

The *Traveller*

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Fall 2022

Puc Puggy in the Blue Ridge

Dorinda Dallmeyer

For those of us who know the Bartram story, the name “Puc Puggy” calls to mind the Seminole head man Cowkeeper who bestowed this name on William Bartram after watching him botanize. “Puc Puggy” means the “Flower Seeker,” for Cowkeeper saw before him a man who hunted plants with the same zeal the Seminoles hunted game.

But there’s another nod to Puc Puggy a long way from Seminole Country: the three-mile long Puc Puggy Loop on North Carolina’s William Bartram Historic Trail. I had the pleasure of joining a group of Bartram enthusiasts led by Brent Martin, BTC board member, writer, wilderness guide, and executive director of the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy.

Among his many talents, Brent is an expert plantsman who made sure we didn’t miss a thing. The first stretch of the trail was a steep descent through the rhododendron. Then our path leveled out for an easy three-hour ramble.

For those of us who are long-time admirers of the hemlock-clad Blue Ridge, the loss of these signature trees to an introduced parasite is heartbreaking. But were Bartram with us, he would notice how deciduous trees like the Chestnut Oak and smaller shrubs are stepping into the sunlight to clothe the mountains in green. And there are other conifers which continue to make their statement in the canopy, like enormous White Pines and Pitch Pines.

June is past the time for the amazing display of wildflowers for which the Blue Ridge is famous. Nevertheless, we were rewarded with the presence of quite a few clumps of Indian Pipes, their ghostly

white lanterns illuminating the woods like footlights along our path. Another beauty capturing our attention was the clumps of Galax sporting white flower plumes above their glossy green leaves.

Brent was also keen to point out not just the beautiful but also the useful plants along the way: the Witch Hazel still a source of medicinal astringent and the “Indian potato” now the object of those foraging for native food plants.

In no hurry, we stopped to look around ourselves to take it all in—the rush of sparkling streamlets and the fresh earthy smell of the rhododendron slicks. Even the snails were making their own leisurely explorations alongside ours.

The loop trail returned us to our vehicles where once again we could see the vista that Bartram once relished. There’s still 110 miles to explore on the Bartram Historic Trail for us all. For more information, please see the website, <https://blueridgebartram.org>. ❁



A giant White Pine



Galax in bloom

Left: Indian Pipe

The Subtext of William Bartram's story of Meeting Attakullakulla



Nikwasi Mound, Franklin, North Carolina

Christopher Robinson, PhD
Reinhardt University

Deep in the Nantahala Mountains, along the picturesque Nantahala River, there is a historical marker that reads: "William Bartram Philadelphia naturalist, author, exploring this area, met a Cherokee band led by their chief, Atakullakulla, in May 1776, near this spot." Considering the relative difficulty of following William through this area, this marker is as close to the site as any (coordinates, 35.27863, -83.68094). The date, however, is inaccurate. They did not meet in May 1776, but the last week of May 1775 (Harper, 1998). In this case, the importance of the meeting is in the date.

We are in the spring of 1775, and William was traveling alone against the advice of traders in the area who told him that "the Overhill Indians [were] in an ill humour with the whites." As William set off, he knew that conditions were dangerous at this time, writing, "the Cherokees extremely jealous of white people travelling about their mountains, especially if they should be seen peeping in amongst the rocks or digging up their earth," as a naturalist would be doing. During this section of his trip, he dwelled on being "all alone

in a wild Indian country, a thousand miles from my native land, and a vast distance from any settlements of white people," repeatedly mentioned the fatigue and labor of his travels, and "could not help comparing my present situation in some degree to Nebuchadnezzar's, when expelled from the society of men, and constrained to roam in the mountains and wilderness."

After a month of traveling, he ran into Attakullakulla (also called "Little Carpenter"), who was on his way to Charleston. Attakullakulla came up, took William's hand, introduced himself, and then, "he enquired if I came lately from Charleston, and if John Stewart was well, saying that the was going to see him." After this, Attakullakulla said that William "was welcome in their country as a friend and brother." A few days later, however, "upon serious consideration, it appeared very plainly that I could not, with entire safety, range the Overhill settlements...." William then returned to Fort James on the Savannah River to travel with traders to Mobile.

While William's description of this meeting is brief and on the surface cordial, it hides a deep subtext of why Attakullakulla was traveling to Charleston and why William may have turned around. In many ways, this meeting connects Wil-

liam to both the civil war between the colonies and England and also a civil war within the Cherokee nation. To understand these events, we will review broader empire politics, introduce the Cherokee leader Attakullakulla, the colonial settlers known as the Wataugans, and the recent events that Attakullakulla and William may have discussed.

For sixty years, since the foundings of Jamestown and Quebec, the French and the English battled for the area roughly between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. In this struggle, each country used trade to influence the loyalty of different native American tribes in this region. Indeed, in many ways, trade was a branch of diplomacy. While we often speak of a tribe being for the British or for the French, the truth is that most tribes did not have a single centralized authority, and we are dealing with individuals whose fortunes would rise and fall with the availability of trade. As a result some leaders promoted a pro-French, pro-British, or neutral policy.

The conflict between Britain and France over this area and the peoples in it reached its peak during the Seven Years War. After the war, Britain gained nominal control over these lands, as well as the area south of the Altamaha River and both East and West Florida (areas important for other parts of William's trip). In the Proclamation of 1763 issued after the war, King George III wanted to protect the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains as hunting grounds for the Indians. He expressly forbade colonists from settling on these lands, from private individuals buying any of these lands, and attempted to regulate trade by prohibiting traders from selling goods without a license. Although later treaties with the Indians confirmed these aims, they were never successfully implemented (Jackson, 1917).

In many ways, the Cherokee Attakullakulla was a part of these events. Attakullakulla was born around 1710 on Buckingham Island (which is no longer an island), near Boyd's Creek, TN (35.92223, -83.63429), and he would always promote the causes of these Overhill Cherokee over other groups (Kelly, 1978). Through his mother he was related to Old Hop, one of the Cherokee leaders, and this

would help Attakullakulla later obtain leadership within the Cherokee (Kelly, 1978).

In 1730, the independent adventurer Sir Alexander Cuming visited the Cherokee village at Nikwasi (35.1849, -83.37352, near modern day Franklin, NC), and encouraged some of the Cherokee to visit England. Attakullakulla and several others eventually would spend four months in England being entertained, meeting the King, and having their images printed. Attakullakulla later repeatedly expressed a desire to visit England again.

A decade later, British actions somewhat soured Attakullakulla's attitudes towards them. The British passed over the rightful Cherokee leader and bestowed the meaningless title of Emperor on another, and the British traders from South Carolina continued to cheat the Cherokee. As he said, "Do what we may, the white people will cheat us in weights and measures. What is it that a trader cannot do?" (quoted in Kelly, 1978, p. 8). Attakullakulla would regularly complain about the behavior of traders, and his complaints were often borne out by British officials (Jackson, 1917).

When the Seven Years War broke out, the British made overtures to secure Cherokee assistance. In 1755 the South Carolina governor agreed to build a fort in the Overhill region if the Cherokee would cede land to Carolina. Attakullakulla and other leaders agreed to this proposal. The next year, South Carolina began construction on Fort Loudoun (35.59676, -84.20345). In coincidences that will be of interest to fans of Bartram, William DeBrahm was the engineer in charge of designing and building the fort (though he abandoned it before it was completed), and John Stuart became second in command (Jackson, 1917). At this point, Attakullakulla regularly attacked French targets (including Fort Toulouse), and he worked with Stuart to obtain food for the fort and ensure its early survival (Brown, 1938; Fort Loudoun Association, 1958). By 1758, Attakullakulla was one of the most powerful Cherokee leaders.

During the war, there were isolated conflicts between local Cherokee and settlers (Jackson, 1917). In 1759, a band of Cherokees killed 15 settlers in the backcountry of the Carolinas and the governor

instituted another trade embargo. When Oconostota, another Cherokee leader, went to Charleston to have the embargo lifted, the governor held him and others hostage at Fort Prince George until the murderers were handed over. Eventually, Attakullakulla helped secure Oconostota's release, but Oconostota returned to the fort, and under the pretense of talking to the commander, lured him out of the fort and ambushed him. In the end, the commander and the remaining Cherokee hostages were killed. This began a general conflict between the Cherokee and the colonists in which many Cherokee and colonists were killed.

In 1760, in retaliation for the execution of the Cherokee hostages, some Cherokee placed Fort Loudoun under siege, and although Attakullakulla attempted to help the British, his influence was waning. Indeed, new leaders emerged and Attakullakulla was expelled from the Cherokee council (Kelly, 1918). A few months later, Fort Loudoun surrendered, and the British soldiers were promised safety as they left the fort. Instead, the next morning the soldiers were attacked near Cane Creek (Stuart, 1760; around 35.42788, -84.26057). Many of the soldiers were killed or taken captive, including John Stuart. Stuart was taken captive to man the cannon in a planned Cherokee attack on Fort Prince George. Attakullakulla, who had adopted Stuart as a blood brother, ransomed him from the Indian who had taken him captive and then contrived to take Stuart and others on a mission to get meat, but instead took them to freedom in Virginia (Kelly, 1978). This further lowered Attakullakulla's standing with the Cherokee, and in his absence the French continued to influence the Cherokee and Fort Loudoun was destroyed. Soon, however, Attakullakulla's fortunes would rise with British victories and the Cherokee realization that they needed the British trade goods. John Stuart would also become the southern Indian Superintendent for the British (Jackson, 1917).

While the Proclamation of 1763 at the end of the Seven Years War had been designed to preserve Indian hunting territory, events on the ground tended in the other direction. Settlers established homesteads right at the boundary lines, thus ruining the hunting grounds (Jack-

son, 1917), and Attakullakulla personally negotiated the lease and sale of Indian lands, perhaps the most consequential of which were the with the Wataugans and the later Treaty of Sycamore Shoals. Since these events happened in the same area, we will turn to Sycamore Shoals (36.34288, -82.25493).

In 1769, colonists began building on the Watauga River near Sycamore Shoals. A few years later, the Wataugans were told that they were on Indian land, were ordered to leave, and told that if they did not they would receive no protection from the British government (Brown, 1938; Jackson, 1917). They did not leave, and instead, in direct conflict with the Proclamation of 1763, negotiated with Attakullakulla and other Cherokee to lease their land along the Watauga River. At the same time as their 1773 lease agreement, they founded the Watauga Association, an agreement amongst themselves to establish a court and to politically organize their community. While this association has been called the "first free and independent community on the continent," it is not clear if they actually intended it to be free from all jurisdiction. Nonetheless, their *de facto* attitude of independence was viewed by the British political leaders as a bad precedent, encouraging colonists to think themselves free to set up such associations (Dixon, 1976). A few years later, Richard Henderson would negotiate an even greater land sale with Attakullakulla; he would purchase most of what is modern day Kentucky (and his employee Daniel Boone would blaze trails through the Cumberland Gap to this area). This and related land sales (such as the Wataugans buying the land they had leased) were finalized at the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals in March 1775 (Dixon, 1976; Spoden & Spoden, 1977). Although these land sales were also illegal and were opposed by Stuart, there were other concerns; in April 1775 war between the colonies and Britain broke out with skirmishes at Lexington and Concord. The Wataugans sided with the colonists (Dixon, 1976).

These land sales not only began a break between Attakullakulla and John Stuart, but they also promoted a general civil war with the Cherokee that was led by one of Attakullakulla's sons, Dragging Ca-

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Dr. Humphrey Wells

Brad Sanders

William Bartram returned to Augusta in mid-January, 1776, from his excursion to the Mississippi River. He lodged with Dr. Humphrey Wells, whose home was located at what is now 3009 Skinner Mill Road. Today, that address is just a mile northwest of Augusta National Golf Course, but in 1776 it was out in the country and surrounded by farms. Bartram wrote of arriving in Augusta after his long journey from West Florida,

BEING under a necessity of making two or three days stay here, in order to refit myself, for by this time my stock of cloths were entirely worn out. I took this opportunity of visiting my friend doctor Wells at his plantations near the city. And now being again new clothed and furnished with a tolerable Indian pony, I took leave of my host and prepared to depart for Savannah.

Because Bartram wrote that Dr. Wells was his friend we can assume the friendship predated Bartram's last visit to Augusta. It is likely that Bartram lodged with Dr. Humphrey Wells during his previous visits to Augusta, or at least visited with the Wells family on those occasions. Bartram may have met the doctor in Savannah at a time when the Assembly was in session.

Dr. Humphrey Wells, originally from Maryland, settled in Augusta and became a member of the Assembly and the Revolutionary government. He was brother to George Wells, also a physician, and a member of the radical faction of the Revolutionary Georgia government allied with Button Gwinnett. George Wells became governor of Georgia on February 5, 1780, to replace Governor Richard Howley, who was chosen as a member of Congress. George Wells was killed in a duel with James Jackson ten days later. Humphrey Wells served as interim governor (or president) for two days until Stephen Heard was officially installed.

Humphrey Wells purchased land north of Augusta on Rae's Creek. About 1773 he built a mill on the creek and a house on a hill overlooking the mill pond. He died of natural causes in 1781 at only 48 years

of age. His children inherited his farms in Richmond and Wilkes Counties in present-day Georgia. His wife Abigail moved to Newberry, South Carolina, where her parents and several siblings had settled. Humphrey Wells's will stipulated that the land where his mill was located be sold to pay for debts. Seaborn Jones acquired Wells's property and sold it, or traded it, to Major William Skinner in 1806.* Skinner built a new house, which still stands on Skinner Mill Road.

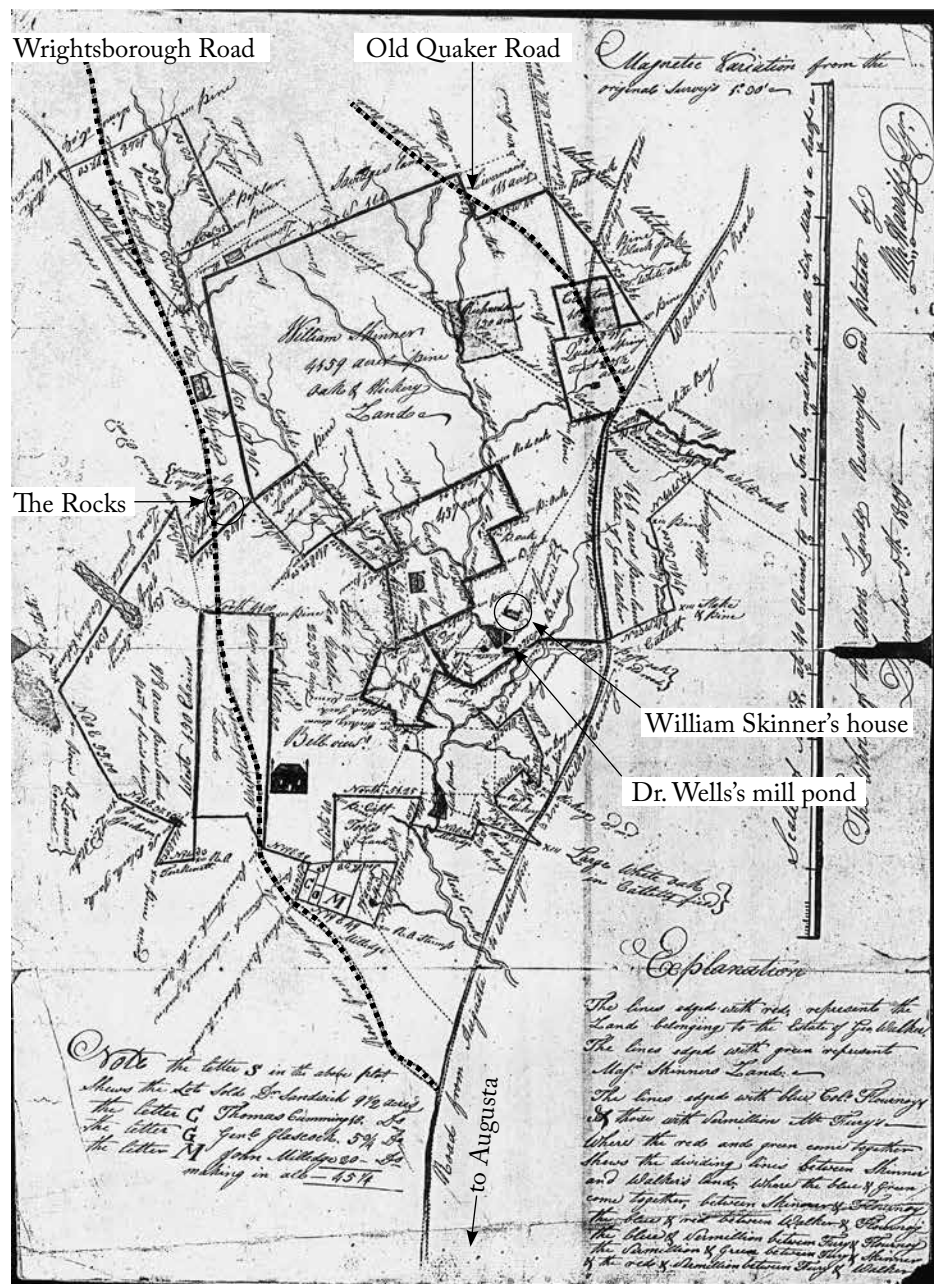
Despite his being involved in the gov-

ernment of revolutionary-era Georgia, there is little that we can learn of Wells's life and career as a physician in Augusta. All information points to a man of moderation who did not share the radicalism of his brother George.

The accompanying map was given to me by Dr. Edward Cashin in preparation for the 2005 Bartram Trail Conference in Augusta. It shows the Skinner property and Skinner's house, which is at or near the site of Dr. Wells's house. Also, the map shows the Old Quaker Road and Wrightsborough Road as they appeared in 1806.

Bartram wrote,

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Regional News

Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy

The Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy has had a busy summer and fall. We have a young adult Public Land Corps working the trail in Georgia and North Carolina, camping out and learning about Bartram, local ecology, cultural history, and getting a lot of much needed trail work accomplished. They are here for sixteen weeks, ending on December 19th. This summer marked our second year of a Youth Conservation Corps. This crew, aged 16–18, also camped on the trail and worked a four week hitch repairing trail tread and building steps on some of our more difficult sections. It's great work and it's part of our building the next generation of Bartramites. This fall we are working with the Kinship Photography Collective on a series of programs on the Bartram Trail. This collection of photographers is photographing the Bartram Trail near the Highlands Plateau with an opening at Bascom Gallery in Highlands, North Carolina on December 15th. They'll also be doing a series of community based workshops on the trail with us in 2023. And we've just completed a 15 month series of hikes titled "Walking with Bartram." This 110 mile long event included one hike a month, starting at the beginning of the Bartram Trail on the South Carolina state line and ending at the summit of Cheoah Bald. Each month included readings and cultural history from *Travels*. We start over again in October. It's been a busy year and we are working hard to keep the spirit of William Bartram alive in the Blue Ridge for generations to come.

Brent Martin

Bartram Trail Society of Florida

The Bartram Trail Society of Florida (BTSF) has been very busy this Fall. We visited Nassau County on October 21 to meet with the committee that will begin developing the Bartram Trail in Nassau County. There are 12 Bartram sites in the County. Mapping and kiosk design has started. On that day Sam Carr presented Amelia Island's William Bar-

tram's Legacy at the Amelia Island Museum of History. There was a great turnout. (<https://youtu.be/wR-yOGIo6LQ>)

On October 23rd Billy Bartram (Mike Adams), Job Wiggins (Robert Wilson), and the BTSF was represented at the Black Creek ECO-Fest event (Green Cove Springs) conducted by the St. Johns Riverkeeper Education Program. Several hundred people visited our displays and we have been requested back next year.

October 29th The BTSF cruised the St. Johns River at the Palatka Fall Festival. Nearly 100 children and their families were treated to their first boat ride. Billy Bartram and Job Wiggins thrilled the kids with nature talks and living history. Now they all know who Puc-Puggy is and why there is a Puc-Puggy Playground Landing on their riverfront park.

On November 3rd, we participated in the William Bartram Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution's dedication of the William Bartram Historic Marker on Palatka's Riverfront Park. Local dignitaries and DAR State Regents were present. Sam Carr represented the BTC and Billy Bartram spoke about his travels to Palatka. Bartram troubadour Linda Crider sang Bartram tunes.

The BTSF has been busy planning for the 2023 St. Johns River Bartram Frolic April 21–23, 2023 in Palatka. We will continue to feature hiking, biking and paddling on the Bartram National Recreation Trail in Putnam County as well as the popular river cruises and Bartram Symposium on Sunday. The 2022 Frolic was the best ever with the recreational events and river cruises filled to capacity. Save the dates.

Our educational program will be April 17–12. The BTSF and St. Johns Riverkeeper have introduced over 2,500 Putnam County second graders to Bartram's legacy and nature. The Education Program has become part of the school district's second grade curriculum.

In addition to the events, the BTSF is busy developing its website to host the following counties' Bartram Trail in Florida: Nassau, St. Johns, Duval, Volusia, Alachua, and Putnam. We will provide QR codes that will interpret the Bartram sites from their Bartram Trail Markers. Putnam County's Bartram Trail is the pattern. The website will have a membership portal to share Bartram information

and communications. (<https://bartram-trailsociety.com/>)

Sam Carr

Louisiana

BREC (the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge) currently has Bartram markers located on two of its park properties: Magnolia Mound and Airline Highway Park.

Held in high regard locally, BREC also is recognized nationally. In September of 2022, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), announced that for the third time, BREC has won the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, one of the most prestigious awards a park system can win.

Magnolia Mound, located not far from the Mississippi River near downtown Baton Rouge, showcases a historic house, a rare survivor of early Louisiana vernacular architecture. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, this house museum features an extraordinary collection of early Louisiana furniture and is thought to be very similar architecture to the "delightful villas" that Bartram observed and visited as he traveled by boat to Baton Rouge on the Mississippi River.

The second Bartram marker located on a BREC property is at Airline Highway Park. This 133-acre park located adjacent to Ward Creek and Bayou Manchac is currently nearing completion on an intensive master planning process to reimagine its best uses. Home now to an internationally acclaimed air gun range, as well as four ball diamonds, the park is planned to be part of a Blueway system (which will include portions of Bayou Manchac) and a Greenway (noting native vegetation) both connecting to other parks in the system. Airline Park is expected to include a kayak launch/nature center that will also include boat rental. Exhibits, kiosks and signage is expected to be utilized throughout the property to illustrate the prehistoric, historic, cultural and natural components of this site, including being traveled by Bartram.

Michele Deshotels

From the President

Earlier this year I had the pleasure of speaking at two events. The first was at the annual “Bartram Frolic” in Palatka, Florida. It is held in late April, around the same time of year that Bartram recounted an evening of strong drink and loose morals by the banks of the St. Johns. There’s still plenty of enthusiasm and fun. And the devoted members of the Bartram Trail Society of Florida also use William Bartram and his contemporaries as a way to enliven the study of environmental science and Florida history at the elementary school level and in the community at large.

For the first time, the organizers had an evening event focused on Bartram’s spirituality. Anyone who has read *Travels* has encountered Bartram’s spontaneous shift at times from describing a new plant to a hymn of praise for what he is seeing and experiencing along his way. Fittingly we met at the historic First Presbyterian Church right on the river. BTC regulars Linda Crider and Mike Adams along with other musicians from Palatka took part in an evening of mingling passages from *Travels* with music. It was a great opportunity for me to go back and re-read Bartram, specifically focusing on how he expressed his wonder and thanks to his “Creator Supreme.” And it was a reminder that one need not be church-ed at all to be as awed as he was by the natural world which gives us life in all its manifestations.

At the symposium on Saturday, I had the chance to describe what it was like making our award-winning documentary film *Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram’s Travels*. If you haven’t seen it yet, please go to the PBS website (pbs.org) and search for “Cultivating the Wild.” And please feel free to share it with your friends, garden clubs, libraries, historical societies—there’s something in there for everyone.

In June I was invited to talk about Bartram in Highlands, North Carolina, at their Center for Lifelong Education. In addition to talking about *Cultivating the Wild*, I spoke on the topic of “Bartram in the Blue Ridge.”

Be sure to mark your calendars for the next Bartram Trail Conference, August 4–5, 2023, on the University of Georgia Campus in Athens. In the meantime, get out on the Bartram Trail! ☼

Dorinda

2023 Bartram Trail Conference, Athens, GA

Mark your calendars now to join us in Athens, Georgia, as we open our Bartram 250th anniversary celebration, August 4 and 5, 2023

Opening reception and Bartram Trail Conference symposium hosted at the Special Collections Library on the University of Georgia Campus

Events will include

Field Trips tracing Bartram’s path through Northeast Georgia

Visit to the Bartram Garden at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Kayak the Broad River

Follow Bartram’s path by car or bicycle

Check the Bartram Trail Conference website for details as they develop.



Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies, Anthony Shoals on the Broad River

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Kathryn Braund
Dean Campbell
Brent Martin

Attakullakulla, *continued from page 3*
noe. Indeed, Dragging Canoe’s hostility towards the land sales specifically and to colonial treatment generally was so great that he ultimately found a branch of the Cherokee that was staunchly anti-colonist and would fight the colonists throughout the Revolutionary War. These new Cherokee were the Chickamauga Cherokee, localized around modern day Chattanooga, and in June 1776 they would attack the Wataugans (Brown, 1938; Dixon, 1976).

It is at this point in May 1775—when Attakullakulla and Stuart were becoming estranged, when the colonists were starting their civil war with England, when Stuart had fled for his safety to St. Augustine, when a civil war had begun within Attakullakulla’s own family—that William Bartram and Attakullakulla ran into each other along the banks of the Nantahala. Did Attakullakulla mention his son’s anger? Did he warn William? Did his tone betray a concern? William does not tell us, and thus we are left with a text pregnant with subtext. ☼

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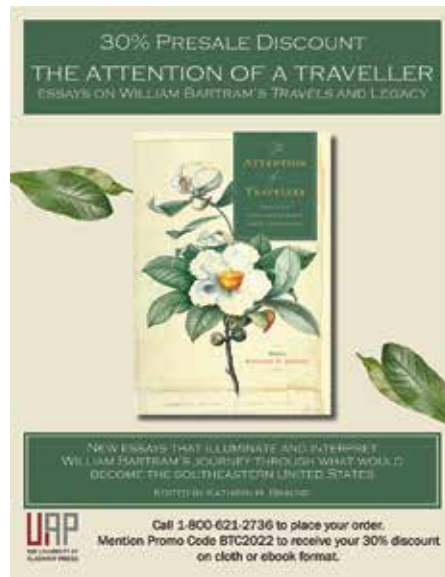
Book Review

The Attention of a Traveller: Essays on William Bartram's *Travels* and Legacy

Interest in William Bartram and his significance in early American cultural and natural history remains strong and is only growing. As a unique, simultaneous, window into the past, present, and future of the region the famed naturalist studied, his *Travels* continues to be relevant academically and practically. It is invaluable as it concerns continuing efforts to understand the region and is the foundational text pointing towards the development of a heritage tourism corridor. In truth, one might argue that aside from his re-discovery at the time of the bicentennial as a sort of connection to an overlooked Revolutionary Era heritage in the South, Bartram and his *Travels* have never been of more pertinence and general interest. As there remains so much to discover about the man, his book, and the places he visited despite decades of scholarship on those subjects, the recent publication of *The Attention of a Traveller: Essays on William Bartram's Travels and Legacy* is especially timely. Accomplished historian and professor emeritus at Auburn University, Kathryn H. Braund, a past president of the Bartram Trail Conference and editor of two previous volumes on Bartram, served as project editor.

The diversity of contributions and the depth of knowledge in their several fields of specialization evidenced among the more than a dozen contributors are outstanding. The book presents recent research into Bartram and his dynamic legacy from multiple perspectives including history, geography, natural history, the arts, and even philosophy. Its focus on Bartram in memory, as much as in reality, renders portions of the volume as contemplative in tone as revelatory in substance as a consequence. This will surely be embraced by its intended audience, who appreciate the intangible aspects of Bartram's contributions to regional heritage as much as any of the quantifiable scientific documentation his writings provide.

The book is organized into five groupings of essays with similar themes. "To the



Mississippi" contains some interesting information on the lesser-known travels of Bartram; "Bartram and the Natural World" examines the realities of the natural environment he encountered; "Visual Bartram" explores compelling interdisciplinary dimensions to the work and legacy of Bartram; "On Bartram's Trail" features pieces on the continuing development of the William Bartram Trail; and "The Bartram Library" provides documentation on the library of books owned by the man and the distribution of existing copies of his writings in libraries today.

The book is as eclectic as its iconic subject, providing something of interest for all those intrigued by Bartram regardless of the many avenues of approach to his work and enduring legacy. Equally entertaining and thought-provoking, it helps us better understand the land he traveled both in its reality and as it has been imagined. Published as a substantial and attractive hardback whose heavyweight paper pages are richly illustrated, the book appears designed as a collector's piece for those who are serious about the subject it explores.

Available from the [University of Alabama Press](#) and from [Amazon](#). ☼

Mike Bunn

Director, Historic Blakeley State Park

Humphrey Wells, *continued from page 4*

Night overtaking me 5 or 6 Miles before I got to Augusta, took another Road leading to the Town, which I did not observe until being surprised at the appearance of a heap of white Rocks which I at first took to be Houses by the light of the Moon shining upon them...

This pile of rocks, known locally as "the Rocks," was located on Wrightsboro Road (as it is spelled today) near the intersection with Jackson Road. The Wells house had easy access to the Old Quaker Road.



William Skinner House, c. 1806

The Quaker Road was opened for traffic in 1769, one year after Quakers began settling Wrightsborough Township, and it corresponds to modern day Columbia Road. Wrightsborough Road was completed in 1773 and followed an existing trail. These two roads came together at the edge of Wrightsborough Township boundary. Along the way there were several connecting roads due to the area becoming heavily settled.

The reason for Bartram losing his way on his return to Augusta is that he probably took the Quaker Road to Wrightsborough and on his return he got onto Wrightsborough Road somewhere along the way. We do not know if Bartram was lodging with Dr. Wells in May, 1773, when he came upon the Rocks, but it is very likely this is when their friendship began and Bartram would have visited Wells while waiting for the Indian congress to conclude. The map of 1806 gives us remarkable detail of the roads in the upper part of Richmond County and allows us to speculate on Bartram's route. ☼

* William Skinner III received bounty land in Screven County, Georgia, for his service during the Revolution. On his passage through Georgia, George Washington ate breakfast with Major Skinner at his home near Hiltonia.

My Visit to Philadelphia and Bartram's Garden

Mike Adams

Earlier this summer, I was asked to get involved with a documentary produced by Warm Springs Productions (Missoula, Montana) entitled 'Into the Wild Frontier—1700's'. On August 12, I flew to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and participated in a video-taped interview, answering questions, commenting and storytelling about William Bartram's travels to the film crew. The interview was filmed at the historic Barn at Cauffiel Estate, located in Wilmington, Delaware, just outside Philadelphia.

My interview, along with interviews of several other Bartram scholars, will be interspersed with scene acting to be performed at a later date and location, tentatively in rural Kentucky. I hope to stay in-



involved and be selected to act as one of the Bartram characters! The final documentary schedule is to be determined. Our Bartram Trail Society of Florida membership will be notified when the program will be aired.

Since I was in the neighborhood, I

slipped over to Bartram Gardens, located along the Schuylkill River and received an amazing private tour hosted by the Chief Garden Curator, Joel Fry. Joel spent over two hours explaining the gardens and historical personalities. As luck would have it, the *Franklinia* were in full bloom. He took me into the house and revealed some facts about the Bartram family that one would not have the opportunity to see or learn on a public tour.

Although I've been doing Bartram natural history lectures and re-enactments for over 15 years, Mr. Fry's tour was highly exhilarating and emotional. During most of the visit, the hair on my neck was standing up and my face was flush with excitement, inspiration and wonder. To any Bartramites, I highly recommend a visit to experience this spectacular, iconic place. ☼