

## ***In Search of Xanadu - A Modern Day Bartram Adventure***

*In Search of Xanadu*, a 30-minute documentary that re-traces the 18th century exploration of pioneer naturalist William Bartram up the St. Johns River, will premier October 17th on most Florida public television stations.

The film, distributed statewide as part of the prestigious *Florida Crossroads* series, follows veteran environmental writer Bill Belleville as he journeys up the historic river for two weeks. Belleville, navigating a houseboat equipped with kayaks and scuba diving gear, used "Bartram's Travels" as a guide to re-visit a number of the same sites along the river first described by the early naturalist -- including artesian springs and hidden creeks.

At one point, Belleville is joined by Florida Audubon Society President Clay Henderson. Both men fly fish along the river as they chat about the historic role of the St. Johns River, Bartram's role as an artist-naturalist, and current environmental issues. Bartram's transcendental link to nature later influenced other writers and naturalists, from Emerson and Thoreau, to Audubon and Muir. The Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote "Kubla Khan," the mystical poem, about Xanadu, after reading Bartram's evocative descriptions of Florida springs along the river.

Produced by Bob Giguere and written by Belleville, *In Search of Xanadu* includes stunning underwater footage from inside the spring-cave systems, as well as nature photography of birds and animals associated with the river.

Giguere is an Emmy-award winning executive producer with WMFE Public Television in Orlando. Belleville, editorial advisor for the *Florida Naturalist*, is an award-winning magazine writer with international credits including *Sierra*, *Audubon*, *Reader's Digest*, *Parade*, *Newsweek*, and the *Discovery Channel Online*.