

# The Traveller

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Fall, 2008

## An Update from Bartram's Garden: William Bartram's Evening Primrose and Seeds from Alabama

Joel T. Fry

Joel Fry is Curator of Bartram's Garden, located on the property of John and William Bartram in Philadelphia. He collected seeds and plants from the Tensaw Delta in Alabama while attending the 2007 Bartram Trail Conference. Here is his report...

We have had surprising good luck with both plants and seeds from Alabama at Bartram's Garden this year. As noted in the spring 2008 issue of *The Traveller*, a plant of William Bartram's "most pompous and brilliant herbaceous plant," the golden evening-primrose or *Oenothera grandiflora*, was brought from near Stockton, Alabama to Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia. The root quite happily survived the winter and has been growing immense all summer. There are now probably a dozen stems, five to six feet tall. In spite of the luxuriant growth, only in the last week of August has it begun to form flower buds, with the first opening on August 27<sup>th</sup>. With the stock of developing buds, it looks like it will soon be flowering in abundance.

I'm not sure if the rather late bloom time is natural for this species, or the result of drought from mid-summer onward, or repeated attacks by Japanese beetles. During July it was possible to pull handfuls of beetles off the plant daily. The plant survived the period with riddled leaves, but continued to grow. The common evening primrose, *Oenothera biennis*, has been blooming elsewhere at the garden and in weedy



William Bartram's "most pompous and brilliant herbaceous plant" *Oenothera grandiflora* blooming at Bartram's Garden on the morning of September 5, 2008.

waste places in the city of Philadelphia since late June and most are almost done flowering for the year. There is certainly a family resemblance between the common species and William Bartram's giant evening primrose, but the Alabama plant is much larger and the flowers much larger, lighter yellow, and perhaps stronger scented. What we are most hoping is that it will produce a lot of seed so we can be sure to continue William's evening primrose here in future, and distribute some seed.

We have had equal success with Alabama seeds collected on the east side of Mobile Bay at D'Olive Creek in Daphne. We expected many would take more than one cold season to germinate, but most came up this spring, at least in small numbers. We have small plants of Alabama supplejack, wild olive, red bay, Carolina laurelcherry, and perennial saltmarsh aster, which has even begun flowering. It turns out this same saltmarsh aster had been collected by John Bartram "on the beech of cape may" New Jersey, probably October 10, 1741. John Bartram's specimen was sent to his first patron and survives in Lord Peter's *Hortus Siccus* at the Sutro Library in San Francisco. The Alabama supplejack or rattan vine is about a foot high and beginning to twine around things.

Most of these plants are in a single raised nursery bed in a sheltered spot and the seeds survived the northern winter with a light mulch of saltmarsh hay. In the same bed next year we hope to see some germination of yaupon, odorless bayberry and farkleberry, and perhaps more examples of the same species that came up this year.

We also have a nice crop of halberdleaf rosemallow from seed from the Tensaw River. This is something that might have once been found as a rare plant in Philadelphia marshes, but is more often seen in the Southeast. John and William Bartram definitely encountered it in Virginia and the Carolinas. ♦

# Mark Dion Installation Opens at Bartram's Garden



Mark Dion examines a few of the thousands of objects he collected on his journey.  
Aaron Iglert/Greenhouse Media

Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia opened Mark Dion's *Travels of William Bartram—Reconsidered* in June. The installation features modern-day natural and man-made items collected and catalogued by Dion and his team as they retraced some of Bartram's journeys across southeastern America that were featured in Bartram's *Travels*.

"Most people don't realize that William Bartram was the first true American travel writer," said Dion. "He was also a great artist, drawing natural objects and wildlife, an avid adventurer, and a progressive naturalist. All these things drew me to his work and to finding what Bartram would have found if he had taken his journey in 2008 instead of 1773."

Mark Dion is a well-known contemporary artist and sculptor. His work examines the ways in which dominant ideologies and public institutions shape our understanding of history, knowledge, and the natural world. The job of the artist, he says, is to go against the

grain of popular culture, to challenge perception and convention. Appropriating archaeological and other scientific methods of collecting, ordering, and exhibiting objects, Dion creates works that question the distinctions between 'objective' ('rational') scientific methods and 'subjective' ('irrational') influences. His works have appeared at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tate Museum in London, Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, and other museums and galleries around the world. Dion has also been an artist-in-residence at the Museum of Natural History in London.

Dion began his journey in November 2007. Working with groups of colleagues, he completed fifty separate excursions in April 2008. More than 10,000 items made their way into his containers. Among them are bugs, plants, dolls, tools, chess pieces and shot glasses. They came from eleven flea markets, twenty-two junk stores, thirty-

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# Meet Your Fellow Bartram Trail Conference Members

John Ray

John Ray is a physicist. He understands general relativity, does computer simulations, taught at three universities, published about 150 peer-reviewed papers, and directed Ph.D. dissertations.

If you are looking for him, however, don't expect to see him hunched over a keyboard, or crunching numbers, or scrawling symbols on a chalkboard. You are more likely to find his six foot, four inch frame hauling an axe through a forest. Once a student of gravity, John now struggles against its tug as he maintains the Bartram Trail in the northernmost reaches of Georgia.

This Indiana boy, with a Ph.D. from Ohio University, spent thirty-three years on the faculty of Clemson University before retiring to the town of Central, South Carolina. Along the way, he spotted a historical marker sign that told of William Bartram's passage through the piedmont of the Palmetto State. When he learned more about Bartram, John tried to hike the Bartram trail in Georgia. After getting lost several times, he discussed the trail with the Forest Service ranger in Clayton, Georgia. The ranger talked John and his hiking partner, Malcolm Skove, into writing a hiking guide for the trail.

Within a year, they had completed the guide. During that time, the pair hiked the Bartram several times and started doing maintenance. He continues to travel the 3-hour round trip from his home to spend between 50 and 100 days a year maintaining the trail. Occasionally, a few people join him on these outings. As a result, serious and casual hikers can locate the trail and find their way along its well-kept track.

John has written four trail guides: *Georgia Bartram Trail*, *North Carolina Bartram Trail*, *Appletree Group Camp Trails*,

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# New Look and New Information for [www.bartramtrail.org](http://www.bartramtrail.org)

By Brad Sanders

The Bartram Trail Conference web site will take on a new look in October. Already the number two Google hit for William Bartram, coming right after the Wikipedia entry, the site will offer new features and more information.

Among the major additions are the final sections of *Bartram Heritage*, which I have scanned and will make available online. *Bartram Heritage* was published in 1979 by the Bartram Trail Conference, under contract with the United States Department of the Interior. Scores of researchers and dozens of institutions participated in creating this report on the feasibility of a Bartram National Scenic Trail. The committee reported on primary and secondary Bartram heritage sites, and wrote about the life and legacy of William Bartram. The *Heritage* report is out of print and has been hard to obtain for some years now.

Making the complete *Bartram Heritage* available online has been a goal of the Bartram Trail Conference and this fall that goal will be realized. What is involved in completing the final two sections of *Bartram Heritage* is to scan the pages, then use OmniPage to convert the images to text. I clean up the errors that OmniPage makes, which are amazingly few, and place the text in new pages. The maps are scanned and linked to the text pages.

A new section on the site will feature images of Bartram Trail historical markers.

I have been working on our web site this past summer, adding new information and transferring our files from GoLive to Dreamweaver. Since I built the web site in 1999, technology has changed significantly. For example, be-



cause GoLive has been supplanted by Dreamweaver as the preferred authoring program for web designers, I had to spend a few weeks learning the new software. While that has required me to move the older files to the new format, it has allowed the use of Cascading Style Sheets to make the web site uniform; and better typographic control has allowed me to make the text more readable. Another feature that will be included in the updated web site is the use of a program called Contribute, which allows designated members to update or add new information. This

will allow for more timely addition of news and events.

Check out the web site ([www.bartram.org](http://www.bartram.org)) in late October and see for yourself.



Brad Sanders teaches graphic design at Cedar Shoals High School in Athens, Georgia. He is webmaster of the Bartram Trail Conference and has published the widely used *Guide to William Bartram's Travels* (Fevertree Press, 2002). He also designs and publishes *The Traveller*. A grant from the BTC enabled him to improve the website.

Mark Dion, *continued from page 2*

six yard sales, and many roadsides and swamps. Most of these items will be displayed in custom-made “curiosity cabinets” specifically designed for Bartram’s Garden.

The installation will be on display to the public in the historic home of John Bartram at Bartram’s Garden through December 6, 2008. Bartram’s Garden has hosted a number of educational events related to both William Bartram and Mark Dion’s exhibit through the summer and fall. More information can be found at [www.BartramsGarden.org](http://www.BartramsGarden.org), Mark Dion’s *Travels of William Bartram*.

The public can experience Mark Dion’s expedition online at [www.MarkDionsBartramsTravels.com](http://www.MarkDionsBartramsTravels.com). Video of daily travels, city stops, photo galleries, and audio, along with blogs, Mark’s handwritten journals, and maps, pinpoint his travels and provide a unique experience with the artist. ❖

# A Letter from Bartram to Carl Linnaeus, Jr.

Years after John Bartram corresponded with Carl Linnaeus, father of modern taxonomy, his sons tried to get in touch with Carl Jr., Linnaeus’s son. William wrote a letter in his own hand and signed for his brother John as well. They sought to learn if two plants, the bigleaf snowbell, *Styrax grandifolius*, and the *Franklinia alatamaha* were known in Europe and, if so, how Linnaeus, Sr. had classified them.

Joel Fry, Curator of Bartram’s Garden in Philadelphia, received a facsimile of the letter from a colleague in Uppsala, Sweden. Joel says that the letter “was an attempt to revive botanic correspondence at the end of the Revolution.”

“Most importantly,” says Joel, “William included notes on his first cultivation of the plants. Bartram appended drawings of each new plant. In spite of several efforts, the drawings have not been found in any Swedish archive.”

The following transcript (on page 5) of the portion of the letter dealing with



*Franklinia alatamaha*

the *Franklinia* demonstrates not only Bartram’s style but also the details eighteenth-century scientists used to communicate about plants.

The complete letter will be available in the forthcoming two-volume publication, *William Bartram’s Manuscripts*, edited by Thomas Hallock and Nancy E. Hoffman (University of Georgia Press). ❖

## Upcoming Events

### “Liquid Muse” to Feature William Bartram in Florida

Although William Bartram was not a landscape painter, his *Travels* continues to inspire art associated with Florida’s St. Johns River. “Liquid Muse: Paintings from the St. Johns Region,” a traveling exhibit, will bring together much of this art, along with presentations by scholars and artists.

“Liquid Muse” will open at the Thomas Center, Gainesville, FL, on August 30, 2008, with a reception on October 2 and daylong symposium at Santa Fe College, Gainesville on October 3. The exhibit will travel to four other venues on William Bartram’s itinerary along the St. Johns River:

- The Alexander Brest Museum, Jacksonville University
- Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science
- Florida School of the Arts, Palatka

- Museum of Florida Art (formerly DeLand Museum of Art).

The accompanying lecture series includes joint presentations by scholars and artists. BTC member Charlotte M. Porter will read the “special effects” from William Bartram’s *Travels* to accompany landscape painter Sydney McKenna’s “H<sub>2</sub>O Rising: When Water Goes Air-born.”

Other speakers include historian Gary Monroe; artist Allison Watson; Rawlings scholar Murray Laurie; former county commissioner and graphic artist Kate Barnes; author Bill Belleville; springs artist Margaret Tolbert; and rancher-artists Sean Sexton and Spence Gurrin. Performance artist Dean Quigley will portray William Bartram.

“Liquid Muse,” curated by Mallory O’Connor, features works in different media by forty-five contemporary Florida artists. The Florida Humanities Council has funded the exhibit. ❖

### “An Evening with William Bartram”

#### Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Bill Landry, creator of The Heartland Series on Knoxville’s WBIR-TV, will present “William Bartram—An Unlikely Explorer” as part of the Wilderness Wildlife Week. Landry’s lecture and drama includes video of Bartram sites and discoveries. The presentation will be at the Music Road Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on Saturday, January 17, 2009, 7:30 to 8:30.

More information will be available in November on [www.mypigeonforge.com](http://www.mypigeonforge.com) or on [www.billlandryproductions.com](http://www.billlandryproductions.com). ❖

# A Letter from Bartram to Carl Linnaeus, Jr.

Philadelphia

Aug<sup>t</sup>. 16, 1783

Sir

From the Friendship that so long & happily subsisted between Your Father the great & excellent Linneus, & my Father I am encouraged to hope this address will not be unacceptable.

Being willing to communicate to the School of Botany In Sweden whatever new plants I have or may here after discover and being informed by D<sup>t</sup>. Killman a worthy Young Gentleman [in?] that you amused yourself in Botanical reserches.

I have taken the liberty to present to you by the hands of Doct<sup>r</sup>. Killman two drawings of very beautiful Shrubs together with their descriptions. If they should not prove nondescript I should be glad to know their generick Names.

We are S<sup>t</sup>.

with much respect

Your Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hble. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

John & Wm. Bartram

.....  
Monadelphia Polyandria.

N<sup>o</sup>. 2

This Shrub grows above 20 feet in hight.

*Caudex* The trunk or stem rises erect from the ground 5 or 6 feet, then divides alternately into ascendent branches lightly diverging from the principle Stem & subdividing in the same order.

*Folia* The leaves are oblong and serrated, terminating at the apex by an acute point, but gradually tapering to the base & sessile: They are placed in an alternate order & stand nearly horazontal with the stem & a little reflexed

*Flores* The flowers are large & spread open, of a most perfect whiteness, ornamented in the center, with a crown or Tassell of refulgent Stamina. The inferior petal or segment of the Corolla is concave & exactly of the form of a Helmet & intirely incloses the other Petals until the moment of expansion. the Flowers terminate the branches and are place sessile in the bosoms of the leaves.

*Calyx* The Perianthium is double. The exterior ones are two oblong & patent inflexed at their extremities, they fall off when the flower drops. The interior are five equal roundish concave segments, which press close to the bottom of the corolla & when the Flower drops closely embrace the Stile, & remain so untill the extention of the Germen or Pericarpium pushes them off.

The *Corolla* is composed of 5 nearly round patent Petals, crisped on their limb the inferior one deeply concave, They coalice at their base forming a narow short tube.

The *Stamina* are a multitude of Awl shaped filaments which coalice at their base and adhere to the tube of the Corolla, but seem to be collected into five seperate bundles.

The *Anthera* are didymous. The *Germen* is nearly round & covered with fine hair.

The *Pistillum Style* cylindrical & longer then the Stamina. The *Stigma* is obtuse and radiated.

The *Pericarpium* is subrotund, ligneous, & opens at the bottom by 5 valves disclosing 5 Cells or cavities which contain a great number of cuneiform seeds

This very beautiful Shrub I discovered growing in Florida about 5 years ago & brought the ripe seed to Philadelphia, from these seed grew 5 plants, two of which were taken to France by Mons<sup>t</sup>. Gerard Emasedor to these States & were to be planted in the Royal garden at Versailles. Two plants are here now finely in Flower in the open ground, & perfectly resist our hardest Winters

The seed are above a year ripening. When I collected the ripe seed in Florida the Tree which yielded the seed was then fully in Flower And The Trees in Jn<sup>o</sup>. Bartram's Garden near Philadelphia now in its gayity of flowering is full of seed nearly ripe.

John & W<sup>m</sup>. Bartram

(Permission granted by Uppsala University Library)

Joel notes that the "Dr. Killman" was Dr. Gustaf Fredric Kjellman (1755-1792), a Swedish physician and botanist who traveled to Philadelphia ca. 1780. Kjellman seems to have traveled during his North American visit and gave public lectures on botany (he was apparently a student of Linnaeus). He returned to Sweden in late summer or fall 1783, carrying the Bartram letter to Carl Linnaeus, Jr. Linnaeus the younger died November 1, 1783, however, and probably never received the letter from William Bartram.

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# “Map maker, map maker, make me a map...”

By *Ina Warren*, Editor of the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society Newsletter

## Trail Work

As we complete our thirtieth year, the North Carolina Bartram Trail Society continues to further its outreach in the beautiful mountains of the Nantahala National Forest. BTS President Tim Warren and his trusty crew of trail maintainers (primarily Keith Day, Charles Edwards, Bruce Johnson, Dave Reid, Tom Rodgers, John Stowers and Walter Wingfield) work each second Saturday of the month and schedule a half dozen workhikes with local college students to keep the 80+ mile trail clear for the hiking public's enjoyment.

Our major effort for 2008 has been with the BTS Map Team, led by retired engineer Tom Rodgers, in acquiring both GPS coordinates and on-the-ground wheel trail data since February, in preparation for converting the series of seven trail maps into a single, large-format map. Valued technical assistance and equipment have come from BTS Board member Dr. Gary Wein, Executive Director of the Highlands Cashiers Land Trust. In addition to topographic contour lines and extensive trail narratives, we plan to develop interpretive natural history panels of the BT's flora and fauna as well as a historical glimpse of the travels of William Bartram for the map. Board members Walter Wingfield and Ina Warren are busy writing funding grants for the creation of the digital data discs and map printing.

Financial contributions to the BTS from supporters to help move this mapping effort forward will be greatly appreciated! ❖

## College Spotlight

The NC Bartram Trail Society continues to develop a good working relationship with the mature students of Warren Wilson College (Asheville, NC) in Service Learning events. Twenty-one students and faculty adviser Lyn O'Hare built trail tread on a 1.25-mile stretch of the BT's western extension during the spring workhike on April 12. Since many of the students had extensive experience with farm tools, they greatly extended the scope of the day's work. On August 15, Ms. O'Hare brought eighteen students who safely (and cheerfully!) hauled a full truckload of lumber and sixty 40-pound bags of Sakrete to the site where a 24-foot US Forest Service-engineered bridge is to be constructed to span Ledbetter Creek on Section 7. (This bridge project is a result of the award of a North Carolina Adopt-A-Trail grant in 2008. The grant also funded two additional boardwalks to mitigate stream damage, and purchased brush cutters and other trail tools.)

The students and BTS members also repaired a section of trail destroyed by a large uprooted tree, cleared part of the Section 6 “jungle,” and opened the entrance at Winding Stairs Trailhead.

BTS members report that they are encouraged about the future of our youth after investing time with these WWC students and seeing many of them enjoy their first event so much that they later returned for subsequent workhikes. ❖



# President's Comments

Kathryn Braund

The BTC Board of Directors met in late July on the beautiful campus of Emory University. As we gathered, it occurred to me how much can really be accomplished by a small group of dedicated people. As the current board members chatted prior to the meeting, Margaret Mead's famous quotation came to mind: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." We are a small group and we owe thanks to a small group of people from eight states who came together in the mid-1970s. Their commitment and hard work built our organization and established a lasting legacy through the concept of "Bartram heritage" sites all across the South. They identified Bartram's route, worked to mark sites and build trails and gardens. And just as surely as the Bartrams planted seeds at Kingsessing, the "seeds" planted by the early BTC members have grown and inspired people all across the region to take up the cause. Witness the fabulous natural reserve that is Alabama's Five Rivers Delta Resource Center and its associated Bartram Canoe Trail. The BTC did not accomplish that, but the idea of the canoe trail can be traced to that early dream. Those who responded to that first commitment were individuals as well as members of a variety of dedicated organizations as well as local, state and federal agencies. Today, we carry on the legacy of the earliest BTC work.

In recent years, the BTC has focused on support of Bartram scholarship and worked tirelessly to inform the general public about the Bartram heritage and encourage the continued protection and enjoyment of Bartram locations. The BTC reaches members and a wide public through our Web site (<http://www.bartramtrail.org>). If you haven't visited our site lately, please do. Our Web master Brad Sanders, supported by a Fothergill Award, has revamped the site. Included there you will find the BTC's *Bartram Heritage Report*, which includes detailed

discussion of Bartram and Bartram sites by state. Through our newsletter, we provide information on Bartram topics, events, and sites as well as some exceptional short pieces of scholarship. Thanks to our editor Jim Kautz for his continued dedication to this vital work. For events between our two annual newsletters, I encourage you to sign up for our Yahoo e-group (see details elsewhere).

One of the most important things the BTC does is support new research by annual Fothergill Awards. As you probably know, Dr. John Fothergill was William Bartram's patron and paid Bartram's expenses during his southern travels. In the same way that Dr. Fothergill made *Travels* possible, our awards assist young scholars from any field working on a topic that relates to the William Bartram heritage. Recipients have included graduate students in journalism, history, literature and archaeology. We now have two such awards annually and are working to increase the stipends to better assist with travel and other research expenses. These things—our Web site, newsletter and Fothergill awards—take money—as do our biennial conferences. To continue funding and to expand our educational and support activities, the Board unanimously adopted a new dues schedule and also authorized a new membership brochure which we hope to have completed by the end of the year. Our goal is to keep the BTC on sound financial footing by allowing people to contribute to the organization through a tiered dues system. And by increasing membership, we not only raise money, but add to our political clout on occasions when the BTC needs to stand united and accomplish new goals, including marking additional Bartram sites, encouraging improvements and better interpretation at others, and, when necessary, pitching it to help "rescue" others. Currently, we do not have the resources to assist sites in any way. We hope that in the future, with a larger membership base and a strong financial footing, we can do more good things.

Our Board also established an organizational calendar and made plans to recruit membership coordinators for each Bartram state to identify prospective members.

The Board would welcome your participation in this endeavor. If you would

like to assist in raising awareness of the BTC in your state, please contact me at [khbraund@charter.net](mailto:khbraund@charter.net). Finally, we would like to establish a regular opportunity for people to serve on our Board and as officers. If you have any interest in serving, I would love to hear from you. ❖

## Keep In Touch Via The BTC E-Mail List

The BTC maintains a Yahoo! e-group. This list-serve allows members to post e-mail messages to everyone on the list. We encourage all BTC members to sign up. You will hear from other members about Bartram events, lectures, and special programs and you can also post Bartram questions and an expert is sure to answer. It is a fun way to keep in touch with fellow Bartram members. You can also post photos to share images of your latest Bartram adventure. The service is FREE.

To join the e-group, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bartramtrail>. If you have already signed up and have a Yahoo! ID, then click the blue "Join this Group" box. If you don't have a Yahoo! ID, look below the blue "Join this Group" box and click the "Sign Up" link. You'll create a Yahoo! ID and password and then you can join. If you have trouble, e-mail Kathryn Braund at [khbraund@charter.net](mailto:khbraund@charter.net) and she'll send you an electronic invitation to join the group that includes working links. ❖

### The Traveller is the newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference.

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# Exhibit Highlights the Linnaeus–Bartram Connection

By Karen Reeds

John Bartram on his farm in colonial Pennsylvania and Carolus Linnaeus in the old university town of Uppsala, Sweden. The unusual transatlantic relationship between these two great eighteenth-century naturalists is a major feature of the exhibition, “Come into a New World: Linnaeus & America,” on view at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton through December 2008.

At first glance, it seems astonishing that these two men should have heard of each other, let alone that they corresponded and influenced one another’s work. Bartram first learned about Linnaeus from his London patron and friend, Peter Collinson, who had made Linnaeus’s acquaintance in 1736. Collinson sent Linnaeus’s early works to Bartram’s Philadelphia mentor, the prodigiously learned James Logan. Logan took the time to give Bartram tutorials in Linnaeus’s Latin and system of classification. Logan’s copy of *Bibliotheca Botanica* (now in the Library Company of Philadelphia) reveals his respect for Bartram’s abilities. In the margin, next to Linnaeus’s praise of the early English naturalists who had explored America, Logan added: “Among them, the Pennsylvanian John Bartram is outstanding.”

Soon Bartram was supplying Linnaeus and Collinson with New World plants, animals, and fossils (see the Linnean Collections Online <http://www.linnean-online.org/>). Bartram’s Garden treasures the copy of *Genera Plantarum* that was sent to Bartram at Linnaeus’s request by way of thanks. The two inscriptions on its fly-leaf record two generations of Linnaeans in the Bartram family: “John Bartram His Book given him by Dr. Gronovius chief Professor at Leiden 1743” and “W. Bartram His Book June the 10 1755.”

A greater sign of Linnaeus’s regard followed in 1769: he nominated John Bartram for membership in the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences.

Exhibition research turned up another Bartram-Linnaeus connection. William

Bartram was so anxious to own the 1802 English translation of Linnaeus’s entomological treatise that he wrote out the whole text by hand, re-drew the frontispiece of insect anatomy, and inscribed the manuscript: “This was copied out by Will Bartram.”

Linnaeus never left Europe, and John Bartram never left America. However, they were linked by more than letters, books, and specimens. Linnaeus’s student, Pehr Kalm, arrived in Philadelphia on September 15, 1748, to be his master’s eyes, ears, and hands in North America. From Kalm’s detailed expense records (preserved in the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences), we know that on his very first day in America, he tipped the crew, bought three pennies worth of apples, and took the ferry across the “Skullkill” River to Bartram’s garden.

Disappointingly, Bartram was not at home that day, but for the rest of Kalm’s two and a half years in North America, Bartram was Kalm’s single best source. Again and again in *Travels into North America*, Kalm quoted the Pennsylvanian on every aspect of American natural history. Without Bartram’s friendly expertise, it is unlikely that Kalm’s American expedition would have been nearly so fruitful.

In return, Bartram had the benefit of seeing Kalm demonstrate the practical value of Linnaeus’s system of classification.

For the current show in Trenton, John Bartram’s words give an extra dimension to the dramatic taxidermy specimens from the New Jersey State Museum’s collections. No one who sees the monster snapping turtle—Linnaeus’s *Chelydra serpentina*—will forget Bartram’s firsthand account: “*They will catch hold of A stick offered to them or if you had rather your finger which they will hold so fast as you may lift ye turtle by it as high as your head if you have strength or courage enough . . . their eggs are round as A bullet & choice eating.*” (Bartram to Collinson, Philadelphia, November 3, 1754)

The show was mounted in 2007 by Philadelphia’s American Swedish Historical Museum as part of the worldwide Linnaeus Tercentenary celebrations. I invite you to come see for yourself! For more information, email [karen.reeds@verizon.net](mailto:karen.reeds@verizon.net). ❖

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Karen Reeds, Guest Curator, “Come into a New World: Linnaeus & America,” is a member of the Princeton Research Forum, a Visiting Scholar, History of Science, University of Pennsylvania, and a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London.

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## “My Exploration of the Bartram Trail”

### *Members Are Invited to Submit Stories*

Many of our readers regularly search out and explore sites that Bartram described. They find mats of glorious flowers; they also find housing developments and even cities.

In future editions of *The Traveller* we want 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 articles to *The Traveller* editor Jim Kautz by email at [jrkautz@earthlink.net](mailto:jrkautz@earthlink.net)

or, to 204 Weatherstone Pkwy. Marietta, Georgia. Deadline for submissions to the Fall edition is July 31. ❖



John Ray, *continued from page 2*

*Chunky Gal and Fires Creek Rim Trail.* His website [www.geocities.com/j3hnr3y](http://www.geocities.com/j3hnr3y) displays these works and gives guidance on how to volunteer to work on the trail.

Trails are only part of John Ray's interest in Bartram. "Bartram's book documenting his travels through the south is so valuable and interesting. He took a scientist's care to document many aspects of the landscape he moved through in the mid 1770's that in some cases it is our best and most accurate discussion of the land, animals, plants and people of this period."

John has attended several meetings of the Bartram Trail Conference. "Especially memorable," he says, "was the meeting in Augusta, GA in which the late Professor Edward Cashin gave us several wonderful windows into the time period when Bartram was in the area."

### Shirley "Daisy" Thompson

Flowers surround Shirley Thompson. And, flowers connect her to the Bartrams.

She and her husband Pierre have turned their two-acre home place on Anastasia Island, off the coast of St. Augustine, Florida, into a garden. Surrounded by coastal native trees, "Daisy" plants and tends native flowers and shrubs—hibiscus, sunflowers, and many more. A twenty-foot tall *Franklinia* presides over her kingdom. Recently she has added orchids to her collection.

Shirley is a lifelong resident of St. Augustine. Educated at the University of Florida and Flagler College in St. Augustine, she has worked as executive secretary in a bank. But she defines herself as a gardener. She is a Master Gardener and a Master Flower Show Judge. In addition, she is a Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings trustee and serves on six other boards.

Garden club activities brought Bartram to Shirley's attention. Van Blanchard and Kathy Sample, Florida wildflower club leaders, inspired her to learn more of the colonial flower hunter. She joined Van and Carolyn Whitmer on their Bartram Footprints Tour in 1990, traveling to Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia.

Shirley admires Bartram's artistic abili-

ties. And the nearby St. Johns River brings Bartram and his courageous journey to her mind. "When I cross it at any stage, I throw this brave, brilliant man a kiss. Having been in those stormy waters in a "real" boat, I envision him in that small sailboat. How he got his art, plants, and seeds back

without total destruction is a miracle."

Bartram Trail Conference members have enjoyed meeting "Daisy" Thompson at four meetings. She has attended conferences from Scaly Mountain in North Carolina to the marshes of the Mobile Bay. ❖

## Bartram Trail Conference *Membership Form*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Member Dues.

*Please check one of the choices:*

Please check one.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a new member.

Individual     \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ I am renewing my membership.

Family         \$30

Student         \$10

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor     \$50

Sustainer       \$100

Sponsor         \$250

Patron           \$500

*Your dues support our newsletter, web site, Fothergill Fellowship Awards and other BTC projects.*

### Primary Areas of Interest in the Bartram Trail

(try to be specific about geographic locations and activities, i.e., specific Bartram sites, and whether or not you like to hike, read, garden, etc. Use back if necessary)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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