

# Bartram's Legacy

William Bartram's (1739-1823) legacy to western literature, art, science, and American exploration is expansive and undeniable.

In 1791 his natural history *Travels through North & South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the Extensive Territories of the Muscogulges, or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws*, was among the first books produced in the newly independent United States documenting the landscapes, biota, and people of the colonial southeast. *Travels* inspired many English writers—

William Wordsworth, Samuel Coleridge, Percy Shelly, and Alfred Tennyson—and his ruminations on geology and ecology presaged fundamental principles of earth science recognized today.

Bartram often illustrated his observations, and his work is noted for scientific precision in the context of living landscape, anticipating the style celebrated for John James Audubon. His observations, on the cusp of the American independence, evoke an empathetic vision of the commonplace lives of Native Americans and their political interaction with colonists.

**"In every order of nature, we perceive a variety of qualities distributed amongst individuals, designed for different purposes and uses, yet it appears evident, that the great Author has impartially distributed his favours to his creatures, so that the attributes of each one seem to be of sufficient importance to manifest the divine and inimitable workmanship."**

William Bartram (page xvi, *Travels*, 1891)

ALONG THE  
*River of Lakes*  
HERITAGE CORRIDOR  
FLORIDA  
WILLIAM BARTRAM'S  
EXPERIENCE



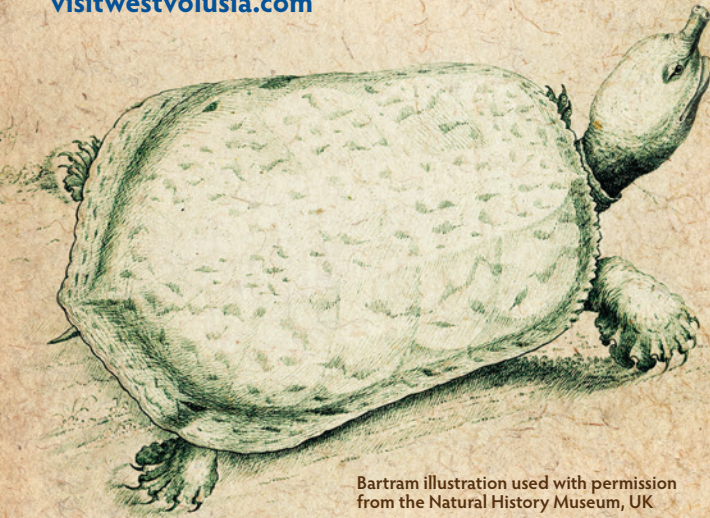
## RESOURCES

Bartram Trail in Volusia County  
[Bartram.vcgov.org](http://Bartram.vcgov.org)

River of Lakes Heritage Corridor  
[www.ROLHC.org](http://www.ROLHC.org)

Volusia Parks & Trails Mobile Application  
<http://bit.ly/Volusia>

West Volusia Tourism  
[visitwestvolusia.com](http://visitwestvolusia.com)



Bartram illustration used with permission from the Natural History Museum, UK

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STETSON UNIVERSITY



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## Compassion for Wildlife

Bartram on numerous occasions displays unusual compassion for animals *Travels* (xxvi-xxvii) describes:

"Whilst our boat approached very near, the hunter was loading his rifle in order to shoot the survivor, which was a young cub, and the slain supposed to be the dam; the continual cries of this afflicted child, bereft of its parent, affected me very sensibly, I was moved with compassion, and charging myself as if accessory to what now appeared to be a cruel murder, and endeavoured to prevail on the hunter to save its life, but to no effect!"

(This incident occurred at Site Q on the map on the reverse side of this brochure.)

After killing a rattlesnake, Bartram reflected:

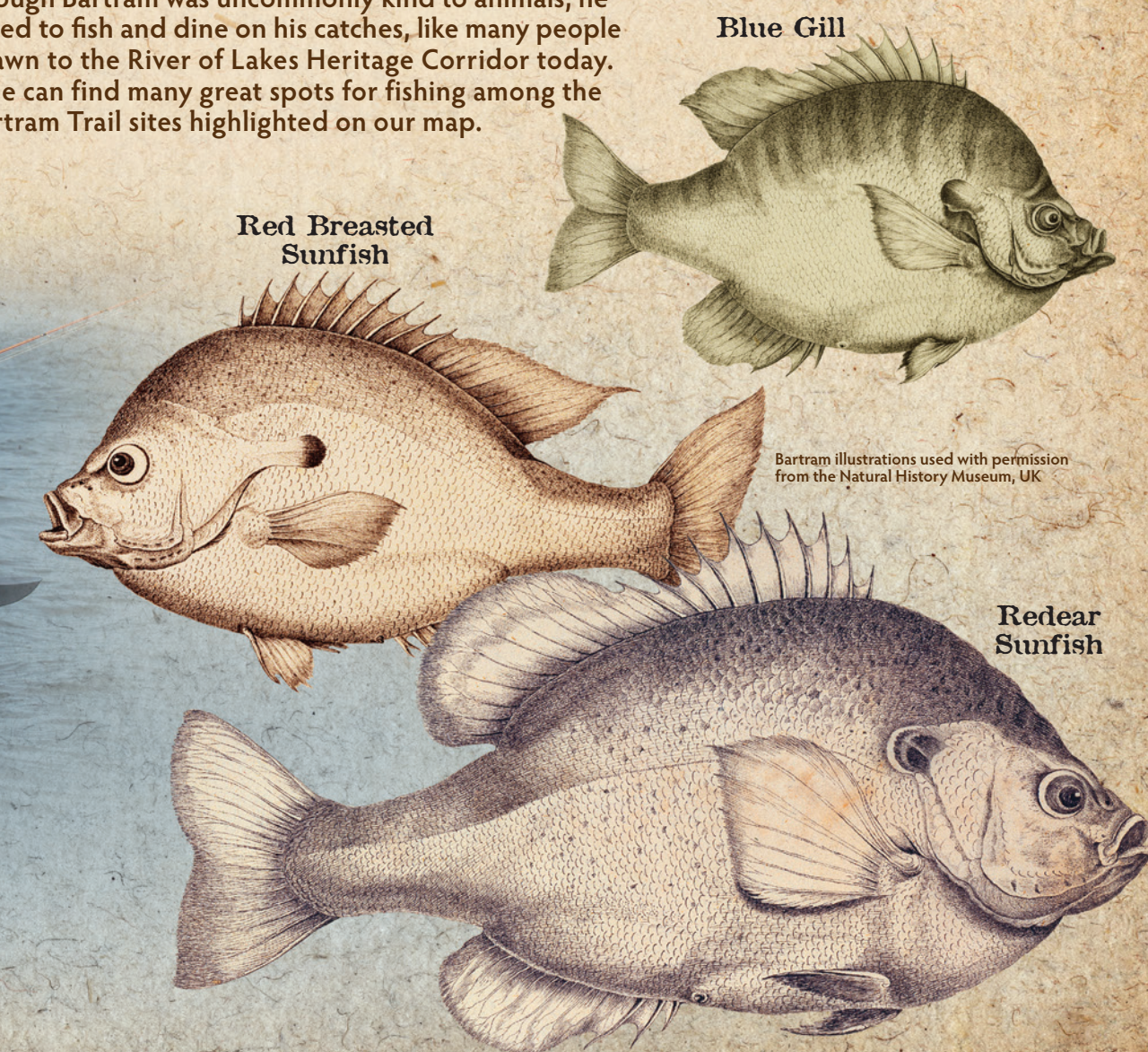
"I however, was sorry after killing the serpent when coolly recollecting every circumstance, he certainly had it in his power to kill me almost instantly, and I make no doubt but that he was conscious of it. I promised myself that I would never again be accessory to the death of a rattle snake..." (p. 271 *Travels, Fort Picolata*)

Though Bartram was uncommonly kind to animals, he loved to fish and dine on his catches, like many people drawn to the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor today. One can find many great spots for fishing among the Bartram Trail sites highlighted on our map.



The Spring to Spring Trail will connect you to many Bartram spots. This multi-use trail is great for all members of the family, accommodating bikes, and wheelchairs for easy access to nature.

Official Bartram Trail Marker at the entry to Hontoon Island State Park.



Blue Gill

Red Breasted Sunfish

Redear Sunfish

Bartram illustrations used with permission from the Natural History Museum, UK



# William Bartram

The regions recognized within the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor are rich with Bartram history. He travelled the region in 1765-1766 as a young man with his father, John Bartram, and in 1774 alone with the patronage of Dr. John Fothergill. His journeys were principally along the St. Johns River in a canoe fitted with a sail.

The landscape at Bartram's time had already been influenced by the actions of people. Shell mounds, eons old, marked Native American dwellings. Rather than a pristine wild, Bartram described a world alive with social and ecological vibrancy.

The traveler today may visit, by car or boat, many of the spots that Bartram described centuries ago, and changes on the landscape are evident. The Native American trace is all but forgotten, plants and animals constrained by habitat encroachment. We invite you to explore Bartram sites to reflect on the world as it was and as it is today.

# Explore the Bartram Trail along River of Lakes Heritage Corridor



## Bartram Sites Along the Byway

These lettered sites are locations visited by William Bartram and included in his writings. A point with a **blue heading** is accessible by water only. The numbered **River of Lakes Heritage Corridor** site locations on the map below are starting points for accessing these Bartram sites.

- A** "Point of Piney Land"  
William and John Bartram camped here, describing "red cedar, live-oak, great palmetto, and good oranges."
- B** "Orange Grove" and "a Middling Creek"  
John and William Bartram describe a "middling creek" nearby, likely Blue Creek just to the west. They camped here amid orange groves several times before or after crossing Lake George.
- C** Indian Horse Crossing and Shell Mound  
John and William describe a "place where the Indians swim their horses over" the river. Nearby they describe a shell mound six feet high and 200 yards long, now difficult to find. On the east side of the river you can still find the "Bartram Oak."
- D** Spalding's Upper Store  
William provisioned at Spalding's Upper Store, where he met "a white trader, who had for a companion, a very handsome Seminole young woman. Her father, who was a prince, by the name of the White Captain, was an old chief of the Seminoles, and with part of his family, to the number of ten or twelve, were encamped in an Orange grove near the stores, having lately come in from a hunt."
- E** "High Shelly Bluff" and *Calydorea coelestina*  
William Bartram wrote his first natural history essay about the plant we now know as Bartram's Ixea (*Calydorea coelestina*). He gathered specimens of this plant at this location. The Bartrams described the landing here as a "high shelly bluff."
- F** Alligator Battle and Bear Encounter  
Stagger Mud Lake was named "Battle Lagoon" by William Bartram. It was here that he most vividly describes alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), recounting a battle between them, a scuffle with them, and the character of their nests. Bartram also describes a multitude of them feeding on "hundreds of thousands" of migrating fish, most likely American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*). Adding to Bartram's tension, his campsite was visited during the night by a pair of black bears (*Ursus americanus*).
- G** "Ancient Indian Fields"  
This area is one of many where Bartram describes ancient Indian fields and shell mounds juxtaposed with orange groves. It is here that Bartram gives a detailed account of sunfish (*Lepomis*).
- H** Indian Burials  
William Bartram camped here "on the border of an ancient burying ground; sepulchres or tumuli of the Yamasees, who were here slain by the Creeks in the last decisive battle."
- I** Endures a "Hurricane"  
William Bartram gives a vivid account of a hurricane as he describes how "the spreading limbs of the ancient Live Oaks were flying over my head, and carried about in the air as leaves and stubble." He otherwise describes Hontoon Island as "a delightful little bluff, consisting chiefly of shells," undoubtedly the remnants of a Timucua Indian shell mound.

- J** Beresford Plantation  
Bartram landed here and lodged at the plantation of Lord Beresford. He walked with his host, the plantation caretaker, three miles south to visit Blue Spring.
- K** A "vast fountain of warm or rather hot mineral water"  
Blue Spring is the "surprising fountain" described by John Bartram in 1766 and by William in 1774 as "very disagreeable to the smell, having a "disagreeable taste." Those visiting today may disagree themselves, as this first magnitude spring is among Florida's most impressive natural features.
- L** "Bartram's Bluff"  
John and William Bartram called this Bartram's Bluff, although the name was never popularly adopted. They here describe the preparation and consumption of cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) hearts stewed with "bear oil."
- M** "Duck Meat"  
John and William Bartram describe a spring system "having three heads within 30 yards," which is most likely Gemini Springs. They further distinguished this spring run as being "covered with duck meat," a colloquial way to describe duck weed.
- N** "Pretty Stream of Sweet Water"  
The "pretty stream of sweet water" that John and William Bartram describe here is likely from today's Green Springs.
- O** "Pleasant Dry Bank"  
John and William camped here on January 8, 1766. The following day they came upon an "Indian hunting cabin covered with palmetto-leaves." John and William continued upriver from here for three more days to reach what we know as Puzzle Lake.
- P** New Smyrna Colony  
William Bartram worked for a period of time as a surveyor and draftsman in the colony of New Smyrna. He describes one of the largest shell mounds in Florida, now gone, at the site of today's Old Fort Park.
- Q** Introduction to *Travels*  
The introduction to *Travels* is set in the region now occupied by Canaveral National Seashore. As he travels "on the East coast of the isthmus of Florida, ascending the South Musquitoe river, in a canoe," Bartram introduces all the themes that animate his historic text: the land, plants, animals, and people.

To learn more about Bartram in Volusia County and the ROLHC region, visit the Bartram Trail in Volusia County website at: [Bartram.vcgov.org](http://Bartram.vcgov.org)

The **blue sites** listed below include sites where you can get on the water to experience the **St. Johns River** as William Bartram did. The **green sites** include locations to hike and bike near sites the Bartrams were known to have visited. The **green sites** also include places along the byway where one can connect with William Bartram in a different way. If you want to see several of the reptiles Bartram described, visit the **Reptile Discovery Center**. Take the aspiring natural historian in your life to the **Gillespie Museum** or the **Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Garden**. The **Historic Volusia County Courthouse** displays paintings from William Bartram's era, including a portrait of him.

## Water Accessible Bartram Locations on River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

- 1** Lake George Park  
770 Nine Mile Point Road | Pierson, FL 32180 | 386.736.5953  
Most people need a boat to reach the lake. North of Pierson where CR 3 intersects with US 17, you can get to the lake by car via 9 Mile Pt. Rd.
- 2** Captain Ernie's St. Johns River Tours  
Leaving from the Blackwater Inn on the river in Astor  
55716 Front Street Astor, Florida | 866.349.0674
- 3** Lake Dexter Boat Ramp  
25934 Holmar Drive, Astor, FL 32102 | 352.759.2121  
This boat ramp can be accessed via Astor Landing in the Ocala Nat. Forest.
- 4** Bluffton Recreation Area  
Part of The Dexter Mary Farms Unit of Lake George State Forest. Take SR 40 to St. Johns River Road, located 1/2 mile east of Astor.
- 5** Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge  
2045 Mud Lake Road | DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 | 386.985.4673
- 6** DeLeon Springs State Park & Fountain of Youth Eco/History Pontoon Boat Tours  
601 Ponce de Leon Boulevard | DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 | 386.985.4212
- 7** Blue Spring State Park | St. Johns River Pontoon Boat Tours  
2100 W. French Avenue | Orange City, FL 32763 | 386.775.3663  
Blue Heron River Tours (Pontoon Boat)  
2317 River Ridge Road | DeLand FL 32720 | 386.873.4843
- 8** St. Johns River EcoTours (Pontoon Boat)  
488 W. Highbanks Rd. | DeBary, FL 32713 | 386.626.9004
- 9** Lake Monroe Park  
Lake Monroe Park Cir., U.S. Hwy 17-92 | DeBary, FL 32713 | 386.736.5953
- 10** Lake Monroe Wayside Park  
4150 NW US Hwy 17-92 | Sanford, FL 32771 | 407.665.2001
- 11** Mariner's Cove Park  
1199 Enterprise-Osteen Road | Enterprise, FL 32725 | 386.736.5953
- 12** Hickory Bluff Preserve  
598 Guise Rd. | Osteen, FL 32764 | 386.736.5927
- 13** Seminole Rest Historic Site  
207 River Road | Oak Hill, FL 32759 | 321.267.1110
- 14** Halifax River **15** Mosquito Lagoon
- 16** Canaveral National Seashore  
212 S Washington Ave, Titusville, FL 32796 | 386.428-3384

## Bartram Related Locations on River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

- 17** Spring to Spring Trail (Several Trailheads)  
Trailheads at: Gemini Springs, Green Springs, Lake Beresford Park, Glenwood, Lake Monroe Park, DeBary Hall, and others
- 18** St. Francis Trailhead  
The trailhead is accessed from CR 42 (west of DeLand) north of its junction with SR 44, on the west side of the bridge over the St. Johns River.
- 19** Historic Volusia County Courthouse  
125 W. New York Ave., DeLand, FL 32724  
Tours: Call the Museum of Florida Art at 386.734.4371
- 20** Gillespie Museum  
234 E Michigan Ave. | DeLand, FL 32724 | 386.822.7330  
Stetson University  
421 N. Woodland Blvd. | DeLand, FL 32723 | 386.822.7000
- 21** Reptile Discovery Center, DeLand  
2710 Big John Dr. | DeLand, FL 32724 | 386.740.9143
- 22** Lake Beresford Park  
2100 Fatio Road | DeLand, FL 32720 | 386.736.5953
- 23** Hontoon Island State Park  
2309 River Ridge Road | DeLand, FL 32720 | 386.736.5309
- 24** Lyonia Preserve  
2150 Eustace Ave. | Deltona, FL 32725 | 386.789.7207
- 25** Gemini Springs Park  
37 Dirksen Dr. | DeBary, FL 32713 | 386.736.5953
- 26** Thornby Park, Inspiration Playground  
110 Providence Blvd. | Deltona, FL 32725
- 27** Green Springs Park  
994 Enterprise-Osteen Rd. | Enterprise, FL 32725 | 386.736.5953
- 28** Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens  
3755 US 17 | Sanford, FL 32771 | 407.323.4450
- 29** Old Fort Park Archaeological Site  
On the National Register of Historic Places, this archeological site is located in the Historic District of New Smyrna Beach, FL.

To find out more about these and other **River of Lakes Heritage Corridor** locations, visit [ROLHC.org](http://ROLHC.org), where you can download our general touring brochure, watch video clips, and more.



Bartram's illustration of the Tarflower, courtesy of the Natural History Museum, UK

Bartram's plant specimen from the Natural History Museum, UK  
Photo courtesy of University of Florida Digital Archives

Bartram's flower specimen from the Natural History Museum, UK  
Photo courtesy of University of Florida Digital Archives