



Franklinia alatamaha

The Pre-Revolutionary Home of  
**JOHN BARTRAM**  
 Botanist, Naturalist, Explorer

Bartram's Botanic Garden



Photo: Joel T. Fry

The oldest living botanic garden in America is just a short drive from the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall (20 minutes from Center City) along the banks of the Schuylkill River.

Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington, all visited the garden. Gardeners from around the world, history buffs, families, and school groups visit today.

We invite you to come see why.

54th & Lindbergh Blvd.  
 Philadelphia, PA 19143  
[www.bartramsgarden.org](http://www.bartramsgarden.org)

**HISTORIC BARTRAM'S GARDEN**

## General Information

### Hours

The grounds at Historic Bartram's Garden are free and open to the public daily except City observed holidays. The historic botanic garden between the house and river is open 10am-5pm.

The Museum Shop is open and house tours are offered 12-4 pm, Tuesday-Sunday, March through second week of December. Closed Mondays and City observed holidays.

### Tours and Fees

**House Tours:** Guided 45-minute tours leave Museum Shop at ten past the hour. Reservations not required for groups of less than 10 people. *Admission:* \$5 adult, \$4 senior (62 & over) and student, children (12 & under) free.

**Group Tours** Guided 90-minute tours of the Bartram House and Historic Garden are available by advance reservation for groups any day except City observed holidays and the last week of the year. Gourmet boxed lunches available if ordered in advance. Please call (215) 729-5281 to schedule group tours. *Admission:* \$8 adult, \$7 senior and student.

- Plentiful free parking, buses welcome.
- Maps available at the information kiosk by the barn and in the Museum Shop.
- Beverages and snacks available in the Museum Shop. Picnic tables on site.
- Accessible restrooms located below the barn.
- Site available for weddings, corporate events, meetings, etc. Call (215) 729-5281 for rental information.
- For additional information visit [www.bartramsgarden.org](http://www.bartramsgarden.org)



Historic Bartram's Garden is a Fairmount Park property operated by the John Bartram Association in cooperation with the Fairmount Park Commission.



Photo: Catherine Tighe

## Directions:

### From the West via I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway)

Travel east and south through Center City to Exit 346B, Gray's Ferry Ave. Bear left on exit ramp and turn left at light onto the University Ave. Bridge. At next light turn right on Gray's Ferry Ave., cross the Schuylkill River. Take first left onto Paschall Ave. Turn left at next light onto 49th St. and around bend onto Gray's Ave. Follow trolley tracks and bear left at fork onto Lindbergh Blvd. Just beyond 54th Street sign and immediately after crossing Railroad Bridge make a sharp left turn into entrance (entrance is not visible until after crossing bridge).

### From Center City

Take 23rd St. south below Market St. and merge right onto Gray's Ferry Ave. just beyond South St., then follow directions above.

### From Delaware, Blue Route, & Points South via I-95 North

Follow I-95 North past Philadelphia International Airport. Take Exit 13, Central Philadelphia, 76/291 West, and continually keep to the right. Take exit for 291 West. Turn right onto Island Ave. and stay right. Follow Island Ave. over bridge and cross onto service road on the right. Make sweeping right turn at next light onto Lindbergh Blvd. Follow Lindbergh Blvd. approx. 3 miles to Garden entrance on right just before Railroad Bridge and 54th Street.

### From New Jersey & Points North via I-95 South

Follow I-95 South past Center City. Take Exit 14, Bartram Ave. and proceed to Island Ave. intersection. Turn right and follow directions above.

### Public Transportation

Take the No.36 Trolley originating at City Hall to 54th St. Cross Railroad Bridge to Garden entrance road on left.

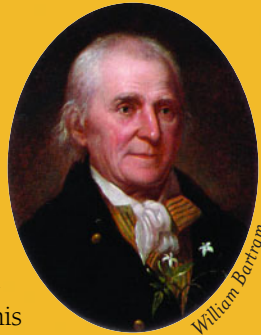
[www.bartramsgarden.org](http://www.bartramsgarden.org)





## Before Lewis and Clark

In 1728 John Bartram (1699-1777) established America's first botanic garden devoted to the collection and study of North American plants. Between 1728 and 1777 John, and later his son William (1739-1823), traveled the length of eastern North America—from Florida to Lake Ontario, and as far west as the Mississippi River to collect trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants for the Bartram botanic garden and for collectors at home and abroad. The Bartrams are credited with identifying and introducing into cultivation more than 200 native plants. In 1765, King George III appointed John "King's Botanist" for North America, a position he held until his death in 1777.



William Bartram

## Before Audubon

William Bartram identified 215 North American bird species and tracked avian migration paths. He also created the first American bird-migration calendar and kept detailed meteorological observations. William mentored Audubon's predecessor in ornithological illustration, Alexander Wilson (1766-1813), introduced him to leading natural history figures in Philadelphia and inspired him to study birds.



*Hirundo rustica* Barn Swallow



## Preservation



In 1850 Philadelphia industrialist Andrew M. Eastwick purchased the property. He built his home, Bartram Hall, on a hill near the garden "so that not a bush of this beloved old garden shall be disturbed. My dearest hope is that the garden shall be preserved forever." In 1891, City Councilman Thomas Meehan, Eastwick's gardener forty years earlier, succeeded in getting the

City to acquire Bartram's Garden as a public park. Preservation today includes conservation of the Bartram house and outbuildings; restoration of the wildflower meadow and water garden; construction of

a tidal wetland along the Schuylkill River; and enriching the historic garden with native plants of the Bartram period.



Printing provided through the generosity of The Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America

## Before Burpee

In 1783, the Bartrams issued the first printed plant catalogue in America and supplied plants for Independence Hall, Mount Vernon, and Monticello. John's granddaughter Ann Bartram Carr and her husband Robert continued the Bartram tradition in the first half of the nineteenth century preserving the Bartram botanic garden and establishing a commercial nursery. Robert Carr introduced the Poinsettia (*Poinsettia pulcherrima*) in 1829 at "The first semi-annual Exhibition of fruits, flowers and plants, of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society," (known today as the Philadelphia Flower Show).



*Poinsettia pulcherrima*

**Mission:** The John Bartram Association preserves, interprets, and enhances Historic Bartram's Garden and its National Historic Landmark Bartram House; and builds awareness of the Bartram legacy of botany, art, and natural science

Visit [www.bartramsgarden.org](http://www.bartramsgarden.org) or call (215) 729-5281 for more information.

*Illicium floridanum*

"We have a botanist here, an intimate Friend of mine, who knows all the plants in the Country."

— Benjamin Franklin, 1744

