A PROCLAMATION OF THE NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, PROCLAIMING APRIL 2024 AS WILLIAM BARTRAM MONTH IN NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, William Bartram was America's first native born naturalist, an explorer, artist, and author whose illustrations and descriptions of nature provide a look back at the relatively pristine environment of the new Florida territory in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century; and

WHEREAS, in 1773 William Bartram began a four-year journey for the purpose of collecting plants as he explored the territory of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, and documented over 300 plants and many animals then unknown to science; and

WHEREAS, in April 1774, William Bartram first landed on Amelia Island, which he described as "a fertile island...particularly favorable to the culture of indigo and cotton,"; and

WHEREAS, William Bartram was offered hospitality by Stephen Egan, the agent of the Egmont estate, and observed that Amelia Island consisted of "excellent hummocky land" where corn, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables were cultivated; and

WHEREAS, an account of William Bartram's travels was published in 1791 and became an American classic and a success in Europe, inspiring the works of the romantic poets, informing 18<sup>th</sup> Century scientists about the plants and animals of the New World, and entertaining the armchair travelers on the Continent; and

WHEREAS, the name of William Bartram is memorialized in plant and animal nomenclature, numerous places, and sites, including the Bartram Trail, identified by a marker on the Fernandina Beach waterfront.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024, that the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, hereby proclaim the month of April, 2024 be known as "William Bartram Month" in acknowledgement of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of William Bartram's travels in Nassau County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

WHALE MARTIN

Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's

Signature:

JOHN A. CRAWFORD

Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the Nassau County Attorney:

DENISE C MAY