

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILLIAM BARTRAM IN ALABAMA IS SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATED PROGRAM

Eighteenth-century naturalist and artist William Bartram will come to life during an illustrated lecture by Dr. John C. Hall at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27 in the Special Collections and Archives Department of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library.

Hall's presentation will focus on Bartram's 1775 journey through Alabama, where he recorded firsthand information on native inhabitants and the unspoiled natural environment. His writing and illustrations were published in 1791 in *Bartram's Travels*, which Hall terms "one of the most important documents of American science and the first book of Alabama natural history."

An educator and museum professional, Hall is founding curator at the Black Belt Regional Museum at the University of West Alabama. He was associated for many years with the University of Alabama Museum of Natural History as research associate, director of interpretation and assistant director for natural history. He has served as executive director of the Alabama Museums Association.

Anyone interested in Alabama colonial and frontier history, Native American history, natural history and gardening will find the presentation of real interest.

The lecture is part of the Draughon Seminars in State and Local History, sponsored by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University. Each year the lecture series showcases new scholarship in state and local history. It is funded by the Kelly Mosley Endowment in honor of Dr. Ralph B. Draughon, president of Auburn University from 1947 to 1965. Draughon was an historian with a deep commitment to teaching and promoting state history.

The Auburn program is co-sponsored by the Auburn University Libraries. For more information, contact the Draughon Center at (334)844-4946.

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