

# The Traveller

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Summer, 2019

## New Marker Database

If you have visited the Bartram Trail Conference web site recently, you may have noticed a new map in the section for Bartram historical markers. This new information, and complete database for all markers, was researched and created by Christopher Robinson. In the past few years he visited each of the 87 existing markers and gathered pertinent information, including geographic coordinates, and provided us with a Google Earth file that enabled us to create this new map. When you view the map you can read the text of the marker and the supporting text from *Travels*. The map is located at <https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/page-1647832>.

Robinson is a visiting Professor of Psychology at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. He is an avid hiker who, when living in Florida, became concerned about running out of hikes. He came across Bartram's *Travels* during the time he was listening to a course on James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The professor who taught the course spoke of how people today follow the journey of the main character of *Ulysses*, Leopold Bloom, around Dublin. Robinson thought to himself, "If people can follow a fictional character, I can follow a real person." So, he decided to fol-



Christopher Robinson seated at William Bartram's desk at Bartram Historic Garden.

low Bartram around the Southeast.

We asked him to tell us how he came to this project:

"I started reading Bartram's *Travels* and used Brad Sanders' *Guide to Bartram's Travels* to find his route. After a few months, I got interested in Bartram's memory problems—especially how he left out important information, how he misremembered dates, and the order of particular events. I studied memory for my PhD, and I began to apply the tools I learned then to attempt to reconstruct the order of Bartram's travels. This was the first professional talk that I gave on Bartram, called "Misremembering Bartram's *Travels*." Since then, I have given several talks, and taught a course at Georgia Southern called "Historical Travels" where I taught my students to research an individual and then go to places associat-

ed with that person. My students learned a lot about Bartram.

At some point, I decided that I would make it a goal to visit every place that Bartram traveled. As a way to verify this, I decided to take pictures of each Bartram marker in locations where there were markers. Then, for the next four years, I made visiting Bartram markers a part of every trip. In order to find all the markers, I used the Bartram Trail Conference list and Waymarking, and I physically visited the locations to confirm the marker. My fiancée even found a marker that had not been listed on any site at that point.

As I was finishing up this project, I would tell my friends and students that I was "getting my degree in Bartram." This wasn't just about following him around. I ended up taking courses on birds and plants and history to better understand Bartram's world. I've really enjoyed how my students have responded to this project, congratulating me when I finished as much as I congratulate them for finishing their degrees. I've often compared the four year college degree with the four years I've spent following Bartram around, and so often encouraged my students to pick someone and follow them. This project has taught me so much and given me so much pleasure.

Over the past four years, one of the best parts of this journey has been the friends that I have roped into these adventures. I would text a friend and say I would be in their area and we would meet up, or they would join me on some Bartram adventure. I've now hiked, canoed, kayaked, and camped in more out of the way places than I imagined when I began this proj-

*continued on page 3*

**Join us in Montgomery!**

October 25–27, 2019  
Bartram Trail Conference  
Biennial Meeting  
At the Alabama Archives

*See page 7 for details*

# “O peaceful Altamaha...”

By Dorinda G. Dallmeyer

*“I resigned my bark to the friendly current, reserving to myself the control of the helm....”*

*“The winding banks of the river, and the high projecting promontories, unfolded fresh scenes of grandeur and sublimity.”*

As someone who knew the lower reaches of the Altamaha well in all its primeval glory, William Bartram would be pleased with accelerated pace of its protection over the last 13 years. Federal and state agencies have collaborated with non-profits and private philanthropy, investing more than \$90 million to underwrite conservation easements and outright purchases protecting 180,000 acres.

The “missing piece,” a 19,500-acre property known as Sansavilla featuring 12 miles of Altamaha River frontage, is finally secure. A host of partners made it possible using a phased approach: The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy of Georgia, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of Defense. Private philanthropy played a critical role with leadership from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation and the Knobloch Family Foundation. A ribbon cutting was held on October 16, 2018 to mark the closing of the final phase.

First as a footpath and then as a ferry landing, for centuries Sansavilla Bluff has been a waypoint for people crossing the immense Altamaha River floodplain. Now the Bluff serves as the linchpin in a decades-long effort to safeguard and restore the lower Altamaha. At Sansavilla, slash and loblolly “pines in lines” are being cut or thinned to restore the once-dominant longleaf pine forest and its understory plants. With prescribed burns every few years to control competing vegetation, the rich plant diversity will support greater numbers of a wide variety of wildlife, including the gopher tortoise.

As a keystone species—one whose presence in the landscape enables other plants and animals to thrive—tortoises excavating burrows for their own living



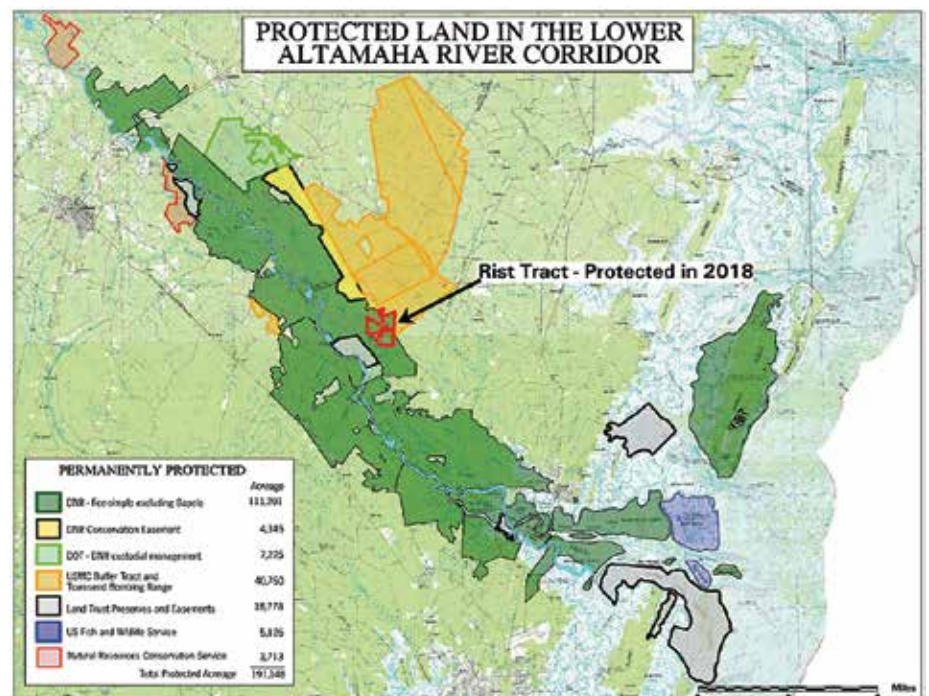
View of the Altamaha River from Sansavilla Bluff, photo by Brad Sanders

quarters draw as many as 350 species of animal “tenants,” from tiny mites to indigo snakes and burrowing owls. As testimony that Sansavilla is prime tortoise habitat, 400 tortoises already make their home there. Now the tract also will serve as a refuge for tortoises relocated from construction and mining sites elsewhere within their range. Ultimately, conservation biologists expect up to 1000 residents

when restoration is complete.

While few of us will live to see the longleaf seedlings at Sansavilla Bluff reach the old-growth majesty that William Bartram described, conservation success stories are happening right before our eyes along the Altamaha. A unique collaboration focused on conserving and

*continued on page 5*



From The Nature Conservancy of Georgia.



# William Bartram Now Part of America's Newest National Historical Park in Georgia



By Dorinda G. Dallmeyer

In addition to the detailed descriptions of the Native American cultures William Bartram encountered in the Southeast, he also marveled at the construction of ancient mound complexes by tribes long gone. On his way west in 1775, Bartram passed through what would become Macon, Georgia, and “the famous Oakmulge fields,” a mound complex he said embodied “the power and grandeur of the ancients.” The Ocmulgee River has enticed humans to its fertile banks for more than 17,000 years. The site’s rich archeological history led to its designation as the Ocmulgee National Monument in 1936. Now, decades of diligent efforts by local and state groups and conservation organizations bolstered with bipartisan congressional support have paid off. On March 12, 2019, the president signed The Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act. The Act changed the park’s name from Ocmulgee National Monument to Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park, expanding it from approximately 700 acres to nearly 2,800 acres.

The legislation also authorized the National Park Service to carry out a special resource study to evaluate potential future expansion. If feasible, the NPS could seek to elevate the Historical Park to a Nation-

al Park and Preserve which could encompass more than 50,000 acres. While most people are familiar with national parks, “national preserves” differ because they permit hunting and fishing within the preserve boundaries. Consequently, wildlife management areas currently overseen by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources would continue to be open for these kinds of outdoor sports as part of the preserve—an important condition in maintaining support by the sporting community for expansion of NPS boundaries. Additionally, National Park designation would further protect land vulnerable to development, allow visitors more opportunities for recreational activities, and provide an economic boost for communities in middle Georgia.

William Bartram described mounds of similar age along the Savannah River. “It is reasonable to suppose, however, that they were to serve some important purpose in those days, as they were public works, and would have required the united labour and attention of a whole nation.” Now the “famous Oakmulge fields” are drawing “the united labour and attention of a whole nation” once again in the 21st century.

For more information about the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/ocmu/index.htm> ❁

Marker Database, continued

ect. To that extent, this project was a success. I found more hikes and I spent more time with friends. I’ve attached a picture that I show in class.

Since then, I have used Bartram’s markers in a number of ways. For example, I became interested in the accuracy of the markers. To do this, I compared the marker text with the source material. In the final analysis, 31% of the markers contain errors. Not surprising, given Bartram’s troubles with dates, many of the errors are chronological errors. I’ve attached a picture of this—the green checks are accurate, and the others show some degree of error.

I used Bartram as an informant into the world of the colonies and the early 1800s. Since my introduction to Bartram, I have followed many other individuals. I followed Lewis and Clark from St. Louis to the Pacific, the Cherokee along the Trail of Tears, General Sherman from birth to death and on his route through Georgia and the Carolinas, and Oglethorpe in the foundation of Savannah and Fort Frederica. Along the way, I’ve added some other people (e.g., Laura Ingalls Wilder’s many homes across the US, the Wright Brothers, Jamestown). My current people are Henry Ford and Thomas Edison, and in 2020 I plan to follow Route 66 to study Eisenhower’s Interstate Highway System.

This project has been one of the best things I’ve done. It wasn’t just about Bartram, but in many ways he was the central figure. For that reason, one of the highlights was visiting his house and sitting in the room where he wrote his *Travels*. I cannot recommend enough picking someone and using them as an informant into another world.” ❁



Bartram Trail marker at Ocmulgee National Historical Park

# New Documentary Film in the Works: Book Review

## Surviving Extinction: The Franklin Tree



Native to only a six-acre stretch of Georgia's Altamaha River near Darien, *Franklinia alataamaha* (named for Bartram family friend Benjamin Franklin) has been extinct in the wild for over two hundred years. The only remaining survivors are descendants of William Bartram's original specimens from 1773. No one knows what led to its extinction, its purpose in its environment, or why it only ever lived in that one small area, but we do know why it can't survive there today: a fungal disease called "root rot" caused by phytophthora, a microorganism imported with Asian camellias and azaleas. The invasive spread of phytophthora is attributed to the death of the American chestnut, dogwood, and hemlock, and is suspected to be the fungus that caused the Irish Potato Famine.

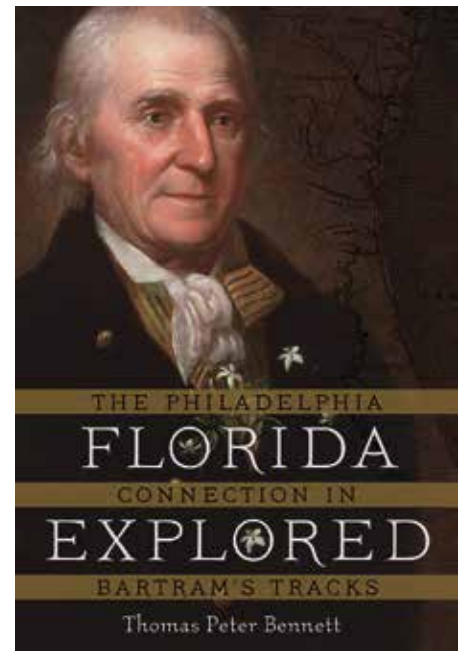
Field botanists have searched for *Franklinia* many times since its last known appearance along the Altamaha in 1803. Their failures stand alongside unsuccessful attempts to reintroduce this showy ornamental plant into its natural habitat. Fothergill Research Award recipient and University of

Georgia doctoral candidate Heather Gladfelter has a bold plan. Heather plans to combat the invasive phytophthora with genes from *Gordonia*, a related Asian genus which is immune to the fungus. If her study is successful, the Franklin Tree could finally return from extinction, and she may have discovered the key to resurrecting other North American trees.

According to producer Grey Gowder, "William Bartram saw a world of wonder and beauty around him. In his illustrations and travel journals, Bartram exudes an awe and reverence for all of creation, seeing 'the immediate finger of God' at work in every plant and animal, and 'a portion of universal intellect diffused in all life.' While the story will be told as a secular exploration of science and history, it is our intention to respect the beauty of Bartram's vision of the world and of the specimens in his family's garden that he held so dear."

"Surviving Extinction: The Franklin Tree" will be a one-hour documentary filmed in HD for television. Through high-quality cinematic field production in the Altamaha River Wilderness, at Bartram's Garden with curator Joel Fry, and the University of Georgia Plant Sciences Lab, this film will guide audiences through the story of *Franklinia* from its origins in the wild, to its unintended salvation in captivity, and to its future through modern science.

Heather Gladfelter will be speaking about her *Franklinia* research at the upcoming Bartram Trail Conference in Montgomery. For more information about "Surviving Extinction: The Franklin Tree" and opportunities for sponsorship, please see the film website at <https://www.franklintreefilm.com/> ❁



*Florida Explored: the Philadelphia Connection in Bartram's Tracks*

By Thomas Peter Bennett,  
Mercer University Press, 2019  
ISBN: 9780881466935

*Florida Explored* is a history of scientific exploration in Florida that was inaugurated by John and William Bartram when they travelled the St. Johns River in the winter of 1765–66. Florida has held an attraction for naturalists since the day the British took possession in 1763. Certainly, our own Billy Bartram was so smitten by the beauty of Florida during the trip with his father in 1765 that he unwisely decided to remain and try his hand at starting a plantation on the St. Johns River.

William Bartram's portrayal of Florida in *Travels* was that of a land of beautiful flowers, curious sink holes, dangerous alligators, elysian fields of deer and turkeys, and man in his natural and noble state. In the early eighteenth century Florida was a destination for scientists who knew William Bartram and resolved to retrace his steps. After the Revolution had been won and the Constitution written and America was become a prospering nation four young scientists in Philadelphia decided in 1817 to retrace William Bartram's travels and go as far as the St. Johns River. Thomas Say wrote,

*Our plan now is to ascend as far as conve-*



nient the river St. Johns, pursuing pretty much the track of Bartram my excellent & ingenious relative: but whether or not we shall go further than he did will entirely depend on circumstances...

Thus, we see why Bennett has chosen the word “tracks” to describe the travels of William Bartram through Florida.

*Florida Explored* is in three parts:

Part One is the story of the Bartrams’ Florida exploration in 1765, of William’s travels in Florida from 1773 through 1776, the first generation of American scientists who were influenced by Bartram, the founding of the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia and the story of the first expedition mounted by the Academy. That expedition was to explore Florida by following William Bartram’s tracks.

Part Two explores the natural history of Florida by discipline and through the work of scientists who explored Florida and their relationship to William Bartram and the scientific community in Philadelphia. Florida birds are explored through the careers of Alexander Wilson, Charles Bonaparte, and John James Audubon. Thomas Say, Timothy Conrad, Louis Agassiz, and Michael Tuomey contributed to the study of American fossils and spent time exploring the fossil record in Florida. Thomas Nuttall, John Torrey, Asa Gray, Hardy Croom, and Alvan Chapman expanded the study of Florida botany. Chapters on paleontology and anthropology continue the theme of the connection between Florida natural history and the scientific community in Philadelphia.

Part Three explores Florida natural history research in the twentieth century. The last chapter is titled “Bartram Redux” which discusses the work of Francis Harper, Arthur Leeds, and the Bartram Trail Conference.

Peter Bennett is well qualified to write of the Bartrams, of science, and of Florida for he is a native of Florida and a retired director of three natural history museums; the Academy of Natural Sciences, Florida Museum of Natural History, and the South Florida Museum. He is a scientist, educator, and poet. *Florida Explored* is the synthesis of Bennett’s life in science, career in museum management, and a love of William Bartram. ☘

# Bartram Adventure Tours



Participants in the inaugural Bartram Adventure Tours visit Welaka Spring

Linda Crider and Bob Stevens have launched Bartram Adventure Tours in Putnam County, Florida. The creation of the Bartram Trail in Putnam County has been wildly successful and is beginning to have an impact on the local economy, as demonstrated by Crider and Stevens’ venture into ecotourism. Crider opened the Bartram Inn in 2017 because the community needed more accommodations for people who come to experience the Bartram Trail on the St. Johns River and in Putnam County.

A principal goal of the Bartram Trail in Putnam committee was to encourage tourism and economic growth in Palatka and Putnam County by creating an outdoor recreation destination built around William Bartram’s travels. Bartram Adventure Tours can be most properly called a public-private enterprise because their outings and lectures involve members of the Bartram Trail in Putnam Committee and local naturalists.

The inaugural tour was five days in early December of 2018. Daytime excursions included a bicycle outing to Ravine Gardens State Park and Stokes Landing, hikes in Palatka Waterworks Park and Welaka State Forest, and a kayak trip on the St. Johns River to Saratoga Spring and Welaka Spring. Evening lectures featured local authorities on Florida natural

history and the Bartram Trail. Sam Carr talked about the Indian frolic that Bartram attended and Ken Mahaffey spoke about Stokes Landing as Bartram’s headquarters during his time in Florida. Dick Franz and Shan Purinton lead an outing to Waterworks Environmental Education Center and explained how the city was restoring the ecosystem of this urban nature park. Dean Campbell guided the kayak trip and is an authority on sites related to William Bartram’s route on the St. Johns River. The Friday outing on the Palatka to St. Augustine Trail was cancelled due to heavy rain. Instead, participants spent the morning at the home of Mike Adams, a noted William Bartram re-enactor and naturalist who lives on the St. Johns River.

There are two tours planned for 2019. You can see video of the Bartram Adventure Tours outings at <https://www.bartraminn.com/bartram-adventure-tours.html>. ☘

---

“O peaceful Alatomaha”

*continued from page 3*  
restoring this historic landscape will benefit generations of Georgians yet to come.

This article is reprinted with the permission of Stewards of the Georgia Coast from their newsletter Shorelines, available at <https://stewardsofthecoast.org/stewards-newsletter-shoreline/> ☘

# The Bartram Trail Society of Florida

# Just Announced!



*Founding members of the Bartram Trail Society of Florida. Back Row L-R Ken Mahaffey, Mike Adams, Janice Mahaffey, Tom Berkey, Helen Muir, Mary Kay Wells, Anne Berkey, Larry Mikelson; Front Row L-R Linda Crider, Sam Carr, Dean Campbell, Bob Virnstein*

*“Preserving, Promoting, and Enjoying our Bartram Heritage”*

In February of 2019 the Bartram Trail Society of Florida was formed. Putnam County’s Bartram Trail Committee decided to morph into a organization to promote the Bartram Trail in Florida. The organization is a 501 (c) (3) entity. It will continue to be the steward of the Bartram Trail of Putnam County National Recreation Trail. It seeks to include all of the Bartram Trail in Florida. Below is a portion of their bylaws.

*“The Bartram Trail Society of Florida, Inc. is committed to historic and environmental education, recreation, and preservation and works to promote interest in developing public access recreational trails (paddling, hiking, and biking) and related activities along the routes taken by John and William Bartram through Florida and to coordinate a state-wide unified effort toward that end. The Society works to encourage the study, preservation and interpretation of the William Bartram heritage.”*

The Society was originally formed in 1977 in cooperation with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. It was unable to stay active so the new Society just revitalized the organization. The group already has over 30 members and is hard at work organizing the 2019 St. Johns River Bartram Frolic on September 28–29 in Palatka. As a stand-alone non-profit the Society will be raising funds by member-

ship fees, sponsorships, and grant awards. Sam Carr (BTC VP) is President, Ken Mahaffey (BTC Treasurer) is Vice President and Janice Mahaffey (BTC Treasurer) is the Secretary.

The Society been in contact with three adjacent counties who have expressed interest in extending the Bartram Trail up and down the St. Johns River. They are Duval County, St. Johns County, and Volusia County. Volusia County has already adopted the trail sign and logo developed by the Society and has published a map with the Bartram Trail sites visited by Bartram. It is included in their River of Lakes Heritage Corridor organization. Soon Stetson University in Deland, Florida will open the Bartram Gardens at in the Sandra B. Stetson Aquatic Center that will include native plants identified and illustrated by Bartram.

The Bartram Trail Society of Florida can be contacted at [bartramtrailsociety@gmail.com](mailto:bartramtrailsociety@gmail.com) or call Sam Carr, President @ 386-937-3901.



## Bartram Trail Conference Board 2018–2020

*President*, T. R. Henderson

*Vice President*, Sam Carr

*Treasurers*, Ken & Janice Mahaffey

*Secretary*, Michelle Deshotels

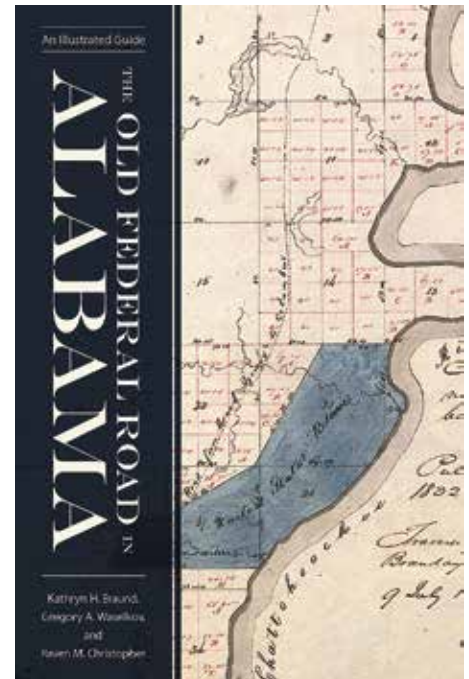
*Board Members:*

Brad Sanders (*Membership Chair*),

Dorinda Dallmeyer (*Newsletter*

*Editor*), Kathryn Braund, Matt

Jennings



## The Old Federal Road in Alabama: An Illustrated Guide

By Kathryn H. Braund, Gregory A. Waselkov, and Raven M. Christopher

The University of Alabama Press has just published a new guidebook for those who wish to explore and retrace the Old Federal Road that made possible the settlement of Alabama. This guide is of particular importance to Bartram fans because the Old Federal Road was built upon the trail that Bartram followed.

The UA Press announcement tells us, “Central to understanding Alabama’s territorial and early statehood years, the Federal Road was both a physical and symbolic thoroughfare that cut a swath of shattering change through the land and cultures it traversed. The road revolutionized Alabama’s expansion, altering the course of its development by playing a significant role in sparking a cataclysmic war, facilitating unprecedented American immigration, and enabling an associated radical transformation of the land itself.”

The guide contains information about historic sites, museums, and history along the Old Federal Road and includes maps for driving the route.



# Meet us in Montgomery!



Alabama State Capitol

The 2019 meeting of the Bartram Trail Conference will be held in Montgomery at the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The Archives is located on Goat Hill, across the street from the state capitol. While in Montgomery plan to visit nearby attractions such as Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, the Civil Rights Memorial Center, Old Alabama Town, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, Fort Toulouse-Jackson Park, and Hank Williams grave.

The conference will begin Friday evening October 25 and conclude with a banquet Saturday night. On Sunday you are encouraged to visit sites along the Bartram Trail as you return home. Don't worry, at the conference you will get all the information you need to become an expert Bartram *traveller!*

## Bartram Trail Conference 2019

Friday October 25–Sunday, October 27, 2019  
Alabama Archives, Montgomery

### Friday Evening, Oct. 25, Alabama Archives

5:00–5:30 Opening Reception (with light hors d'oeuvres)

5:30–7:00 *Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram's Travels*  
Join us for the premier of this Made-for-Television Documentary. Filmmakers Dorinda Dallmeyer and Eric Breitenbach will introduce this groundbreaking video project which explores how an 18th century naturalist and visionary continues to inspire the next wave of Southern environmentalism.

7:00–8:00 Barbecue served on the front steps of the Archives Building (vegetarian options available for all meals)

### Saturday, Oct. 26, Alabama Archives

#### Introduction And Welcome

8:30–9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00–9:15 Welcome, TR Henderson

### Bartram in Alabama

9:15 Kathryn Braund: *Bartram's Travels through the Upper Creek Nation*

9:45 Brad Sanders: *BTC Stops in Modern Alabama*

10:15 Q&A

10:30 Break

### New Bartram Research

10:45 Whitney Barlow Robles: *Rattlesnakes, Extinction, and Myth*

11:25 Heather Gladfelter: *The Franklinia Survey*

12:00–1:00 Lunch

### Bartram's Trail

1:00–1:30 Katie Lamar Jackson: *Martha McInniss and the Alabama Environmental Movement*

1:30–2:00 Sam Carr: *Update on National Trail/Corridor Effort*

2:00–2:15 Q&A

2:15–2:30 Break

### Bartram at the Museum

2:30–4:30 In addition to short talks on specific artifacts related to Bartram in ADAH's holdings, conference participants will be treated to an interpretative display of Native American foodways encountered by William Bartram; an overview of Alabama's natural history, including a video featuring the late John Hall, and guided tours of the Museum of Alabama, focusing on the Native American collections.

### Banquet

6:00 Catered meal and Keynote Address by Daniel Fate Brooks III: *Robert Farmar's Plantation*.

### Sunday, Oct. 27, Explore the Bartram Trail

Personalize your own road trip across Alabama: Follow Bartram's path through the Creek Nation and into British West Florida (modern Alabama). Utilize maps under the tab "The Bartram Trail" on the Bartram Trail Conference website.

### Costs:

Friday Evening . . . . . \$25

Saturday Lectures . . . . . \$45

Banquet Only . . . . . \$65

Complete (Member) . . . . . \$135

Complete (Non-Member, includes membership) \$150

Registration forms will be mailed in August

Meanwhile, you can register online at

<http://bartramtrail.org/page-1758901>

The Traveller  
c/o Brad Sanders  
189 Hidden Hills Lane  
Athens, GA 30605

# Bartram Trail Conference Membership Form

Annual Member Dues

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the choices:

I am a new member.

I am renewing my membership.

Trail Conference projects.

You may also join online at:

<http://bartramtrail.org/Sys/AddBundleMember>

All you need is a PayPal account!

Please send payment to:

Bartram Trail Conference

c/o Ken & Janice Mahaffey

477 South U.S. Hwy 17

East Palatka, FL 32131-4097