that it would shutter Unit 3 at the plant. Requirements to comply with new environmental regulations prompted Georgia Power in

Radium, a radioactive element that in the early 1900s was believed to have healing powers, is found in traces in one of Georgia's Seven Natural Wonders. The largest spring in Georgia, it issues forth 70,000 gallons per minute at a steady 68 degrees Fahrenheit. The conduit for shedding water from surrounding land extends nearly six miles to the Marine Corps Ditch. The practice dates back to the early 20th century when the state approved aid (along with some 200 state convicts leased to the railroad company) and two years later the line was completed to Albany.

Mile 1.7—Brunswick-Albany Railroad—This bridge originally carried in 1871 the Brunswick and Albany Railroad, a road that was first charted in 1835. Construction of the road was slow, however, and by the time of the Civil War, the line extended just 60 miles west from Brunswick. In 1863, the Confederate government seized the railroad and took up the tracks for reuse in more militarily vital areas. The road languished until 1869 when the state approved aid (along with some 200 state convicts leased to the railroad company) and two years later the line was completed to Albany.

Mile 1.9—Albany Riverfront & Flint River Bridges—In 1858, Albany founder, Nelson Tift, commissioned the construction a wooden covered bridge by renowned builder and freed slave Horace King. While the bridge washed away in a flood the “Bridge House” (also built by King in 1858) still stands. The Bridge includes an archway through the center of the first floor that served as a tollhouse for the bridge. The second floor was a theater known as “Tift’s Hall.” Tift spared no expense in its appointment, hiring New York artists to paint murals on the walls. In the mid-1800s it was a showplace, hosting many performances and local social events. Today, it houses the Albany Convention & Visitor’s Bureau and serves as the centerpiece of a six-acre riverfront park. The park includes walking trails, playgrounds, river access and the Ray Charles Plaza (a life-size sculpture of the Albany native).

Mile 2.5—1994 Flood and Oakview and Riverside Cemetery—In July 1994 when Tropical Storm Alberto parked over Georgia and dumped 27 inches of rain over four days, it set in motion the most devastating flood the Flint has known. The Crisp County Power Dam holding back Lake Blackshear was breached. The Flint River Hydro Dam at Lake Chehaw was completely submerged and a wall of water descended on Albany. The flood displaced 23,000 residents and covered 23 square miles of Dougherty County as the river crested at 43 feet. The river’s normal height for July is around four feet. The floodwaters spilled into Albany’s riverfront cemeteries and forced more than 400 caskets out of the ground. Caskets that could be contained in the cemetery were tied to fences; others drifted down river as far as Newton. Ultimately, 96 bodies un-earthed during the flood were never identified. These unknowns were re-interred in a special area of the cemeteries that commemorates the great flood of ’94.

Mile 3.3—Viola Bend—The name for this sharp turn in the river honors the memory of the steamboat, Viola. In 1845, Captain Van Vechten left Albany in the two-year-old steamer bound for Apalachicola, Florida with a load of more than 1,000 bales of cotton. At this bend, the ship ran into a rock ledge and was destroyed. More than half the cotton was lost or destroyed.

Mile 3.9—Cameleon Cave—Along the river bed here is the entrance to an underwater cave—one of many along the Flint that contribute water from the Floridan aquifer. Flint Riverkeeper board member Paul DeLoach and his cave diving colleagues explored this cave and found that it extends 1500 feet and drops some 60 feet below the surface of the river.

Mile 4.6—The Blowhole—This spring issues forth water from the bottom of the river. Careful exploration of the area will yield fossils that contribute water from the Floridan aquifer. Flint Riverkeeper board member Paul DeLoach and his cave diving colleagues explored this cave and found that it extends 1500 feet and drops some 60 feet below the surface of the river.

Mile 4.9—Marine Corps Ditch & Draining of Wetlands—“nothing herein contained shall be so construed to prevent the erection of dams for milling and manufacturing purposes,” and thus a dam came to be built on Kinchafoonee. These lyrical names still echo through the region’s culture. The Kinchafoonee Cowboys is a well-known hony-tonk band from the area and Leesburg’s Luke Bryan, included an ode to fishing, boating, four-wheeling and drinking called “Muckafoonee Creek Water” on his 2011 album Tailgates and Tanlines.

Mile 0.2—Muckafoonee Creek—A short distance up this creek on river right is the 1906 dam that created “Lake Worth.” Today, the dam serves as an overflow spillway for the larger dam on the Flint. This oddly named waterway is a combination of two even more oddly named creeks: Kinchafoonee and Muckalee creeks. The Creek Indian word Kinchafoonee is believed to have meant “Mortar NutsHELLs” while Muckalee, recorded the Indian Agent Benjamin Hawkins, meant “Pour on me.” While this is the site of one of the first hydro-power dams in South Georgia, the Georgia General Assembly had earlier established laws specifically protecting Kinchafoonee Creek from obstructions that would prevent fish passage. The 1876 law prohibited the construction of any “dam, trap, net, seine or other device for catching fish, unless the channel is left for six feet.” There was, of course, a major loophole in the law: “nothing herein contained shall be so construed to prevent the erection of dams for milling and manufacturing purposes,” and thus a dam came to be built on Kinchafoonee. These lyrical names still echo through the region’s culture. The Kinchafoonee Cowboys is a well-known hony-tonk band from the area and Leesburg’s Luke Bryan, included an ode to fishing, boating, four-wheeling and drinking called “Muckafoonee Creek Water” on his 2011 album Tailgates and Tanlines.

Restroom Facilities:

| Mile 0 | Radium Springs Boat Ramp |
| Mile 4.7 | Mitchell County Landing |
| Mile 14 | Flint River Hydro Dam |

Points of Interest:

- **Mile 2.5—Radium Springs**
  - A radioactive spring located here is one of Georgia’s Seven Natural Wonders. Known for its healing properties, it is situated along the west bank of the river. This is a true blue hole beauty.

- **Mile 8.5—Nonami Plantation**
  - From this spot downstream for the next four miles, this plantation owned by media mogul Tom Cusick is the largest reforested plant in the country with more than two million acres. Nonami is said to have gotten its name from Cousin’s wife Ann who dubbed it “Nonami” because the couple could never settle on a name. The Turner Foundation is a supporter of Georgia River Network and many other river protection groups in Georgia.

- **Mile 11.7—Wilson Blue Spring**
  - On river right up a narrow slough you’ll find this spring.

- **Mile 13.4—Riverbend Spring**
  - Blink and you’ll miss this spring pool nestled around the roots of a majestic cypress along the west bank of the river. This is a true blue hole beauty.
“Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.”

—Ezekiel 47:9

Albany Allemande

OCT. 10 LEGEND
Launch Site/Take Out
Pit Stop
Point of Interest
Shoals
Limestone Limbo– Paddle Georgia 2014 Fall Float on the Flint  
Oct. 11—Flint River

Distance: 22 miles  
Starting Elevation: 151 feet Lat: 31.4388°N Lon: 84.1423°W  
Ending Elevation: 137 feet Lat: 31.3025°N Lon: 84.3399°W

Restroom Facilities:  
Mile 0  
Mile 14.7  
Mile 21.5  
Mitchell County Landing  
Pineland Plantation Boat Ramp  
Rocky Bend Flint River Retreat

Points of Interest:  
Mile 1—Punk’s Landing—Our launch site for the day is a Mitchell County park with camping and picnic areas. Locally, it is known as “Punk’s Landing.” Before the devastating floods that hit the area in the 1980s, a man known as “Punk” operated a bait shop here, and though the bait shop is long gone, the name remains.

Mile 0.4—The Wall Spring—Issuing forth from a limestone bluff on river right here is this sptly named spring.

Mile 1.9—Red Bluff—One thing about the Flint, those who mapped and named the river’s features weren’t too creative. There are three Horseshoe Bends identified on official U.S. Geological Survey maps and two Red Bluffs. This is the first one. A row of houses is perched precariously at the brow of this bluff, and undoubtedly, some day the river will claim those structures. While bank erosion is a natural process it can be accelerated by land use practices, especially the removal of streambank vegetation.

Mile 2.9—The Vine Spring—One of some 20 springs between Albany and Bainbridge, The Vine feeds water from the Floridan aquifer, keeping the Flint flowing during times of drought. During these periods, inputs from the river’s springs can increase the river’s flow by 50 percent. A quick look at a map of the Lower Flint illustrates the importance of these springs. Between Albany and Bainbridge—a distance of some 80 miles—just six creeks enter the river. On the Upper Flint, you’ll find six tributaries in as few as ten river miles.

Mile 1.1—Buzzard Roost Island—There are at least two Buzzard Roost Islands in Georgia (another is located on the Chattahoochee), but there are nouzzards. Buzzards are found only in Europe and Asia. There, “buzzard” is the correct common name for several species of hawks—but they look nothing like our vultures. Early English explorers and settlers of the New World attached the name “buzzard” to North American turkey and black vultures and the moniker stuck. Vultures, both turkey and black, are common along the Flint and are known to roost in large colonies. In flight the two can be distinguished by their wings. Blacks have black wings with white tips while turkeys have two-toned wings. Given that they feed on rotting animal flesh, you’d think a poor sense of smell would be beneficial, but, in fact, they have an excellent sense of smell which helps them locate their odiferous dinners.

Mile 10.2—Prosser’s Island—The Flint’s clear water and limestone bottom make it easy, with scuba or snorkeling gear, to locate arrowheads and other antiquities on the river bed; Prosser Island and the surrounding area have long been a popular destination for relic hunters. The Flint’s course through 56-million-year-old Ocala limestone provides the opportunity to see countless fossils sealed in the ancient sedimentary rock. In 2012, the fossilized remains of a prehistoric whale were found along the river’s edge near Albany. The Basilosaurus swam the ocean some 35 million years ago (remember South Georgia was once completely submerged!) and measured 50-70 feet long. A team from Georgia Southern University worked to excavate the fossil in 2013, but before they could complete their work and remove the relic for study and display, looters made off with a portion of the specimen. The removal of artifacts (including arrowheads) from Georgia’s navigable rivers without a permit is prohibited.

Mile 11.5—Culpepper Spring—Located on the east bank of the river.

Mile 13.4—Double Springs, Blind Cave Salamanders & Albino Crayfish—Located on the west bank of the river flowing out of a crevice in the limestone bluff, the spring has been explored by cave diver Paul DeLoach who described a 2011 dive in the spring: “As you proceed into the cave some 250 ft there is a karst window overhead from which you can see surface light. There is a small depression at the surface and a small surface pool. After passing under this feature the cave floor begins to drop from 40 feet to 70 feet, and then again to only 20 ft. There then takes an easterly turn and goes beneath the Flint River, continues into Mitchell County and changes from a stream channel to one with high vaulted ceilings and fissures.” On this same dive, his partner Guy Bryant described a catfish more than three feet in length. In addition to harboring common fish, this underwater world is home to two unique creatures—the Georgia Blind Cave Salamander and the Dougherty Plain Cave Crayfish. The salamanders have no eyes and little pigment, rendering them pinkish white and somewhat iridescent. They sport long, red external gills behind a broad head and grow to lengths of up to three inches. Beyond that, we know nothing of the creature’s eating, reproductive or survival habits—after all, only a handful of individuals have ever seen them in their natural habitat. The crayfishes are equally mysterious. They have a set of pigmentless eyes, and antennae twice as long as their slender, white, two-inch-long body. Both might have remained undiscovered had we not started taping the Florida aquifer. The salamander was first found in 1939 when an engineer with Dougherty County’s water system lifted one out of a 200-foot well. The crayfish was discovered two years later—also in a well.

Mile 14.7—Pineland Plantation & Albany Quail Project—Known as one of the premier quail hunting preserves in the region, Pineland spans some 20,000 acres of fields and pine forests; it is also home to the Albany Quail Project, a 21-year-old quail management research and monitoring program aimed at restoring wild quail populations. Between 1996 and 2006, the project radio tracked more than 8,000 wild bobwhite quails, and with this research, introduced new management techniques that have resulted in steady increases in the region’s quail population—good news for the quail and hunters. During the later half of the 20th century habitat loss from intensive agriculture precipitated an 85 percent decline in quail populations from 1960 levels.

Mile 2.0—Newton—To the west of the river here is Newton. During the 1994 flood, the town was inundated and flashfloodwaters reached nearly to the second floor of the Baker County Courthouse. After the devastation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency funded the acquisition and demolition of 20 homes and 19 businesses. Baker County has since moved its offices out of the old courthouse to higher ground, closing a chapter in an interesting history of the circa 1900 building. Its architect, J.W. Golucke, died in the courthouse in 1907 after being imprisoned on charges of misappropriating funds for its construction.

Mile 2.0—Flin River Mussels—Opposite the boat ramp here is a location popular with malacologists—scientists who study mollusks. The Flint was the historic home to 29 mussel species; today only 22 species remain, including the federally protected Fat Threeridge, Purple Bankclimber, Shiny-rayed Pocketbook, Gulf Moccasinshell, Oval Pigtoe and Southern Creekmussel. Sedentary filter feeders, mussels are considered a “canary in the coal mine” for our rivers as they are often the first species to feel the effects of pollution. The southeast is the center of global mussel diversity, and historically 300 species of mussels could be found here. Unfortunately, seven percent of those mussels are now considered extinct and another 40 percent are considered endangered or threatened. Bad news for the mussels and bad news for us. Mussels play an important role in filtering pollution from the water, helping keep our rivers and streams clean.
“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.”

—John Muir
Woodruff managed the land to maintain longleaf pine and wiregrass habitat—a habitat that once covered much of the southeast. After
Mile 13.5—Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center—
recreational boaters in Georgia.
and hard against the west bank, creating a massive eddy on the east bank where the river’s energy dissipates, and with it, sediment,
illegal for you to paddle up it. It is the site of a landmark legal decision in the 1990s that reduced stream and river access for
pronounced “Itch-a-way Notch-a-way” that runs through the heart of the Jones Center property. Unfortunately, it is also currently
vessels carried as many as 600 bales of cotton.
Because the Flint cuts a path through Ocala limestone, most of the river’s banks are armored and
Mile 12—Big Sandbar—
a white throat patch. Their call is distinctive and lends them their name “bob-white.”
travel in packs of two or more families called “coveys.” They are reddish-brown in color, sporting a white stripe above their eyes and
ground-dwelling, it stands about six inches tall and weighs in at about seven ounces. As this plantation’s name suggests, quails tend to
diminished. While steamers were the primary means of moving cotton, “cotton boxes” were also employed. These large motor-less
quail hunting “plantations.” The fowl that supports all these operations is Georgia’s state game bird. Chicken-like in appearance and
carrying it. During the 2014 legislative session, measures were adopted that greatly limit the scope of this project to specific creeks
feeding the Flint and the flow augmentation can only be used to provide water for federally protected species—namely mussels that
live in these creeks.

Mile 1—Flint River Water Supply Experiment—Due west of this location, in the Elmodel Wildlife Management Area, the
state is conducting an experiment that it originally hoped would solve low-flow issues on the Flint and its tributaries and remedy
metro Atlanta’s growing demand for water. The project involves drilling wells and pumping water from the Floridan aquifer (the
aquifer that feeds the Flint and its tributaries) into deeper aquifers thousands of feet underground to “store” the water so that during
periods of drought that same water can be pumped back into the Flint. The project, as originally envisioned, would produce water to
meet minimum flow requirements at the Florida state line where the Flint and Chattahoochee meet to form the Apalachicola. This, in
turn, would allow metro Atlanta to pump more water from the Chattahoochee River. The cost of the project: $900 million to $1.2
billion to be paid for by taxpayers and/or metro Atlanta water customers. Aquifer storage and recovery, as the process is called, has
never been successfully executed in Georgia. If this multi-million-dollar scheme sounds like a boondoggle, just follow the money. Its
original proponents were a politically-connected consulting firm headed by former Department of Natural Resources Commissioner
Joe Tanner. The firm, using the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission as a conduit, applied for and received a $4.6 grant from Gov.
Nathan Deal’s Water Supply Program to conduct this experiment, despite the fact that the state agency evaluating potential water
supply projects gave it “zero” on a scale of 100 when scoring the project for “need.” Joe Tanner & Associates was a major contributor
to Gov. Deal’s 2010 gubernatorial campaign. Since then, Joe Tanner & Associates has been dropped from the project and the state is
running it. During the 2014 legislative session, measures were adopted that greatly limit the scope of this project to specific creeks
feeding the Flint and the flow augmentation can only be used to provide water for federally protected species—namely mussels that
live in these creeks.

Mile 7.7—Covey Rise Plantation & Bobwhite Quail—On river left here is our pit stop and another of the Flint’s many
quail hunting “plantations.” The fowl that supports all these operations is Georgia’s state game bird. Chicken-like in appearance and
ground-dwelling, it stands about six inches tall and weighs in at about seven ounces. As this plantation’s name suggests, quails tend to
travel in packs of two or more families called “coveys.” They are reddish-brown in color, sporting a white stripe above their eyes and
a white throat patch. Their call is distinctive and lends them their name “bob-white.”

Mile 12—Big Sandbar—Because the Flint cuts a path through Ocala limestone, most of the river’s banks are armored and
sandbars are infrequent, but this monstrous bar on river left provides a great study in river “energy.” Here, the Flint’s flow presses fast
and hard against the west bank, creating a massive eddy on the east bank where the river’s energy dissipates, and with it, sediment,
carry by the flow falls out, creating the sandbar.

Mile 13.5—Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center—On river right here is this 29,000-acre outdoor laboratory that was
once the quail hunting reserve of Robert W. Woodruff, long-time chairman of the Coca-Cola Co. An avid outdoorsman, Woodruff
managed the land to maintain longleaf pine and wiregrass habitat—a habitat that once covered much of the southeast. After
Woodruff’s death in 1985, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation established the center and continues to fund its various research and
education projects. It is named for the senior vice-president of Coca-Cola and long-time associate of Woodruff.

Mile 14—Steamboat/Cotton Boat Ruins—Here, on river left, at low water levels, the remains of a river vessel more than 100-years-old can be seen. In the 1800s, there were dozens of steamboat landings on the Flint - from its mouth at the Chattahoochee to Albany. Cotton from nearby farms was brought to these landings and shipped down river destined for the Port of Apalachicola on the Gulf of Mexico. During that time, Apalachicola was the third busiest port on the Gulf (behind New Orleans and Mobile). The advent of railroads, which could transport cotton overland to Atlantic coast ports, the importance of the Flint as a commercial highway diminished. While steamers were the primary means of moving cotton, “cotton boxes” were also employed. These large motor-less vessels carried as many as 600 bales of cotton.

Mile 16.1—Ichawaynochaway Creek & Rights of Passage—On river right is this beautiful and beautifully-named creek
pronounced “Iitch-a-way Notch-a-way” that runs through the heart of the Jones Center property. Unfortunately, it is also currently
illegal for you to paddle up it. It is the site of a landmark legal decision in the 1990s that reduced stream and river access for
recreational boaters in Georgia. In the case, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled that property owners who own land on both sides of a
river or stream that is not deemed navigable may restrict access to that water body. A law adopted in 1863 provides the definition of
“navigable” as any stream “capable of transporting boats loaded with freight in the regular course of trade either for the whole or a
part of the year. The mere rafting of timber or the transportation of wood in small boats shall not make a stream navigable." In this legal
conflict, a local angler constructed a 16-foot-long, four-foot-wide Styrofoam and wood raft, loaded it with a goat, a bale of cotton, and
two passengers and then embarked on the creek. Unfortunately, for today’s paddlers this creative rouse failed to convince the justices, and thus, the 150-year-old law stands. In 1863, no one could have envisioned canoes, kayaks and rubber rafts or the commercial importance of paddlesports on local economies. River access advocates hope that in the future the right case will come along, making a legal “update” of the archaic law possible.

Mile 17.1—Hell’s Gate Shoals—This significant shoal has troubled river travelers since the 1800s when it earned its
devilish name. Tortuous boat channels and tricky currents were the bane of many a steamboat pilot here and this location got much
attention from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which blasted, dredged and channelized the river during the late 1800s with the goal of
creating a three-foot deep deep channel, 100-feet wide from the river’s mouth to Albany.

Mile 17.3—Norman’s Ferry—Our take out for the day is the site of Norman’s Ferry, a ferry which operated at this site from the
early1800s to the 1920s.
"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house."

—Nathaniel Hawthorne

Flint River Retreat

Flint River Water Supply Experiment

Sisters Islands & Hernando De Soto

Covey Rise Plantation & Bobwhite Quail

Ichawaynochoway Creek & Right of Passage

Norman's Ferry

Hell's Gate Shoals

Jones Center

Steamboat/Cotton Box Ruins

Hell's Gate Shoals

Horseshoe Bend

Steinway

Ichawaynochoway

Waltz

OCT. 12 LEGEND

Launch Site/Take Out

Pit Stop

Point of Interest

Shoals

GA 37

GA 200

GA 91

GA 200

GA 91

GA 97

To Camilla

To Bainbridge

Mitchell Co.

Baker Co.
Blue Hole Bop–Paddle Georgia 2014 Fall Float on the Flint  
Oct. 13—Flint River

Distance: 18 miles  
Starting Elevation: 137 feet Lat: 31.3094°N Lon: 84.3353°W  
Ending Elevation: 121 feet Lat: 30.9587°N Lon: 84.5997°W

Restroom Facilities:  
Mile 0: Hoggard Mill Rd. Boat Ramp  
Mile 7.2: County Line Boat Ramp  
Mile 17.8: Flint River Heights Road Boat Ramp

Points of Interest:  

Mile 6—Needle Eye Shoals & River “Improvements”—It is hard to fathom the lengths to which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers went in order to render the Flint navigable from Bainbridge to Albany, but the evidence can be seen on nearly every stretch of river. Anywhere you see narrow rock islands that constrict the flow of the river into a narrow channel you are seeing the fingerprints of the Corps. This is especially true at “Winding Shoals.” During the late 1800s, from this spot downstream for nearly a mile, the Corps worked to remedy this troublesome obstacle for steamboats. Here at Winding Shoals, in 1877, the Corps built 390 linear feet of rock dams, removed three snags, blasted ten times and removed 450 cubic yards of rock.

Mile 2.4—Crawford’s Point—A narrow rock island here marks the location of more handiwork by the Corps. In an 1877 report to Congress, the Corps boasted that the channel at Crawford’s Point had been transformed from a depth of 0 feet to a depth of four feet while the width of the channel had been expanded from 70 to 100 feet. They accomplished this by removing a “dry ledge” to widen the channel and by making 254 blasts of dynamite that enabled them to remove 1,198 cubic yards of rock, or approximately 4.8 million pounds of rock. That’s enough rock to fill a line of modern dump trucks that stretches for 1.4 miles!

Mile 4—Cow Access—For the next two miles, there are multiple locations where cattle have access to the river, creating denuded river banks pockled with manure that flows into the river with every rain event. Scenes like this are bad news for our rivers and the critters that live (and play) in them. Bacteria levels downstream increase, as do nutrient levels that can lead to oxygen-deprived water. The mud that spills through the channel can also affect fish swimming upstream. The impacts are also felt on the farm. When cattle congregate along river banks, their manure becomes concentrated rather than being spread over a larger pasture area, reducing the benefits of this natural fertilizer. Cattle can also perish when they become stuck in riverside mud or swept away in high water. No Georgia laws prohibit cattle access to streams.

Mile 5.5—Bovine Spring—Perhaps the biggest and most obvious spring that you’ll encounter on this seven-day journey, this spring spills out on river right, forming a large circular spring pool in the bank of the river. While this spring is obvious, caveat emptor Paul DeLoach reports that he has identified numerous springs by making use of infrared aerial photographs. During the winter, the Flint’s springs show up easily, as they flow at a constant 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mile 6—Needle Eye Shoal—At this approximate location during the early 1900s, the Corps of Engineers worked on a navigational obstacle dubbed “Needle Eye Shoal.” They must have done a bang up job; there is little here to suggest its existence.

Mile 6.3—Feral Hogs & Barbecue—During scouting trips, a group of feral hogs were spotted at this location on the east bank of the river. Prior to the arrival of the first New World explorers, there were no pigs in North America, but Hernando De Soto brought a herd of the animals along with him to feed his army. Of course, many escaped and today feral hogs, whose populations are concentrated in the Southeast, have become part of the lore of Georgia’s swamps and woodlands. Barbecued pork, smoked over native woods, and slathered in various sauces, is perhaps the most iconic of Southern foods. The Georgia General Assembly kicks off each of its sessions with a “Wild Hog Supper” that features wild-caught hogs from South Georgia—a tradition that dates back to 1962. However, the first documented pig feast in North America occurred during De Soto’s journey through the South.

Mile 7.2—Mitchell-Baker-Decatur County Line, Camilla Massacre & Boat Ramp—At river left is County Line Boat Ramp, so named because it sits just inside the Mitchell County line, where Mitchell, Baker and Decatur counties meet. With a population of 23,462, Mitchell County’s economy is driven by agriculture as it has been for nearly two centuries. It is also the site of what came to be known as the “Camilla Massacre,” a tragedy that illustrates the contentious politics of the South’s Reconstruction Era at the close of the Civil War. During military occupation of Georgia, 29 black men were elected to the General Assembly, but in early September 1868, white democrats voted to expel these members. This prompted Philip Joiner, one of those purged from the Assembly, to lead a 30-mile march from Albany to Camilla to attend a Republican political rally. As the group of about 300 “Freedmen” reached the courthouse square in Camilla, the county’s sheriff and a posse of townspeople opened fire. The crowd dispersed into surrounding woods and over the next several days, the sheriff systematically pursued them through the countryside, killing or wounding those who were back, 20 were killed and more than 30 wounded. No one was ever tried for the deaths of the Freedmen, and though the incident prompted the federal government to return Georgia to military rule, the Freedman’s Bureau, designed to assist former slaves in their transition, would cease to exist by 1872. After the Reconstruction Era, no black people were elected to Georgia’s General Assembly until 1962. Camilla publicly commemorated the victims of the massacre in 1998. On a lighter note, a Mitchell County history written in the 1930s makes note of several “Unusuals,” including the birth of a 25-pound baby, and the birth of two sets of twins to the same woman…in the same year—

Mile 9.4—Hog Parlor Spring—Keep your eyes peeled for a pair of springs along the east side of the river here.

Mile 12.6—Limestone’s Last Gasp—Here you’ll find some rock islands that signify the virtual end to the Flint’s course through Ocala limestone. From here to Bainbridge, the river widens and slows—the effects of Jim Woodruff Dam some 34 miles downstream. At the height of the growing season, these systems can suck up to two billion gallons of water a day from the river and the Florida aquifer—nearly four times the amount that the 15-county metro Atlanta area uses each day. In 1970, there were only 200,000 acres of irrigated farmland in Georgia. Today, there are more than 1.5 million acres. Withdrawals from the Flint, its tributaries and the Florida aquifer which feeds the river, coupled with water management practices in the river’s headwaters of Metro Atlanta have significantly reduced withdrawals from the Flint, its tributaries and the Floridan aquifer since 1980, low flows on the upper reaches of the river have been reduced by up to 70 percent. On the lower Flint, flows have decreased by 30 percent and some tributaries go completely dry during the summer.

On river left here is a precariously perched two story home overlooking the river. From here to Bainbridge, the river widens and slows—the effects of Jim Woodruff Dam some 34 miles downstream—and the river’s limestone bluffs are replaced by low, sandy shorelines.

Mile 15.2—Red Bluff, Fossils and Gov. Clifford Walker—The Flint’s second “Red Bluff” is a noted site because, within the bluff, fossils dating from the Oligocene epoch (23-33 million years ago) have been found. In more modern times, timber from atop the bluff was felled, sent down river and shipped to New York where it was employed in construction of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1880. Some 40 years later, the Bluff was a noted gathering place. In 1877, the Corps built 390 linear feet of rock dams, removed three snags, blasted ten times and removed 450 cubic yards of rock.

Mile 17.8—Crawford’s Point—A narrow rock island here marks the location of more handiwork by the Corps. In an 1877 report to Congress, the Corps boasted that the channel at Crawford’s Point had been transformed from a depth of 0 feet to a depth of four feet while the width of the channel had been expanded from 70 to 100 feet. They accomplished this by removing a “dry ledge” to widen the channel and by making 254 blasts of dynamite that enabled them to remove 1,198 cubic yards of rock, or approximately 4.8 million pounds of rock. That’s enough rock to fill a line of modern dump trucks that stretches for 1.4 miles!

Mile 20—At river left here is a precariously perched two story home overlooking the river. Georgia’s stream buffer laws prohibit construction activity and structures within 25 feet of warm-water streams. However, property owners can file for variances, allowing them to encroach on the buffer.
"I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion."

—Henry David Thoreau