

Bill Belleville Awarded MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS AWARD



Bill Belleville, winner of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award

Bill Belleville was awarded the MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS AWARD at the 22nd annual Florida Lakes Management Society Conference, June 2011. The MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS AWARD is given to individuals in the media who report on aquatic resource issues. This award is named in honor of Marjorie Stoneman Douglas who authored the book "Everglades: River of Grass", founded the Friends of the Everglades and who has been environmentally active in south Florida.

Mr. Belleville is an award-winning environmental writer and documentary filmmaker. He is the author of *River of Lakes*, a cultural, geological and environmental trip down the St. John's River. He has produced a documentary film, *In Marjorie's Wake*, which recounts Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' trip down the St. John's River.

His regionally relevant essays and books include "Salvaging the Real Florida: Lost & Found in the State of Dreams", "Losing it All to Sprawl: How Progress Ate my Cracker Landscape", "Images from the St. Johns Region", and "Along the Wekiva" co-authored with Jim Robison on behalf of the Friends of the Wekiva River. Belleville's featured articles have appeared in Oxford America, Salon.com, Sports Afield, Sierra, Audobon, Fast Company and the New York Times Syndicate, among others. His documentaries & commentary include "The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park: Put Another Coral Polyp on the Barbee, Mate", "Nicaragua's Miskito Coast: Turtles or Turmoil?", "The Florida Keys: Can Margaritaville Manage a Marine Sanctuary?", "Environmental Notebook", NPR'S "LIVING ON EARTH", and "Manatees & Blue Spring". He has worked as a writer/researcher on several Discovery Channel expeditions to Latin America, and has also co-produced and scripted three Florida PBS documentaries, all of which won national awards. He has been an invited guest lecturer at colleges and universities throughout Florida.

Belleville, who has been hailed as a modern day William Bartram, hiked, dived or otherwise examined the entire length of the St. John's, from its beginning just northeast of Lake Okeechobee to the mouth of the river in Mayport. In Belleville's highly acclaimed book, *River of Lakes*, was hailed by the Miami Herald as the "definitive book" on the St. John's River, his love for the river is evident as he spins tails about the earliest settlers and the people who live and work.