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NH author enjoys fishing on the fly

By GEORGE PELLETIER
Correspondent

"Granite Lines" by Jim Norton; www.catawbapublishing.com; 205 pages; paperback; \$18.95.

The great thing about fishing, author Jim Norton said, is, "You don't need a tee time to fish."

As Norton discussed, with the advent of technology and a tippy economy, fishing is affordable, and here in New Hampshire, it's available as close as 10 or 15 miles from where you live — anywhere you live.

"There was a study done by New Hampshire Fish and Game, and most people want to fish within 30 or 40 minutes of where they lived," Norton said. "But you can fish much closer to your home than that. No matter where you are. And you can fish for half an hour, or you can fish all day."

Norton knows a thing or two about the lure of fishing. A member of the New Hampshire River Guide Service, he has written a monthly column for an area newspaper for almost 20 years, as well as articles for several publications and magazines.

For his book "Granite Lines," he culled those columns and has included new fictional short stories for the book. He is a frequent speaker at shows, clubs and events throughout New England and conducts fly-tying and fly-fishing seminars.

No newbie to the sport, Norton said one of his favorite spots to fish is the Androscoggin River.

"I enjoy it so much there because it has all different types of water," he said. "Rapids, slow water, et cetera, but you get the chance to fish all different types of water and it is a fairly large river."

Norton added that the Androscoggin doesn't present any specific types of challenges different from any other river, but that he prefers the scenery there.

A seasoned linesman, Norton shares a few tricks of the trade in his book.

"I always look for two things: What's the flow of the river — most of the rivers have U.S. Geological Service Gauges on them so you can check what the flow of the river is before you go in, and you will find that a lot of people will go someplace and then they'll find out that the flow is too high to wade or even get a drift boat on."

The second is temperature. "Trout, for example, feed within a certain range, and when the water gets to be about 70 degrees, it gets very difficult fishing for trout, and they have a hard time staying in survival mode," he said.

Norton further explained that if exposed to 70 degrees for a long period, brook trout will die.

"They can't survive multiple days," he said, "so they have to find pools of water — springs in a river or a tributary coming in that might have colder water."

His fundamental piece of advice is as simple as walking — after the fact.

"I always tell people fish water before they walk in it," he said. "Fish can be much closer than people think they are. You'll see people get in and wade halfway out in a stream or a river."

Norton said if he's coming down a river in a boat, he'll fish as close to the bank as possible.

"And typically, when people do wade out as far as they can go, they've basically walked through a good part of water," he said. "So, it's always fish first and walk second. I try to tell people that before we go out."

Like most enthusiasts, at a certain point, the hobby alchemized into a profession.

"I've been guiding eight years, but I always used to do little trips going back over 25 years," said Norton, who lists the Bull Salmon Club and Trout Unlimited as organizations with which he has been involved.

"With the latter, I'd make the reservation, and we'd get a lot of food," he said. "And I had a chance to get a drift boat, which is great, except you need to be on the oars. The only time

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Nashua exposure



A&E
Boston stand-in
Nashuan films part of Beantown movie in Gate City | D-7

Staff photos by BOB HAMMERSTROM

Actors and re-enactors gather for instructions before filming a scene near a tall stand of pines during an independent film shoot July 15 at Greeley Park in Nashua.

Part of Nashuan's independent movie filmed in Greeley Park

By CELIA NISSEN
Staff Writer

I've never been in a play, and I got a B in speech class. So, when director Brian Turk asked me if I wanted to be in his latest independent film, "Lost in Boston," I was caught off guard.

I was only there to write a story about the filming going on at Greeley Park. But before I knew what was happening, I had uttered "yes" and was making my film debut.

Deborah Batterby has spent the summer attending events and learning from her boyfriend, a Revolutionary War re-enactor. She outfitted me in a shift, petticoat and apron. She explained that since the shift was considered underwear at the time, it needed to be covered up. To conceal the shift, a heavy woolen cape completed the outfit on the hot July day.

In full disclosure, I don't think I'll win an Oscar. I think I was in one shot, in which I pretended to talk to



Re-enactor Ralph Pompeo from the New England Patriot's End Zone Militia takes a break during the film shoot.

Batterby and then turned to follow the action. But experiencing the hot sun beneath the layered costume and watching the militia "forward

march, double time!" was good enough for me.

The real stars of "Lost in Boston" have much more talent than I do.

Maria Ciampa, of East Boston, who plays the female lead, Lucia, is a renowned improvisational comedian in Boston. She teaches workshops and has a Sunday night show at ImprovBoston, has won countless awards and participates in festivals such as the Plymouth Rock Comedy Festival, where she advanced to the finals.

Steve Duval, of Mansfield, Mass., who plays the male lead, Jed, made his film debut in Turk's previous film, "Boston Psychiatric." He began his acting career in community theater, where he starred in productions such as "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "Damn Yankees."

Lucia is a strategic planner who looks forward to the future. Jed, on the other hand, lives in the past. He gives historical tours of Boston that, because of his geeky fascination with history, aren't nearly as popular as the always-booked Boston Duck Tours. After being ditched by a friend, Lucia ends

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Pelletier

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you can fish is when you have it anchored, basically.

"After getting the boat, I figured I might as well get my guide's license. That was an opportunity for me to spend more time out on the water."

Norton said technology has changed the most about the sport of fishing.

"On lakes, people are using duck and fish finders, and you'll even see people using them on rivers so that they know where the fish are," he said. "It used to be you'd have to try to figure out where the fish are swimming; that's no longer a secret. People can get right to where the fish are."

While electronic finding gizmos pertain primarily to lakes and ponds, Norton said that technology can be used on a river, too.

"The equipment that people use has really improved over the years," he said. "It's astounding."

"Another part of the equation is that people used to fish in the spring and the fall. Now they can fish year round because they have depth finders and they know exactly where the fish are."

"And it doesn't make any difference if it's a guide or someone that has spent a lifetime trying to figure such a thing out. Now, you can go into an electronic store and pick up the equipment and fish the first time you go out. So, I think that's putting a lot of pressure on the fish."

For the uninitiated, fish finders work by sonar and echoes and can tell you how deep a body of water is.

"It can essentially show you the contour of where the fish are and how big they are," he said. "Or, it will show you how many feet down they are. Let's say they're down 60 feet. People that fish have riggers so they can set their line to the depth that the fish are. That's where technology has made a major impact in the sport."

Norton is nostalgic about fishing.

"When I was a kid, all kids fished," he said. "Fishing was something that almost everybody did. You'd get on your bike with your fishing rod and go off to a stream or a river or whatever."

"That's what kids used to do. They'd play baseball and they'd fish."

Movie | Film is being produced on small, \$200,000 budget

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up on Jed's tour and hilarity ensues as they find themselves parading around Boston.

Turk, of Nashua, filmed the last scene at Greeley Park on July 15. After swimming across the Charles and stealing costumes, Lucia and Jed end up in the middle of a Revolutionary War re-enactment and accidentally start the re-enactment of the battle on Lexington Green with the "shot heard 'round the world."

The faux battle featured actors from the 1st New Hampshire Regiment and the End Zone Militia, two locally based Revolutionary War re-enactment groups.

"First New Hampshire was one of three regiments from New Hampshire to serve in the Continental Army in the American Revolution," said Bruce Batten, a member of the regiment.

According to the website www.firstnhregiment.com, the current regiment includes battalion troops, the Fife and Drum Music Company, camp followers and an artillery company manning a reproduction 3-pound field cannon.

The group travels all over the East Coast teaching civilians about the regiment's history. It participates in parades, honor guards, encampments and battle re-enactments.

When the regiment began in 1775, the unit consisted of 800 men.

"Throughout the war, the unit performed gallantly, serving with honor at Bunker Hill, Canada, Princeton, Saratoga, Valley Forge, Monmouth, in the expedition against the Iroquois, at Yorktown, and even crossed the Delaware with Washington in the attack on Trenton," the regiment's website says. "They were one of the last units disbanded after the British evacuated New York City in 1783. The unit itself served for a period of eight years and eight months, making it the longest serving unit in the war."



Staff photo by BOB HAMMERSTROM

Re-enactors from Patriots' End Zone Militia join the 1st New Hampshire to act in an independent film shoot July 15 at Greeley Park.

Women such as Batterby spend their time as re-enactors performing traditional 18th-century tasks such as sewing, cooking and other crafts. The goal of the regiment is to learn about American history and teach it to others. Adults and children can interact with the regiment and learn about life as it may have been in 1775.

The End Zone Militia is similar in its goal. The group is composed of members from other re-enactment groups. The militia attends Patriots and Revolution games at Gillette Stadium, where they stand on the sidelines and fire a salute after the home team scores. They also perform honor guard at sporting events at Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park and Campanelli Stadium in Brockton, Mass.

"Men in the End Zone Militia re-enact individuals from all walks of life from the 18th-century period," says the End Zone Militia's website, www.endzonemilitia.com. "For example, some are blacksmiths while others are farmers. Another might be a surgeon."

"These people from different class all participated in the formation of the United States of America, and End Zone Militia's presence provides the public with living history and the nation with a representation of New England's past."

Like the First New Hampshire Regiment, the End Zone Militia sees their work as a learning tool.

This isn't the first time Turk has decided to film in Nashua - street scenes from "Boston Psychiatric" were filmed in

Nashua, as well. Although both films take place in Boston, he uses Nashua for the few scenes that can be replicated elsewhere.

"Getting permission to film here was less difficult than the Lexington Green," Turk said. "Also, there is too much traffic noise around the Lexington Green these days. Greeley Park has a nice, quiet section, with just the tree line and green area that I needed to give the audience a better feeling of how the Green was in 1776."

The film is being produced on a small, \$200,000 budget. Turk hopes to submit the film to the Sundance Film Festival and gain limited theater release or release to DVD or Netflix.

Dealing with such a small

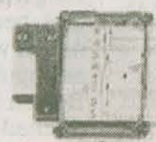
budget can be hard.

"The most expensive part of the film is the postproduction phase, which starts after all filming is completed," Turk said. "You're editing and cutting all the scenes into a smoothly crafted movie that folks would love to see. Color correction, adjusting lighting, sound and voice-overs. Each scene takes hours to get just right."

"I'm lucky to have an excellent team of editors led by Danielle Statuto and Jimmy Craig."

Because of scheduling around actors' availability, Turk has filmed 10 days of a 30-day schedule so far. He hopes to be finished filming in November.

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GraniteGeek

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