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# STETSON UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MEDIA ALERT

### **Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience's Bartram Gardens & Trail Educates Community and Celebrates Naturalist during Fall Housewarming**

**DELAND, Florida**, Nov. 18, 2019 – American naturalist William Bartram created pen and ink drawings of creatures, fauna and plants he encountered while visiting Florida in 1774. During the trip, he came upon Lake Beresford in DeLand, which is where the [Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience \(IWER\)](#) and [Stetson University's](#) Men and Women's Rowing teams are situated at the Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center.

IWER is honoring the renowned environmental explorer with its Bartram Gardens & Trail, which includes 16 signs that feature information about Bartram, native animals and plants and photos of his drawings from the [Natural History Museum](#) in London. The interpretive design and the sign's ancient parchment paper background were created by [Sailforth Productions](#).

"The Bartram Gardens & Trail is a wonderful opportunity to educate and inform the community about native Florida plants and water resource issues along with William Bartram's historic exploration in Florida," said [Jason Evans, PhD](#), interim executive director of IWER and associate professor of environmental science and studies at Stetson. "Native landscapes require minimal resource inputs, like water and labor, and attract pollinators. The beautiful gardens and trail include some of the native plants that William Bartram described in his drawings and books and is a great way to get folks excited about native plants."

The public is invited to attend a Fall Housewarming on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at the Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center. The free event will include taking a stroll through the Bartram Gardens & Trail, water invocation by Johnny Dame, a "Currents" soundscape performance by digital arts student Tyler Haws, soundscape shows by [Nathan Wolek, PhD](#), professor of digital arts and music technology at Stetson, and digital arts student John Levee and light refreshments.

The "Currents" concert is inspired by the [Florida Springs Soundscape](#), which is a research project by Wolek and [Chaz Underriner, PhD](#), assistant professor of digital arts at Stetson, an acoustic ecology that examines the role of sound in the natural and human experience at Blue Spring and DeLeon Springs State Parks. It is funded by IWER's faculty seed grant program.

**WHAT:** Fall Housewarming, featuring a stroll through the Bartram Gardens & Trail, water invocation, soundscape performances and light refreshments.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Nov. 20  
4:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center  
2636 Alhambra Ave., DeLand, Florida 32720  
Complimentary admission and parking.

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 385 Best Colleges, 2020 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.

**Contact:** Sandra Carr  
Media Relations  
**P:** 407-256-5090  
**E:** scarr3@stetson.edu