

The Traveller

"The attention of a traveller, should be particularly attuned, in the first place, to the Various works of Nature"

Newsletter of the Bartram Trail Conference

Fall 2005

President's Notes

As the cooler and drier air of autumn arrives, so too is excitement building over the upcoming biennial Bartram Trail Conference. We're all heading for Augusta, that wonderful early Georgia town so aptly lauded by Bartram for its "arbustive hills, gay lawns, and green meadows." Dr. Ed Cashin, a native of Augusta, graciously served as program chair and has lined up an exciting range of activities and speakers. Dr. Cashin, a long-time member of the BTC, is the author of *William Bartram and the American Revolution on the Southern Frontier*. There is no one who knows Bartram or Augusta better and the conference is sure to be educational as well as enjoyable. It is also an opportunity for BTC members to see and support the efforts of Augustans who have done an exemplary job of preserving their natural and historic legacy, of which Bartram is certainly a part.

I encourage all BTC members to register early, as we need numbers of attendees as soon as possible for planning purposes. Our conferences are a wonderful way to keep in touch with fellow Bartram friends, renew discussions about the directions and mission of our organization, and they are always great fun. So pack your bags and get ready to explore the beautiful city of Augusta by land and water, as well as nearby Wrightsboro, Silver Bluff, and Phinizy Swamp.

I would also like to hear from people who would like to serve as either board members, officers or assist with our newsletter. We are a small and scattered bunch, and we need dedicated people willing to work to continue our mission of preserving the Bartram heritage.

*Kathryn H. Braund, President
Bartram Trail Conference*

Fothergill Award

The 2005-2006 Fothergill Award went to Ms. Amie Fletcher, a Ph.D. student at Auburn University. Amie holds a M.A. degree in English from Miami University in Ohio. At Auburn, she will conduct research and write her dissertation on the literature of early American environmentalism, a study that includes Bartram's *Travels*. As we prepare to register for the upcoming conference and renew our dues, we encourage everyone to consider making an additional contribution to the BTC so that we may continue to support research on Bartram-related topics through our Fothergill Award.

An Editor's Parting Thoughts

It was in the basement cafeteria of the Academy of Natural Sciences where I first learned about the BTC. The year was 1999; the occasion, a conference honoring the bicentennial of John Bartram's birth. Lawrence Hetrick asked how we could restore momentum to the group. Brad Sanders promised to do a website. I agreed to start a newsletter. The website went up within a year. The newsletter took a bit longer.

Eventually *The Traveller* got rolling, however, and with the exception of last Spring (when I was moving for a job), we have turned out two issues for the past four years. We now provide a forum for an eclectic bunch, with book reviews, musings upon the Bartram's path,

reports on hiking and canoe trails, plus much more.

With this momentum established, the time has come for me to pass on the editorial tiara. We need new blood. Anyone interested in taking over *The Traveller* should notify Kathryn, or a member of the board. I can promise rich and unexpected rewards. The responsibility has opened doors for me professionally, and kept me close to folks that I am proud call my friends.

Thanks to the talented writers who have contributed to these pages, to Kathryn and Chuck Spornick for help with every issue, and to our readers for supporting the BTC.

*Thomas Hallock,
(Retiring) Newsletter Editor*

From the Archive: A Letter to Lachlan McIntosh, May 31, 1796

[Editor's Note: The Augusta setting of this year's gathering brings to mind a letter from William Bartram to General Lachlan McIntosh. Now at the New-York Historical Society, this letter has been described by Bartram scholar Francis Harper as "one of the most touching that the naturalist ever penned."]

Venerable Father Friend
Health and Tranquility. }

Agitated with a lively sense of Gratitude, I am prompted in my addresses to you in particular to use these expressions. The paternal care and Friendship which You and Your excellent Lady M^{rs}. M^c.Antosh were pleased to confer on me, & manifested by Your worthy Children my dear^t friends and all your worthy connections, during my residence in Georgia, has left permanent impressions on my Mind, never to be effaced; scercely an object or occurrence, that has happened to me since, fails of recalling to my view, those happy Scenes, happy hours, which I enjoyed in Your Family.

My Heart then fills with gratitud, And I

seem to be really in your happy Family, injoying with you, that improving Philosophic conversation You used to indulge me with, Parental, Filial & phylanthropic society; My affections then harmonise & repose in tranquility:

O my Friend what a degree of intellectual injoyment our nature is sasceptible of, when we turn our views frequently to behold and contemplate the Moral System impressed on the Human Mind, by the Divine Intelligence!

Yesterday O my venerated Friend, my Heart injoyed blissfull emotions, & perhaps my Soul participated in the Joy, when your Nephew M^r. Lac. M^cAntosh made himselfe known to me: he was pleased to come on purpose to see me, at my Brother's House, where Yourselfe in company with Co^{ll}. Laurens dined with us. When he spoke to me I was alone in the Garden Reading a favo[r]ite Book, he accosted me with a Dignity & grace superior to most Young men of this Age, (my Mind apprized me that this was a person I should know, but before I could recollect,) 'M^r. Bartram I am glad to see you, I hope you are well, It is not to be expected you should know me, my name is M^cAntosh,' – surprised with pleasure, I answered Is it possible! the son of Gen^l. Lacⁿ. M^cAntosh of Georgia?' he replied with a gracious smile, William's Son Lc^lⁿ I took his hand pres't with a truly Fraternal salutation, I asure you my Venerable Friend. I leave it to you to imagen in what a pleasing extacy & tumult my sperits were thrown, Innumerable questions, rapidly succeded each other, concerning Your circumstances and Family wellfare &^c. before my passions subsided, & my Mind resumed a degree of harmony fit for conversation. I shall compare, these joyfull moments, this memorable interview, to the meeting of Friends in Paradice.

M^r. Laclⁿ. M^c.Antosh Your Nephew, of whome I am speaking Appears to me a Worthy Young man, his countenance & manners bespeaks the Gentleman, & reputation. It would have been a great favour & pleasure to me If I had had the honour of his visit sooner[.] I never knew of his arival In Philadelphia, till I saw him yesterday, & his short stay (being to embark on

his return for Georgia in two or 3 days) puts it out of my power to manifest that respect & Friendship my Heart dictates.

I am yet in the d--shonourable Rank of Bachelors, and reside with My Brother Jn^o. Bartram, at his Gardens, on the banks of Schuylkill about 4 Miles from the City. have my Health, and my sight yet pretty good. About 4 years after you left this country I had the misfortune of a violent fracture of my Right Leg by a fall from a Tree where I was collecting seeds, which laid me up for near 12 Months, & which prevented me from undertaking Botanical excursions, for some time

Since I have recoverd my Health & the free use of my Limbs, my inquisitive and Restless inclinations for the enjoymnt of New Scenes, in the magnificent operations & exhibitions of Nature, has often excited me to attempt other discoveries, in Your delightfull southern Regions, But being now advanced in Days (being in the 56th year of my age) I question if I should be able to encounter difficulties and dangers incedent to such arduous expeditions, & accomplish the Task.

I however still enjoy some degree of comfort and pleasure when I recollect the various scenes & occurrences of my long pilgrimage, through your southern Territories, and the Floridas, by Traveling over again in Idea.

I conclud earnestly requesting that you'd please to present my Respects to Your Brother William, T. Spalding, M^{rs}. M^cAntosh and M^{rs}. Spalding, their Children, their Families, and all Your, Relations, & Friends for I am beholden to, and respect them all equal to my own nearest & dearest Relations.

Your obliged Friend
[Pug Puggy
The Flower hunter]

P.S please give my Respects also, to Good old Don^d M^c.Antosh, at the Swamp, between Sapello & the great swamp, where I had Shelter during a tremendous Thunder Storm, & who Treated a stranger with true Hospitality. I pray God I had it in my power to make a suitable return for such disinterested Friendship
W.B.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN BARTRAM,
BUILT WITH HIS OWN HANDS, A. D. 1730.

**Augusta Bartram Trail Conference
October 21-23**

Preliminary Program

Early arrivals may consider a trip to George Galphin's Silver Bluff, a property managed by the Audubon Society (see Manager Don Connelly at dconnelly@audubon.org for instructions).

Friday, October 21

Reception (5:00-6:00PM)

Wine and cheese reception at the Maxwell Alumni House on the Augusta State University (ASU) campus.

Dinner / Meeting (6:30-8:30)

Dinner at the ASU Towers
Welcome and opening remarks: Ed Cashin

Report from the Board of the BTC: Kathryn Braund

Slide Presentation "Augusta Scenes Bartram Might Have Seen": Brad Sanders

Saturday, October 22

Phinzy Swamp Nature Park Tour (9:00-11:00AM)

Lecture and tour by Dr. Gene Eidson of this restored and constructed 1,100 acre wetland south of Augusta.

In Bartram's time Phinzy Swamp was known as The Cupboard. Within it is a wildlife management area with ample opportunities to view flora and fauna. Dr. Eidson is the founder of the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy.

Springfield Church (Noon-1:30)

Springfield Baptist Church is the oldest African-American church in the United States, founded at Silver Bluff in 1773.

Lunch and talk by Isaac Johnson, church historian.

Augusta Riverwalk (2:00-3:00)

After lunch, time for a stroll on the Riverwalk marked by a Bartram quote and signs, or a visit to the Morris Museum of Art.

Enterprise Mill (3:00-7:00)

Meet at the Enterprise Mill's Interpretive Center, for a ten minute introductory film, followed by a walk through the hands-on exhibits. At 4PM we board Petersburg boats for a seven-mile ride to the headgates. Botanist Judy Gordon will talk about plants Bartram might have seen. The return trip will be beguiled with wine and music.

Dinner on our own

Sunday, October 23

Wrightsboro (10:00-1:00)

On Sunday we will proceed west of Augusta to Wrightsborough for a picnic lunch provided by Historic Wrightsboro Foundation, and a talk by Robert Davis, an historian.

Registration: The conference fee, which includes Friday's dinner at the ASU Towers and the Sunday picnic lunch at Wrightsborough, is \$35. Forms will soon be on the website.

Accommodations: The BTC has arranged for a special rate for members at the historic Partridge Inn, at \$69.00 a night. Please call the Inn directly for reservations, and mention that you are reserving a room for the Bartram Trail Conference.

Location: 2110 Walton Way
Augusta, Georgia 30904
Website: <http://www.partridgeinn.com/>
Phone: 1-800-476-6888 Local: (706) 737-8888

We will soon send out a list of other accommodations near the Augusta State University campus.

REGISTRATION FORM

Bartram Trail Conference – Biennial Meeting

Augusta, Georgia
October 21-23, 2005

Hosted by Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University; with generous support from the Historic Wrightsboro, Inc.

Registration should be received by October 10, 2005. Please complete the form with a check payable to the Bartram Trail Conference and mail it to the following address:

Chuck Spornick, Treasurer
390 St. Marks Drive
Lilburn, GA 30047

This is also a good time to pay your dues, or to join the Bartram Trail Conference. We will also have a Bartram-themed conference T-shirt. Make sure to include the size you need.

Registration Fee* _____ @\$35.00 = \$_____

2006 BTC Dues _____ @\$15.00 = \$_____

Conference T-Shirt _____ @\$15.00 = \$_____

(Circle size: S, M, L, XL)

TOTAL \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

*The Registration fee is per person and includes the Friday night Dinner, Saturday lunch, and the picnic lunch at Wrightsboro.