



University of Georgia Special Collections Library

2023 Bartram Trail Conference

August 4–5, 2023

Athens, Georgia

Special Collections Library, University of Georgia

Our celebration of the Semiquincentennial starts in Athens, marking 250 years since William Bartram arrived with the party of surveyors who marked the boundary of the “New Purchase”—1.2 million acres of land ceded by the Creeks and Cherokees to erase their debts to English traders.

Co-sponsors: Georgia Museum of Natural History, UGA Environmental Ethics Certificate Program, College of Environment and Design, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Special Collections Libraries.

Thursday, August 3

Release of Bartram Trail Pale Ale and trivia event at Authentic Brewing Company, 108 Park Ave, Athens, GA 30601. The brewery opens at 5 p.m., Bartram-themed trivia at 7 p.m.

Friday, August 4,

UGA Special Collections Library

Registration begins at 4 p.m. with book sales and special exhibits.

4:00–6:00 p.m. Registration Opens and Meet and Greet Reception. Exhibit Hall. Also, a tour of the fabulous facility which is the Special Collections Library itself, including its gargantuan fireproof storage vault.

6:00–7:00 p.m. Welcome, and screening of *Cultivating the Wild* in the Auditorium. The film has not been shown in Athens before.

Dinner on your own.

Saturday, August 5

UGA Special Collections Library

8:00 a.m. Registration continues, Light Continental breakfast available.

9:00 a.m. (SHARP!)—Auditorium

Theme I: Following in Bartram’s Footsteps

Frowning Menaces, Warm Controversies & Indian Sagacity: William Bartram and the New Purchase, Dr. Kathryn Braund.

In Search of William Bartram’s Buffalo Lick, Brad Sanders.

Finding Bartram’s Fish, Dr. Bud Freeman, Georgia Museum of Natural History. Focusing on the fish species Bartram described from the Broad River in northeast Georgia as well as efforts to establish a new species of shoal bass to be named in honor of Bartram.

10:30 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. —Auditorium

Theme II: Preservation and Innovation

Native Prairie Restoration, Zach Wood, Georgia Grasslands Coordinator, Southeastern Grasslands Institute (SGI), State Botanical Garden of Georgia at the University of Georgia

12:00–1:00 p.m. Lunch in the Banquet Hall. Sandwich varieties, chips, cookies. Serve yourself (i.e., not boxed lunches)

1:00 p.m. (SHARP)—Auditorium

Preserving Bartram Landscapes in Georgia, Wendy Jo Ledbetter, Fort Stewart Project, The Longleaf Alliance.

Innovative Approaches to Visualizing History in the Landscape, Dr. Micah Taylor, UGA College of Environment and Design.



State Botanical Garden of Georgia; Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum (l) and the Conservatory (r)

2:00–6:00 p.m. Adjourn for Tours on your own. Walking tours include:

On Campus

Hargrett Rare Books and Manuscript Library, to the right of the rotunda in the Special Collections Libraries building, has a special exhibit on **St. Catherines Island**.

Walk two blocks east to the **Founders Memorial Garden** on campus. Called the Founders Garden because Athens was where the First Ladies Garden Club in the world was organized, and still exists.

Continue walking east to the College of Environment and Design to visit its **Circle Gallery** for “With Rapture and Astonishment,” an exhibition of photographs and art inspired by William Bartram’s journey through the Blue Ridge Mountains of Northeast Georgia and Western North Carolina. Reception, 3–6 p.m. on Saturday.

Sanford Stadium, home of the Georgia Bulldogs, about four blocks southeast of the Special Collections Library

Downtown Athens walking tour

Athens Music Walk of Fame, Historic Morton Theatre, the Double-Barreled Cannon on the grounds of City Hall, 40 Watt Club, etc.

The *Tree that Owns Itself*, just up the hill from the Holiday Inn Express on Dearing Street. It’s always there!

By Car

State Botanical Garden of Georgia: Tropical Plant Conservatory, section of plantings devoted to Bartram’s finds in the South, imaginative Childrens’ Garden, amazing Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum showcasing the impact of botanical art (includes Bartram) on decor.

Retrace Bartram’s path through the New Purchase. See the driving directions on the facing page.

Banquet and Keynote Address

6:00–7:00 p.m. Reception, Special Collections Library.

7:00 p.m. Banquet, “A Bartram Repast.”

Keynote address: *Re-imagining Bartram’s Artistic Vision*, Darlene Farris-Labar, Stroudsburg University, Pennsylvania.

From Bartram’s Living Legacy: the Travels and the Nature of the South

The survey party was bound for the Cherokee Corner, whose “marked tree” would serve as the origin for their northernmost sweep. Like so many others, the marked tree is long gone but you can choose which of three alternatives compete to claim its location: the Bartram Trail marker beside Moss Creek, a low stone marker to the east, or, beyond that, the fellowship of the Athens Religious Society of Friends. When they reached Moss Creek, Bartram set out on a side trip to the Oconee River. He writes:

Our hunters going out, and, understanding that their route was to the low lands on the Ocone, I accompanied them: we had not rode above three miles before we came to the banks of that beautiful river. The cane swamps, of immense extent, and the oak forests, on the level lands, are incredibly fertile . . . [p.42-43]

It’s still the same path from the Moss Creek picnic ground to Bartram’s view of the Oconee, most probably from today’s Dudley Park. The canebrakes are replaced with souls at rest in Oconee Hill Cemetery, and apartment complexes catering to students at the University of Georgia obscure his river view. But if the river is no longer visible from Dudley Park, today at its foot Bartram would find the North Oconee River Greenway stretching nearly three miles, with 700 acres of riverside parks and the entrance to the Firefly Trail.

On his way northwest from the marked tree, for this segment of the survey boundary, the instruction was not to follow the rivers, but the opposite: to draw a twenty-mile-long line tracing the drainage divide between the Oconee and the Broad. Who better to take the lead tight-roping the spine of two watersheds than the Indians, insistent on their deep knowledge of the land rather than balky instruments?

It’s easy to follow Bartram’s path between the rivers in Madison County. As elsewhere, old roads tend to follow historic trails, especially those that minimize stream crossings. But the exposed

For more information,

[Athens Georgia Visitor Guide](#)

[Athens Music History Tour](#)

[Flagpole Guide to Athens](#)

[The Firefly Trail](#)

[Georgia Museum of Natural History](#)

[State Botanical Garden of Georgia](#)

[Broad River Kayaking](#)

Other Events

3D printed flower sculptures traveling exhibition in cooperation with Columbus State University, on display in the Special Collections Library.

State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Porcelain and Decorative Arts Museum featuring botanical works, birds, and botanical illustration.

On Your Own:

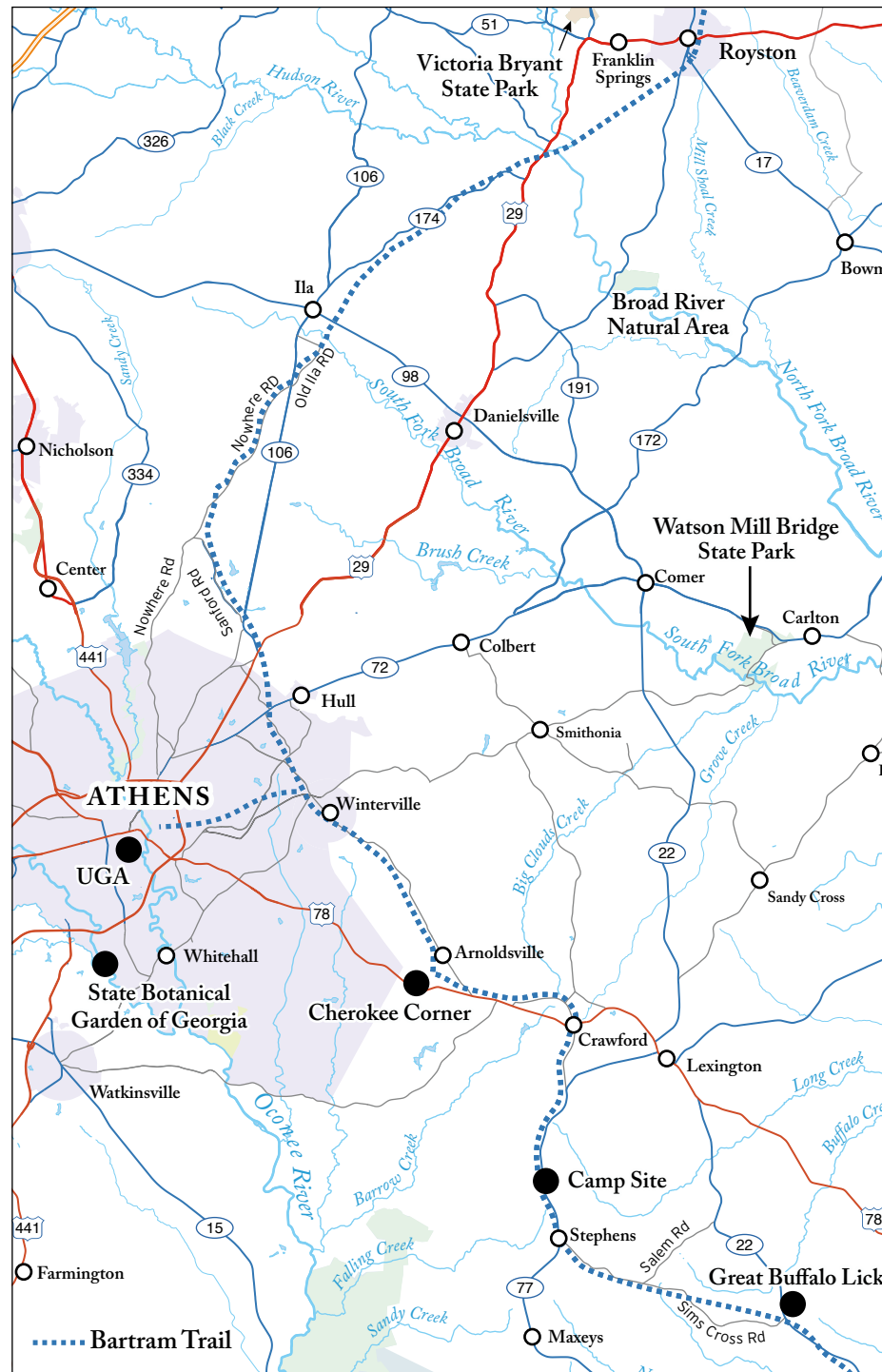
Kayaking on the Broad River and “Biking with Bartram” on the Firefly Trail.

rock Bartram described is seldom seen after decades of agriculture. Now artificial fiberglass “rocks” adorn lawns to disguise well pumps. When the survey team reached present-day Ila, they had completed the twenty-mile segment, and so turned northeast to cross first the Hudson River and then the Broad.

Self-driving tour of Bartram’s Path in the New Purchase

The closest we can retrace Bartram’s path in the New Purchase is the section between the intersection of Georgia Highway 174 and US-29, south of Franklin Springs, and Athens. If you wish to repeat the trip on your own with friends and family, here are directions for following his path from the Great

Buffalo Lick northward. While in Athens, you may wish to take in Bartram’s view of the Oconee River from Dudley Park (see the map on the back page). Dudley Park is the north entrance to the Firefly Trail and includes the Murmur Trestley made famous by REM. Cherokee Corner and the Athens Religious Society of Friends, is located on US-78, five minutes from the East Athens Walmart Shopping Center. The stone marker for Cherokee Corner is on an extreme left curve and sits on the left of the highway—a caution light on the right is a warning to the extreme curve. The Bartram Trail historical marker is located about a half mile before you get to Cherokee Corner, and marks the nearby location of Bartram’s campsite on Moss Creek.



Begin at the intersection of Sims Cross Road and GA-22, site of the Great buffalo Lick (33.764187, -83.049891)

- Continue west on Sims Cross Road
- 4.6 Keep straight onto Salem Road at the intersection
 - 2.8 Right on GA-77 in Stephens
 - 4.6 Keep left at the Fork
 - 1.9 Left on US-78 in Crawford
 - 4.6 Cherokee Corner
 - 1.0 Right on Walter Sams Road
 - .5 Keep left at the fork
 - 1.5 Keep right at the fork onto Dunlap Road
 - 1.3 Left on Arnoldsville Road/South Main Street
 - 3.1 Left on Athens Road then an immediate right onto Moores Grove Road
 - 1.3 Right on Old Elberton Road
 - .3 Left on Pittard Road
 - 1.4 Right on Hull Road/GA-72
 - .2 Left on Harve Mathis Road
 - 1.2 Right on Danielsville Road/US-29
 - .8 Left on GA-106 (Fortson Store Road)
 - .9 Cross the intersection and begin Sanford Road
 - .5 Right on Smith Road (becomes Old Ila Road)
 - 1.0 Cross GA-106 and begin Willis Glenn Road
 - .3 Keep left at the fork for Old Da Road
 - .8 Left on Diamond Hill-Neese Road
 - .2 Neese Community
 - 1.4 Right on Nowhere Road
 - 2.3 Keep left on Old Ila Road at the fork
 - 1.1 Cross GA-106 and continue Old Ila Road
 - 2.0 Right on GA-106
 - .6 Ila
 - .8 Right on GA-174
 - 7.0 Left on US-29
 - 1.1 Cross Hudson River
 - .6 Cross the North Fork of the Broad River
 - 6.1 Downtown Royston

Parking

Parking in the Hull Street Deck is free on non-football Saturdays.

BTC participants may park in the Hull Street Parking Deck immediately adjacent to the Special Collections Library, or at the North Campus Parking Deck approximately four blocks east of the Special Collections Libraries. There are pre-pay-to-park kiosks at these sites as well as the ability to pay for your space using the ParkMobile app, which is available for download on iPhone and Android devices. ParkMobile in-app transaction fees may apply.

Note that these UGA sites are fully automated, i.e., none of the UGA decks have LIVE attendants to help you with any questions or problems you may have.

There are two public parking decks reasonably close to the Special Collections Library. Both of these decks have real people working there at the toll exits. College Avenue Deck, 289 College Avenue and Washington Street Deck, 125 W. Washington Street. Check the web site for [downtown parking](#).

There are additional parking lots farther away as well as on-street metered parking. However, the maximum for daytime street-side metered parking is 2 hours between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. After 6 p.m., you may purchase additional time.

If you are staying at the Holiday Inn Express or Springhill Suites, it's easier to walk.



Beate Sass

With Rapture & Astonishment

REIMAGINING THE BARTRAM TRAIL

Twelve photographers follow in the footsteps of William Bartram to explore and reimagine a well-traveled landscape teeming with life.

June 24th–September 12th, 2023

Circle Gallery

UGA College of Environment + Design
285 South Jackson Street
Athens, Georgia

The Circle Gallery is open
9am–5pm weekdays.

Meet the Artists Reception

Saturday, August 5th, 2023
3–6pm ET



College of Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



THE BASCOM
A CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

