

# Gathering in Gainesville

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Bartram Trail Conference

October 11-13

Biennial Meeting

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Dear Friends: You are cordially invited to attend the 2001 Bartram Trail Conference Biennial Meeting to be held October 11-13, 2001, in Gainesville, Florida, and co-hosted by the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. Come and meet old friends, make new ones, feast on Florida foods, see splendid sites, Florida wildlife and hear the latest scholarship on William Bartram. Map and information about parking and local hotels available upon request. Free parking with campus transit on foot or by bus.

## PROGRAM

**Thursday Evening**, October 11. 6:00 PM. Registration and Welcome Reception, Powell Hall, University of Florida. Welcome Remarks by Doug Jones, Director, followed by a fellowship buffet. Photography exhibit by Brad Sanders and video display showcases Bartram travel sites.

**Friday Morning**, October 12. 9:00-11:30 AM: Powell Hall.

9:00-9:30. Introductory Remarks and Welcome: Kathryn Braund, President, Bartram Trail Conference and Charlotte Porter, Conference Program Director.

9:30-11:30: Morning Session. *Bartram and Florida*.

Kathryn Braund: *William Bartram Gustatory Tour*

F. Wayne King: *Gator Group Feeding: William Bartram's Wildlife Observations*

J. T. Milanich: *Bartram's Legacy: Mount Royal and Archaeology*

Joe Ausmuth: *Mistakes Abound: Mapping Bartram's Mound*

**Lunch:** on your own; enjoy a stroll about Lake Alice on campus, but don't feed the 'gators!

**Friday Afternoon**. 1:30-4:00. University of Florida, Special Collections, Library East.

1:30-3:30: Afternoon Session. *Books and Nature: An Enchanting Mix*

Jeffrey Barr: *18th-century Books about Nature*

Arlene Fradkin and Mallory O'Conner: *Before Bartram: Mark Catesby*

Charlotte M. Porter: *Bartram's Other Book*

**Tea:** sponsored by the Special Collections Staff. Enjoy browsing with books from Bartram's day, including editions of his *Travels*, his sources, Catesby's volumes, and works by writers and scientists influenced by Bartram.

**Friday Evening**. 6:30. Banquet. University Reitz Union. Special Speaker: Professor Edward J. Cashin, Director of the Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University and noted author of the recently-released *William Bartram and the American Revolution on the Southern Frontier*.

**Saturday**. 9:30-3:00. Day trip to Bartram's Alachua Savanna, now Paynes Prairie State Preserve.

Trip includes guided walking tours of the savanna, opportunities to view the Great Sink, wildlife, museum displays, and an award-winning video on the area, and picnic lunch with presentation by Lawrence Hetrick: *Travels in Bartram Country*. The conference closes with a group discussion before heading back to Gainesville via the River Styx and Micanopy. Bring walking shoes, comfortable clothes, bug spray, binoculars, swimsuit, and towel. Information is available for drives to Fort Picolata, Cross Creek, and Ravine Gardens.

## *Come and join us on the Prairie!*

Greetings! It is with great pleasure and a sense of marvelous anticipation that I forward information about our 2001 conference. Dr. Charlotte M. Porter has done an outstanding job in organizing speakers and fellowship opportunities, including the opportunity to view what was perhaps William Bartram's favorite locale, the Alachua prairie. Charlotte also tells me that the ranger at Paynes Prairie State Preserve has prepared a check list of Bartram flora and fauna for us and I'm also told that there will be a surprise in the welcome packet that would delight William Bartram. 'Gator viewing is guaranteed!

We have been blessed with many talented people who have worked hard over the past year to help bring the BTC back to life. I would like to thank them all. First of all, Treasurer Chuck Spornick put our membership records in a reliable database. Chuck also helped launch the web site. Speaking of that web site, Brad Sanders has done a stellar job in developing and maintaining our site. It is filled with Bartram content, and Brad has already succeeded in making our site the first stop for web research on William Bartram. We will be uploading more articles and content on a regular basis. If you haven't stopped by lately, do so now. We are at <http://www.bartramtrail.org>. Carolyn Whitmer has served the BTC for many years, and is still working hard to facilitate marker requests. Tom Hallock, our newsletter editor, recently produced our first newsletter in many years--the first of many to come. It is a valuable communication tool for our members and I know that you all must have enjoyed Tom's musings on Bartram and recent literature.

I would also like to thank all the folks in Gainesville who have extended their welcome and support to our conference: the Tourist Development Board of Alachua County, Mother Earth, Reddick's Brothers Hardware of Micanopy, the University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History, UF Smathers Library Special Collections, District 3 Parks and Recreation, Micanopy Historical Society, Kanapaha Gardens, Gainesville Department of Cultural Affairs, The *Gainesville Sun*, and The Chuckwagon.

As we gather in Gainesville to discuss the ways in which we all can contribute to the BTC's mission of historic and environmental education and preservation, we need your informed and enthusiastic support and participation. I hope that you will join us.

Kathryn H. Braund, President

## *William Bartram on the Alachua Savannah*

"The extensive Alachua savanna is a level green plain, above fifteen miles over, fifty miles in circumference, and scarcely a tree or bush of any kind to be seen on it. It is encircled with high, sloping hills, covered with waving forests and fragrant Orange groves, rising from an exuberantly fertile soil. The towering Magnolia grandiflora and transcendent Palm stand eonspicuous amongst them....Herds of sprightly deer, squadrons of the beautiful fleet Seminole horse, flocks of turkeys, civilized communities of the sonorous watchful crane, mix together, appearing happy and contented in the enjoyment of peace.....Behold yonder, coming upon them through the darkened groves, sneakingly and unawares, the naked red warrior, invading the Elysian fields and green plains of Alachua....The peaceful innocent nations are once thrown into disorder and dismay. See the different tribes and bands, how they draw towards each other!...Suddenly they speed off with their young in the centre; but the roebuck fears him not: here he lays himself down, bathes and flounces in the cool flood. The red warrior, whose plumed head flashes lightning, whoops in vain; his proud ambitious horse strains and pants; the earth glides from under his feet, his flowing mane whistles in the winds as he comes up full of vain hopes. The bounding roe views his rapid approaches, rises up, lifts aloft his antlered head, erects the white flag, and fetching a shrill whistle, says to his fleet and free associates, "follow;" he bounds off, and in a few minutes distances his foe a mile; suddenly he stops, turns about, and laughing says, "how vain! go chase meteors in the azure plains above, or hunt butterflies in the fields about your towns."

*Travels*

**Bartram Trail Conference--Biennial Meeting**  
**October 11-13, 2001**  
**Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida**  
**Gainesville, Florida**

Registration should be received by September 29, 2001. Please complete the registration form and return to Chuck Spornick, Treasurer, 390 St. Mark's Drive, Lilburn, GA 30047 along with a check payable to the Bartram Trail Conference.

Registration Fee\* \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra Banquet Ticket \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$21.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra Picnic Ticket \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Conference T-Shirt \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle Size: S, M, L, XL)

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Names of Registrants: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*The Registration Fee includes Thursday reception, Friday tea, Friday night banquet and Saturday picnic. Additional tickets for the banquet and picnic are available for spouses/guests who do not plan to register for the entire program.

**HOTEL & CAMPING INFORMATION**

There are a number of hotels in the Gainesville area convenient to the campus for those wishing to make advance reservations. Do mention the Bartram Trail Conference when you call to make reservations.

The Reitz Union Hotel, on campus, has a limited number of rooms, with prices ranging from \$45 for two double beds to \$52 for two queen beds. The location is ideal, with eateries of all sorts. To make inquiries, contact Pam Burrow at 352-392-2151.

The Best Inn-Gainesville rate is \$49.00 nightly. Contact Patti Danio at 352-378-2405.

The Double Tree Hotel and Conference Center, 1714 SW 34th Street, offers rooms in the \$90 range. Contact them at 352-371-3600. This luxury hotel, in walking distance from Powell Hall, is a good choice for Friday lunch. Campus transportation available.

The Holiday Inn West Gainesville has double accommodation in the \$52.00 per night range. Their number is 352-332-1615. This hotel is good value for those with a car.

The Best Western Gateway Grand has rooms at the rate of \$55.00 per night. Their number is 352-331-7103.

The Hampton Inn rate is \$59.00 per night. Contact Colette Walinski at 352-371-4171 Ext. 508.

Camping is free at the Paynes Prairie State Preserve. There is a small nightly fee for parking. Call in advance: 352-466-3397

**A Note on T-Shirts:** our official conference T-shirt will be a sure hit! All proceeds from the sale of the shirts will go to the BTC treasury. If you can't come to the conference, but would like to order a shirt, please add \$5.00 for shipping and handling.

“Passing through a great extent of ancient Indian fields, now grown over with forests of stately trees, Orange groves, and luxuriant herbage, the old trader, my associate, informed me it was the ancient Alachua, the capital of that famous and powerful tribe, who people the hills surrounding the savanna, when, in days of old, they could assemble by thousands at ball play and other juvenile diversions and athletic exercises, over those, then happy, fields and green plains.”

William Bartram, *Travels*