

Walking Forward, Looking Backward

The NC Bartram Trail Society will host its 34th annual meeting on
Wednesday, September 28 at the Cashiers Community Library at 6 pm.

We hope you can make plans to attend.

The evening's lecture will be preceded by a brief business meeting for Board elections, light refreshments and an opportunity to share updates of the year's events on the NC BT.

At 7 pm, noted author Janisse Ray will present the annual lecture entitled
"Walking Forward, Looking Backward."

About Janisse Ray



Writer, naturalist and activist Janisse Ray is author of three books of literary nonfiction. She is on the faculty of Chatham University's low-residency MFA program, and is a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. She holds an MFA from the University of Montana, and in 2007 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Unity College in Maine.

Ecology of a Cracker Childhood, a memoir about growing up on a junkyard in the ruined longleaf pine ecosystem of the Southeast, was published by Milkweed Editions in 1999. Besides being a plea to protect and restore the glorious pine flatwoods of the South, the book looks hard at family, mental illness, poverty, and fundamentalist religion.

Thinker Wendell Berry called the book "well done and deeply moving."

Anne Raver of *The New York Times* said of Janisse Ray, "The forests of the South find their Rachel Carson."

Ray has won a Southeastern Booksellers Award 1999, an American Book Award 2000, the Southern Environmental Law Center 2000 Award for Outstanding Writing, and a Southern Book Critics Circle Award 2000.

Ecology of a Cracker Childhood was a New York Times Notable Book and was chosen as the Book All Georgians Should Read.

She has published in such periodicals as Audubon, Gray's Sporting Journal, Hope, Natural History, Oprah Magazine, Orion, Sierra and The Washington Post. She writes poetry and fiction as well as nonfiction, and has been a public radio commentator for Vermont and Georgia.

As an organizer and activist, Janisse Ray works to create sustainable communities, local food systems, a stable global climate, intact ecosystems, clean rivers, life-enhancing economies, and participatory democracy.

Ray attempts to live a simple, sustainable life on a family farm in southern Georgia with her husband, Raven Waters. She has a college-age son, Silas. She is an organic gardener, tender of farm animals, slow-food cook, and seed-saver.

Her most recent book *Drifting into Darien: A Personal and Natural History of the Altamaha River* will be available in early September.