

The *Traveller*

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Summer 2012

Fothergill Research Award Winner Update

In 2003 Matthew Jennings, then a student at the University of Illinois (Ph.D. History), received the Fothergill Research Award and used it to support dissertation research, “‘This country is worth the trouble of going to war to keep it:’ Cultures of violence in the American Southeast to 1740.” That dissertation was published last year in book form as *New Worlds of Violence: Cultures and Conquests in the Early American Southeast* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2011). Next year his edited work *The Flower Hunter and the People: William Bartram in the Native American Southeast* (Mercer University Press) will be published.

Here is an excerpt from the introduction of his forthcoming book:

In the spring of 1774, two men sat down together in a town on the edge of a broad Florida prairie. The host was Ahaye, a Seminole leader whom the British had named “Cowkeeper,” a reference to his sizeable cattle holdings. The guest was William Bartram, a Philadelphia-born naturalist traveling through the area collecting specimens and recording observations and stories. According to Bartram’s account, the meeting went exceedingly well. Bartram and Ahaye exchanged pleasantries, smoked and partook of a ceremonial drink together, and when advisors explained what Bartram was doing, Ahaye “expressed his satisfaction.” The Seminole headman went



Dr. Matthew Jennings

further, granting Bartram “unlimited permission to travel over the country for the purpose of collecting flowers, medicinal plants &c. saluting me by the name of PUC PUGGY or the Flower Hunter, recommending me to the friendship and protection of his people.”

This remarkable encounter, in which a Seminole man bearing an English name bestowed a Seminole sobriquet on an English colonist, can teach us much about the late eighteenth century. Bartram wrote at length about the nature and inhabitants of the Southeast, and his works have been extremely influential in a wide variety of fields. Bartram has rightly been hailed as an astute, perceptive chronicler of Native American societies. In some ways he was able to see beyond the dominant ideolo-

gies of his day, some of which divided the world’s peoples into categories based on perceived savagism and civility. This was a noble effort, and worthy of praise more than two centuries later. Bartram could also use Native American civilization as a foil for an emerging white American society he saw as crass and grasping. Writing in this romantic mode, he was capable of downplaying the extent to which Native communities were fully part of the modern world that they and European invaders created together. *The Flower Hunter and the People* tries to capture both of these aspects of Bartram’s works. Its main purpose is to *introduce* Bartram’s writings on Southeastern Native Americans, and to let Bartram and his indigenous consultants tell their stories in their own words. Along the way, readers should also consider this underlying fact, which rarely strayed from the Flower Hunter’s mind. William Bartram was a guest in the Native Southeast. He traveled on paths smoothed, figuratively and literally, by Native Americans. He stayed in Musko-gees’ houses, ate Cherokees’ food, and was, at times of their choosing, permitted glimpses of his hosts’ worldviews and lifeways. It would be too much of a stretch to say that Native People co-authored the passages concerning their societies in Bartram, but the things they allowed Bartram to record bore cultural and political weight in their own times, and they can speak to us in ours as well. ☘

In memory

Dr. Louis De Vorsey 1929–2012

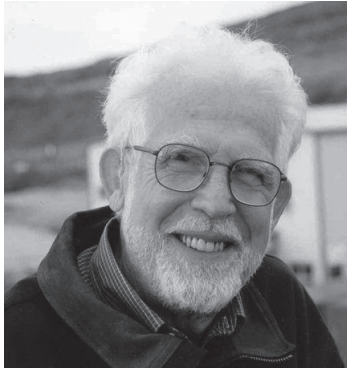
by Brad Sanders

Dr. Louis De Vorsey, one of the nation's preeminent geographers, expert in colonial cartography, and longtime friend of the Bartram Trail Conference, passed away on April 29. Dr. De Vorsey was involved with the original Bartram Trail Conference, assembled in 1975, working to locate the site of Bartram's Great Buffalo Lick.

I met Lou around the year 2000. I contacted him because I wanted to know if he had ever gotten a negative or print of a map of the Floridas and Georgia prepared for General Thomas Gage that now resides in the William C. Clements Library. I had gotten a print from the Library of Congress, but I could not read some of the lettering on that copy. Indeed Dr. De Vorsey had a full size reproduction, probably 6 feet by 8 feet, mounted on linen and he invited me to visit him at his home in the Sandy Cross community of Oglethorpe County to view the map. After our visit, he was a great source of advice and encouragement to me as I finished writing my book, *Guide to William Bartram's Travels*.

In April 2003 I accompanied Dr. De Vorsey and members of Historic Oglethorpe on a field trip to visit the *real* site of the Great Buffalo Lick. That morning Dr. De Vorsey told us that in the late 1970s, when the Bartram Trail Conference was dedicating the marker for the Buffalo Lick in Philomath, Georgia, he had doubts about that being the actual location. However, without any evidence to prove otherwise he did not express his opinion. In the ensuing years Dr. De Vorsey was able to gather enough early property plats

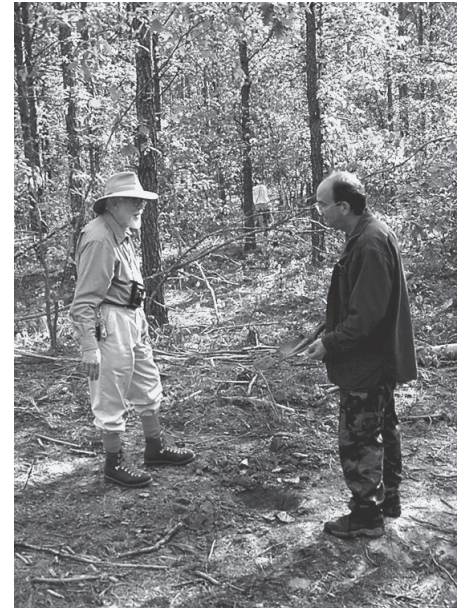
that showed the Great Buffalo Lick and the Indian Line as landmarks. He pieced the surveys together and transposed them to modern day maps to locate the Great Buffalo Lick in Oglethorpe County, at the head of Buffalo Creek near the intersection of Thaxton Road and Highway 22. He published "Searching for William Bartram's Buffalo Lick" in the November, 2001 issue *Southeastern Geographer*, which is available in PDF format at <http://www.bartramtrail.org/lick.pdf>.



Dr. De Vorsey was born in Newark, New Jersey, to Louis and Alena (Carpenter) De Vorsey and raised in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. He received his bachelor's degree from Montclair State University, New Jersey, and his master's degree in geography from Indiana University. Upon graduation from Indiana University, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an ensign. He served in the Heavy Photographic Squadron of the U.S. Navy in Japan, Thailand, Guam, and Alaska. He served in the Naval Reserves and retired as a commander.

After retiring from active duty, Lou attended Stockholm University in Sweden. He received his doctorate in historical geography from the University of London and there he met his wife, Rosalyn. He took teaching positions at East Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina. The De Vorseys moved to Athens in 1957 where Lou taught at the University of Georgia until he retired in 1987.

Dr. De Vorsey published numerous books and essays in the field of historical geography. *The Indian Boundary in the Southern Colonies 1763–1775* grew from his doctoral dissertation. He wrote *Co-*



Dr. Louis DeVorsey and Chad Braley at the site of the Great Buffalo Lick

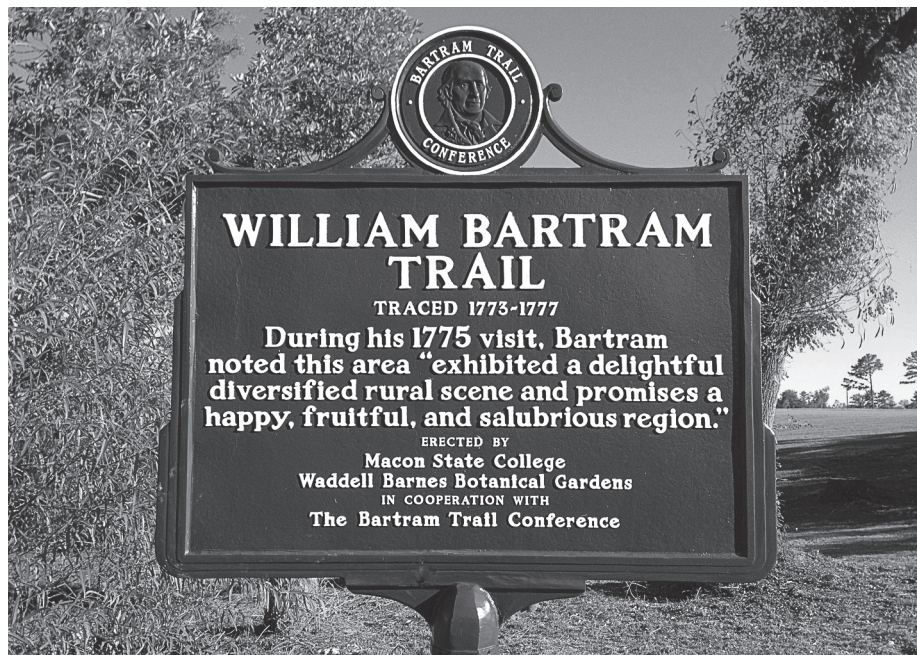
lumbus and the Land of Ayllon: The Exploration and Settlement of the Southeast published by the Lower Altamaha Historical Society, and *The Georgia-South Carolina Boundary* published by the University of Georgia Press; and he edited *Report of the General Survey in the Southern District of North America* by William Gerard De Brahm, surveyor general of Georgia and Florida. He revised *The Southeast in Early Maps* by William Patterson Cumming. He was author or coauthor of numerous articles.

Dr. De Vorsey was renowned for his knowledge of boundaries and mapping of the southeastern United States and was several times called as an expert witness in boundary disputes that came to court. He testified in cases of boundary disputes including Georgia v. South Carolina, the United States v. Maine, and the United States v. Alaska. He was a consultant to the International Court of Justice in the United States Canada Seaward Boundary Delimitation.

Dr. De Vorsey was a member of numerous organizations, including being named Fellow of the Society for the History of Discoveries, American Association of geographers.

We are indebted to Dr. Louis De Vorsey for his contributions in locating Bartram sites and the route of the Bartram Trail. ☸

Install a Roadside Marker at your favorite Bartram Trail Site



This new William Bartram Trail marker was unveiled at Macon State University during the biennial meeting of the Bartram Trail Conference in October 2011. This marker is the first to carry the new Bartram Trail Conference emblem.

Photograph by Kathryn Braund

Since 1976, the Bartram Trail Conference has worked with local groups and agencies to install historic markers along Bartram's route. Our newly redesigned Bartram marker identifies a site as an officially recognized Bartram locale. The Bartram Trail Conference marker features an image of William Bartram, adapted from the famous painting of Bartram by Charles Willson Peale. The Bartram Trail Conference maintains a list of marked sites along the Bartram route corridor and publicizes our historical markers, so an official "Bartram" marker ensures that your site becomes part of the Conference's "string of pearls" concept and links your site to the wider range of Bartram's travels through the South. The Bartram Trail Conference does not provide funding or install markers, but will procure the marker at a very reasonable price, usually much lower than other agencies. Moreover, the BTC provides oversight to ensure accuracy.

The procedure for obtaining a marker is as follows:

1. Complete the marker request form, and submit to the BTC Marker Coordinator. The form can be downloaded from <http://www.bartramtrail.org/pages/markers.html>.
2. The text will be reviewed by a knowledgeable person, and suggestions may be made to provide a more meaningful communication, and to ensure a well-designed, easy to read marker.
3. Once there is agreement on the text, you will be invoiced by the BTC for the cost of the marker.
4. The marker will be fabricated and delivered to your site.

Your responsibilities:

1. Conduct initial research into your site to provide accurate and interesting Bartram related facts.

2. Provide for the marker funding.
3. Arrange for marker installation with appropriate controlling authorities.
4. Submit the form.
5. Work with BTC on the text.
6. Pay the invoiced amount.
7. Install the marker.
8. Arrange a marker dedication event.

Bartram Trail Conference responsibilities:

1. Review and provide guidance on the submitted text so that the marker is easy to read, easy to understand, and is factual.
2. Provide a quote for the marker fabrication and delivery.
3. Have the marker fabricated and delivered directly to the requesting individual.
4. The marker cost will be quoted upon request, subject to the fabricator's

continued on page 6

Bartram Trail marker web project

The Bartram Trail Conference web site has a new feature that includes information and photographs of all existing Bartram Trail markers. We would like to invite everyone to contribute photographs of markers not yet displayed in the database. Please go to <http://www.bartramtrail.org/pages/markers.html> to view the markers. ☘

Marker Title	Location Description	Lat. Long.	State	County
ALABAMA				
Cherokee Council House Museum	Near Olathe	N34.4441 W87.1303	AL	Lawrence
Bartram's Trail	South of Wetumpka on the Old Montgomery Highway, north of its intersection with US 221	N30.6073 W86.2505	AL	Elmore
William Bartram (1739-1823)	Inside the William Bartram Arboretum at Fort Toulouse State Park	N32.5045 W86.2228	AL	Etowah
Bartram's Trail	In the Tuscaloosa National Forest, on National Forest Rd. 949, North of State Route 186	N32.4797 W86.8163	AL	Etowah
Bartram's Trail	On State Route 167 near the Cherokee Baptist Church in Cherokee, Alabama	N32.2732 W85.0207	AL	Russell
Bartram's Trail	On State Route 59 in Shotton, AL, on east side of highway	N30.9750 W87.5361	AL	Shotton
William Bartram Trail Traced 1773-1777	At the Alabama Welcome Center along I-65 at the Montgomery state line	N30.4763 W86.3823	AL	Mobile
FLORIDA				
William Bartram Trail Traced 1773-1777	Fort Micanopy, Florida, in a small park at Fort Micanopy Historic State Park and Camp Streets	N30.6718 W81.4813	FL	Alachua
William Bartram Trail Traced 1773-1777	In Bartram Park on south side of E. Main St. (State Route 186)	N30.24.02 W81.12.075	FL	Escambia

Bartram's Oakleaf Hydrangea

On May 18, 2012, Dorinda Dallmeyer presented a lecture, "William Bartram's Georgia: Botany on Middle Georgia's Frontier" in Musella, Crawford County, Georgia, and focused on the oakleaf hydrangea. Here is an excerpt of that lecture. We pick up about one-third of the way through. —the editor

... And now closer to home. Perhaps you have seen the Bartram Trail Marker on the grounds of the Roberta City Hall. On his way westward to the Flint River accompanying traders and their pack train in the summer of 1775, Bartram moved into the Sand Hill region of the Coastal Plain, which he described as follows:

The territory through which we passed from the banks of the Oakmulge to this place, exhibited a delightful diversified rural scene, and promises a happy, fruitful and salubrious region, when cultivated by industrious inhabitants, generally ridges of low swelling hills and plains supporting grand forests, vast Cane meadows, savannas and verdant lawns.

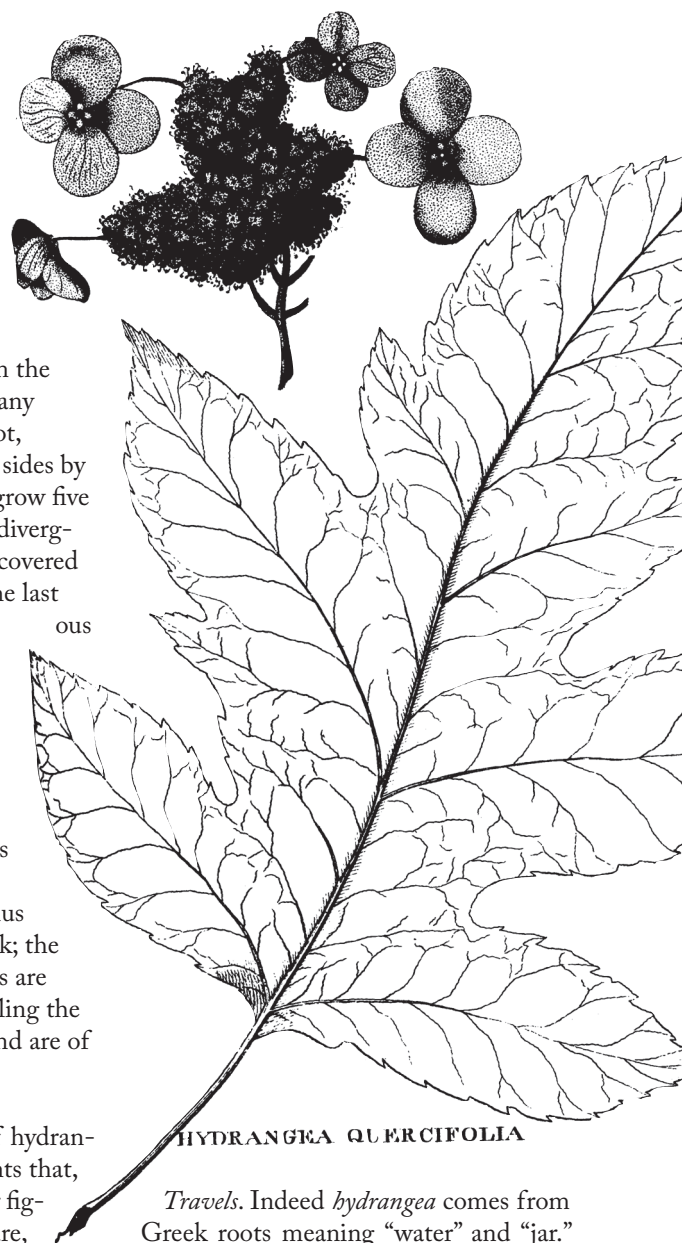
His party camped "close by a beautiful large brook called Sweet Water, the glittering wavy flood passing along actively over a bed of pebbles and gravel." It was here he made the plant discovery we celebrate so beautifully today—oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*). The hallmarks of the Southern garden—camellia, azalea, crepe myrtle, mimosa—came to America from halfway around the world. We have William Bartram to thank for this beloved native standing proudly among them. All across the South in spring, gardeners anticipate its showy panicles of flowers—at first ivory, then warming to rose, and finally parchment, all set against sage-green foliage. At Sweetwater Creek, Bartram described it this way:

I OBSERVED here a very singular and beautiful shrub, which I suppose

is a species of *Hydrangia* (*H. quercifolia*.) It grows in coppices or clumps near or on the banks of rivers and creeks; many stems usually arise from a root, spreading itself greatly on all sides by suckers or offsets; the stems grow five or six feet high, declining or diverging from each other, and are covered with several barks or rinds, the last of which being of a cineritious dirt colour and very thin, at a certain age of the stems or shoots, cracks through to the next bark, and is peeled off by the winds, discovering the under, smooth, dark reddish brown bark, which also cracks and peels off the next year, in like manner as the former; thus every year forming a new bark; the leaves which clothe the plants are very large, very much resembling the leaves of some of our Oaks and are of a fine, full green colour.

Elsewhere he places the oakleaf hydrangea among a select group of plants that, in his words, "astonish us by their figure and disposal of their vestiture, as if designed only to embellish and please the observer."

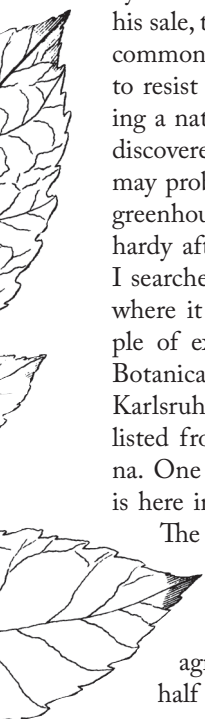
Recall how far and wide William Bartram traveled over the Southeast and you will be grateful to know that Crawford County wound up as the home of the oakleaf hydrangea, its type locality, the first place it was described. For if we look at the areas in which it occurs naturally in the United States, William Bartram could have found it in so many other places he visited in the Southeast before he arrived here in 1775. Although county maps are not available for all the states in which it is found, there are USDA plant distribution maps which bear this out. Within its distribution, oakleaf hydrangea is often found along streams, as Bartram described in the



HYDRANGEA QUERCIFOLIA

Travels. Indeed *hydrangea* comes from Greek roots meaning "water" and "jar." As Bartram made his way farther west, he reported seeing it again along the Tensaw River banks in Alabama. And it is well known enough to have acquired other common names or folk names. In Mississippi it is known as "seven bark" from the peeling habit of its stems. Another setting that oakleaf hydrangea favors is shaded ravines: the Apalachicola Bluff region in Florida, along steep stream banks feeding the Chattooga River in the Tugaloo National Forest in South Carolina where it was found in the 1970s.

It's no surprise that a plant this striking would move into commerce around the world. Oakleaf hydrangea made its debut in 1803 in the *Curtis Botanical Magazine* published in England. Curtis states "Our



drawing was made from a fine plant, sent us in flower ... in June last. As many specimens were brought from America last year by Mr. Lyons, and have been dispersed by his sale, this *Hydrangea* will soon become common, should it fortunately be found to resist the cold of our winters; but being a native of Florida, where it was first discovered by Mr. William Bartram, it may probably require the protection of a greenhouse." It would seem to be quite hardy after over 200 years of field trials. I searched the web for botanical gardens where it can be seen so here are a couple of examples: the Vilnius University Botanical Garden in Lithuania, and the Karlsruhe Gardens in Germany. It also is listed from gardens as far flung as China. One of its most spectacular settings is here in a villa garden at Revello, Italy.

The guidebook describes the oakleaf hydrangea in bloom as "long-nose, white panicles" bordering shady paths, again finding an agreeable site in this shady ravine half a world away from home.

...
We know that so much has changed since Bartram's time. With the benefit of hindsight, we know that Bartram's *Travels* sits on the cusp of two centuries of pillage, ranging from unsustainable logging and agriculture all the way to modern-day sprawl facilitated by *laissez-faire* land use, the automobile, and air conditioning. Were we to project similar rates of loss into the future, there would be very little of value left. Knowing what has been lost, we might be tempted to wallow in nostalgia for the long-gone world Bartram describes. Instead, reading the great gift of Bartram's words should heighten our commitment to saving what remains. So I take a different tack.

I have begun to visit every big tree I can find: Georgia's record bald cypress whose girth is 44 feet 5 inches; an enormous old tulip tree on the Isle of Hope; and an ancient Ogeechee tupelo in the Altamaha bottomlands.

Living as I do in Madison County within two miles of Bartram's path to the Broad River, I find he casts a long shadow. My black oaks, tulip poplars, and hickories are only half the diameter of the mammoths Bartram described in 1773 but they stand, as he said, like "superb col-

umns." One spring as I walked my creek beneath the tulip poplars, I saw spangles everywhere on the under story plants. I picked a briar leaf, tasted the glittering patch, and found sweetness where only a thorn should be. Overhead the tulip poplars, swaying and bending in the breeze, spilled their flower cups high in the canopy. Imagine my delight years later to find, in one of the few surviving letters from Bartram to his patron Dr. Fothergill, these words: "The vast *Liriodendron*, or Tulep trees, friend to the industrious Bee, whose

fluttering leaves drop honey dew Shedding mana on the earth."

And when I come to work this time of year at the Founders Memorial Garden on the UGA campus, I see oakleaf hydrangea in all its splendor with *Fothergilla* blooming at its feet—reminding me of those two great plant collaborators William Bartram and Dr. John Fothergill. Let us all take William Bartram as a starting point for reconstructing and reclaiming the natural heritage of the South. ☼

Letter from the President

Core to the mission of the Bartram Trail Conference is "to encourage the study, preservation and interpretation of the William Bartram heritage."—BTC website. To that end is we hold our biennial conference along the corridor of the trail.

Last fall we held our biennial meeting in Macon, Georgia. We had nearly seventy registrations for the two-day meeting. Throughout the day on Saturday we participated in sessions on food pathways, literary and artistic responses to Bartram's *Travels* and the famous Okmulgee Fields. We also had a guided tour of the Waddell Barnes Botanical Garden at Macon State University. There we dedicated a new Bartram Trail marker, unveiling a new design featuring the likeness of William Bartram. On Sunday, we gathered together for a two-mile hike to the Lamar Mounds led by rangers from the Ocmulgee National Monument.

Thanks goes to our outgoing President, Tom Hallock, whose planning made this meeting a success. Special thanks to all of those who helped organize a session, a hike, a tour, or a reception; notably our past president Kathryn Braund, Dorinda Dallmeyer, John Hall, and Marc Jolley. I also want to acknowledge the hospitality of our hosts: Macon State University, Mercer University Press, and the Macon Museum of Art. Finally, thanks so much to all of you who came!

Next Conference

Planning will begin in earnest this summer for our 2013 conference. The only

locations that we have discussed are Savannah, the site of our 1991 meeting, or the mountains in western North Carolina, where we met at Scaly Mountain in 1999. Location, dates, and more details coming soon!

Website and Newsletter

Also core to the mission of the BTC is our website and our newsletter. I am delighted that Brad Sanders will continue as our webmaster for this year and Marc Jolley will continue as the editor for our newsletter. The BTC also maintains a page on Facebook. This is a great way to keep up with events and announcements concerning the BTC. Feel free to post photos of Bartram locations and news items of interest to BTC members. And don't forget to share your experiences and memories associated with Bartram sites.

Other news

At our October meeting, the board established an ad hoc committee for drafting an application to the IRS to have the BTC recognized as a 501c3 corporation. We are currently registered with the state of Georgia as a non-profit organization; 501c3 status will put the BTC in position to seek and use grant funding. Anna Martin, who has experience as a financial advisor, is coordinating our effort. We are also considering a subscription to an online membership system for the BTC to automate the renewal process and to make it truly paper-free.

continued on page 6

Early Visions of Florida: A History of the Imagination (earlyfloridalit.net)

One of the difficulties facing those who teach early American studies is the immense size of the field. In some iterations, the field spans from 1492 to 1865, covering nearly four hundred years of cultural production. Under such circumstances, anthologies must necessarily sacrifice depth for breadth, the local for the global. How, then, might we develop resources that allow us to easily and efficiently tailor our course materials to the diverse locales and student populations that we teach? Thomas Hallock's "Early Visions of Florida: A History of the Imagination" (earlyfloridalit.net) offers an exciting answer to this question.

"Early Visions of Florida" had its genesis in Hallock's efforts to develop an early Florida literature course (check out Hallock's "Think Globally, Dig Locally," linked on the site's front page for more information.) The site serves both as a resource for similar courses and a model for how materials might be developed for other

regional or local archives. "Early Visions of Florida" organizes a wide selection of Floridian texts across seven time periods, ranging from "Explorers/Invaders (1528-75)" to "Imagining Florida (1801-36)." Each section contains several texts, each of which is accompanied in turn by informative and well-written headnotes that contextualize and provide background for the text at hand, as well as suggestions for further reading. As such, the site is a flexible and engaging critical anthology that makes available in one place texts that would otherwise be difficult to locate.

The site is still growing (an update is scheduled for Fall 2013) and in further updates and revisions it would be interesting to see Hallock take greater advantage of the possibilities afforded by the electronic medium. For instance, the site might profitably explore hypertextuality, making it possible to click on the name of a place or a person and track that figure across texts. Such a move would grant

scholars another avenue by which to explore and examine the early Floridian archive.

As it stands, however, "Early Visions of Florida" is a testament to the potential and possibility inherent in early American studies. Hallock has constructed a useful, easy-to-navigate, and critically rigorous electronic resource. One can only hope that other scholars in other locales will heed his call and develop complementary resources that enrich our understanding of the early American world. ☼

Nicholas Mohlmann
Purdue University

Letter from the President, *continued from page 5*

New officers and members of the board

President: Chuck Spornick, Decatur, GA

Vice President: Dorinda Dallmeyer, Danielsville, GA

Secretary: Anna Martin, AL

Treasurer & Membership Chair: Anne Hurst Weeks, Hull, GA

Newsletter Editor: Marc Jolley, Macon, GA

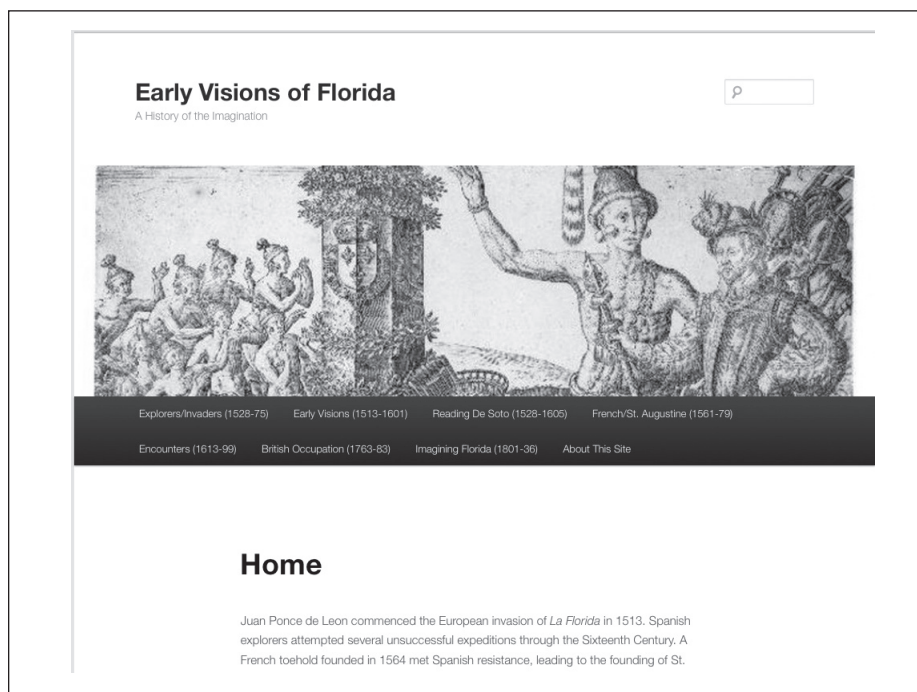
Web Master & Newsletter Publisher: Brad Sanders, Athens, GA

Historical Marker Coordinator: T.R., Henderson, Headland, AL

Board: Kathryn Braund (AL), John Hall (AL), Thomas Hallock (FL)

Install a Roadside Marker, *continued from page 3*

current pricing. An approximation is \$1600. Current delivery, upon payment of the invoice, is approximately ten weeks, subject to the fabricator's production schedule. ☼



Juras wins Author of the Year



On June 16, the Georgia Writers Association named Philip Juras as the 2011 Georgia Author of the Year in its Specialty Books category for the book *The*

Southern Frontier: Landscapes Inspired by Bartram's Travels. Published by the Telfair Museum of Art in cooperation with the University of Georgia Press, this exhibition catalogue offers a glimpse of the presettlement southern wilderness as late 18th-century naturalist William Bartram would have experienced it during his famed travels through the region. Juras' work combines direct observation with historical, scientific, and natural history research to depict, and in some cases reimagine, landscapes as they appeared in the 1770s.

Judge Kevin Cantwell, poet and professor of English, Macon State College, described the merits of this award-winning book.

"Landscapes that inspired Bartram are vanishing, the remaining native pine forests patched across the remnants of an old wilderness, which did not last ei-

ther. Philip Juras' elegant record of his own encounters with these places is testimony that landscape painting still brings emotional solitudes that help restore the past but also make us grieve for a natural world. In this book, the qualities of print, reproduction, and design are powerful. Juras and his editors at the Telfair Museum in Savannah have introduced his essay and paintings with significant scholarly practice. The writing provides a history, and his sentences observe the world through a graceful scientific vernacular. A document of culture, natural history, and art, *The Southern Frontier* is distributed by the University of Georgia Press and supported by the Telfair Museum. With the Morris Museum of Art in Augusta also having a hand in this venture too, this publication is an argument for collaborative effort in the promotion of art, books, and culture in Georgia." ❁

Bartram Trail Conference Membership Form

____ RENEWAL
____ NEW MEMBER

____ Individual \$25
____ Family \$30
____ Student \$10
____ Contributor \$50
____ Sustainer \$100
____ Sponsor \$250
____ Patron \$500

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Phone: () _____ Date: _____

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)

Please send payment to:

Anne Hurst Weeks, 138 N Chaparral Ct., Hull, GA 30646

The Traveller
c/o Anne Hurst Weeks
138 N Chaparral Ct.
Hull, GA 30646