

The Traveller

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Fall, 2007

Mobile-Tensaw Delta Setting of the 2007 Conference

“Early one morning, passing along some old uncultivated fields, a few miles above Taensa, I was struck with surprise at the appearance of a blooming plant, gilded with the richest golden yellow, stepping on shore, I discovered it to be a new species of the Oenothera (Oenothera grandiflora)... perhaps the most pompous and brilliant herbaceous plant yet known to exist.” William Bartram (Travels, p. 406).

Bartram’s account of the discovery of the *Oenothera grandiflora* (the evening primrose) hints at the life and history of the Mobile-Tensaw delta. Native plants were resuming their domination of the fields left uncultivated after their use by Indians or Spanish or French planters. Here the observant explorer spotted, among abandoned orchards of fig and peach trees, “many curious vegetable productions,” including the Wax tree, canes, “Cypress trees of astonishing magnitude,” and “stately columns of the *Magnolia grandiflora*.”

His trek up the delta of the Mobile and Tensaw rivers was an afterthought. On his trip to Baton Rouge on the Mississippi, he had traveled to the Mobile area with a band of traders and “adventurers.” Delayed in finding a boat to Manchac, he took a detour into the delta of the Mobile and Tensaw rivers. He “set off from Mobile up the river in a trading boat, and was landed at Taensa bluff, the seat of Major Farmar... to spend some days in his family.” In “a light canoe” he continued his voyage up the river.

While the Mobile-Tensaw was a rich botanical experience for Bartram, it also left him with a life-changing affliction. It was during this journey in the summer of 1775 that he contracted the mysterious



Tensaw River

disease that threatened to end his journey—and even his life—and left his vision impaired.

Major Farmar’s plantation was located near the present Stockton, on the east bank of the Tensaw River and America’s second largest river delta. Formed by the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers, which combine to form the Mobile River, the delta is home to 67 rare, imperiled, threatened, or endangered species. Roots of its trees and plants drink from the waters of about 100,000 miles of streams and rivers in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee, capturing rich soils from mountains and fields hundreds of miles away. The estuary spreads over a fifty-mile-long, ten-mile-wide area of marsh, cypress-tupelo swamp, and bottomland.

The restoration of nature that he saw, interrupted for almost two hundred years, has now returned to the land. In the years following Bartram’s excursion, farming and timber harvesting dominated the delta. But in the 1950s various Alabama agencies began to acquire land along the river system. By 2000, the state and federal governments owned about 100,000 acres. The state of Alabama sets aside a

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President’s Notes

Dear Friends:

In late June 1775, William Bartram left the Georgia frontier with a “company of adventurers,” bound for Mobile. Once there, Bartram explored “the bay of Mobile” and the “Taensa, a pretty high bluff, on the Eastern channel of the great Mobile river, about thirty miles above Fort Conde, or city of Mobile, at the head of the bay.” Bartram’s host for much of his time in the British colony of West Florida was Major Robert Farmar, who provided a canoe for Bartram to explore the delta. During his excursions, Bartram observed “many artificial mounds of earth and other ruins,” the habitations of French settlers who stayed after the British conquest of their colony, and “many curious vegetable productions.” Perhaps none of his discoveries was as spectacular as the evening primrose, which still blooms in the Tensaw.

This fall, the Bartram Trail Conference will revisit Bartram’s Tensaw journey. The 2007 Bartram Trail Conference Biennial meeting will be held October 26–28, 2007, at the beautiful new Five Rivers Center, the launch point for the Bartram Canoe Trail. Five Rivers is the gateway to the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, the second largest river delta system in the continental U.S. and Alabama’s largest federally designated National Natural Landmark. The eighty-acre site features seven newly constructed state-of-the-art buildings, including a visitor center, a Nature Center Complex, an exhibit hall, and, of course, Bartram Landing, the terminus of the Bartram Canoe Trail. Come and meet old friends, make new ones, feast on great southern foods, explore the Bartram Canoe Trail, see historic sites and hear the latest scholarship on William Bartram. Our sponsors for the

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Finding the Fort and Bartram, Too

Mike Cordle

“I don’t think I can walk that far, Mike.”

“Sure you can, Mother. Now I brought you on this trip to see everything. I want to see what that historical marker says, and I can’t just leave you in the car. Let’s go.”

My mother couldn’t walk very well. She had had both knees and both hips replaced, but when I said “go” she usually tried to do her best and keep walking. So it was on that Sunday afternoon at Fort Toulouse, near Wetumpka, Alabama, that we started our journey together across uneven ground to see a historical marker that lay ahead. The sky was blue and the weather was very inviting that spring day. Mother and I had set out from Jasper earlier that morning on a quest to find the legendary fort.

In the fall of 1991, I had begun teaching Alabama History at Walker High School. Sadly, however, I found that there were no materials for use in the classroom. As I prepared to teach the course that year I read the textbook with great interest, and I wanted to see those sites for myself. I knew that teaching kids about those places would be a lot easier if I had some slides and firsthand knowledge of the places mentioned in the book. So, away we went to visit and learn about the period of French Alabama.

Fort Toulouse was just as I had pictured it—an old wooden fort with bastions set at the confluence of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers. The Alabama River lay to the south of the fort and all around the fort was the natural vegetation of the area. Spanish moss hung from the trees and all forms of plant life sprang from the soil in every direction. The nature trail lay ahead and spiraled its way into the looming forest north and east of the fort.

It was a beautiful experience. She and I ate a picnic lunch there on the grounds of the fort, and we toured the little museum built to shelter the story of the fort along with a few artifacts and other items of interest in the history of Alabama. We walked up to the sign and read all about William Bartram, the Naturalist who had explored this area during the years relevant to the American Revolutionary period.

“William Bartram!” Mother said, “I



Fort Toulouse—Fort Jackson State Historic Site

wonder who he was and why he is so important?”

“I’ve seen a brief reference to him in the history book, Mother, but I’m not sure what’s so important about him. I’ll find out, though. Now, aren’t you glad you walked this far?”

“Oh yes. It is very beautiful out here,” she replied. “Alabama has lots of beautiful sites if only everyone knew about them. This is one of the neatest places we’ve ever visited. There’s a big variety of plants and trees around here.”

Thus, my search to find the “real William Bartram” began. I would spend the next 16 years continuing the search that would take us all over Alabama, Georgia and north Florida, and through many books, articles and adventures.

My mother’s journey along the Bartram Trail ended in September of 1996. I’m pretty sure Bartram himself was waiting for her at the end of her trail to welcome her to a new kind of arboretum. My search continued, however. Although I no longer teach history, the book *Cold Mountain* renewed my interest a couple of years ago, and in the fall of 2006 I traveled to Auburn to attend the Bartram Seminar and to continue my journey along the Bartram Trail. I now incorporate an excerpt from his journals and notes about his life in the curriculum for tenth grade Honors English and the works of Henry David Thoreau. So, like my mother, I just keep walking and try to push my students just a little farther, step by step, toward another marker along the Bartram Trail. ❀

Mike Cordle

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Jasper, Alabama 35501

Mobile-Tensaw Delta, *continued from Page 1*
portion of the interest collected from offshore oil leases for deposit into the Forever Wild Land Trust, and funnels a significant portion of these funds into projects in the delta.

Biologists, bird watchers, and outdoor enthusiasts consider the Mobile-Tensaw Delta a treasure. The Alabama legislature designated the Bartram Canoe trail in 1976. In 2000, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources began planning, building, and marking multiple trails and officially opened them to the public in 2003. In 2004, they installed floating platforms for camping. About 200 miles of canoe trails now wind their way through the bayous and rivers, skirting islands where the crowns of grand cypresses preside over abundant shrubs and wildflowers. Ospreys and swallow-tailed kites soar over slow-moving rivers; vireos and other songbirds flit among the branches of oaks.

The 2007 Bartram Trail Conference will meet on the edge of the Tensaw River, some twenty miles south of “the seat of Major Farmar,” and will give considerable attention to the delta and its role in Bartram’s explorations. A conference highlight will be a canoe trip through waters traveled by Bartram. ❀

First in a Series

This article is first in a series of stories sent to *The Traveller* by members who have searched out and explored sites that Bartram described.

In future editions of *The Traveller* we will continue to feature articles, written by members of the Bartram Trail Conference, on their “discoveries” along the trail. We invite you to send us an article, about 700 words long, on a site that you visited.

- How did you find it?
- Who was on the journey?
- What did you see?
- What did you learn?

A team of Bartram Trail Conference members will select articles for printing in *The Traveller*.

Send your story to *The Traveller* editor Jim Kautz by email at jrkautz@earthlink.net or to 204 Weatherstone Pkwy. Marietta, Georgia. Deadline for submissions to the Spring edition is January 31.

Cherokees Return to Cowee

Jim Kautz

“...we were surprised by a sudden very loud and shrill whoop, uttered at once by a company of young fellows...”

William Bartram, describing part of a celebration in the council-house on the mound of Cowee, (*Travels*, XXX).

On April 23, 2007, the “Warriors of AniKituhwa,” a band of Cherokee dancers, brought the whoop back to the land. And the sound returned from the hills above the Little Tennessee River. “An echo,” I thought. “The hills are welcoming them back.”

Daniel “Sonny” Ledford, leader of the Warriors, amended my European-nurtured, quasi-scientific sentiment. “We are taught,” said the burly dancer gently, “that those are the voices of the ancient ones calling back.”

The ancient voices had reason to rejoice. The dancers were celebrating the return of the Cowee mound and its surrounding 71 acres to the Eastern Band of the Cherokees.

Bartram made Cowee his base for exploring “The Cherokee Mountains” in southwestern North Carolina in 1775. His descriptions of the town and its people give us insights into the landscape of the important Cherokee capital city and its large council-house that stood on “an ancient artificial mount of earth.” And his keen, sympathetic observations of the ceremony in the council-house help us understand the life of the Cherokee people near the end of their tenure on the land.

About fifteen months after Bartram’s visit, Revolutionary forces burned the town. In the 1820s, a decade before Cherokees were removed from the area by force, the rich bottomland became the property of the Hall family. The Halls held onto the land, operating a successful farm, until the death of Katherine Hall Porter in 2002. After her husband James Porter inherited the property, he said that the Cherokee people should own the land.

The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT), a conservation organization based in Franklin, North Carolina, worked



with James and his heirs to arrange a sale of the property, increasingly valuable in a rapidly developing, attractive valley, and to ensure its conservation. The LTLT put up some of the funds and turned to the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund for a grant to cover a portion of the land’s cost, based on the preservation of a half-mile of riverfront. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians financed the remainder of the purchase.

At April’s celebration across the river from the mound, more than one hundred people, many of them arriving from the town of Cherokee in buses, heard Principal Chief Michell Hicks of the Eastern Band and Paul Carlson of the Land Trust speak of the importance of acquiring the tract. “This property is not just about a mound,” said Hicks. “It is about a way of life. This used to be the New York City of the Cherokee people.”

The tribe has no plans to develop the property, he said. It will be managed under a conservation easement and will one day offer interpretive signs, environmental education programs, and a park.

Tom Belt, a Cherokee language instructor at Western Carolina University, also addressed the group. Belt, a member of the Cherokee Nation, said he grew up in Oklahoma hearing stories about the

people who stayed back east after the Removal. “The Creator,” he said, “wanted the Eastern Cherokee to stay behind to make sure the tribe’s homeland remained protected. Today, the prophecy has been fulfilled. We are not just reclaiming property. We are, in fact, rebuilding the tribe.”

Carlson said the land would continue to be managed as it is now, for habitat protection and in regards to agricultural history. He emphasized that the Cherokee have agreed that the site of the settlement will not be commercialized. ❁

President’s Notes, *continued from page 1* meeting will be the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History, and the Alabama Museum of Natural History. I hope to see you there. ❁

Kathryn Braund, President
Bartram Trail Conference

The Traveller is the newsletter of
the Bartram Trail Conference.

Jim Kautz, *Editor*
Brad Sanders, *Publisher*
Zelda White, *Editorial Assistan*

William Bartram Rain Garden *Progress on the Nature Park*

The Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy, located in the Phinizy Swamp near Augusta, reports significant activity over the past year at the William Bartram Rain Garden.

Dana Putnam, the Academy's Public Relations and Event Coordinator, says that, as part of the DSM Chemicals Torch Dreams Project, DSM Chemicals employees and their families gathered in the fall to build hummocks, raised hills within the Rain Garden that will create habitat for trees and animals. The hummock project was completed with the help of a crane. During the past winter, DSM Chemicals used funds from the Torch Dreams project to begin construction of a boardwalk around the Rain Garden.

In January, members of the Columbia County Rotary Club volunteered their time to assist with this construction. In the coming months, more boardwalks will be completed around the Rain Garden as a result of grant funds received from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation.

The William Bartram Rain Garden



will demonstrate ecological uses of retention ponds, create safe educational opportunities for Academy field trips and kids' clubs, provide additional recreational pos-

sibilities at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, and educate visitors about America's first naturalist, William Bartram, and his travels through the Augusta area. ❀

John Bartram on the Ruffed Grouse

In 1750, John Bartram described the Ruffed grouse in a letter to Peter Collinson. Tom Hallock recently uncovered the text in a book that is housed in the Francis Harper Collection at the Spencer Library, University of Kansas.

“The Ruffed Heath-cock, or Grous... also called the pheasant.”

*John Bartram*¹

“He is a fine bird when his gaiety is displayed, that is, when he spreads his tail like that of a turkey-cock, and erects a circle of feathers round his neck like a ruff, walking very stately with an even pace, and making a noise something like a turkey; at which time the hunter must fire immediately at

him, or he flies away directly for two or three hundred yards, before he settles on the ground. There is something very remarkable in what we call their thumping, which they do with their wings, by clapping them against their sides, as the hunters say. They stand upon an old fallen tree, that has lain many years on the ground, where they begin their strokes gradually, at about two seconds of time distant from one another, and repeat them quicker and quicker, until they make a noise like thunder at a distance; which continues, from the beginning, about a minute; then ceaseth for about five or six or eight minutes, before it begins again. The sound is heard near half a mile, by which means they are discovered by the hunters, and many of them are killed. I have shot many of them in this position; but never saw them thump, they mostly seeing me first, and so left off. They commonly exercise in thumping spring and fall, at about nine

or ten in a morning, and four or five in the afternoon. Their food is chiefly berries and seeds of the country; their flesh is white, and choice food. I believe they breed but once a year, in the spring, and hatch twelve or fourteen at a brood, which keep in a company towards the following spring. Many have attempted to raise the young ones, and to tame them; but to no purpose. When hatched under a hen, they escape into the woods soon after they are hatched, where they either find means to subsist, or perish.” ❀

“The Ruffed Heath-cock, or Grous... also called the pheasant.” John Bartram to Peter Collinson, July 15, 1750.” Reprinted in George Edwards, *Gleanings of Natural History, Exhibiting Figures of Quadrupeds, Birds, Insects, Plants, &c. Most of which have not, till now, been either Figured or Described. With Descriptions of seventy different subjects, Designed, Engraved, and Coloured after Nature, on fifty Copper-Plate Prints.* (London: Royal College of Physicians, 1758). Volume 1 [of 3]. Pp. 79–81

Bartram's Journey at the Mountain Heritage Center

The Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University recently displayed an exhibit on William Bartram. "Bartram's Journey: the 1775 Journey of William Bartram to Western North Carolina" traced the life of Bartram and his keen observation of not only plant life, but of the people and places he encountered throughout his travels in the southeastern United States.

The exhibit was created as part of a collaboration between the Mountain Heritage Center, the Highland Biological Station, and the Cashiers Historical Society. Coinciding with the exhibit was a three-day symposium sponsored by The Cashiers Historical Society, which explored the travels of Bartram to Western North Carolina. At the same time, the nearby Highlands Biological Station's "William Bartram Trail" made its debut. The trail features, in an appealing mountain setting, some 30 mountain and piedmont species with Bartram connections.

"Bartram's Journey" was on display at the Mountain Heritage Center on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina from May 30 through August 20, 2007. For more information, call 828-227-7129 or see www.wcu.edu/mhc. ☼



Readers Can Help the Franklinia Project

The subject is leaves. Leaves from the *Franklinia alata-maha*.

Charlotte Porter, a longtime, faithful member and leader of the Bartram Trail Conference, is in search of leaves from the *Franklinia alata-maha*.

She writes, "For an ongoing botanical analysis of phylogenetics of the Franklin Tree, I would welcome fresh specimens of the leaves. If you can procure leaves and wish to partake in the study, please email me for easy instructions. No experience required!"

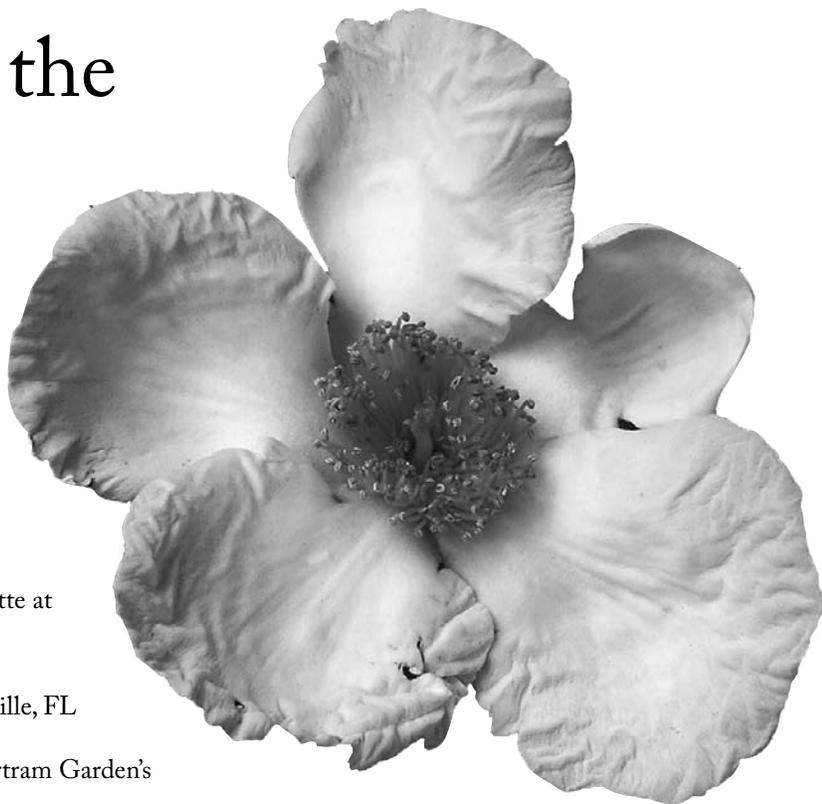
Some members already have sent specimens.

Anyone having leaves to contribute should contact Charlotte at cmporter@flmnh.ufl.edu, or at

Charlotte M. Porter, Ph.D.

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To learn more about *Franklinia alata-maha* visit Historic Bartram Garden's web site, <http://www.bartramsgarden.org/franklinia/>



“Speritous Liquors” Advertisement... *What Would Billy Do?*

What’s wrong with this picture?

It’s from a historical series of prints, published in 1946 as part of an advertising campaign. On the carriageway in front of a three story stone house stand three well-attired men. A lean, gray-haired, bespectacled gentleman holds a trowel in one hand and extends a pair of roses to his guest with the other. Behind him, a younger man, holding pruning shears, looks on. A dark-skinned man with curly hair doffs his hat from a kneeling position.

Beneath the print is the caption: “John Bartram in his botanical garden, with de Crevecoeur, French man-of-letters—Philadelphia, 1769.”

Tom Hallock found the advertisement in the Harper Collection in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library of the University of Kansas while gathering materials for a planned edition of Bartram manuscripts.

Nothing is wrong with the picture, as far as we know. It’s probably as good a likeness of the Bartrams, their garden and their home as we can get. J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur did, indeed, visit Kingsessing and see freed slaves working there. The accompanying quotation from de Crevecoeur’s “Letters of an American Farmer” is also authentic.¹ The picture is fine.

What’s off-base is the setting of a print of the Bartrams in an ad promoting the “heritage” of a brand of whiskey.

Hallock notes that the John Bartram frequently wrote on temperance. “In short,” he says, “John and William Bartram would have been the last to lend their

1. *Letters from an American Farmer*, by J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, reprinted from the original ed., with a prefatory note by W. P. Trent and an introduction by Ludwig Lewisohn. New York, Fox, Duffield, 1904. Formatted and linked to xroads: Eric J. Gislason 2/6/96. <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/CREV/letter11.html>

Life, Oct. 28, 1946

JOHN BARTRAM IN HIS BOTANICAL GARDEN, WITH DE CREVECOEUR, FRENCH MAN-OF-LETTERS—PHILADELPHIA 1769*

A HERITAGE TO REMEMBER

“Lead this kind epistle which the good Queen of Sweden, Ulrica, sent me a few years ago. Good woman! that she should think in her palace at Stockholm of John Bartram on the banks of the Schuylkill...”

—IN “LETTERS FROM AN AMERICAN FARMER” (1782)

Colonial Philadelphia’s expanding wealth and luxury encouraged the rise of distinguished personalities . . . of gracious living. Hence flourished its famed heritage of hospitality, a tradition eminently sustained by Philadelphia Blend, “The Heritage Whiskey.” By any standard this is a whiskey for special occasions. Yet you can afford to enjoy Philadelphia, regularly and often.

Philadelphia
BLENDED WHISKY
The Heritage Whiskey

56.8 PROOF • 65% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS
CONTINENTAL DISTILLING CORPORATION, PHILA.
*From a Series of Historic Prints Designed for
“Philadelphia”—The Heritage Whisky—Famous Since 1894

names to a whiskey product.” He cites as an example a meditation (possibly a draft letter) that William Bartram penned on the back of an undated plant request:

You call committes & approve Trustees &c for the Relief of the Poor (Paupers as they are termed by the richer[.] this is an Annual expence by way of Charity & offered generally by donations, Ward & City contributions[.] Would it not be better to for a plan to prevent Poverty, which would be of less expence & more certain[.] Let the Legislature, contemplate this Affair[.] Make Laws

& let them be rigorously enforced[.] That there should be no Tippling houses & only such a quantity of Speritous Liquors vended to a person, so much as be sufficient to relieve him in case of any natural bodily complaint & no more. Taverns should be under strict Regulations & restrictions with respect to vending Speritous Liquors. For it is Obvious, that the unrestrain’d use of Speritous Liquors is the cause of Poverty among the poor Labouring people Mechanicks” (HSP, Bartram Papers, 4:92).

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Bartram Trail Conference Members

Davida Hastie

Almost eight years ago, Sam Hodges, a reporter for the *Mobile Press-Register*, wrote, "Anyone on the hunt for information about the Mobile-Tensaw Delta will get used to hearing a two-word command: 'See Davida.' The reference is to Davida Hastie, a lifelong resident of the Stockton area, and an authority on Delta history and folkways."¹

Davida Hastie was 73 then and was noted as a leader of history-related projects in her area north of Mobile. So important was she as a contact for archaeologists, that the *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* dedicated an edition to her. Other awards have come her way, including a Silver Anniversary Award in 1991 for "Distinguished Service to the State of Alabama." Numerous sites in Baldwin County have historic markers due to her efforts. She played a major role in establishing an interpretive trail at Fort Mims.

A native of Stockton, Alabama, the town where she still lives, Davida's historical activity began modestly. She and her husband owned and operated Live Oak Lodge (now called Live Oak Landing) on Tensaw River from 1948 until 1982. At first renting cypress boats and selling bait and groceries to fishermen, they expanded into renting parking spaces for trailers.

The fishing business couldn't contain her curiosity or energy, however. She told Hodges:

I wasn't a very good student. But being at Live Oak, I knew we could find pottery and old china, an arrowhead or two, so I got to thinking maybe I would see who lived here before we did, and worked on that a little. I joined the Baldwin County Historical Society, to learn a little about these things and talk to people who knew much more than I did. This was around 1970, I reckon. At that time, a lot of elderly people belonged to the Society, and I was younger, and so for that reason I got the job of being president.

Within a few years, Davida had devel-

1. *Mobile Press-Register*, January 12, 1999 (<http://www.al.com/specialreport/mobileregister/index.ssf?delta2/a215621a.html>, 30 July 2007)

oped an interest in William Bartram. Her quest began as she searched for information on Major Farmer and the location of his plantation. When she found that Bartram had made Farmer's home near Stockton his base in the delta, she read more about the explorer. By 1976, her recognition of Bartram's importance led the Baldwin County Historical Society to press successfully to have the Bartram Canoe Trail established by Governor George Wallace. She attended the Bartram Trail Conference meeting that year and has continued to mingle with other members of the Conference at their gatherings over the past thirty years.

As with many others who hold an interest in Bartram, Davida Hastie also pursues conservation causes. She was a leader in a movement that helped protect a portion of the Tensaw River from industrial pollution. In her 1999 interview, she said:

They can give you all the scientific reasons that (the woods) are being improved, but it's awfully hard to think of young people growing up and not seeing a canopied forest anywhere. I don't think so much maybe is wrong with cutting heavy in some places, but the technology we have to remove trees is removing them to such a degree that something is going to suffer. Sometimes progress is knowing when to stop.

Brad Sanders

Brad Sanders grew up on the Bartram trail. As a boy, he roamed the forests along a ridge southeast of Athens, unaware that it was William Bartram's Great Ridge ("a continuous high forest; the soil fertile and broken into moderately elevated hills, by the many rivulets which have their sources in it."—*Travels*, 41).

When he began reading *Travels* in 1992, Brad discovered that he had been tromping historic ground. His boyhood escapades became a launching pad for a life of study. He set a goal of visiting and photographing each place that Bartram mentioned. This quest eventually became *Guide to William Bartram's Travels* (Fevertree Press, 2002) an invaluable book for those who seek the Bartram Trail.

Brad was born in Atlanta and moved

with his family to Clarke County. He earned a Bachelor in Fine Arts from the University of Georgia and has completed some work towards a master's degree there. A skilled graphic designer and photographer, he teaches graphic communications at Cedar Shoals High School in Athens. In addition, he has taught himself botany and is considered an important authority on Bartram's plants.

Besides his constant pursuit of Bartram history and science, Brad conducts historical research, writes, and gives lectures and visual presentations on Bartram and botany. He currently is researching a book on the travels of George Washington through the south in 1791.

A visit to Brad's home on the outskirts of Athens includes a walk to a garage. He opens the door, flips a light switch, and displays the results of another of his passions: he restored to shiny, engine-roaring condition a red 1946 Farmall tractor. On the side, he raises vegetables, hikes, kayaks, and persistently remodels his house.

What does Bartram bring to Brad's mind? "The most important thing that we can get from reading *Travels*" he says, "is a vision of how the landscape looked before it was transformed by European style agriculture."

As publisher of *The Traveller*, Brad provides graphic design, organizes the articles, and brings each edition into print. He has attended five biennial meetings of the Bartram Trail Conference. ❁

Whiskey, continued from page 6

Tom also notes that in 1792 Bartram wrote to Benjamin Smith Barton:

Perhaps the Unhealthiness of the People in the lower Region of the Carolina's & Georgia, is more owing to the intemperate use of Ardent Spirits, fermented Liquors, high seasoned, & Flesh food &c. than to the Native Air they breathe & Water which Nature furnishes them with for cooling drink.

A more complete discussion of Bartram's opinions about "sperits" will be available in Thomas Hallock and Nancy E. Hoffman, editors, "William Bartram's Manuscripts," a two-volume publication (University of Georgia Press, forthcoming). ❁

The Traveller
c/o Anne Hurst
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Hull, GA 30646



Bartram Trail Conference 2007 Biennial Meeting

Call for Silent Auction Items

We are going to have a silent auction at the meeting in October! This is lots of fun and all proceeds will go to support the Bartram Trail Conference. If you are not familiar with silent auctions, we are asking people to donate appropriate items that will attract bids at the conference. We will put the items out on a table with a bid sheet attached to each one. During Friday evening and Saturday, folks view the displays and record their bids on the bid sheets. At the end of the day on Saturday, we will close the bidding and announce the winners. Then the high bidders can settle up with the Treasurer and pick up their goodies.

Here's what we want you to do!

We want you to donate outdoors, natural history or 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.

Here are some good ideas; items that we have and some we have seen:

- a framed color poster of the town of Yuchi as it appeared when Bartram visited
 - a 1928 Birds of Florida book with color illustrations
 - an antediluvian shell from Bartram's Alabama Black Belt
 - a gift basket of souvenirs from Alabama
- a hand-drawn copy of one of Bartram's drawings • various T-shirts
- a free trip to the Alabama Museum of Natural History's famous fossil locality, Shark-Tooth Creek
 - Indian Festival from Moundville Archaeological Park
 - a hand-blown Williamsburg reproduction bottle
 - an antique clay jug from Alabama
 - a copy of Dead Towns of Alabama, now out of print
 - various prints & paintings • photographs • objets d'art •

If you think you can help, or just want to talk about things,

Contact: John Hall

Phone: (o) 205-348-7554, (h) 205-553-1645

E-mail: jhall@bama.ua.edu

Address: Box 870340, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487