

The Traveller

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Fall, 2006

Auburn University to Host Symposium on William Bartram

Bartram scholars from across the nation will convene at Auburn University on October 27 for a one-day interdisciplinary symposium that will feature presentations on Bartram's discoveries, writings, and influence. The meeting is open to the public and is designed to provide scholars and those with an interest in Bartram an opportunity to interact and discuss new approaches to Bartram topics. According to Kathryn Braund, President of the Bartram Trail Conference and Professor of History at Auburn, the symposium promises to be a landmark event in

Bartram studies and grew out of discussions with Tom Hallock, who is editing Bartram's writings, about the need for a Bartram "gab fest" to discuss issues and approaches currently driving Bartram studies.

Speakers include Joel Fry (Curator of Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia) and William Cahill (Rutgers University), who will present papers on Bartram's scientific writings. Christoph Irmscher (Indiana University) will discuss Bartram's art. Nancy Hoffman (University of Pennsylvania) will examine the aesthetics of

Bartram's *Travels*, while Josh Bellin (La-Roche College) will discuss Bartram and "Indian medicine." Kathryn Braund will speak on Bartram's concept of American Indian "origins." Tom Hallock (University of South Florida) and Stephanie Volmer (Rutgers) will discuss nature writing as literature.

The symposium is sponsored by the AU Center for the Arts and Humanities at Pebble Hill, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the Auburn University Departments of History and English, the Auburn University libraries and the Bartram Trail Conference. Registration is \$25.00 and must be received by October 25. For further information, including directions, contact Pebble Hill at 334-844-4948. The registration form is available at http://web6.duc.auburn.edu/academic/liberal_arts/cah/Symposium%20Flyer_2%20page.pdf. ☐

Francis Harper's Bartram A Brief Sketch of the Harper Collection in the Department of Special Collections, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas

Stephen H. Dill
Honorary Curator of the Harper Collection

When Yale University Press published Francis Harper's *The Travels of William Bartram: A Naturalist's Edition* in 1958, Harper had fulfilled only a portion of his ambitions regarding the life and work of John and William Bartram, father and son. Harper's papers indicate that still in process were studies of naturalists contemporary to the Bartrams, significant Bartram places, additional Bartram works, and, most especially, a bi-

ography of William.

Francis Harper (1886-1972) has been, somewhat patronizingly, described as "an old-fashioned naturalist," someone who took all nature as his province. To a degree, that is true. His works cover the major fields of natural history from botany to zoology, including ethnology, and flora and fauna from ants to zebras, amphibians, birds, fish, mites, plants, flowers, shrubs, the lot. He roamed from northern Canada and the Maritime Provinces, along the eastern seaboard, to southeast-

continued on page 2

Contents

President's Notes	2
"The Flower Hunter" by Jackson Walker	3
An Artist's View of William Bartram . . .	4
Is it Muskrat Love, High Water or What!?	5
John and William Bartram: Travelers in Early America	6
Georgia Bartram Trail	6
Winter Park, Florida Gets Bartram Trail Marker	7
Annie Crenshaw	7
Dan Pittillo	7
Excavation at the Alachua Savanna (Payne's Prairie)	8
Earth Day on the Bartram Trail in Alabama	8
North Carolina Bartram Trail Update . .	9
William Bartram Rain Garden at Phinizy Swamp	9

Francis Harper's Bartram
ern Georgia.

Still, he was no dilettante. Wide-ranging as his interests were, he was a solid and respected scientist. For the causes he embraced, some of which were markedly controversial, he was also a determined advocate who did not suffer fools.

His connection to the University of Kansas was through the Museum of Natural History which published many of his studies. His decision to donate his papers to the University was the result of at least two circumstances: on the one hand, a close relationship with the director of the Museum, and, on the other, what Harper considered to be a favorable political and moral climate in Kansas.

At his death, his widow fulfilled his wishes and donated the major portion of his papers to the university where they now reside in the Department of Special Collections in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library. The collection, which is extensive, contains his publications, correspondence, working papers, notebooks, photographs, and maps, along with miscellaneous notes, reports, and family effects

These papers portray a man who was to some degree driven to discover and record nature's mysteries, if not her secrets. A list of his publications, not to mention his unpublished studies, is long and eclectic, too long to detail here.

He made several research trips to the Ungava Peninsula of Labrador and to the Keewatin, Athabaska, and Great Slave Lake districts of northern Canada to study caribou and other arctic mammals and their parasites and, incidentally, the indigenous populations whom he described and photographed.

Equally close to Harper's heart beside the Bartrams was the "Okefinokee" (the spelling he insisted upon all of his life). He bought an island in the Swamp, built a cabin on it, and opposed all development, including roads and logging. He befriended the people and recorded their culture. In the end he was instrumental in getting the Swamp protected as a wild life refuge.

All of the above, the journeys and expeditions, including his Arctic and Okefinokee sojourns were recorded in countless hundreds of photographs and slides.

His *Extinct and Vanishing Mammals*

President's Notes

Bartram people are everywhere! And you would be surprised how many of us there are out there. Last spring, Tom Hallock, our former BTC newsletter editor, and I were exchanging e-mails about his latest project: a comprehensive edition of William Bartram's correspondence. Tom, who is working with Nancy Hoffmann, another Bartram Trail member, envisions a two-volume work that not only includes Bartram's correspondence and writings, but also essays by Bartram scholars on various aspects of Bartram's work. Tom noted it would be very helpful if he could have a meeting with all the contributors face-to-face and talk "Bartram." But where? Could the BTC

help sponsor such a meeting? I broached the subject with Jay Lamar, the Director of the Auburn University Center for the Arts and Humanities. She loves Bartram too. We started plotting a one-day symposium open to the public and a second day of round-table discussion for Tom and his contributors. Auburn's History and English departments pitched in with funding as well, being known haunts of Bartram fans. At first, Jay and I thought about a return trip to the Alabama Department of Archives and History for the symposium: the wonderful people there were enthusiastic and offered their new auditorium. But in the end, the decision was made to keep the day in a campus setting in hopes of attracting students. Enter the AU library: more Bartram lovers! They
continued on page 3

of the Old World is a special publication for the American Committee for International Wildlife Protection, containing descriptions and drawings of endangered mammals. It is the result of hundreds of surveys sent to informants throughout the eastern hemisphere.

From first to last, however, the Bartrams, but particularly William, were Harper's continuing passion. The Bartrams are the subject of single largest portion of the papers, including six monographs and papers in addition to the *Naturalist's Edition* of William's *Travels*. These include *Diary of a Journey through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida from July 1, 1765 to April 10, 1766*, by John Bartram; *Travels in Georgia and Florida, 1773-1774: A Report to Dr. John Fothergill*, by William Bartram (published in one volume by the American Philosophical Society in 1943-44); *William Bartram and the American Revolution, Proposals for publishing Bartram's Travels; The Bartram Trail through the southeastern states; and the William Bartram Bicentennial*.

Harper brought a new light to William's letters and his drawings and what Harper called Bartram's "animals": mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes. Moreover, Harper publicized his Bartram studies in lectures at scientific conferences and at universities.

What is amazing is that all of these works are represented in practically all

of the stages of preparation. There are research notes, original longhand drafts, several typewritten versions, clean drafts for the printer, and galleys with proofreading marks. The correspondence contains voluminous exchanges with colleagues, funding sources, editors, and publishers about the complex process of printing, correcting, and publishing. Harper was equally thorough as an author, a scientist, and an archivist.

Overshadowing all the Bartram studies, except possibly the *Naturalist's Edition* of the *Travels*, is the projected life of William Bartram. Harper had chosen a title, "William Bartram, Naturalist," and created a tentative table of contents. While the present state of the manuscript is far from finished, its substance is remarkably complete with chapters on the stages of William's life, his journeys, his contributions to our knowledge of botany, and his relationship with his contemporary scientists. Standing as a symbol of the whole enterprise is William's hallmark, the "Franklin tree," for which both men searched in different times and in different ways.

The Kenneth Spencer Research Library welcomes all researchers and, in addition to the Harper Collection, contains one of the finest Natural History collections in the world. For more information see the library's web site: <http://spencer.lib.ku.edu/>. ☐

President's Notes

immediately jumped at the idea. And in the talking and planning, we all noted the lack of a first edition of *Travels* at the AU library. The library people got busy and almost immediately, a patron emerged and graciously donated a 1791 Philadelphia edition of *Travels* to the library.

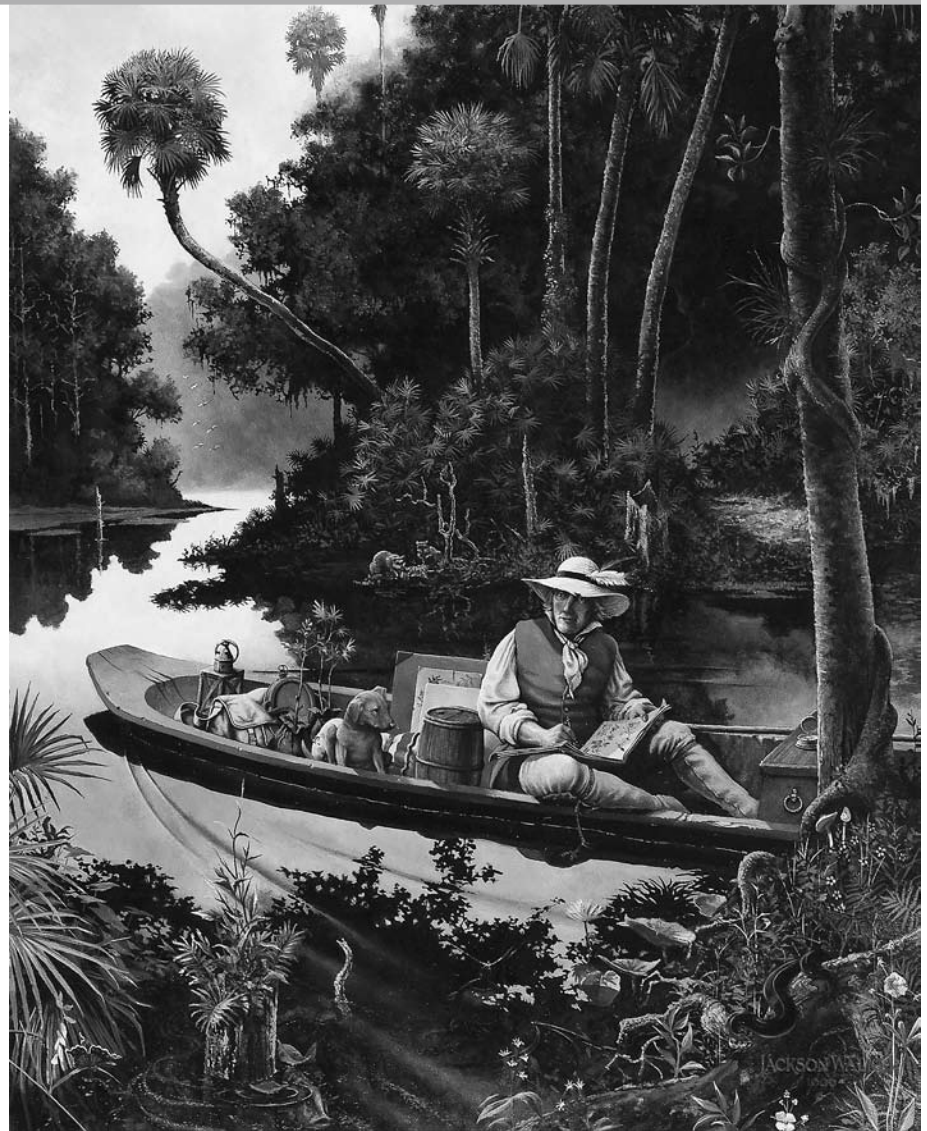
It was all going so well. Bartram has friends everywhere—except local Auburn restaurants. To our dismay, we found that the great Italian restaurant across from the library was totally booked for lunch: another conference on campus had beat us to the reservation desk. Hummm.... what to do? No problem, the pastor of a local church loves history and knows Bartram well (his brother is a literary scholar who focuses on nature writing). Another Bartram connection—and the church dining room was ours. And so for lunch, our symposium will dine in style in a cosy and friendly setting that is sure to spark Bartram talk. Much better, we all agree, than a restaurant.

As planning continued, it occurred to me it was pretty difficult to find someone who wasn't enamored with Bartram or his work. Bartram's work touches people in ways that other books do not. And it touches us all in so many ways: as great literature, as a scientific document, as history and art. The symposium this October, partially sponsored by the Bartram Trail Conference, will provide the means to introduce many new people to Bartram and his work. Scholars from a variety of disciplines will come from around the country and it promises to be a most exciting day for Bartram scholarship. I hope that the BTC membership will make every effort to attend and support this unique event that will present Bartram to a larger general audience and also help generate new ways of thinking and talking about Bartram and his work. Y'all Come! There will be plenty of "fellow travelers" around Auburn that day.

Kathryn H. Braund, *President*
Bartram Trail Conference

The Traveller is the newsletter of
the Bartram Trail Conference.

Jim Kautz, *Editor*
Brad Sanders, *Publisher*



"The Florida Hunter," by Jackson Walker, Oil on canvas, from the Permanent Collection of The DeLand Museum of Art, www.delandmuseum.com

"The Flower Hunter" by Jackson Walker

By Jim Kautz

Aside from the picture of Bartram that pops from the page of *Travels* onto the retina of my imagination, I expect never to see a better portrayal of the explorer than Jackson Walker's oil "The Flower Hunter."

Under a broad-brimmed hat, a man sits in a dugout boat, his legs cramped in the sparse area left by a wooden chest, a keg, and the paraphernalia of a traveling artist. His eyes fix on a bankside shrub. Sur-

rounding him are soft greens and blues: trees, shrubs, sky, and water. A brown puppy sits calmly in the boat, peering at writing pad on the naturalist's knees. No follower of William Bartram entering the gallery of the Volusia county courthouse in DeLand would mistake the subject: Puc Puggy gliding along the St. Johns River.

Orlando artist Jackson Walker, a native Floridian, painted "The Flower Hunter" as part of his "Legendary Florida" series. The paintings are "a compilation of images

continued on page 5



An Artist's View of William Bartram

Carol Barksdale Meredith

It is easier for me to paint a picture than describe one. So, when Kathryn Braund asked me to write an article about my artwork “Tukabahchi,” I felt a bit of trepidation. But I do love how the limited edition lithograph came together as a work of art that pays tribute not only to the earlier inhabitants of our great land but also to William Bartram.

“Tukabahchi” shows Bartram sketching the ancient capital of the Upper Creeks, located near present-day Tallassee, Alabama. It is a collaborative work with the Tallassee Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber was seeking to acknowledge the part that the Creek Indian nation played in Tallassee’s history. The village of Tukabahchi was the site of one of the largest Creek Indian villages in the area, capital of the Upper Creek Nation. At one time more than three hundred Indian homes were neatly situated around what was the center of the village.

In the foreground, William Bartram stands on a hill, painting the communal town house, known to the Creeks as the “chakofas.” This was the assembly place, used as a gathering place when the weather was cold. These structures were covered with a mud-plaster and usually had a thatched roof. Directly in front of William is the area known as the “square grounds,” where meetings were held in the open air and which was the spiritual center of the village. A sacred fire was kept burning in the middle of the square ground. Nearby stood a tall pole surrounded by a swept area, a large playing field. It was here that the Creeks played “chunkee,” a rough game played with sticks and a flat stone much like a hockey puck. Here, in the spring, the Creeks celebrated their Green-Corn Dance, an annual festival which had to do with renewal.

Bartram had a deep respect for the Creek Indians. Though he’s best known for his drawings of the flora and fauna of the area, his journals have invaluable

insight into the lives, customs, and culture of the Creeks and Seminoles.

Since the 1980’s, when I lived at Fort Toulouse, I have felt a kinship with William Bartram. Like him, I am a traveler. Growing up in a military family, we had the pleasure of living all over the world. I graduated high school in Rome, Italy, and then attended college at the University of Alabama, studying art and English literature. I found my way to Fort Toulouse/Jackson where I worked for a short time as an apprentice archaeologist. There, in the early morning hours, I would walk the fields where Creek Indians, French marines, and Andrew Jackson’s soldiers once walked. The woods and fields were filled with the wild plants that William Bartram sketched and painted—the whippoorwill flower, trout lilies, atamasco lilies. During this time that I was commissioned to do a series of pen and ink botanicals that were then turned into permanent artwork along the boardwalk of the park area, identifying the various flora and fauna.

Although the body of my work has been changing, I have been a watercolorist for twenty years. I love the detail one is capable of getting with them. In addition to the watercolors and botanicals, I also do large abstracts on canvas. Nature still has her pull on me: my latest abstracts have been a combination of landscapes and mixed media work.

My thanks to Ned Jenkins of Ft. Toulouse-Jackson Park, Wetumpka, Alabama, who helped me with the initial research for “Tukabahchi”. His suggested reading list was *The Creek Country*, by Benjamin Hawkins and *Native American Architecture*, by Peter Navakov and Robert Easton. No Bartram work would have been possible without reference to *Travels*, by William Bartram and the wonderful book “William Bartram on the Southeastern Indians” by Greg Waselkov and Kathryn Braund.

Carol Barksdale Meredith may be reached at 245 Jackson Trace Rd. Titus, Alabama 36080. Telephone: 334-567-7056. Her work is on display at Gallery One, Inc., 423-425 Cloverdale Rd. Montgomery, Alabama 36106. Telephone: 334-269-1114. Her website is www.galleryonefineart.com/Carol-Barksdale-Meredith. ☐



Is it Muskrat Love, High Water or What!?

By Judy Gordon, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Biology, and Donna Wear, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Augusta State University

It is mid-May in Augusta, Georgia and you are paddling your canoe through the Savannah River Rapids. Your thoughts wander to William Bartram's May 1773 description of these rapids and the spectacular shoals lilies beginning to bloom in the shallows between the rocks. Bartram described their odor "but nothing in vegetable nature was more pleasing than the odoriferous *Pancreatium fluitans*, (now *Hymenocallis coronaria*) which almost alone possesses the little rocky islets which just appear above the water."

He must have had a nose like a bloodhound because you can't smell anything until your nose is practically in the floral cup of a flower. And these rapids—they are a bit of a challenge, but where is the four-five foot high cataract he described, and a river that is "500 yards broad at Augusta?" Ah, of course, these are probably under water backed up from the New Savannah Bluffs Lock and Dam below the city. Perhaps that loss of habitat has meant a much smaller population that is not sufficiently large to perfume the

breezes wafting over the three remaining sites now present in the river below the old diversion dam.

These are the thoughts that Drs. Donna Wear and Judy Gordon ponder as they attempt to assess the health of these lily sites which are not doing particularly well. Insufficient summer seedling establishment, browsing by deer and perhaps other critters, and water levels that may prevent pollination are just some of the factors being investigated. Along with undergraduate research students from Augusta State University, they probe, measure, count, and consider the possible factors that might affect the lily sites.

"Oh, look! Is that a bunch of muskrat scat on that rock? Are they eating our plants along with the deer? Whoops, we can't get on the river today—the Corps is releasing too much water from Thurmond Dam. Maybe the strong current is uprooting this year's barely established seedlings. We better start counting." And so it goes.

There is, however, one population of lilies in the river that may have a chance to establish new seedlings. This year's drought has forced the Corps to hold back more water than normal. Lower

water levels give the recently germinated seedlings a chance to take root in the substrate. Hopefully such footholds will be sufficient to allow the seedlings to withstand higher flows that are sure to come later in the year. But at best, over half of this year's reproductive effort has already been lost. Of the 275 seedlings that were counted in early August, only 131 remained in early September.

But next spring, be assured that we will be there, to witness the ethereal courtship that begins with the opening of a flower and the arrival of its winged, nocturnal knight. And perhaps we may imagine hearing the flower whisper to its knight, "Take part of me away, so that others may know my beauty, know me, as I was seen through the eyes of William Bartram."

Donna Wear and Judy Gordon have been studying the decline of the rocky shoals spider lily in the Savannah River for three years. Their objective is to determine how mainstream impoundment affects the health and reproduction of the rocky shoals spider lily on the river. The Nature Conservancy supports their project. ■

"The Flower Hunter," continued from page 3

that," according to the DeLand Museum of Art's description, "weave a visual tapestry of Florida's long and eventful past." Surrounding the Bartram portrait on the walls of the gallery are sixteen scenes that range from Sir Francis Drake's Raid on St. Augustine (1586) to a twentieth-century Seminole family's arrival for the Green Corn Dance celebration. The oils range in size from fifteen-by-twenty inch "Encounter at Gully Hole Creek" to the sixty-by-forty-eight inch "The Flower Hunter."

Bartram came to Walker's attention when a man, knowing his interest in Florida events, asked, "Have you heard of William Bartram?" Walker admitted that he did not know of the character. In later years, as he was painting "Legendary Florida," he read what he could find about the explorer.

"Of all my subjects, this was the hardest one to research . . . to find the visual images," he says. "I located a woodcutting of

continued on page 9

John and William Bartram: Travelers in Early America

A Review by Elizabeth Camm, MD

By Sandra Wallus Sammons.

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LCCN 2004100054

A lively book for young readers, *John and William Bartram: Travelers in Early America*, tells the story of father and son, John and William Bartram.

Sandra Wallus Sammons, author of five biographies written for youths, portrays John as the “seeker” during 18th century enlightenment. She sees William as the scientist who poetically wrote of natural discoveries and beauty. Filled with adventures, hardships, continuing quests, and personal insights into the lives of these industrious Quakers, the book describes how their work impinged on the development of America and helped to inform Europeans about this upstart country across the sea. It is a read for pleasure, information, and understanding. Written for eighth grade level readers, it fills a niche and weaves a tapestry of natural science, a history of turbulent times around revolutionary America, exciting discoveries of “new” plants in the New World, and how science and art can resonate... a time travel history reflecting love of nature and science.

Descriptions and quotes from William’s unique style of literary writing paint an impressive picture of how America rapidly changed in 200 years. Sammons captures the eighteenth century love and respect for the natural environment. She makes clear how traveling distances is much faster now, our communication instantaneous; how we have adapted; and how men and some women in the eighteenth century with differing points of view freely shared them to learn and stimulate new ideas, not to compete or advance personal agendas as we tend to do today.

While Sammons roots her story in the past, she does not ignore lessons for her readers. Modern teenagers can relate to the pressure the practical father, though proud of his artistic “little botanist,” placed

on this son to “get a real job.” She shows Billy’s efforts to comply with his father’s aspirations, how he overcame his failures and self doubt, and how, through intense interest, danger, luck, and perseverance, William pursued his dream until he became a happy, successful man “in his own skin.”

For me, Chapter Ten in this affectionate story of two Bartrams brought the most pleasure. It personally interprets William’s

Georgia Bartram Trail

By John Ray

The Georgia Bartram Trail extends thirty-seven miles through the Chattahoochee National Forest in Rabun County Georgia, with two connecting trails in Georgia, the Chattooga River Trail (from Sandy Ford Rd. to Highway 76, eleven miles), and the Three Forks Trail (the section from Rabun Bald to Hale Ridge Rd., three miles).

A few volunteers and I, the Georgia Bartram Trail Group, work with the Forest Service in the Tallulah Ranger District to maintain these trails. When we started working on these trails in 1999 they had a somewhat bad reputation for being hard to follow. They were not marked well and there was no detailed guidebook. Since that time we have marked the trail with yellow markers to make the trail easier to follow and harder to get lost on. Guidebooks help travelers locate and follow the pathway.

The trail intersects horse trails and shares the same tread for a few hundred feet before turning back in the forest. Since the horse trails are well used, one must be careful at these turns. We have double markers at these easy to miss turns. With the better marking and detailed guidebook there has been an increase of

thoughts and feelings as he wrote *Travels*, and includes such humorous vignettes as colorful tales of Tom, Bartram’s pet crow and constant pest. By the time I had finished my reading, I wanted to leave my GPS gizmo at home, stash pen, paper, paints, camera, food, water, compass, mosquito repellent in a backpack; cinch it up; and head for our remnant forests with a Bartram Trail running through.

Elizabeth Camm, MD is a member of the Bartram Trail Conference. In addition to her pediatric practices in Canada, Viet Nam, and the United States, she has written children’s books and feature articles. She lives in Winter Park, Florida.) ☐

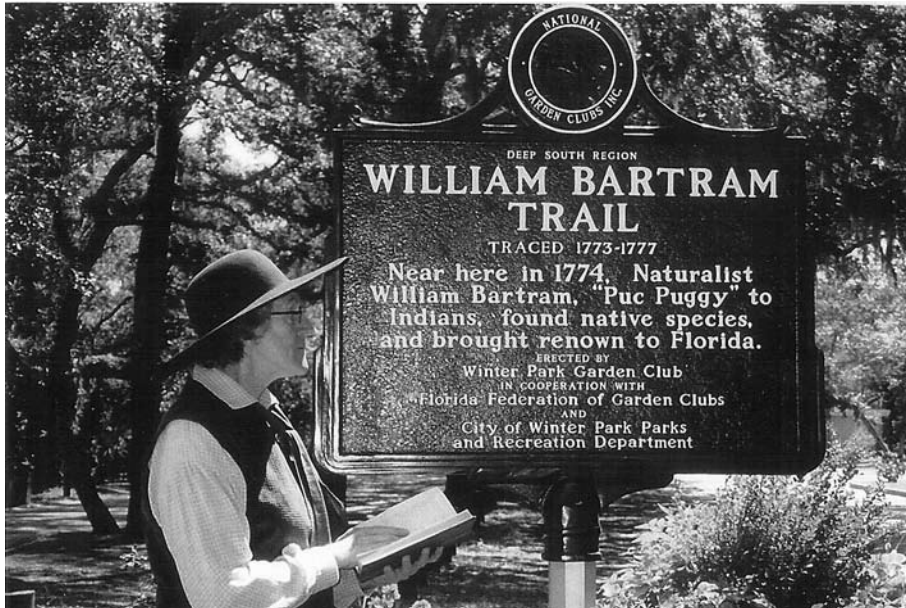
use on the Georgia Bartram Trail, including hikes by Boy Scout Troops. The trail is not being overused, however; the probability of being at the same place at the same time as other hikers is still low.

Hikers can arrange various journeys of over fifty miles by combining with South Carolina’s Chattooga River Trail, or the North Carolina Bartram Trail.

At present we are busy cutting the annual growth and working on water diversions on the Georgia Bartram Trail and the connecting trails. The Chattooga River Trail is closed at its southern end about a quarter of a mile before Highway 76 because a new bridge is being built across the Chattooga on Highway 76. This should last at least six more months.

The trail bridges that were wiped out by Hurricane Ivan in 2004 were recently repaired or rebuilt. Most of the damage was from the bridges floating away from their moorings after the Chattooga rose as much as fifteen feet above normal levels after the twenty-five inches of rain from the hurricanes. At places along the Chattooga it is interesting to walk along the trail and see flood debris ten feet over your head! Along one section about three feet of white river sand was deposited on the tread.

For more information, visit our website: www.geocities.com/j31hr3y. You can see on this web site how to contact me if you want to join the Georgia Bartram Trail Group and work on the trail or see information about the trail or our guide books. ☐



Winter Park, Florida Gets Bartram Trail Marker

Elizabeth Camm, M.D.

A lively Bartram Bash in June took place in Winter Park, Florida, when Winter Park Garden Club members celebrated their dedication of Florida's 24th Bartram Trail marker. They placed the handsome icon at the center of the shaded drive into Mead Garden, a public park owned by the city. At the marker site, Joan Ochs, President of Florida Fed-

eration of Garden Clubs which originated the marker program, gave a brief history. Winter Park Mayor David Strong remarked, "Thank you for your countless hours of volunteer support... and generous contributions to Mead Garden, and congratulations on your marker..." With the dedication finished, the crowd retreated to the cool comfort of the Gar-

den Club's clubhouse, ate a light supper, and settled down for a sprightly presentation. Professional actor J.D. Sutton in period costume performed his highly acclaimed interpretation of William greeting visitors to Bartram's garden in 1796. Sutton, a Road Scholar with the Florida Humanities Council, wrote the accurate script after researching in Philadelphia, partly at the Kingsessing library.

This marker grew out of research into the history of Mead Garden. Garden Club members learned that a Bartram group at nearby Rollins College had planted a *Franklinia* in Mead Garden in 1939, a year before it officially opened. Mead Garden's first memorial tree honored William's 200th birthday and formed part of a day long celebration at Rollins. Searchers haven't found the 1939 *Franklinia*, but the garden club will plant two saplings after hurricane season, when the weather cools.

Mead Garden is eligible for a Bartram Trail marker, since it lies 29 miles southwest of Blue Spring, eloquently described in "Travels." With this amount of rich history surrounding William and the still "curious" *Franklinia*, garden club members realized that an elegant, appealing Bartram Trail marker will bring visitors into Mead Garden for education, history, and appreciation of Florida's natural habitats. It already has. ■

Who Are The Members of the Bartram Trail Conference?

In this and upcoming editions of *The Traveller* we will feature brief introductions to members of the Conference.

Annie Crenshaw

A historian and sixth generation resident of Butler County, Alabama, Annie Crenshaw buoys on pride in her state and county. Her ancestor, Judge Anderson Crenshaw, moved from South Carolina to Alabama in 1819 and established his plantation on the ridges and creek bottoms in 1822. His holdings straddled the Federal Road which followed the trading path that Bartram rode on his westward journey.

Annie's mother, Myra Ware Williams Crenshaw, a local historian and genealogist, worked with the project to mark the Bartram Trail in 1976. "My mother... stimulated a love of history in everyone around her," says Annie. "She told me about Bartram. My interest has only increased over the years." Her fondness for Bartram also includes his "wonderful descriptions of landscape, flora, and fauna."

Educated at Birmingham-Southern College and Auburn University at Montgomery (bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology), Annie has formed her life around genealogy, historical research and teaching young people about their

history. When she is not lecturing on local history, Annie pursues raising heirloom and native plants and animals and historic preservation.

Annie Crenshaw lives on a farm in Greenville, Alabama and maintains her house on the land of Judge Crenshaw's plantation. She has attended one Bartram Trail Conference.

Dan Pittillo

Biologist Dan Pittillo is one of the people who keep William Bartram on the minds of folks in western North Carolina. Born in Hendersonville, North Carolina, Dan earned his bachelors degree at Berea College, a Masters from the University of Kentucky, and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. In 1966 he joined the Western Carolina faculty.

continued on page 10

Excavation at the Alachua Savanna (Payne's Prairie)

by Jane Anne Blakney-Bailey
Fothergill Research Award Recipient

My doctoral research focuses on the culture history and archaeology of the Alachua Seminoles, a group who inhabited the Paynes Prairie region of north-central Florida.

One of the most important components of my research was the archaeological investigation of the Paynes Town site, site of a town led by King Payne, the nephew of the legendary Cowkeeper. (Bartram readers will recognize the Cowkeeper as the chief who served Bartram a feast and named him "Puc Puggy," the Flower Hunter.)

When Cowkeeper died in 1784, chiefly

authority was passed to Payne. A short time later, Payne moved the town approximately two miles to the north of Cuscowilla, where it was occupied until 1812. A skirmish between U.S. soldiers and the Alachua Seminoles resulted in the death of Payne and the subsequent abandonment of the town. American soldiers later burned down the abandoned town.

I conducted archaeological investigations at the site in 2003 and 2004. We began with a shovel test survey, which revealed a site that encompasses approximately three acres and a pervasive charred stratum that capped many deposits of Seminole artifacts. This stratum may represent the burning of the town by U.S. soldiers. The shovel test survey also

revealed four clusters of a comparatively high density of artifacts, possibly the location of Seminole dwellings.

Following the survey, we excavated the clusters, encountering cultural features that included numerous lenses of charred wood, a hearth feature, and lenses of ash and highly fragmented bones. We also found what appeared to be a well (later used as a refuse pit), surrounded by four post molds that likely once supported a covered structure. In this location, we uncovered two small trash pits, substantial deposits of charred maize, and numerous post molds.

Thousands of artifacts, including many objects that were manufactured in Europe and would have been acquired through British traders, lay among the debris. Among them were hundreds of glass trade beads, lead shot, gun flints, silver jewelry, a brass projectile point and tinkling cone, a variety of Spanish and English ceramic

continued on page 10

Earth Day on the Bartram Trail in Alabama

By Shelia Stalaker,
Legal Assistant, WildLaw

Bartram's trail through Alabama came alive with families, bikers and hikers on Earth Day 2006 when WildLaw's Friends of the Tuskegee National Forest Program, in cooperation with the Tuskegee Ranger District, hosted its second annual Tuskegee Earth Day Festival in the Tuskegee National Forest.

Members of Friends of the Tuskegee National Forest, local volunteers, and volunteers with the Tuskegee Ranger District organized children's activities which included making bird feeders from native longleaf pinecones found in the forest. The longleaf pine theme was further celebrated in the gift of longleaf seedlings to all participants to take home and plant. These seedlings were graciously donated by the U.S. Forest Service through the Tuskegee Ranger District.

World famous Woody the Owl was on hand to entertain the children and help

District Ranger Jorge Hershel instruct the young hikers on the fine points of being good stewards of our public lands. Woody also demonstrated some very cool footwork while listening to the bluegrass music wafting through the forest.

District Ranger Hershel, District Ranger for the Tuskegee National Forest, led informative trail hikes for young and old alike on the Bartram Trail. Commemorating Bartram's journey through the Tuskegee area, the scenic Bartram Trail is the first in Alabama to be designated as a National Recreational Trail. The trail runs through the Tuskegee National Forest for about eight and one half miles. Its route extends in a southwesterly direction from Alliance--located on US Hwy. #29 and believed to be the site of an early Indian community recorded in Bartram's journals--to Wire Rd. It is considered one of the best mountain biking trails in the South.

The trail passes through various types of forest wildlife habitat. Hikers can see a

wide variety of wild flowers and flowering trees, including dogwood and magnolias. With luck, hikers may also get fleeting glimpses of deer, turkey, or other wildlife that go about their day to day business of living in the forest.

The Tuskegee National Forest is a unique public land treasure in east-central Alabama. Despite being the smallest National Forest in the nation at 11,000 acres, the Tuskegee is a place rich in history, beauty, and recreational opportunities. As a recreational resource, the Tuskegee offers hunting and fishing, a fine horse trail, and wildlife viewing area.

The event took place on Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the Taska Recreational area located on State Highway, 2006. Sponsors were WildLaw, a non-profit environmental law firm located in Montgomery, AL, First Tuskegee Bank, the U.S. Forest Service, and Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education. ■

North Carolina Bartram Trail Update

Periodically, Tim Warren sends out lively, descriptive “Trail Journal Reports” of the continuing work of The North Carolina Bartram Trail Society on its trails through the mountains of southwestern North Carolina. Here are a few snips from recent reports.

On February 25, Debbie Ryals, Steve Bennett, Tim Warren, and Sam Dryman (of the Wayah Ranger District), worked seven hours on seven miles of trail, cutting blowdowns, clearing brush, and adding blazes.

On Saturday, May 13, 2006, Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey DiFiore, Bruce Johnson, Olga Pader, Charlie Possee, John Ray, Tom Rodgers, Walter Winfield, and Tim worked nine hours, cutting four large, downed trees and opening the trail corridor to the advised four-by-eight trail size. Among the wildflowers in blossom were: Clinton’s Blackbead; several trilliums; Showy Orchis; Fire Pink; Nodding Mandarin; Sarsaparilla; Yellow Eyed Grass; Dutchman’s Pipevine; Pink Lady Slippers; Yellow Lady Slippers; Flowering Spurge; Star Chickweed; Solomon’s Plume; Wood Anemone; Alumroot; Small flowered Bellwort; Doll’s Eye (Baneberry); Wild Geranium; Squawroot; Sweet White Violet; Spiderwort; Fawn’s Breath; Hawkweed; Cinquefoil; Shooting Star; Vetch; Sweet Shrub; Fringe Tree; Flame Azalea; and Fraser Magnolia.

Saturday, July 8, 2006 a team cleaned the trail corridor and dug in the tread with pulaskis and rakes, observing Galax and Pipsissewa sourwoods in bloom. Tim camped that night then “picked a quart of fresh blackberries and cooked up a thawed rib eye steak and thought about this good life in the beautiful Nantahala Forest.” Among his observations were a long-tailed weasel, two copperheads and two turkeys.

Members who want to read Tim’s colorful reports—and even join him on one of his useful adventures—may request a place on his mailing list. Ping on him at btworkhikes@hotmail.com. ■

“The Flower Hunter,” continued from page 5
Bartram in his older years, then tried to modify it to make him younger. As I read of Bartram, I concluded that he was a very pleasant and peaceful person. I wanted to portray that, so I painted him on the St. Johns River, one of the most beautiful, peaceful places in America.”

“What is the story behind the dog?” I asked.

“Oh,” Jackson Walker said, laughing. “I get asked that a lot. At the time I was painting Bartram, I had just gotten a puppy. He was delightful. I decided to include him in the picture even though I doubted that Bartram had actually taken a dog along with him. Bartram was a kind man. He loved animals. It would not have been unusual for him to pick up a stray. And I

thought that placing a puppy in his boat would demonstrate his kindness.”

“What you cannot see unless you look closely at the painting in the museum are the Indians,” he added. “Hidden away in the forest are a couple of Creek Indians, carefully watching the explorer. Here was a man of peace in an environment that was so pleasant but could have become very hostile. I was intrigued by the peaceful character of Bartram, who could walk into a forest surrounded by angry Indians and come away unharmed.”

More about Jackson Walker and his “Legendary Florida” is available on the website of the DeLand Museum of Art: <http://www.delandmuseum.com/legendaryflorida/index.html>. ■

William Bartram Rain Garden at Phinizy Swamp

*By Dana Putnam, Public Relations and
Event Coordinator*

Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy

Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy is establishing the William Bartram Rain Garden just beyond its Phinizy Swamp Campus. The garden will demonstrate ecological uses of retention ponds while beautifying Phinizy Swamp Nature Park and educating visitors about William Bartram and his travels through the Augusta area. Only trees that Bartram cited will be planted in the rain garden.

In late September, Academy staff and volunteers from DSM Chemicals will build hummocks in the Rain Garden. The hummocks will be raised hills (within the Rain Garden) that will create habitat for trees and animals. On a subsequent work day, cypress and tupelo trees will be planted in these hummocks, further enhancing the rain garden area as a better habitat for fauna while allowing what once was just a retention pond to appear more natural and to facilitate additional learning opportunities. As the rain garden project nears completion, information on William Bartram will be placed in an

informational kiosk at the Rain Garden. Future plans include the installation of interpretive trail markers along the perimeter of the Rain Garden.

Phinizy Swamp stretches along the banks of the Savannah River a few miles outside the city of Augusta, Georgia, near William Bartram’s route on his journey from Shell Bluff to Fort Moore in 1775. Its ecosystem covers more than 7,000 acres and is the discharge point for approximately 78.8 square miles in the Augusta area. More than 45 million tons of treated sewage from Augusta’s wastewater treatment flow through the restored area, where aquatic plants and animals provide a final cleansing of the water before it enters the Savannah River on its way to the Atlantic.

During the October 2005 meeting of the Bartram Trail Conference, Dr. Gene Eidson, President and CEO of the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy guided a tour of the restored wetland. (See “The Traveller,” April 2006.)

Further information on the Park and its activities may be found in the Academy’s newsletter, *Swamp Notes*, available, along with a calendar of events, on its website (<http://www.phinizyswamp.org>). ■

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

Dan Patillo, continued from page 7

Since retiring in 2003, he has continued his biological and environmental work. As a consultant and assistant to North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, he is surveying the potential natural heritage areas of Transylvania County.

For more than three decades, Dan has been involved in the study of Bartram and in activities that commemorate his travels. Attracted by Bartram's record of the culture of Indians and the eighteenth century naturalist's observations of the natural world, he joined the Georgia Bartram Trail group. Then, in 1977, at the urging of Bartram activist Walter McKelvey, he helped lead the establishment of the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society and its excellent trails.

Hiking, photography, gardening, and leading natural history hikes with various age groups exhibit his continuing interests. He recently organized the Billy Bartram Club, a youth group associated with the Society. He has attended three meetings of the Bartram Trail Conference. ■

Alachua Savanna, continued from page 7

types, fragments of glass bottles, kaolin pipe stems, iron knife fragments, and unusual pierced lead discs that may have been used as buttons or for other decorative purposes.

The analysis of animal bones was also an important part of my research, as I hoped to learn more about the foodways of the Alachua Seminoles. A number of eighteenth and nineteenth-century writings by American and European travelers describe Seminole cuisine. Most of these observations describe the meals that these travelers (who were often regaled as important guests) were served, however, and not the everyday diet of the townspeople.

Remains of cows, white-tailed deer, opossums, wild turkeys, cooter/sliders, and an unidentified snake were among the surprisingly few types of animals that we identified. Considering the great diversity of animals available for exploitation in Paynes Prairie, it is surprising that so few animals were represented. Although part of this may be explained by poor preser-

vation, it may also speak to the decreasing exploitation of the breadth of animals available and the reliance on fewer types of domesticated animals. Deer continued to play a role in the diet of the Paynes Town Seminoles. However, the ready availability of large herds of cattle may have provided enough of a stable protein source to reduce the need for the hunting of other, more elusive prey, such as bear, smaller mammals, and fowl.

Overall, we uncovered little evidence of aboriginal pottery. This pattern may indicate that the Paynes Town population was relying more heavily on non-aboriginal ceramics and metal vessels than previous decades. Based on these findings, it appears that the occupants were in a period of great transition, shifting from subsistence hunting and agriculture to commercial ranching, and relying on European trade goods to meet some of their basic needs. This transition was made even more profound by the conflict with the Americans, the death of their leader, and the ultimate abandonment of the town. ■