

1 The River Styx

SR 346

From Gainesville go east on SR 20, turn south on CR 325 to CR 346 and go west to the bridge.

Bartram's trail in Alachua County began east of Hawthorne and crossed Lochloosa Creek about a mile above its mouth. He continued north of Watson Prairie and reached the River Styx near the northwest end of Orange Lake. "A very extensive and sedgy marsh," he called it.

The marsh looks much the same today with many of the plants and animals that Bartram observed still abundant.

2 Micanopy, Site of the Indian Village of Cuscowilla

SR 25A

Continue west on SR 346 to US 441. Turn left on US 441 for 2/10 of a mile then turn right on SR 25A to Micanopy.

The village of the Indian Chief Cowkeeper was located 300 or 400 yards north of Lake Tuscowilla where a stream enters the lake. There is a Bartram marker located in the center of the main street of Micanopy, named for a later Seminole chief. Cowkeeper (or Ahya) and his people kept large herds of cattle on the nearby prairie, which Bartram called the Alachua Savannah. Cowkeeper gave Bartram permission to explore the area and named him "Puc Puggy," meaning Flower Hunter.

3 Paynes Prairie State Preserve

US 441

From Micanopy go northwest on US 441 to the entrance to Paynes Prairie State Preserve and drive into the Visitors Center. The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to sunset every day. Admission is 50¢.

Bartram explored the prairie and camped near Chacala Pond. Exhibits, tours, and interpretive programs at the Visitors Center discuss Bartram and the natural history of the area. The Observation Tower gives a spectacular view of what Bartram

called "the borders of a new world" — the Alachua Savannah. The live oaks he recorded still grow in abundance.

4 Observation Ramp

U.S. 441

Leaving Paynes Prairie Preserve go north on U.S. 441. There is a Bartram marker on the right. At this marker there is a pull-off place at the Observation Ramp. Walk out on the ramp and enjoy the vast expanse of the Prairie as Bartram saw it, green with the leaves of the American lotus and pickerel weed. The cattle egrets that you might see were not observed by William Bartram as they are not native birds and came later.

5 Alachua Sink

Paynes Prairie State Preserve

Continue north on U.S. 441, turn right (east) on SR 331 (Williston Rd.). At S.E. 4th St. (traffic light), turn right onto S.E. 22nd Ave. to S.E. 15 St. Turn right (south) to end of pavement, continue south on dirt road to park entrance. Open 8-5 Mon. to Fri. Check in and out at Ranger Station.

The sink is now covered with water hyacinths, a plant introduced long after Bartram observed many alligators there. In 1871 the sink became clogged, creating Alachua Lake. The water drained suddenly 20 years later and the area was named Paynes Prairie. Because of the network of sinkholes and porous limestone, Bartram imagined an underground system whereby fish could swim from one lake to the next.

6 Colclough Hill Audubon Sanctuary

S.W. 1st Way

Return to SR 331 (Williston Rd.), turn left to S.W. 32 Way, turn right to S.W. 1 Way, turn right and go to end of street. The Sanctuary entrance is always open.

The Sanctuary is on the west slope of Colclough Hill, which overlooks Paynes Prairie, and was a popular living site for prehistoric Indians. William Bartram crossed Colclough Hill on his way around

the Prairie. He described a forest of oak, magnolia, hickory, sugarberry, holly, basswood, dogwood and other plants typical of a mesic hammock. The forest was subsequently cleared for farmland but has now come back with many live oaks, sweetgum and loblolly pines. The 38-acre sanctuary is owned by the Florida Audubon Society and maintained by the Alachua Audubon Society.

7 Bivens Arm Nature Park

3650 S. Main St.

Return to S.R. 331, turn right and go west to S.R. 329 (S. Main St.) and turn right to the Park on the left. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Forty-three acres of marsh and fourteen acres of mesic hammock are home to many of the plants and animals that Bartram described in his journey around the rim of the Alachua Savannah. Magnificent live oaks are a special feature of this city park. Also of note are the quotation plaques along the boardwalk and trails, written by many of the great naturalists, including William and his father John Bartram.

8 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens

1625 S.W. 63 Blvd.

Leaving Bivens Arm go north on S. Main St. to S.W. 16 Ave. and turn west (left), cross U.S. 441 and continue to S.R. 24 (Archer Road). Continue west to S.W. 63rd Blvd. and turn right to garden. Open Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9 to dusk, Sun. 1-5. Admission \$1.00 adults, 50¢ children.

En route from Spalding's Lower Store to the Suwannee River, Bartram rejoined a party of traders. They followed the "old Spanish Highway" from the Alachua Savannah to the banks of Lake Kanapaha where they camped "under a little grove of Live Oaks just by a group of shelly rocks." Look for the Bartram marker near the lake, and enjoy the displays of ornamental and medicinal plants, some of which Bartram recorded.

Acknowledgements

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Drawing by William Bartram

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Enrich your understanding of our cultural and natural heritage by following the travels of William Bartram through this scenic and fascinating area of Florida. For additional information on Bartram, contact your local library.

Bob Gasche
Coordinator



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