

The *Traveller*

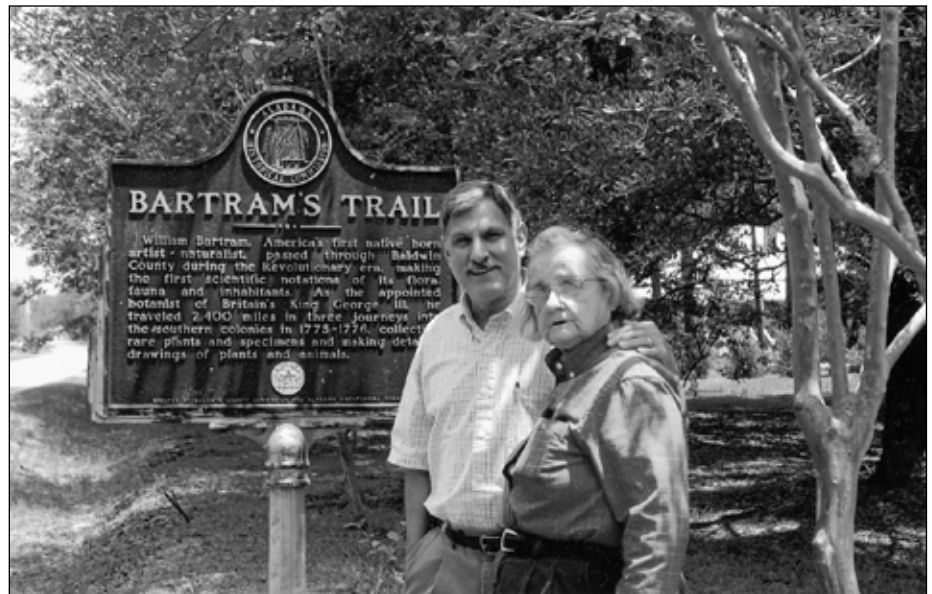
A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Spring, 2007

Davida Hastie Remembered

Davida Hastie, a lifelong resident of Stockton, Alabama, and one of the early members of the Bartram Trail Conference, died in early March. She was eighty-four.

Davida was the backbone of the early effort to identify and mark the site of Major Robert Farmar's plantation in Baldwin County, which was near her home. She was also a leading influence in the development of the Bartram Canoe Trail in the Tensaw, which today is one of the outstanding living memorials to William Bartram. An outspoken advocate for environmental and historical preservation, she served her community tirelessly. She was a member of the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission, the Baldwin County Historical Society, and the Friends of the Tensaw River. She was one of the founders of the Fort Mims Restoration Association and served on the board of Historic Blakeley State Park. She played a major



BTC members Jacob Lowrey and Davida Hastie at the Baldwin County, Alabama historical marker.

role in the establishment of the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History and contributed to the duties of the commission on a regular basis.

The Fall 2007 edition of *The Traveller* featured a biographical sketch of Davida. ❧

Mark Your Calendar!

October 23–25

BTC meets Oct. 23–25 in Palatka to explore Bartram's adventures along the St Johns. In addition to a slate of speakers who will discuss Bartram's time in Florida and modern efforts to preserve and protect local Bartram sites, we'll take an afternoon cruise on the St. Johns and explore nearby Bartram sites.

Full details will be announced on the web site, list-serve, and the Fall edition of *The Traveller*.

Auburn University Library acquires Bartram Art and Books

The Auburn University Library continues to expand its holdings relating to William Bartram. A beautifully well-preserved 1791 edition of Bartram's *Travels* was donated to the library in 2006, and in late 2008, the library acquired an 1804 London edition of Benjamin Smith Barton's *Elements of Botany: or, outlines of the Natural History of Vegetables*. This edition contains hand-colored plates of numerous plants drawn by Bartram specifically for the work, including a Venus flytrap and a pitcher plant. Most recently, the library acquired a limited edition facsimile set of 67 illustrations produced by Aleco Historical Editions, a British company

that specializes in printing and publishing original prints. They are particularly known for their work in producing portfolios of original art held by museums and libraries, including the British Museum of Natural History and the Royal Library at Windsor.

Bartram's drawings, produced in the early 1770s, depict plants and animals native to the southeast. Bartram's original illustrations are in the Natural History Museum, London. The set donated to the Auburn Libraries is one of only 50 numbered sets produced for this edition and was a gift from Helen and Dwight Carlisle of Tallassee, Alabama.

"This generous gift from Helen and

Dwight Carlisle distinguishes Auburn's Libraries as the custodians of rare materials and a center for research on William Bartram," said Dean of Libraries Bonnie MacEwan. "It is requested frequently and will be well used by Auburn students, faculty, and scholars."

Helen Carlisle owns the Carlisle Gallery in Auburn and Dwight serves on the Board of Trustees of Auburn University. ❧

Dwayne Cox, head of Special Collections and Archives at Auburn University's Ralph Brown Draughon Library, said the Carlisle gift complements the library's first edition of "Bartram's Travels," as well as his department's other holdings on natural history. Those holdings include "Audubon's Birds of America"; a collection of "Curtis's Botanical Magazine," a rare scientific publication founded in 1788 by William Curtis; and color transparencies of Alabama insects drawn during the 1830s by the British naturalist Philip Henry Gosse.

A Letter to Dolley Madison: Bartram's Garden

Thomas Loraine McKenney to Dolley Payne Todd Madison, 28 July 1835

Philad^a. July 28. 1835

My Dear Madam,

You once did me the favor to send me some lines on the travellr & Botanist Bartram. I send with this a likeness of that excellent man; also a pamphlet on the Bank question. You must guess the author.

On a visit recently to Bartram's garden M^r Car pointed out the spot where the old man died. You will doubtless remember it. It is under a pear tree that grewe at the south corner of the house. You have doubtless seen it. The old man, then in his 86th. year, rose from the Table, taking with him a bit of bread & cheese, saying—"I will do as the boys do". In going out, he reached the pear

tree—where he was shortly after discovered throwing up blood from his lungs. A crumb, it supposed, choaking him, he ruptured, in his efforts to dislodge it, a blood vessel. He walked to anot<...> pear tree near the west corner of the house, & returning, aided by the family, he reached the first, under which he was discovered, where he died. The likeness is said to be excellent.

During my visits you were spoken of by M^r Car as having often visited the house & garden, & a warm wish was expressed that they might live to see you there again. I saw few of the trees without being reminded that you had been there too. The big Cypress especially—now 96 years old—planted by the old man's own hand—now 26 feet in circumference <...> It is indeed a noble tree. There too ar<...> the same

nude pillars, and the fancy stone window frames that you no doubt well remember.

How much sincere & heartfelt joy would a visit from you accasion, among hundreds of people—nay thousands, of this City & neighborhood. But this thought reminds me of M^r Madisons age, and infirmity—How is he? Happy for him, & for his Country, & for posterity, & Joyful to his family, he will leave monuments behind him, go when he may, that will be as honorable, & useful, as permanent—They will be *as lasting as time*. I beg to be most respectfully, and I must add, *affectionatly* remembered to him. Please, also, remember me to y^r Son, and accept for yourself *the best wishes of my heart*.

Tho: L: McKenney

Thomas Loraine McKenney was superintendent of the Indian trade under President James Madison.

Thanks to Joel Fry, Curator of Bartrams Garden, for calling this letter to our attention.

Auburn to host talk on Eighteenth-Century Gardens and Empire

Andrea Wulf, author of *The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession*, will speak at the Auburn University Library on June 4th at 3:00 PM. Her book is due for a spring release in the U.S. In her beautifully illustrated talk, Wulf will tell the story of a small group of 18th-century naturalists that made England a nation of gardeners. It's the story of a garden revolution that began in America when the farmer John Bartram sent hundreds of boxes filled with seeds that would transform the English landscape forever. There is also Philip Miller, author of the *Gardeners Dictionary*, the cantankerous Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, and Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander who joined Captain Cook's *Endeavour* on the greatest voyage of discovery of modern times. Together they introduced the lustrous evergreens, fiery autumn foliage and colorful shrubs that shaped the Georgian landscape; they brought science and rational thought to horticulture; and risked their lives to find new exotic blooms and towering trees. Friends, rivals, enemies, their correspondence, collaborations and squabbles make for a riveting human

drama set against the backdrop of the emerging British empire and America's magnificent forests. As botany and horticulture became a science, the garden became the Eden for everyman.

Andrea Wulf was born in India and moved to Germany as a child. She lives in Britain where she trained as a design historian at the Royal College of Art. She is the co-author (with Emma Gieben-Gamal) of *This Other Eden: Seven Great Gardens and 300 Years of English History*. She has written for the *Sunday Times*, the *Financial Times*, *The Garden*, the *Architects' Journal*, and regularly reviews for several newspapers, including the *Guardian* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. She is a regular contributor to BBC radio and television. More information can be found at www.andrewulf.com.

The presentation, sponsored by the Auburn University Libraries and the Carolyn Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, will be held in the Special Collections Department of the library. The presentation is free and the public is welcome. For more information, contact Dwayne Cox at (334) 844-1707. ❧

New Books Related to the Bartrams

Three books related to the Bartrams have appeared since late last year.

Mark Dion Travels of William Bartram: Reconsidered, Philadelphia: Bartram's Garden, 2008. Available from the Bartram's Garden website at \$40. Hard-bound, 111 pages, full color. Includes a series of essays: on collecting; a short history of Bartram's Garden; chronology of William Bartram's travels; a portfolio with selections of William Bartram's art; excerpts from Mark Dion's journal (including getting lost on the Tensaw delta Bartram canoe trail); and a detailed look at Mark Dion's exhibit "Travels of William Bartram Reconsidered."

Jean O'Neill, and Elizabeth P. McLean, *Peter Collinson and the Eighteenth-Century Natural History Exchange*. Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society, vol. 264. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2008. Available from the APS website at \$75. Hard-bound, 216 pages, b/w illustrations with a section of color plates.

Andrea Wulf, *The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession*. Knopf. March 31, 2009. ❧

Ficklin's Mill, continued from page 7

marker and have some refreshments before the rain arrived.

Funds to purchase the marker were generated through the sale of a Taylor County historical calendar. Edward Bennis, owner of Ficklin's Mill and Bennis' Printing, Co. of Butler, Georgia was instrumental in making this project a success. ❧

North Carolina Bartram Trail Society Online Newsletter

Ina Warren and NCBTS webmaster Tommy Witherspoon announce the link to the Society's online newsletter. It can be accessed at: http://ncbartramtrail.org/?page_id=106.

Ina says, "In today's economy, the dol-

lars saved on printing, paper and postage add up quickly, so we are glad to be able to let you know of our recent club activities through this free medium. We would love to have your opinion and feedback on this newsletter service." ❧

The Traveller is published by the Bartram Trail Conference

Kathryn H. Braund, *President*

Jim Kautz, *Editor*

Brad Sanders, *Publisher*

Zelda White, *Editorial Assistant*

Anne Hurst, *Treasurer & Membership Chair*

President's Comments

Kathryn H. Braund

As I was preparing for a recent presentation on the Creek deerskin trade, I turned to William Bartram for inspiration. Since the beginning of my interest in the trade, I have used Bartram as an important source, for he traveled with deerskin traders in the Floridas and witnessed the operation of the frontier exchange economy in both the Creek and Cherokee towns—and he visited in grand houses in Georgia and South Carolina built by those who had prospered in the trade. After so many years of reading and study, you would think I would not find anything new. Not so! I find that the more I study Bartram, the more connections I make—the more I discover. There is always something new. And so I grabbed my well-worn copy of *William Bartram's Drawings* to search for illustrations and inspiration. For often, it is a fresh look at a well-known document, artifact, or artwork that brings inspiration. And so it was as I looked at the drawings of plants—flowers mainly—that I began to notice ships.

Now what Bartram aficionado hasn't noticed those three ships in the "Map of the Coast of East Florida" that appears in *Travels*? There is the majestic rig, plying rough Atlantic waters north of the abandoned hulk near the "head of So. Musquito." And even more intriguing is the double-masted vessel devoid of rigging, slightly askew, near the shore with the intriguing "Wrecked here" notation. That map reminds us of Bartram's sea journeys to the Floridas and the dependence of early Americans on the sea for transport. And although I was well aware of that map and those boats—and equally aware of the content of major Bartram drawings—imagine my delight as I glanced at his wonderful "Wattoola" or "Great Savannah Crane." There, tucked around the point in the distance sat a

ship! How is it I could have viewed that wattoola so many times and never paid attention to the ship? Of course, I must have seen it—I've certainly noticed the wonderful buck that Bartram added to the scene. And there, with the "Great Mallard of Florida," was yet another ship—a fine double-masted specimen in full sail. But a specimen of what? This "land lubber" can't tell a sloop from a brigantine—but I'm betting those little ships that Bartram sprinkled among the flora and fauna are brigs. So, forgetting the deerskin trade, I turned to works on eighteenth-century boats. I realize I'll never be an expert on that, but it has been entertaining and interesting to pursue something totally new due to inspiration from my old friend Bartram.

I finally tired of reading about masts and gaffs, and decided it was time to return to *Travels*. And so it begins "I embarked for Charleston, South Carolina, on board the brigantine Charleston Packet..." I can still feel Bartram's anticipation at the start of that great journey.

Following Bartram's journey has taken me on an exciting journey of my own. And along the trail, I've met many wonderful people who share my passion for all things Bartram. Some love the spots Bartram so wonderfully describes. Some are after birds or flowers or great literature—or like me—deerskin traders and Indians. Some simply exalt in the fulsome experience that is Bartram. We are all richer for it and richer for our friendships.

Fortunately for all of us, it is BTC conference year and we'll be able to get together and celebrate Bartram anew. We're planning to gather the weekend of October 23–25 in Palatka, Florida, the town that rose around the Indian village that William Bartram described. So make plans to join us and look for details on the conference in the fall.

And don't forget if you haven't paid your dues for 2009, now is the perfect time to set sail for your checkbook and ship a little something to our Treasurer. Donations for the Fothergill are welcome as well. ☞

Keep in Touch Via the BTC E-Mail List

Want to keep up with the latest Bartram news? Or want to let others know of your discoveries along the Trail?

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 and contribute news and ideas. 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. You can also post photos to share images of your latest Bartram adventure. The service is FREE. It is a fun way to keep in touch with fellow Bartram members.

If you were not a list-serve member this year, you missed news tidbits about special exhibits, lectures, and Sandhill cranes over Georgia.

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 and she'll send you an electronic invitation that includes working links. ☞

BTC Website

For news of recent discoveries and publications, Bartramrelated events, and more, check <http://www.bartramtrail.org/>.

Brad Sanders continues to update the Bartram Trail Conference's website.

Discovering the Bartrams amidst Philadelphia's "Vanished Gardens"

By Sharon White

I moved to Philadelphia nine years ago. It was a hot, dry summer day and I felt far away from the cool shade of my yard in Massachusetts. I knew nothing about the gardens that once lined the banks of the Schuylkill River or that John Bartram's house still stands just downriver from my house. *Vanished Gardens* is the story of my journey through the gardens of the past. Along the way I discovered that William Bartram was part of a large family. The Bartrams' lives intertwined with the other naturalists and gardeners that I came to know.

I spent weeks in archives and libraries reading letters and looking at maps. One day I went to Bartram's Garden and tried to find out all I could about Ann Bartram, William's mother. When John was collecting plants for his gardens and for subscribers in Britain and Europe, she took care of his correspondence and shipped plants and seeds to Thomas Jefferson or Peter Collinson in England or gardeners in Charleston, South Carolina.

The outline of John Bartram's botanic garden still survives in a slope down to the river, the original line of trees marching to the bank of the wide shallow tidal rush. William's 1758 drawing of the garden, sent by his father to Collinson, shows the garden and the house from the river.

There's a pond in the middle of the drawing and three lines of trees to the left. Near the house in a neat fence is a "new flower garden" under the windows of a structure marked "my study." The common flower garden is directly in front of the house and to its right is the upper kitchen garden and below that, covering the large space above the pond, is the lower kitchen garden. Beyond

these enclosed gardens near the house were fields where crops were grown, a barn, a dairy, a cider mill. Somewhere there was an orchard. Smoke curls in puffs above the two chimneys on the house.

I like the fact that when William Bartram returned from his years of travel in the wild parts of Florida and Georgia all the way to the banks of the Mississippi, he rode his horse home. He was alone and traveled north in the winter on the sandy hard beaches of the Carolinas, a solitary man on a horse trotting across the yellow sands on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

He came home to his father's farm and garden at Kingsessing and lived there for almost forty more years. In 1805 he turned down an offer from Jefferson to lead an expedition up the Red River. He was too old, he said. He was a gardener from the time he rode up to his father's house in the winter of 1777 to his death in July of 1823. He had just taken his morning stroll in the garden.

Bartram kept careful records of the migration of birds. His notations on the pages of small bound notebooks, now fallen apart, welcomed flocks of birds as friends from the fall returned in the spring.

From Bartram's notes, I know the weather for twenty years, a list of familiar birds, the opening petals of winter aconite, swelling of peach buds, the misty sky, the mild sun, the shiny moon, sultry days and the fields drying up or wet Julys where the hay rotted. I know that some summer nights were so dark with thunder that William Bartram noted that the candles were lit to dine. I know there was a little owl who came back year after year.

Now and then Bartram's notations look different, smaller script, less detail. In the last year he kept the diary his writing scrawls across one page as if his hand slipped.

There were northern lights in April in 1820 and on September 12th he wrote: "Last night & this morning we were favoured, I may say blessed with copious showers of rain." By November he was having a hard time writing. A snowy winter followed and in May he noted that the "wood robbin" had arrived and the plum, cherry, apple, pear, gooseberry were in flower. The sun was "red

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A Traveller's Birthday Journey

Jim Kautz, Editor

My seventieth birthday was looming. I could venture out or stay at home, look at the calendar, and meditate on

"Hangman is coming down from the gallows

And I don't have very long."

Maria and I chose Bartram's Florida. Friends offered a cabin on Alexander Spring Run, a few miles from the Upper Store (now Astor) and, as the osprey flies, a brief distance from Battle Lagoon.

In mid-March, we left Marietta and headed down I-75. In Gainesville, I instinctively drove to the La Chua side of Alachua Savanna. A newly-built boardwalk skirts the small sink and ends at the Great Sink. Despite the lower water levels, a result of drought and Florida's insatiable plundering of the aquifers, massive alligators continue to lounge around the edge of the sink.

Renovation thwarted our attempt to visit Salt Springs ("Six mile spring"). We missed Bartram's "just representation of the peaceable and happy state of nature which existed before the fall" because the Forest Service is restoring the sidewalks and guard rail; a job that is scheduled for completion in September. We did learn, however, of the workers' discovery of a large number of American Indian artifacts there, a fact that underscores Puc Puggy's observation that near the spring was "an ancient landing place, which is a sloping ascent to... an old Indian field."

At Mount Royal, a new interpretive kiosk is under construction, replacing the small wooden lean-to beside the mound. It will be a display more worthy of this memorable site and its ancient Timucuan lords. And more compatible with the million dollar homes that surround it in the Mount Royal Air Park.

Picnickers filled Blue Springs State Park. And why not? It's a delightful combination of "pellucid" water and

lush vegetation. The smoke of barbecues made it difficult, however, to detect whether the odor of gunpowder that Bartram smelled still hangs over the site. (I like the aroma of the charcoal and hamburger drippings better than sulfur, anyway.)

At Huntoon Island, we walked beneath gnarled oaks and stately palms where the hurricane-bewildered Bartram witnessed "the high forests behind me bend to the blast, and the sturdy



Bartram's limpkin, used by Benjamin Smith Barton as the frontispiece to "Some account of the Tantalus ephouskyca, a rare American bird," an essay that he read before the Linnean Society of London in 1815 and published in 1818. (Courtesy, George A. Smathers Library, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.)]

limbs of the trees crack."

Finally, an adventure: On the evening of my birthday I launched a kayak on Alexander Spring Run. I had heard of a "big'un" from a local boater. Assuming that the man was talking about an alligator, I kept an eye on the shore. Would a gator seek to avenge his ancestor's loss to Billy, whom I had followed?

About a half-mile upstream, an old mossy-back rose out of the palmettos and slid into the water. Bartram's word-pictures sparked my adrenalin: "perilous as running gauntlet betwixt two rows of Indians armed with knives and fire

brands," and "suddenly a huge alligator rushed out of the reeds." The big fellow did not rush, however. He lay in the water, eyeballing my kayak, and let me pass.

Limpkins were more peaceful. Billy liked limpkins. According to Harper, he may even have roasted and eaten his type specimen for supper. Bartram knew them by their Indian name, ephouskyca, "crying bird," and he thought them "very curious." Nowadays, due to drainage of Florida wetlands, the limpkin is on the list of "species of special concern." Alexander Run, however, is a prime habitat for this rather large, brown shore bird. Of the dozen that I have seen, eleven have been on this stretch of water, where they thrive due to the abundance of apple snails, their primary diet.

We got familiar with the limpkins. One nested across the run from our cabin. She pierced the late-night calm with her long, sad, disturbing cry, after which she settled down and waited till dawn to give us another wake-up call.

When I opened my email upon our return I found that Tom Hallock had emailed me a Bartram drawing. Tom says that this was last illustration published in William Bartram's lifetime. And, yes, it is Bartram's limpkin... the one he roasted. ❧

Vanished Gardens, continued from age 5

smoky" the day the Blue linnet arrived.

Each day, like a prayer, William Bartram recorded the small life of the garden in a book no bigger than his palm.

By the time I finished writing my book, I felt surrounded by the voices and landscape of the past. ❧

Sharon White is the author of a collection of poetry, *Bone House* and a memoir, *Field Notes, A Geography of Mourning*. *Vanished Gardens, Finding Nature in Philadelphia* (University of Georgia Press, 2008) won the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award for Creative nonfiction. She teaches writing at Temple University.

New Bartram Trail Historical Marker erected at Ficklin's Mill



Members of the Taylor County Historical and Geneological Society enjoy a Sunday afternoon gathering to dedicate the new Bartram Trail Historical Marker

On May 17 a new Bartram Trail Historical marker was dedicated at Ficklin's Mill in Taylor County, Georgia. William Bartram camped on Patsiliga Creek near Ficklin's Mill while enroute to the Creek Nation in June, 1775. Near his campsite he discovered a new plant that he called *Hypericum aureum*. The plant is now known as *H. frondosum*, having been so named by André Michaux. In the *Travels* Bartram wrote...

"I observed growing on the steep banks of this creek, a species of shrub *Hypericum*, of extraordinary shew and beauty (*Hypericum aureum*.) It grows erect, three or four feet high, forming a globular top, representing a perfect little tree; the leaves are large, oblong, firm of texture, smooth and shining; the flowers are very large, their petals broad and conspicuous, which, with their tufts of golden filaments, give the little bushes a very splendid appearance."

Guests were greeted by Taylor County Historical and Geneological Society president Eloise Doty. Brad Sanders spoke on the history of the Bartram Trail Conference and Bartram's impression of the country in West Georgia. There was enough time to unveil the

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Bartram's Trail

Thorpe Moeckel

To follow Bartram's trail upstream, past Tugaloo,
to cross the Chattooga River at Earl's Ford,
to go up the Warwoman Valley,
up past the cascades & bridalveils of Finney Creek,
up along the Continental Divide
between Rabun Bald & Hickory Knob,
is to crawl, is to hopscotch
between the doghobble and the yellowroot,
the rhododendron and the laurel, hand over hand,
inch by dirty, glistening inch;
to follow Bartram is to squirm, prostrate,
under the lattice-work of limb,
the umbrellaed variations of lanceolate,
the way the lungless slip like tongues

through the tiny, moss-flamed grottoes,
oblivious to four-legged jesuses
walking on the water's white-lit roostertails;
to follow Bartram's trail is to go
wet-socked, knee-weary & briar-inked,
is to limbo under shadows
mosaiced and three-quarter domed;
to follow Bartram as far as the end
is split, past the leastmost echo,
past the hiccup of wild mint and galax,
the azalea, the teaberry, the trailing arbutus;
to follow Bartram into the shade of the giant poplar,
across the intersection of trunk and root,
across the blighted chestnuts,
is to find the place
where no pattern goes unrepeated,
the place where the first ashes were spread.

"Bartram's Trail" is from *Odd Botany*, (Silverfish Review Press 2002).
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The Traveller
c/o Anne Hurst
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Bartram Trail Historical Marker at Ficklin's Mill, Taylor County, Georgia

