

The *Traveller*

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Spring, 2025

Meet us in St. Augustine! August 1-3, 2025



We are excited to hold this year's 2025 Bartram Trail Conference in St. Augustine, Florida, visited by both John and William Bartram in October 1765. Our venue is historic Flagler College. All events will be held at the Ringhaven Student Center, 59 Sevilla Street. The conference begins on Friday with a "Trail Workshop" sponsored by the Bartram Trail Society of Florida. Saturday's symposium features leading scholars on William Bartram whose presentations will feature William Bartram's time in East Florida. The conference concludes Sunday morning with optional field trips. We hope you'll join us in exploring local history and wonderful outdoor activities, all inspired by William Bartram's incredible journey through the region. Please visit <https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/2025-Conference-Registration> to register.

If you would like to pay by check, please use the form on page 4. Room locations for events are listed below

Friday August 1, 2025

1:00–4:00: *Building the Bartram Trail Workshop*. The workshop will feature presentations by numerous county organizations working to establish a unified trail in Florida as well as other participants. (Virginia Room)

5:00–6:30 Opening Reception (Jay's Place on the first floor)

6:30: *Cultivating the Wild*, a documentary featuring six modern-day environmentalists, artists and researchers who carry on the legacy of America's first naturalist, William Bartram. The one-hour film will be shown in the

Gamache-Koger Theater in the Student Center.

Saturday August 2, 2025

8:00 BTC Auction Room opens (2nd floor classrooms across from the Virginia Room)

8:30-9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00-9:15 Welcome, Matt Jennings, President, Bartram Trail Conference (Virginia Room)

Bartram in East Florida

9:15: Dr. Matt Jennings, *Bartram's Adventures in East Florida*

9:45: Dr. Taylor McGaughey, *Governor James Grant of East Florida*

10:15: Q & A

10:30 Break

East Florida

10:45: Dr. Denise Bossy, *Bartram as a Window into Indigenous Florida*

11:15: Dr. James Hill, *The Long Warrior and Cowkeeper*

11:45: Q & A

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Bartram and Botany

1:00: Adam Arendale, *The Ixia*

1:30: Dr. Kelly Enright, *Memory and the Franklinia*

2:00-2:15 Q & A

2:15-2:45 Bartram Remembered

"My Favorite Bartram Moment in Ten Minutes"

Sam Carr: *Finding Satsuma Springs*

Mike Adams: *The British Natural History Museum*

Kathryn Braund: *The Picolata Powder Horn*

3:00-5:00 **Special Tours and Displays.** Visit the BTC Auction, which closes at 4:00. A tour of campus is also available.

6:00-8:00 **Banquet and Keynote Address:** Dr. Elizabeth Athens (Virginia Room)

Sunday August 3

We have two options for Sunday touring.

Tour Historical St. Augustine sites on an optional Bus Tour of sites associated with John and William Bartram, including Fort Mosé. Seating is limited. See page 4 and the registration form for more details.

Bring your **kayak** and paddle around St. Augustine or sign up for a guided kayak tour, arranged through our outfitter, see information on the page 4.

Keynote Address to be Delivered by Dr. Elizabeth Athens

Dr. Elizabeth Athens, an art historian and a former Fothergill award recipient, will be the keynote speaker for the 2025 meeting. She received her PhD from Yale University. Her research interests include eighteenth and nineteenth century art and natural history, the art of empire, and the history of collecting. She is currently Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Connecticut. Among her many publications are *William Bartram's Visual Wonders: The Drawings of an American Naturalist*. Her book is the recipient of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia's 2024 Literary Award in non-fiction.



Photo used by permission of Ebayabe

Fort Mosé Historic State Park

Gracis Real de Santa Teresa de Mosé was established in 1738 by the Spanish governor of Florida as a refugee settlement for those who managed to escape enslavement in the English colonies to the north. The settlers were required to accept Catholicism and, from their fortified site just north of St. Augustine, help defend the city from attacks from Georgia or Carolina. By the time John and William Bartram visited St. Augustine in October 1765, the site was in British hands and virtually abandoned. On Sunday, October 13, 1765, father and son went to church in downtown St. Augustine, and then, John Bartram wrote in his journal, "walked to ye fort" now Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, to look around. After admiring this imposing fortress, the pair walked "out to an ould fort searching for plants of various kinds." The "old" fort site has been definitively located and examined by several archaeological investigations. Artifacts from the excavations are on display in the museum and the site is still, as in the 1760s, a wonderful site to view birds and plants. Make your plans now to visit both forts while in St. Augustine.



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Flagler College

The venue for our conference, Flagler College, bills itself as “one of the most beautiful campuses in the country,” and that is certainly true. Located in St Augustine’s historic district, the central building on campus is the former Hotel Ponce de Leon, now a National Historic Landmark. The hotel was built by Henry Flagler, the oil and railroad magnate, as a luxury resort in 1888. The campus features Spanish Renaissance architecture, including famous Tiffany stained glass windows. The old hotel became Flagler College in 1968 and covers 19 acres. The students will be on summer break during our visit.

BTC events will be held in the Ringhaver Student Center, 50 Sevilla Street.

For a peek at the campus, visit <https://www.flagler.edu/admissions-aid/visit-flagler>.

Parking: If you are arriving by car, the Historic Downtown Parking Facility is located adjacent to the Visitors Information Center and is a short walk to the campus. A campus map and parking information is available at <https://www.flagler.edu/travel-information>.

The College maintains a helpful list of links for travelers, including information on transportation and hotels: <https://www.flagler.edu/travel-information>.

About Our Speakers

Dr. Matthew Jennings is the current President of the Bartram Trail Conference and Professor of History at Middle Georgia State University. He is a former Fothergill award recipient, his first book, *New Worlds of Violence: Cultures and Conquests in the Early American Southeast*, came out in 2011. He is also the author of *Ocmulgee National Monument: A Brief History with Field Notes*, co-authored with Gordon Johnston (2018). In addition to other scholarly essays, he produced *The Flower Hunter and the People: William Bartram in the Native American Southeast* (2014).

Dr. Taylor McGaughy, a former Fothergill award recipient, is the author of “Bartram’s Westerly Wanderings: Economic Transitions in Travels,” in *The Attention of a Traveller* (2022). He is currently working on a book manuscript focusing on James Grant’s career in South Carolina and East Florida. He currently serves as an archivist with the National Park Service.

Dr. Denise Bossy is the Allen Lastinger Term Professor of Florida History, University of North Florida. Her teaching and research focus on Florida, local Indigenous history, public and digital humanities, and the Native South. Her award-winning publications include *The Yamasee Indians: From Florida to South Carolina* (2018). Her forthcoming book *Yamasee: Indigenous Mobility and*

Power in the Early South will be published by the University of North Carolina Press. She is currently working with Dr. Keith Ashley on a public-facing book and digital humanities site that examines the deep history of the Mocamas, Guales, and Yamasees of Northeast Florida.

Dr. James Hill, Associate Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh, is the author of *Creek Internationalism in an Age of Revolution* which focuses on Creek and Seminole efforts to defend their territorial and political power by forging transatlantic diplomatic networks, manipulating and appropriating European concepts of sovereignty, and participating in an international diplomatic community.

Adam Arendale, botanist and naturalist, is the Director of the Bartram Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Dr. Kelly Enright, is Associate Professor of History and Director of Historical Studies at Flagler College. Her work focuses on portrayals of nature in American culture, human-animal relationships, museums, historic preservation, explorers, and travel. She is the author of numerous books, including *The Maximum of Wilderness: The Jungle in the American Imagination*. Her published essays include “Franklinia in the Garden: Memorialising Foliage, Preserving Heritage” in *Extinction and Memorial Culture* (2023).

Kayak Tours

Earth Kinship Ecotourism and Naturalist School is offering two kayak tours to conference participants. They are,

Salt Run Kayak Experience

Friday, August 1st, 9:00–11:30 am

Castillo Waters Experience

Sunday, August 3rd, 9:00–11:30 am

To register for either or both of these kayak tours please go to <https://www.earthkinship.us/events>.

Sunday Morning Bus Tour

An optional tour will take guests to visit several Bartram sites in an around St. Augustine. They include the Watchtower, Governor's House, and Fort Mosé. The tour starts at the public parking garage at 1 Cordova Street.

You can sign up for the tour with our registration page, however you must pay for it as a separate transaction. To register for the bus tour please go to <https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/event-6211200/Registration>.

Accommodations

There are numerous hotels within walking distance or easy driving distance. For a list visit: <https://www.flagler.edu/travel-information>.

There are also may Bed and Breakfast accommodations within easy walking distance to Flagler College. For a list, visit <https://www.staugustineinns.com/inns.html>.

Bartram Trail Conference Board

President, Matt Jennings

1st Vice President, Brent Martin

2nd Vice President, Sam Carr

Treasurers, Ken & Janice Mahaffey

Board Members:

Brad Sanders (*Newsletter Editor*)

Matt Jennings (*Fothergill Award Chair*)

Kathryn Braund

Dean Campbell

Brent Martin

Call for Silent Auction Items

Once again, the BTC will be having a silent auction. All proceeds support the Bartram Trail Conference's Fothergill Award for the support of research.

Please donate appropriate items that will attract bids at the conference in St. Augustine. We want you to donate items related to outdoor recreation, nature, gardens, natural history or any Bartram-related items that our members might like to bid on. You can donate items from your own collection, buy them specifically for donation to the BTC silent auction, arrange to have them donated through your business or from businesses with whom you have asking-rights, or even come up with some scheme of your own! These can range from relatively minor to fairly expensive, though substantial items tend to make more money for the Conference. BTC members can pick up items or you can bring them to the meeting and deliver them to the auction room.

Here are some good ideas—Items that we have and some we have seen:

♦ pottery ♦ a 1928 *Birds of Florida* book with color illustrations ♦ a *Franklinia* tile trivet ♦ a gift basket of souvenirs from Florida ♦ a hand-drawn copy of one of Bartram's drawings ♦ various T-shirts ♦ a pair of alligator salt shakers ♦ a hand-blown Williamsburg reproduction bottle ♦ an antique clay jug from Alabama ♦ a copy of any Bartram book or book on a Bartram locale ♦ various prints & paintings ♦ photographs ♦ *objets d'art* ♦ Bartram plants ♦ vases ♦ plates decorated with images of Audubon's bird images ♦ art prints or photographs relating to William Bartram or nature or places he visited

If you think you can help, or just want to talk about things, contact TR Henderson, trhender@gmail.com.

Vision for building the National Bartram Trail



Sam Carr

This Workshop will showcase the effort underway in Florida to establish a comprehensive state-wide Bartram Trail system. Bartram Trail development efforts in other states will also be highlighted and opportunities for future trail development will be discussed. Representatives from various states will discuss both the successes and challenges of creating and maintaining the Bartram-themed trails in their area. Ideas for enhancements to existing trails, for the creation of new trails, and trail resources will also be discussed.

Background

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. Historic Bartram Gardens in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the home of the Bartram family, was the origin and termination of William Bartram's historic travels. The Conference works to promote interest in developing public access recreational trails (hiking, canoeing, biking and horseback riding) and botanical

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Building the Bartram Trail Workshop

Attendance at the Building the Bartram Trail Workshop is free and you can choose “yes” or “no” during registration. If you are not attending the conference but wish to participate in the workshop, please use this link to register, <https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/event-6215375>.

Friday, August 1

1:00–2:30PM Building the Bartram Trail in Florida

1. Building the Bartram Trail in Florida

- a. **The Florida Experience:** Sam Carr, Pres. Bartram Trail Society of FL, Bartram Trail Conference Director
- b. **How We Did It:** Dean Campbell, VP Bartram Trail Society of FL, Bartram Trail Conference Director
- c. Bartramtrailsociety.com: Stephanie Liskey, Managing Partner & Co-Owner, Sailforth Productions

2. Northeast Florida Regional Council's Vision for a Regional Trail Project: Eric Anderson, Deputy CEO, NE Florida Regional Council, Chair of Trails and Ecotourism Steering Committee

3. Bartram Trail of Florida, Review

- a. **Putnam County:** Dean Campbell
- b. **Volusia County:** Stephanie Liskey, Managing Partner & Co-Owner, Sailforth Productions
- c. **Clay County:** Samantha Kusters, Product Development Manager, Clay County Tourism Department
- d. **Nassau County:** Beverly Williams, Bartram Trail of Nassau County Chair

- e. **St. Johns County:** Tess Simpson, Community Programs Manager, St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department
- f. **Alachua County:** Jeffrey Forbes, Development Coordinator, Alachua Conservation Trust, Past President Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park CSO
- g. **Duval County:** Lauren Chappel, City of Jacksonville Parks & Recreation Department

2:30–2:45PM Questions & Break

2:45–4:00PM The National Bartram Trail

- a. **Bartram Trails in Alabama:** Mike Bunn, Author of 18 books including *The Tensaw River: Alabama's Hidden Heritage Corridor*, Director of Historic Blakeley State Park in Spanish Fort, Alabama.
- b. **Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy:** Brent Martin, Author of *A Hiker's Guide to the Bartram National Recreation Trail in Georgia and North Carolina*. Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy, Bartram Trail Conference Director.
- c. **Bartram Trails in Georgia:** Brad Sanders, Author of *Guide to William Bartram's Travels: Following the Trail of America's First Great Naturalist*. Director of Bartram Trail Conference.
- d. **Bartram Historic Monuments:** TR Henderson, Bartram Trail Conference Director
- e. **Flagler College Bartram Site Research:** Kelly Enright, PhD Curator of Campus Collections & Associate Professor Flagler College
- f. **Open Discussion:** How do we get more states involved?

gardens within the corridor of Bartram's route through the individual states and to coordinate a regionally unified effort toward that end. The Bartram Trail Conference employs a “string of pearls” concept by highlighting significant natural areas and culturally significant locations along Bartram's route. The Bartram Trail Conference has erected highway markers and provided information on the Bartram heritage at a variety of federal, state and private locations across the southeast.

In addition to the placement of historical trail markers, The Bartram Trail Conference has created a website with a number of resources including a comprehensive map of the route taken by William Bartram's Travel and state-by-state interpretation and commentary that provides an excellent overview of his journey. Other comprehensive

efforts have been undertaken by numerous authors who have published in-depth guides for those who wish to follow in Bartram's footsteps.

There have also been a number of localized efforts to create more formal “Bartram Trails.” These efforts have resulted in the creation of formalized hiking, paddling and even driving trails with official designations. These efforts have usually been initiated at the local level and typically are constrained to a specific waterbody, trail or roadway.

In 2014, a committee was formed in Putnam County, Florida to develop the first countywide Bartram Trail. The effort was organic and undertaken without a clear idea or even vision for what the Trail might ultimately “look like.” It was only when grant funding was sought to support the trail development effort that a clear roadmap was creat-

ed identifying all of the components needed for the creation of the Bartram Trail in Putnam County. Those steps and components were spelled out in the grant application.

The creation of the Bartram Trail in Putnam County was by every measurement a success and has been recognized as a major asset to the economy and the quality of life in Putnam County. A short time after the trail was established it earned recognition as a National Recreation Trail. Since then, neighboring counties have expressed interest in developing similar comprehensive trails and trail resources. As a result, the Bartram Trail Society of Florida has begun working with each county along the national Bartram Trail Corridor with Florida to create a uniform Statewide Bartram Trail using Putnam County's Trail as a template.

Lafayette on the Bartram Trail

Despite only a few degrees of separation, the Marquis de Lafayette and William Bartram never met. During Lafayette's first residence in the United States his time was occupied with military service as a major general during the American Revolution. Lafayette arrived in Philadelphia on July 31, 1777, just six months after Bartram had returned home from his travels in the southern colonies. Even though much of Lafayette's military service was spent in the environs of Philadelphia, the pace of war prevented the normal social activities that would have offered Lafayette and Bartram the opportunity to meet. Lafayette returned to France in December, 1781, two months after the surrender of the British at Yorktown, considering his service to American independence and democracy no longer necessary.

At the invitation of President Monroe, Lafayette returned to the United States in 1824, when the nation was approaching its fiftieth birthday. Unfortunately, his return occurred a year after the death of William Bartram. Lafayette's visit to America was something of a national hysteria. Everywhere he went there were parades, balls, banquets, barbecues, speeches upon speeches, military salutes, military escorts, flowers strewn in his path, and countless objects of memorabilia produced by a young industrious nation. Lafayette reunited with some of the veterans that he had served with during the Revolution, though they were few in number.

Though he and Bartram never met, it is reasonable to believe that the two men knew of one another by reputation. Lafayette was revered in America for his service in the Revolution and for his support for liberal democracy. William Bartram was well known in Europe for his *Travels* was widely read and discussed. The years 2024 and 2025 mark the bicentennial of Lafayette's return to America, when he toured a nation much larger and more prosperous than it was when he left it 44 years earlier. In late March of this year, Georgians celebrated Lafayette's visit to their state and Alabamians celebrated in early April.

Lafayette's route from Savannah to Augusta to Montgomery and Mobile



The Marquis de Lafayette (portrayed by actor Charles Wissinger) addresses the citizens of Warrenton, Georgia, on March 24, 2025.

followed very closely the same route that William Bartram traveled in 1775. In the fifty years between the time of Bartram's travels and Lafayette's tour there were new towns, many new roads, and new modes of travel. Lafayette traveled in a fine carriage that was a gift from Congress and he took advantage of the new steamboats plying the Savannah and Alabama Rivers to ease the burden of travel over bad roads. Though Lafayette's carriage was of excellent construction, it was no match for the terrible roads in the rural parts of Georgia and Alabama over which he traveled, therefore, steamboats were preferred whenever available.

Bartram's route from Augusta to central Alabama followed the Lower Creek Trade Path, which became the Federal Road in 1806, connecting Milledgeville and Mobile. During Bartram's travels there were no settlements to the west of Augusta until he reached the Lower Creek Towns on the Chattahoochee River. When Lafayette traveled the same route in 1825 new towns had sprung up along the Fall Line; Warrenton, Sparta, Milledgeville, and Macon. The road between Augusta and Macon had shifted slightly northward to pass through these new towns and it followed what was previously known as the Upper Creek Path.

Once he reached Macon, Lafayette would travel in Bartram's footsteps all the way to the environs of Montgomery. The boundary of Georgia was at the Flint River in 1825, where Lafayette crossed into the Creek Nation at the site of Benjamin Hawkins' Old Creek Agency.

On his first day of travel out of Augusta Lafayette became ill from the motion of his carriage traveling over rutted and washed out roads. He spent a night in Warrenton and recovered enough to continue traveling the next day.

Upon crossing the Chattahoochee River and as he was about to disembark from the ferry boat, Creek men urged Lafayette to climb into a cabriolet they provided and they carried the carriage and the general to the top of the bank so he would not step upon wet soil. Lafayette spent a night with the family of Big Warrior, at the place now known as Warrior Stand. Lafayette and his entourage spent the next night at Lucas' Tavern on line Creek, then the boundary between Alabama and the Creek Nation.

Lafayette was feted by the citizens of Montgomery on April 3 and 4, then he boarded the steamboat *Henderson* for the voyage to Mobile. When Bartram traveled from the Upper Creek Towns to Mobile in the summer of 1775 he followed the



Lafayette (portrayed here by Michael Halbert) was honored by the citizens of Cahaba, Alabama, with speeches, a wild game dinner, and a ball. He was greeted by Governor Israel Pickens and the local Freemasons. His path was strewn with flowers as he stepped on shore. Lafayette spent most of the day of April 5, 1825, in Cahaba.

trading path that lay east of the Alabama River. During Lafayette's travels through the state steamboats regularly traveled between Montgomery and Mobile, providing a level of comfort far superior to a horse drawn carriage traveling over bad roads.

On April 5 Lafayette visited Selma briefly and was entertained lavishly by the citizens of Cahaba, then the state capital. He made a brief stop at Claiborne and arrived in Mobile on April 7, where he was honored with a banquet and a ball. Lafayette's trip to Louisiana was by water, just as Bartram had traveled in 1775.

Bartram did not set foot in New Orleans because it was Spanish territory in 1775, but he visited the English settlement of New Richmond, just north of the boundary between British West Florida and Spanish Louisiana. In 1825 New Orleans part of the state of Louisiana and New Richmond had become the city of Baton Rouge. After being honored by the citizens of New Orleans, Lafayette traveled to Baton Rouge and on up the Mississippi River, where he left the Bartram Trail.

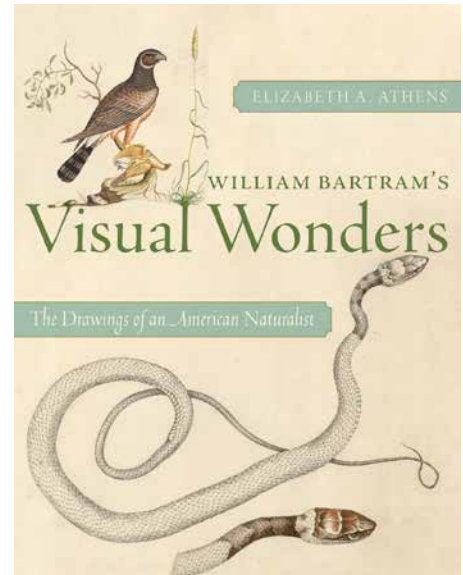
Book Review

Elizabeth A. Athens. *William Bartram's Visual Wonders: The Drawings of an American Naturalist*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2024. Pp. 250. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$40.00.

Hailed as America's first great naturalist, William Bartram's book, commonly known as "Bartram's Travels," lays out a vision of the landscape of the American South as Bartram experienced it during his botanizing expedition from 1773 until his return to his Philadelphia home early in 1777. His vivid writing describes the plants and animals of southern ecosystems as well as describing the native peoples whose deep ecological knowledge he relied upon. "Travels" has been reprinted repeatedly since its first publication in 1791 and remains a snapshot in time for those interested in visualizing through Bartram's words the nature of the colonial southern landscape. Testament to Bartram's central appeal is the fact that the online bibliography WorldCat reveals 2,728 citations of him. As we mark the 250th anniversary of William Bartram's sojourn in the South, the question may be: What is left to be said?

Elizabeth A. Athens answers that question in her engaging examination of his graphic work in *William Bartram's Visual Wonders: The Drawings of an American Naturalist*. Athens links Bartram's writings directly to his drawing practice, which began in his early teen years and continued until his vision began to fail him in his sixties. While the influence *Travels* had on American and European authors is well-known, Athens' book traces the importance of the act of illustration in Bartram's work—the focus which drawing requires to accurately render all the aspects of a plant or animal on paper. Equally important for Bartram was the act of conveying his subject's behavior—which, for Bartram not only included the obvious behavior of animals but also plants. As Athens describes it, Bartram's emphasis on illustration would move him "from matter toward thought and imagination."

Early in the text, Athens emphasizes



the great influence on Bartram of William Hogarth's book *The Analysis of Beauty*. Hogarth set out a framework to better reflect the fluidity, mutability, and flexibility of the living world, especially through the use of what he called "the serpentine line." Bartram wholeheartedly embraced this approach as can be seen in the illustrations included in this book. With the author's guidance, the reader can appreciate the dynamic experience Bartram was trying to facilitate, and not just through the use of vision. Unlike other contemporary naturalist-artists who often were working only with dried pressed plants and animal skins, Bartram's illustrations convey movement, tension, and even the other senses, such as the feel of an alligator's skin and the taste suggested by an edible lotus seed.

Athens also skillfully blends into the text the response of the audience intended for much of Bartram's scientific and artistic work. European learned societies (particularly the Royal Society) and European taxonomists were trying to make novel American plants and animals fit into received scientific hierarchies. Of course, the vast majority of these people never saw the North American flora and fauna for themselves. Despite the emergence of colonial intellectual power, particularly in Philadelphia, the Europeans generally viewed the colonists as "unsophisticated countryfolk...incapable of making sense of the wilderness they inhabited."

The rigid hierarchy of species championed by Linnaeus, which emphasized

structural anatomy, left no room for the consideration of multiple structural forms within the same species, much less for plant and animal behavior and interrelationships. This scientific approach is reflected in the art of naturalists such as Mark Catesby. Although Catesby did have the opportunity to collect specimens from a wide variety of sites in America and the Caribbean, his plant illustrations appear particularly flattened, evidently drawn from pressed herbarium specimens rather than from life. Catesby includes livelier animals in some of his plates. However, many of these animals often occurred in completely different locations than the plants with which they are paired.

At the same time, the savants who favored rigid hierarchies were wrestling with the introduction of the microscope. This invention challenged the long-held concept of “The Great Chain of Being” via microscopy’s stunning revelation of microorganisms swarming by the millions within a single drop of pond water. As Athens notes, “Bartram’s graphic approach arrived precisely at the right time to provide images of flora and fauna that were as lively and dynamic as nature itself.”

Fortunately, Bartram did not abandon his approach to conveying American flora and fauna on the altar of what was then perceived as scientific accuracy. Pairing selected illustrations displaying Bartram’s energetic written descriptions with her art-historical analysis, Athens underscores the dynamism of both Bartram’s art and his writing. According to the author, her aim is “fundamentally to alter our understanding of his drawings and their strangeness, while also highlighting the contested terrain of scientific visualization in the eighteenth century.”

Once William returned to Philadelphia in 1777, he probably did not stray for the rest of his life more than five miles from the family garden at Kingessing. Advancing age kept him from joining the early expeditions into the American West. Instead he gave much of his time serving as an energetic mentor to the young, emerging scientific community in Philadelphia, earning the moniker “The Philosopher of Kingessing.” He encouraged this new generation to view nature not simply through their specialized areas

of science but “nature as a series of interconnected relationships.” Through his work, Bartram’s combination of science and art played a foundational role in the development of what we know as modern ecological science.

Americans are fortunate that Bartram’s Garden still exists. Elizabeth Athens’ book encourages readers to stroll the grounds that nurtured America’s great writer/naturalist. But, wherever you find yourself, take out paper and pencil to draw the world as Bartram did, to see it all anew.

Dorinda G. Dallmeyer
Emerita Director, Environmental Ethics
Certificate Program
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

Traveling Exhibit to Feature Bartram and Alabama

The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University will launch a traveling exhibit on William Bartram for audiences in the state of Alabama this summer. The panels feature text by Dr. Kathryn Braund, Hollifield Professor of Southern History Emerita at Auburn University, and graphic design by Laura Murray. In addition to eight panels of content and images covering Bartram’s route, discoveries, and reflections on what would become the state of Alabama, the exhibit will feature the award-winning documentary *Cultivating the Wild: The Enduring Legacy of William Bartram, America’s First Environmentalist*. Two panels are devoted to Bartram’s visits with Creek Indians, who nicknamed the traveler “Flower Hunter.”

“We will invite public libraries, historical societies, museums, and other public venues to host the exhibit for several weeks, and we know the project will create new audiences for the South’s most famous traveler,” says Mark Wilson, director of the Draughon Center. For more information or to request the exhibit, email Wilson at mwilson@auburn.edu.

Jacob Lowrey



Jacob Lowrey during a video interview, discussing Bartram’s trip down the Indian path that would later become the federal road after a canoe trip along the Bartram Canoe Trail at the 2007 Bartram Trail Conference meeting in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Jacob Franklin Betts Lowrey III, a long time Bartram Trail Conference member, passed away in November 2024. A proud native of Burnt Corn, Alabama, Jacob was a historian at heart while successfully pursuing a career as a Certified Public Accountant first in Atlanta and then in Greenville, South Carolina. Greenville was the hometown of his wife Pedrick, who predeceased him. Jacob and Pedrick, a chemist and landscape designer, were often seen at historical events in Alabama and along Bartram’s trail and supported a number of nonprofit organizations. Jacob might be best remembered by Bartram regulars as the man who won the spirited bidding for an enormous reproduction pot at the 2005 meeting of the BTC in Augusta, the proceeds of which benefited our Fothergill Award. Jacob was a frequent (and usually anonymous) donor to the Fothergill Award.

Jacob received his BS degree in business from Auburn University and an MBA from the University of Alabama. He provided funding for construction of a guest cottage to house visiting scholars at the Auburn University’s Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities as well as financial support for scholars studying topics related to early Alabama history, the southeastern Indians, and William Bartram. The cottage, decorated with art and photographs relating to Bartram sites, will carry on Jacob’s legacy of support for Bartram scholarship.

From the President

Greetings, travellers! I've received the high honor of being chosen to serve as the new president of the Bartram Trail Conference. I'll try to follow the example set by the fine scholars who preceded me in this role, including recent past president Dorinda Dallmeyer. Though I'm new as president, I've served as vice president of the BTC for several years, and my connection to William Bartram's world goes back even further.

I was vaguely familiar with William Bartram when, as I began dissertation research in the early 2000s, one of my committee members urged me to apply for the Fothergill Award, which I won in 2003. The funds helped me at a critical point, and Bartram's visit to Ocmulgee introduced my dissertation and first book, *New Worlds of Violence*, which likely influenced my hiring at Macon State College (now Middle Georgia State University), in 2007.

I became reacquainted with the BTC



Matt Jennings teaches history at Middle Georgia State University, in Macon, Georgia. In addition to New Worlds of Violence, he has published The Flower Hunter and the People: William Bartram in the Native American Southeast and various works of local history. He enjoys portraying Bartram at Ocmulgee's Lantern Light Tours.

when the organization met on Macon State's campus in 2009. I delivered a paper, and stood near the campus's Columbus Road entrance as we dedicated a Bartram Trail marker. For the picture, Tom Hallock suggested we skip the "cheese" and say "Puc Puggy!" instead. Which re-

minds me that the heart of the Bartram Trail Conference is the people. You will not find a more curious, generous and encouraging group anywhere, certainly not in most of the academic world in which I dwell (not that it's as cutthroat as its caricature, of course). I'm not sure what it is about the BTC, but part of it must have to do with the legacy of Bartram himself. The kinds of people who want to study his life and continue his work are drawn together by *his* curiosity and generosity. My life and career have been enriched immeasurably by the preceding generations of scholars (not that I'm some spring chicken). I don't want to risk leaving somebody off the list, so if you're reading this and you think I'm thanking you, I am! But I do want to call out Kathryn Holland Braund. She's been an influence and friend for decades, and I'm continually trying to be the kind of scholar she thought I could be back in 2003. Thanks to the BTC board, and I look forward to catching up at this August's conference!

Matt Jennings

2025 Bartram Trail Conference Registration

Choose a registration type and indicate number of participants:

	No.	Total
Full registration	___ @ \$175 =	___
includes Friday reception, Saturday lectures & lunch, & Saturday evening banquet		
Extra banquet ticket (for guest without full registration)	___ @ \$50 =	___
Saturday lectures only, includes lunch	___ @ \$100 =	___
Saturday lectures only, includes lunch (Student)	___ @ \$35 =	___
Reception and Viewing of "Cultivating the Wild" on Friday . . .	___ @ \$25 =	___
Sunday Bus Tour	___ @ \$40 =	___
(The bus tour will be limited to the first 27 people)		

Name _____

Guest Name _____

Address _____

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Amount enclosed _____

Don't forget our Bartram-themed t-shirt.
Indicate number of T-shirts desired

XS x \$25.00 = _____

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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
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