeared in the winter and wondered where they went. In most accounts, the discovery that birds migrated was not demonstrated until 1822 when a stork with an African arrow in its neck was shot in Germany. However, 30 years earlier, near the end of his discussion of his travels through Florida, William Bartram gave a list of nearly 200 birds in an effort to show that birds migrate."

4:00 PM: Brad Sanders - Beyond the Alachua Savanna

Brad Sanders is the author of GUIDE TO WILLIAM BARTRAMS' TRAVELS and Director of the Bartram Trail Conference. He is the primary authority on the Bartram Trail. "In the summer of 1774 William Bartram journeyed to the Seminole town of Talahaschte on the Suwannee River. This excursion is significant for it includes observations of animal behavior as often as it does plant descriptions. Bartram visited Manatee Spring and explored what is now Dixie County. He described the landscape of west-central Florida known as karst and he left us one of the first accounts of Seminole culture and life."

4:45 PM: Lee Pinkerson – The Bartram Troubadour Sings the Bartram Story

Lee Pinkerson and Bill Snyder – AKA "Harri Buffalo" will share original Bartram stories by song in a delightful performance telling of the Bartram legacy in Florida including Talahaschte and Ahaya- the Cowkeeper. This will be the first public performance of some of the songs.

5:15 PM: Brent Martin – The Bartram Trail Conference

Brent Martin is the executive director of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy, director of the Bartram Trail Conference, and the owner of Alarka Expeditions in Franklin, North Carolina. He is the author of several books, including George Masa's Wild Vision. His latest edition is "A Hiker's Guide to the Bartram National Recreation Trail in Georgia and North Carolina". Brent will introduce the 2024 Bartram Trail Conference - Franklin, NC, May 31 – June 1, 2024

5:30 PM: Dean Campbell - The Bartram Trail in Florida

Dean Campbell is the vice president of Bartram Trail Society of Florida, and Director of The Bartram Trail Conference will close the symposium with a review of all that has happened because of the William Bartram legacy in the state of Florida. Efforts by Nassau, Duval, St. Johns and Alachua Counties to establish the Bartram Trail of Florida will be shared.