

The *Traveller*

A Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Spring, 2023

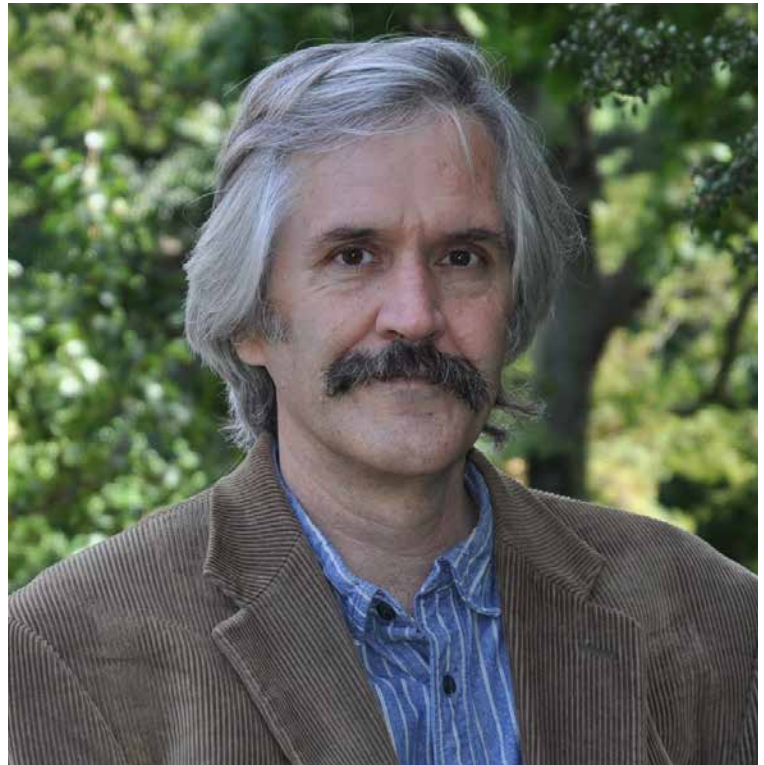
Joel T. Fry

Kathryn Braund

Joel T. Fry, curator at Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia and long-time Bartram Trail Conference member, died on March 21, 2023 following a short illness. Joel was an archaeologist, historian, gardener, and expert on all things Bartram. His support of Bartram scholarship and his own extensive research and writing helped propel William Bartram to the forefront of scholarly endeavor. Joel is widely remembered by friends and colleagues as an easy-going yet meticulous scholar who eagerly and freely shared his wisdom and helped guide innumerable projects. In addition to his scholarship, Joel was a respected tour guide and public speaker who interacted regularly with the many visitors to Bartram's Garden.

For more on Joel's career, visit www.bartramsgarden.org/remembering-joel.

Bill Cahill, a fellow BTC member and close friend and colleague, has written a thoughtful and intimate essay on Joel as scholar and friend. Read it here: <https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/Remembering-Joel-Fry/> ❁



Athentic Brewing Company Celebrates Bartram's Travels in Northeast Georgia

Brad Sanders

On June 6, Authentic Brewing Company prepared the mash for a new beer that will honor William Bartram's travels in Northeast Georgia and celebrate the Bartram Trail Conference coming to Athens. Paul Skinner, owner of Authentic, invited Dorinda Dallmeyer (president of the Bartram Trail Conference), Diane Sanders, and myself to watch and document the process. The first step was making the wort, when malted barley and hot water are mixed and left for an hour for the starch to convert to sugars. After an hour or so, the liquid is transferred to the kettle, where it is boiled long enough to

continued on page 5



Derrek Heersink, brewmaster for Authentic, explains the process for making Bartram Trail Pale Ale. Dorinda Dallmeyer examines the mash while Diane Sanders looks on.



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



With Rapture and Astonishment is the second in a series of exhibitions for the *Listening to the Land* project. *Listening to the Land* is a community collaboration facilitated by the Kinship Photography Collective in partnership with the Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy, Bartram Trail Conference, The Bascom: A Center for Visual Arts, and the Circle Gallery at the University of Georgia. Through workshops, nature walks, community exhibitions, and online engagement, photographers of all levels are invited to help create an archive of images that will bring to light the delicate, beautiful, and sometimes threatened ecosystems that often go unobserved.

William Bartram, the Georgia Railroad, and the Firefly Trail

William Bartram explored northeast Georgia as a member of the survey party that marked the boundary of the New Purchase, the large land cession of Creek and Cherokee land. Upon leaving Wrightsborough the party arrived at the great Buffalo Lick on June 23, 1773. He wrote,

We sat off from Augusta, early in the morning, for the Great Buffalo Lick, on the Great Ridge, which separates the waters of the Savanna and Alatomaha, about eighty miles distant from Augusta.

The survey party divided at the Great Buffalo Lick, with one group marking the boundary south to the headwater of the Ogeechee River and the other group marking the line northward along the Great Ridge. Bartram and the survey party arrived at this ridge at the site of present-day Stephens and followed it to Ila, a distance of 38 miles, where they left the ridge and headed northeastward. The ridge was the western boundary of Georgia until 1784.

The Athens Branch of the Georgia Railroad was completed in December, 1841, and connected Athens to the main line at Union Point. The route chosen for the railroad bed followed the Great Ridge and made it possible to build the line without constructing any bridges.

Railroad cars were towed from Union Point to Athens by horses until 1847. In that year the Georgia Railroad purchased two Baldwin steam locomotives for service on the Athens Branch, the Fairy and the Picayune. They were small engines, known as the Planet class in honor of Robert Louis Stephenson's famous locomotive.

The Athens Branch of the Georgia Railroad was important to the economy of Oglethorpe County and Athens from its first day of operation until the mid-twentieth century. The towns of Union Point, Woodville, Maxeys, Stephens, Crawford, Arnoldsville, and Winterville all owe their existence to the railroad. With the improvement of highways and increased automobile ownership after WWII, the railroad lost passengers and the new paved roads made trucking goods region-

continued on page 3

Franklinia Doing Well in its Native Land

Harriet Langford, director of the Ashantilly Center in Darien, Georgia, recently took this photograph of a Franklinia in full bloom and doing well in its native land. The tree is located on the grounds of the University of Georgia Marine Extension Center in Brunswick, Georgia. Anyone who is familiar with the history and cultivation of Franklinia will find this an amazing scene, for the tree is growing *in the ground* and it seems to be thriving in a place where it is notoriously difficult to grow. It is believed that a soil-born fungus, especially in areas where cotton was grown, causes decline and eventual death of Franklinia. Franklinia typically grows well in cooler climates and regions where cotton was never grown.

This specimen is located just thirty miles from Fort Barrington, where John and William Bartram discovered Franklinia in October, 1765. ☼



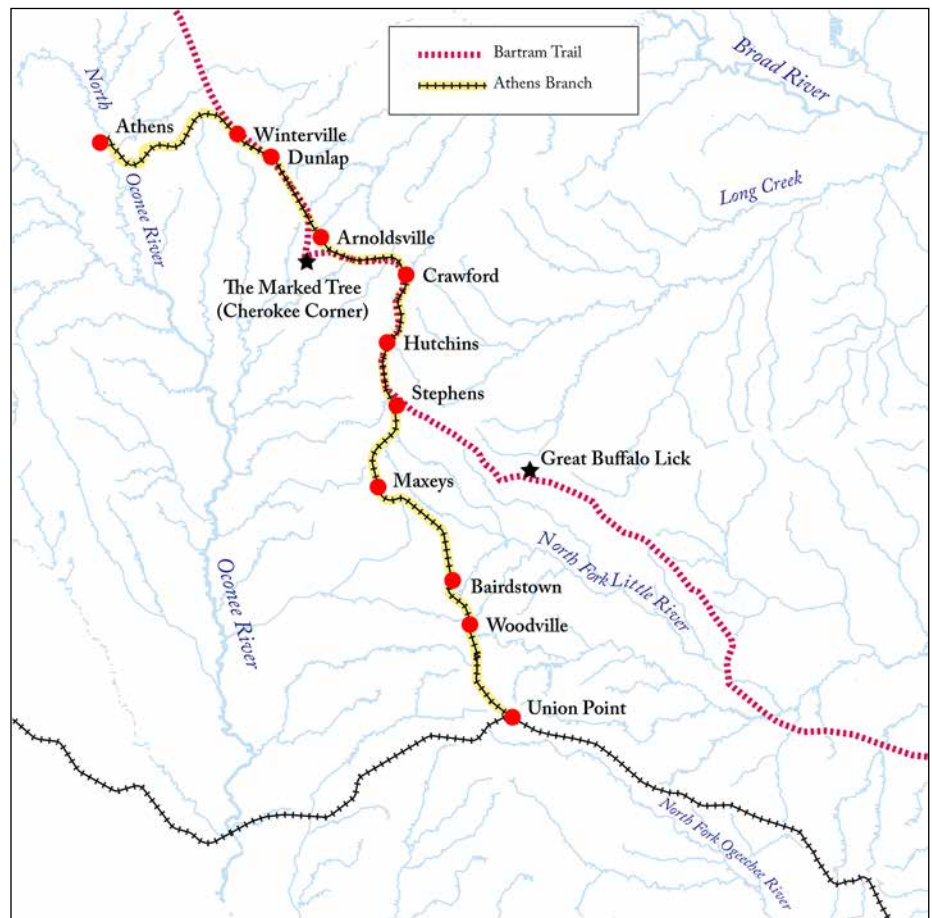
Franklinia alata on the grounds of the UGA Marine extension center in Brunswick, Georgia.

Firefly Trail

ally easier and more efficient than by rail. Considered redundant by CSX, the Athens Branch was abandoned in 1984.

In 2011 Firefly Trail, Inc., was created to promote the building of a recreation trail along the path of the Athens Branch railroad bed. When completed, the entire trail will be 39 miles long with 17 of those miles following William Bartram's actual path. Currently three miles of trail have been completed in Athens. Additionally there are three "Model Miles" completed in Winterville, Maxeys, and Union Point. Those who are attending the Bartram Trail Conference in Athens in August should bring their bicycles and explore the Firefly (Bartram) Trail.

For more information visit the Firefly Trail web site, www.fireflytrail.com. ☼



Firefly Trail in Winterville, Georgia

Regional News



Alice Carter and Gary Burton of the Pintlala Historical Association are pictured at the unveiling of the new marker.

Alabama

On April 23, Dr. Kathryn Braund made a presentation to the Pintlala Historical Association on William Bartram's trip through the Creek Nation in 1775. Following the presentation, the crowd traveled to the site of a new marker, near Pintlala, Alabama, placed by the society noting Bartram's journey along the Indian road that was later developed into early Alabama's historic "Federal Road."

Bartram Trail Society of Florida

The Society's 8th version of the Bartram Frolic took place in Palatka on Earth Day April 22 and 23. It was another successful celebration of William Bartram's travels on the St. Johns River. The Frolic's education program hosted nearly 1,000 Putnam County students. They met Billy Bartram, trader Job Wiggins, and Micco Chuluco, the Long Warrior. The students were treated to boat tours and educational stations where they learned about the St. Johns River and the natural history and heritage of Putnam County. Since the beginning of the education program, 4,000 students have experienced environmental education with Bartram as their guide.

The Frolic began for the public on Saturday featuring our Passport to the Past where visitors met our living history and experienced snakes, live alligators, cracker horses, Bartram's Ixia, riverboat tours, kayak tours and a bus tour through the Bartram Trail of Putnam County.

The Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native



Adam Arrindell (l) with an Ixia in bloom.

Plant Society surprised us all by showing up with a blooming Bartram's Ixia plant! It was beautiful and lasted about two hours—just as Bartram described. Fort Mose State Park represented America's first free community of African-Americans, providing information and loud musket volleys for our enjoyment. The day concluded with another beautiful Bartram wine cruise on the St. Johns.

On Sunday, the Bartram Symposium featured our own Kathryn Braund lecturing on her new edition, *The Attention of a Traveller*, and discussing Bartram's view of the "Alegator of the St. Johns." Mike Adams as William Bartram told the story of the discovery of the Ixia, and Adam Arrindell of the Ixia Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society gave a botanical description of the plant. The plant is alive and doing well in northeast Florida.

Mark Emery, award-winning videographer, musician, and photographer followed Kathryn's talk with video and audio proof of the voracity and loudness of the alligators that so terrified Bartram. Mark is working with the National Geographic Channel on an alligator film. It was scary!

BTSF Director Robert Mattson discussed the science and nature of the St. Johns River comparing its current state to the landscape when Bartram was here.

Joe Foy of Putnam County has spent years retracing Bartram's trail across Florida. He shared with us his version of the travels from the Lower Store to the Alachua Savannah. Using 18th century maps,

he presented convincing evidence that Harper's version of the Bartram trail was misplaced. We will be sharing this information with the Conference in the future.

The BTSF has already decided to hold another Frolic on April 27–28, 2024. We estimate we have touched over 3,000 ecotourists and students this year with Bartram's passion for our land. Visit our website for more information www.bartramtrailsociety.com.

Sam Carr

Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy

The Blue Ridge Bartram Trail Conservancy celebrated William Bartram's birthday on April 20 by visiting Jack Johnston's tree nursery in Otto, North Carolina. The day was clear and beautiful and spring was in full swing.

The event was organized around the topic of *Franklinia*. The nursery has several *Franklinias* old enough to bloom this summer. Recently Jack has planted several "mutant" *Franklinias* that were grown from irradiated seeds. During lunch Heather Gladfelter explained about her research with *Franklinia* and how she hopes that disease resistance might appear in some of these mutants that she is working with. Brad Sanders told the story of the discovery of *Franklinia*.

Jack's tree nursery isn't a business that caters to customers, but a labor of love



Jack Johnston, in the red shirt, greeting visitors to his tree nursery.

where he grows select native trees of the Southern Appalachian mountains. The property contains Mountain Camellia (*Stewartia ovata*) and Silky Camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*) that Jack grows for seed production to distribute to interested growers. Each year visitors come to see the *Stewartia* in bloom. *Magnolia fraseri* occurs naturally on site and are encouraged to grow by thinning competing trees. About 25 magnolias produce seeds in the nursery.

Brad Sanders

On June 7, the Bartram Trail Conservancy celebrated the reroute of the Bartram Trail through downtown Franklin. This comes after three years of work and planning. We had a big event at Lazy Hiker Brewing, with a silent auction, raffle, and special Bartram Brown Pale Ale, seasoned with sweet shrub, elder flower, and sweet birch. *Lazy Hiker* is now directly on the Bartram Trail, and we made a special toast to the trail marker being installed there—Bartram Trail Mile 68.7 We had a great turnout.

Brent Martin

Louisiana

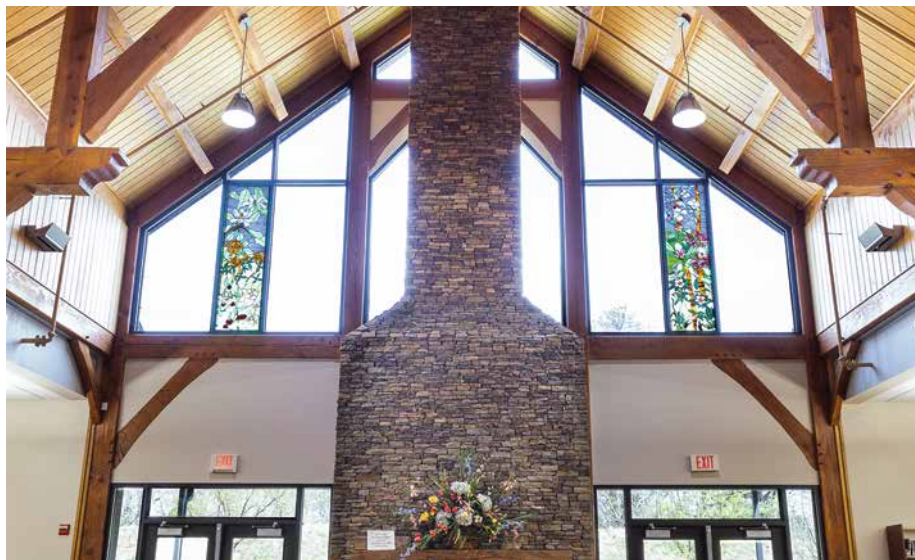
In April of this year, the East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council voted to approve the extension of the existing paved bike path on top of the Mississippi River levee from near the Auberge Casino, south to present day Bayou Manchac (aka, the Iberville River or Rivière d'Iberville). The remnants of Bayou Manchac form East Baton Rouge Parish's southern boundary.

The paved path extension on the levee, a little more than two miles in length, will continue the existing multi-use ten foot wide paved pathway atop the levee beginning in downtown Baton Rouge, and will also include lighting. The State will provide 80% of the funding with the remaining 20% of funding to come from the Parish. The project is expected to be completed in 2025.

It was in East Baton Rouge Parish, in the vicinity of this multi-use levee pathway extension, that Bartram first viewed the Mississippi River.

Michele Deshotels

Bartram Inspired Stained Glass Windows Grace the Macon County Public Library



Two original stained-glass windows have been added to the decor in the Library's Living Room. Local stained-glass artist John Phillips of Fire & Light Studio designed and created the panels depicting native plant species. The design includes flowers and foliage identified by naturalist William Bartram during his travels in the area in the mid-1770s, including flame azalea, mountain camellia, catawba rhododendron and dogwood.

A short program is planned to recognize donors Gene and Nancy Cottrell,

who donated the stained-glass window at the old Wayah Street library, and the Friends of the Macon County Public Library. The Cottrells planned to design and create windows for the Siler Farm Road library, but the project was delayed. Instead, they donated \$5,000 so that the library could commission another artist for the project. The Friends of the Macon County Public Library paid the balance of the project. ❁

Chris Tranchini

Athentic, continued from page 1

kill any wild yeast. The beer is then transferred to the fermentation tank where hops are added. In two weeks the beer is canned.

The celebratory beer will be named Bartram Trail Pale Ale and Athentic Brewing Company will release it on August 3 at a community event that will include their popular trivia night. The trivia questions will be oriented towards topics of history, with a few questions about Billy Bartram that are not too esoteric. Athentic Brewing will donate a portion of the proceeds to the Bartram Trail Conference.

Details about the Bartram Trail Pale Ale event will be included in registration material for those coming to Athens for the conference on August 4 & 5. ❁



Diane is really excited about Bartram Trail Pale Ale!



University of Georgia Special Collections Library

2023 Bartram Trail Conference

August 4–5, 2023

Athens, Georgia

Special Collections Library, University of Georgia

Marking the Semiquincentennial starts here in Athens, almost exactly 250 years to the date when 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.

Thursday, August 3

Release of Bartram Trail Pale Ale and trivia event at Authentic Brewing Company, 108 Park Ave, Athens, GA 30601. Time to be announced.

Friday, August 4,

UGA Special Collections Library

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

5:00–6:30 p.m., Reception, tours of Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Dinner on your own.

Saturday, August 5

UGA Special Collections Library

Registration continues, coffee and pastry provided.

Theme I: Following in Bartram’s Footsteps

“Mapping the New Purchase: Bartram’s First-Person Account,” Dr. Kathryn Braund.

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

“Finding Bartram’s Fish,” Dr. Bud Freeman, Georgia Natural History Museum. 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.

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

Lunch, catered at the Special Collections Library.

“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.

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

7:00 Banquet

Keynote address: Darlene Farris-Labar, Stroudsburg University, Pennsylvania, “Reimagining Bartram’s Artistic Vision.”

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.

Circle Gallery, College of Environment and Design,

“With Rapture and Astonishment,” art and sculpture inspired by Bartram’s Travels in the Blue Ridge.

On Your Own:

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

2023 Bartram Trail Conference Registration

Choose a registration type and indicate number of participants:

	# participants		Total
Full registration (Members): includes Friday reception, Saturday lectures & lunch, & Saturday evening banquet	_____	@ \$150 each =	_____
Full registration (Non-members): Includes all events and membership in the Bartram Trail Conference for 2024	_____	@ \$175 each =	_____
Saturday lectures only, includes lunch (Member)	_____	@ \$75 each =	_____
Saturday lectures only, includes lunch (Non-Member) Includes membership in the Bartram Trail Conference for 2024	_____	@ \$100 each =	_____
Saturday lectures only, includes lunch (Student)	_____	@ \$35 each =	_____
Saturday evening banquet & keynote address only	_____	@ \$75.00 each =	_____

Accommodations

The Bartram Trail Conference has reserved a block of rooms at Holiday Inn Express, just two blocks from the conference site. This [link](#) will give you the reserve page for the conference. Deadline to reserve a room at the conference rate is July 6. Find other hotels in Athens for your conference stay [here](#).

Indicate number of T-shirts desired

___ XS	x	\$25.00	=	_____
___ S	x	\$25.00	=	_____
___ M	x	\$25.00	=	_____
___ L	x	\$25.00	=	_____
___ XL	x	\$25.00	=	_____
___ 2XL	x	\$25.00	=	_____
___ 3XL	x	\$25.00	=	_____

Total Payment Due = _____

Name _____

Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to Bartram Trail Conference. Send registration to:

Bartram Trail Conference
c/o Brad Sanders
189 Hidden Hills Lane
Athens, GA 30605

NOTE: for online registration and payment with credit card visit
<https://bartramtrailconference.wildapricot.org/event-5311194>

The Traveller
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