

St. Johns River documentary to air on public TV

In Search of Xanadu, a 30-minute documentary produced and written by Bob Giguere and Bill Belleville of Orlando's BBG Productions, will premier during the third week of October on public television stations throughout Florida.



Film & Video
Cindy Barth

The documentary retraces the 18th century explorations of pioneer naturalist William Bartram up the St. Johns River.

The film is being distributed statewide as part of the Florida Crossroads series and was produced in cooperation with Florida Public Television.

The idea for *In Search of Xanadu* originated with a project of the same theme done by Belleville for Discovery Channel Online in May.

For that project, an on-line site was set up offering users the chance to follow along with Belleville on a real-time basis as he recreated through pictures and written word Bartram's journey up the St. Johns River.

Belleville says he and Giguere were intrigued with the idea of doing the documentary during the Discovery Channel Online project, so they took 20 hours of footage with the help of a two-man camera team sent by Florida Public Television.

"They were very helpful to us as far as getting the project completed," Giguere says of FPTV.

The documentary includes a lot of underwater footage, even though Bartram's original trek included only above-ground exploration, in order to give it the "same feel of a sense of discovery," Belleville says.

The two-week journey included stops along the river to talk with locals who have a strong personal or professional connection to the St. Johns and its history.

After its initial run on Florida Crossroads, the duo plan to distribute the documentary nationally via a cable market.

Belleville says discussions first will take place with producers of the PBS series *Point of View*. Other outlets being considered for the documentary include the History Channel, The Learning Channel and Nova.

The project is not the first for Giguere and Belleville. They also worked together on a video trailer shoot looking at regional similarities between the Miskito Coast of Nicaragua and the Mosquito Lagoon of east Central Florida.

Giguere says BBG Productions is talking with *National Geographic Explorer* about expanding that initial idea into a full project looking at other environmental similarities between Nicaragua and Florida.

Both say they will continue to look for additional Florida-related projects for BBG Productions even as they continue to hold other full-time jobs.

Giguere is an Emmy-award winning executive producer with WMFE-TV in Orlando. Belleville is an award-winning magazine writer with credits including *Reader's Digest*, *Newsweek* and *Parade*.

"There are a lot of Florida things not told yet on film," Belleville says. "We have a number of ideas rolling around in our heads, including an up-close look at the Everglades.

"Not many people could experience first-hand what we are able to do through film."

In Orlando, the documentary will premier on WCEU (Daytona Beach) at 8 p.m. on Oct. 17 and on WMFE (Orlando) at 6 p.m. on Oct. 19.

LMG set for convention season

LMG of Orlando has begun a major purchasing phase in preparation for what President Les Goldberg anticipates will be increased demand during the fourth quarter.

Hardware purchases during the past 30 days total more than \$500,000, he says.

"One of the benefits of being hardware rich is that we are able to supply and support our customers without having to go elsewhere for equipment," Goldberg says.

LMG has provided multimedia ser-

vices for some of the world's largest convention and meeting venues.

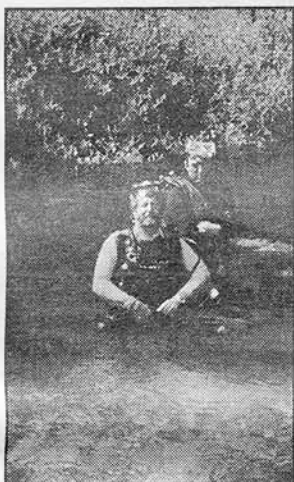
Recent projects include providing three 22.5-by-30-foot seamless screens and computer graphics for Tupperware Corp.'s Jubilee, and providing a multi-camera system at the Disney Institute when the Olympic basketball Dream Team practiced there in preparation for the Summer Games.

Soundelux wins for audio books

Four audio books produced by Soundelux Audio Publishing received Best Audio of 1995 awards by *Publishers Weekly*.

The winners included: *Russell Baker's Book of American Humor* — Best Humor, *The Best of Car Talk* — Best Non-Fiction, *The Discipline of Market Leaders* — Best Business and *Willie Nelson-My Favorite Louis L'Amour* — Best Western.

In other Soundelux news, the company's Signet Sound has been mixing major film music projects, including scores for *Independence Day*, *Eraser*, *Cable Guy* and *The Relic*.



Filmmakers Bill Belleville, Bob Giguere explore river.

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