**Bartram's "Rare and Elegant Flowering Shrub" —**

A *Franklinia* celebration with Cynthia Woodsong and Jim Costa!

Wednesday, September 10, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

In 1765 the father-son botanists John and William Bartram, of Philadelphia, first came upon a large stand of a remarkable mystery plant in the Tea family growing along the banks of the Altamaha River in Georgia. They dubbed this "rare and elegant flowering shrub" *Franklinia alatamaha*, for their friend Benjamin Franklin and the site of their discovery. Mysteriously, *Franklinia* soon disappeared, going extinct in nature by the century's end. It now exists solely in cultivation, and all specimens today descend from seeds and cuttings taken by the Bartrams and a few other late 18th century collectors.

Join HBS executive director Jim Costa and paper flower artist extraordinaire Cynthia Woodsong for this unique program celebrating *Franklinia* both in the flesh, so to speak, and in paper! The program will open with a short lecture by Jim on the history of the Bartram's discovery and the biology and cultivation of *Franklinia*, followed by a local excursion to see the largest specimen in the region in bloom! This species is an early fall bloomer, one happy result of which is a gorgeous juxtaposition of its large, showy white flowers with the shrub's reddening fall foliage. Back at HBS participants will have an opportunity to make their own realistic and beautiful *Franklinia* blossom under Cynthia's guidance; all materials provided.

This is a special *Franklinia* celebration not to be missed!