

**St. Johns
Documentary
Coming to PBS in
October**



A 30-minute film that retraces William Bartram's 18th-century journey up the St. Johns River will be broadcast state-wide on affiliate PBS stations in Florida during the third week in October. Co-produced and written by FOWR board member Bill Belleville, the film follows Bill's own two-week journey by boat, kayak

and scuba diving gear on the St. Johns. During the trip, Bill meets with several local conservationists, including FOWR co-founder Fred Harden and Florida Audubon Society president Clay Henderson.

Included as part of the prestigious Florida Crossroads series, "**In Search of Xanadu**" will premier locally on WCEU, Channel 15, at 8 p.m. on Oct. 17, and WMFE, Channel 24, at 6 p.m. on Oct. 19.

The film, named for the Coleridge lyric inspired by Bartram's evocative description of Florida springs, searches for—and often finds—the nuances the pioneer naturalist and adventurer once encountered here. Often, they are the same signs of natural history and discovery one can find on related ecological systems, like the Wekiva. To do so, Bill explores creeks by kayaks, dives dark springs at the bottom of the St. Johns, and

penetrates spring-cave systems along the river.

Co-producer Bob Giguere of WMFE-TV also provided underwater cinematography from the cave systems, while topside footage was shot by a Florida Public TV camera crew.

Bill meets up with Fred not far from the mouth of the Wekiva at the ruins of the Beresford Plantation, where Bartram once took shelter during a storm on the river. Coincidentally, Fred is also planning his own Bartram voyage up the St. Johns later this spring, using a sailboat.

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