

It's Brevard's Fault

June 30

Distance: 16 miles

Obstacles/Rapids: Mile 16 McIntosh Reserve Shoals—The take out for this day is at the top of this set of shoals which runs a jagged line across the width of the river. When you see the observation platform on the high bluff at river right, that's your sign to begin preparing to find the take out. You'll need to maneuver through some boulder fields on moving water as the river enters the shoal area. Move to river right (avoid going river left here) There is a small deadfall tree hanging out from river right about 20 yards upstream from the main shoals. The best take out is on a low bank at the mouth of a tiny creek in the eddy below the deadfall. If you go through the shoals, don't worry, you can paddle back upstream to suitable (but not ideal) take outs.

Restroom Facilities: Mile 0 North Georgia Turf Company
Mile 11 Whitesburg Bridge Boat Ramp
Mile 16 McIntosh Reserve

Points of Interest: **Mile 3**—White Oak Creek and Bluffs—This South Fulton County tributary empties into the river just upstream from some impressive bluffs on river left. These bluffs, and others you've seen and will see, are a result of the Brevard Fault—the 100-mile long fault line which the Chattahoochee follows through the Georgia Piedmont. You'll notice many plant species common to the mountains along these bluffs such as mountain laurel and rhododendron.

Mile 5—Unnamed Island—The split in the river that forms this long narrow island can be easily mistaken for a creek entering at river left. In the past, the island has been planted with row crops, and if water levels permit, you can run the small channel on the left side of the island and see the ford where the local landowner crosses with farm equipment to the island. Islands on the river are privately owned.

Mile 9—Snake Creek Hunting Club—Located at the mouth of Snake Creek, this private facility holds regular hunting and fishing activities on the river and adjoining property, harkening back to the Chattahoochee's good 'ole days, during the 1940s and 50s when the river still ran relatively clean. In those days, "fish camps" were common along this stretch of river. These camps were social clubs as much as fishing spots. Some held pool tables, jukeboxes, slot machines and other forms of entertainment unrelated to fish.

Mile 10—Old Carrollton Bridge—The decaying remains of the Old Carrollton Bridge mark this historic river crossing that once linked the cross-river towns Carrollton and Newnan.

Mile 12—Plant Yates—One of three Georgia Power coal-fired electric generating facilities on the Upper Chattahoochee. You passed Plant McDonough in Atlanta and tomorrow, you'll pass Plant Wansley. Georgia Power's coal-fired facilities account for about 75 percent of Georgia Power's generating capacity. Nuclear facilities account for about 22 percent of the company's capacity while hydro-facilities contribute about 3 percent. Water is withdrawn from the river and is used to condense the steam used in the generating process back into water.

Mile 16—McIntosh Reserve—This is the site of William McIntosh's plantation which he developed around 1817, naming it Lockchau Talofau (Acorn Bluff). The plantation was worked by 72 slaves and McIntosh's home served as a tavern and inn, owing to its location on the Federal Road. As a leader in the Creek nation, McIntosh signed the Treaty of Indian Springs which relinquished Creek lands in Georgia to the U.S. government. This did not sit well with his fellow tribesmen. On April 30, 1825, 200 Creeks set fire to his plantation and killed McIntosh. The murder of McIntosh was extremely dramatic and was witnessed by many because high waters on the Chattahoochee had kept travelers holed up at the Inn, awaiting an easier river crossing. After his death, his wife Peggy complained in the *Cherokee Advocate* that, "I do not blame the Creeks, the Creeks treat me well, the Cherokees treat me well--it was by Government my husband lost his life--Government say to my husband 'Go Arkansas, go to Arkansas, and you will be better off.' My husband wished to please the Government--my house is burned, myself and my children run--my children naked--no bread--one blanket, is all--like some stray dog, I suffer; with one blanket I cover my three children and myself--the Government say 'Go!' The Indians kill him; between two fires my husband dies; I wander--Government does not feed me--Creek does not feed me--no home, no bread, nothing! nothing! Till Gen. Ware gives me a home, I suffer like some stray Indian dog." McIntosh's gravesite is located in the park.

Narrative: Like yesterday's paddle, the river continues to recover from its journey through Metro Atlanta. Much of the land through which the Chattahoochee passes in South Fulton, Carroll and Coweta counties remains rural, and some local citizens are working to keep it that way. The Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy is a nonprofit organization working to implement a sustainable land use plan that protects the ecological health and quality of life in a 65,000 acre area of south Fulton, northwestern Coweta, eastern Carroll and eastern Douglas counties. The Hill Country land use plan adopted in 2003 attempts to manage development by concentrating it in areas the community has designated for development.

