

Video	Audio
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR Georgia lore is full of tall tales about legendary creatures and mystical places. In this episode of Georgia Outdoors, we'll take a closer look at some of these stories, both real and imagined. We'll also set the record straight on some popular wildlife lore. Next on Georgia Outdoors.</p>
	<p>>>MUSIC<<</p>
	<p>>>FEMALE NARRATOR: FUNDING FOR GEORGIA OUTDOORS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM MARY HALL SINGLETON. AND BY THE IMLAY FOUNDATION.</p>
	<p>>>Miles: We are fascinated by the unknown because it's in our genes. It's been there since we were living in caves and trying to figure out what went on in the night and what creatures were hostile out there. And it's our connection to our past. We no longer have mortal dangers, but we like the idea of it.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR GEORGIA, WITH ITS MILES OF WILDERNESS, MYSTERIOUS SWAMPLAND, AND DIVERSITY OF WILDLIFE IS FERTILE GROUND FOR UNUSUAL TALES FROM THE NATURAL WORLD. SOUTHEASTERN LORE IS FILLED WITH STORIES OF MYSTERIOUS CREATURES, UNUSUAL PLACES, AND STRANGE ANIMAL BEHAVIOR. WHETHER ITS SIGHTINGS OF SPECIES THOUGHT LONG EXTINCT, OR STORIES OF CREATURES NO WHERE IN THE SCIENTIFIC RECORD, GEORGIA HAS IT ALL.</p> <p>>>MALE NARRATOR SITUATED IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE STATE, THE OKEEFENOCKE SWAMP IS A RICH SOURCE FOR TALES OF THE UNEXPLAINED.</p>
	<p>>>Miles: The Okefenokee Swamp has every kind of mystery imaginable. For one thing, it's vast. It's 40 miles long and 20 miles wide and most of us don't want to go into a place like that. There are animals in there that will eat you, not to mention the snakes. And so just naturally we can see Bigfoot living there. We can see UFOs using it as a landing site. On occasion people hear drumming when they're out there. There's swamp gas of course, which is naturally occurring as vegetation degrades and deteriorates. You have these patches of light that just appear and float like a ghost. And so there are many stories of ghost lights down there.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR JOE AND STEVE KNIGHT ARE FAMILIAR WITH MANY OF THESE STORIES. THEY RUN "OKEFENOCKE PASTIMES" AN OUTPOST FOR ECOTOURISM ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE SWAMP...</p>
	<p>>>Steve Knight: We are known as the UFO people out at the swamp.</p> <p>>>Jo Knight: Right. When somebody does see something in the area, they tend to call us and tell us about it.</p> <p>>>Steve Knight: We have our X Files, extraterrestrial investigation team. Moulder and Scully here that go out and check out all these sightings.</p> <p>>>Jo Knight: They are phenomena.</p>
	<p>>>Steve Knight: The Okefenokee X files is a series of stories that we've put together through research, some from old newspaper articles, some from books about supernatural occurrences, and there are</p>

	stories about big foot sightings, UFO encounters.
	<p>>>Steve Knight: I think why the Okefenokee is so full of myth, it's a swamp, and I think that people don't understand swamps just in general, and this is a big one. and because a place this large that has that much wildness to it, it's going to foster all sorts of things. They don't know what's in this thing, there are remote areas of this swamp that you can only get to by helicopter. Who knows what could be in there. We could have a Big Foot that lives in the swamp.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR: OF COURSE, NO PROOF OF BIGFOOT OR OTHER MYTHIC SWAMP DWELLERS HAS EVER SURFACED. THERE ARE, HOWEVER A FEW LEGENDARY CREATURES THAT DID ONCE ROAM THIS FANTASTIC ECOLOGICAL RESOURCE...HISTORICALLY, THE OKEEFENOKEE SWAMP WAS GREAT HABITAT FOR THE IVORY BILLED WOODPECKER. THIS FOOTAGE, TAKEN IN 1935 IN LOUISIANA IS THE ONLY FILM OF THE BIRDS IN EXISTENCE.</p>
	<p>>>Holzman: The ivorybill woodpecker is a large woodpecker, larger than a pileated woodpecker, and it has a pattern of white on the wings that is distinctive. There's a white, trailing edge and a white leading edge to the wing, whereas the pileated only has a white leading edge that's on the top surface of the wing in the front.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR UNTIL RECENTLY, THE LAST IVORY BILLED SIGHTING IN THE U.S. WAS IN 1971. BUT, IN 2005, GENE SPARLING CAUGHT SIGHT OF WHAT LOOKED TO BE AN IVORY BILLED WHILE CANOEING IN ARKANSAS. WITH HELP FROM THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, GENE IS NOW SPEAKING PUBLICLY ABOUT THIS RARE SIGHTING, AND AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH IS UNDERWAY TO FIND AND DOCUMENT THE BIRD IN ARKANSAS.</p>
	<p>>> Sparling My boat came around a slight bend in the river and it afforded me a view down a long straight stretch of narrow channel, a large woodpecker dropped in from above the canopy down into the channel. He had a very long neck, a light colored bill and he moved in a particularly animated herky-jerky motion.</p>
	<p>>> Simon: the ivory-billed is seen as an iconic bird for a variety of reasons. I mean it's a symbol of everything we've done wrong with our natural resources. We took all of the forests of the southeast that it needed. But it's also iconic because rumors of it refused to die even after it was supposedly extinct in 1944.</p>
	<p>SPARLING'S DISCOVERY PROMPTED GREAT INTEREST IN FINDING THE IVORY BILLED IN ARKANSAS... RECENTLY, THE SEARCH FOR IVORY BILLED WOODPECKERS HAS SPREAD TO GEORGIA.</p>
	<p>>>Ozier Georgia is within the historical range of the ivorybill woodpecker. We think they probably occurred throughout much of the coastal plain, particularly along the big river bottom swamps. I think most people had pretty much accepted the fact that the ivorybill was gone from this country and probably gone from the world. The recent possible rediscovery in Arkansas has rekindled our hopes that maybe if it still occurs in Arkansas, maybe it occurs in other places. So we started thinking about taking another look at some areas of large tracts of remote habitat in Georgia such as the Okefenokee Swamp. If we don't find anything, we can never say they're not there, but if they are there, we certainly want to know about it so we can help to conserve that habitat and manage that species. And if we put a little effort into looking then who knows what we might come up with.</p>
	<p>>>Holzman: So when we go out to survey the habitat for ivorybills, we're looking at foraging signs. We're looking at trees that have the bark stripped off the trees and the woodpeckers searched for grubs</p>

	<p>>>Holzman: So this is a red bay that's been foraged on by pileated woodpeckers</p> <p>>>Holzman: So we'll be looking for trees that have kind of all the bark stripped off of them. Sometimes they'll have small pits in them and sometimes you will see actually grooves that have been made by the ivorybill's bill...or the pileated's bill. In most of these cases, the pileateds will have done the scaling. But what we're searching for is the rare case when an ivorybill might have been involved in doing the scaling. And we're also doing some audio playback, and that is playing an ivorybill's call that was recorded in 1933 in the film done by Cornell. We'll play that out through a speaker for a minute and then we'll listen for 10 minutes and then repeat it in an opposite direction. And we're basically trying to see if there's a response. If there's ivorybills in the area, if they respond, we'd be able to pick that up. And then we'd either go in and try to find those or hopefully record it on our handheld camcorders.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR WHILE THE CHANCE OF FINDING AN IVORY BILLED IN GEORGIA IS SLIM, THE VALUE OF CONSERVING THIS PRISTINE HABITAT IS LIMITLESS. BEYOND THE OKEFENOKEE, BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD AREAS AROUND THE SAVANNAH, OGEECHEE, AND ALTAMAHA RIVERS WOULD ALSO MAKE GOOD POTENTIAL IVORY BILLED HABITAT. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, A SERIOUS EFFORT HAS HELPED TO PROTECT THE SAME AREAS THAT WERE ONCE HOME TO THESE HISTORIC BIRDS.</p>
	<p>>>Lambert: The nature conservancy, in cooperation with the department of natural resources and US fish and wildlife service, has protected more than 79,000 acres of lands and waters along the Altamaha River system</p>
	<p>>>Lambert: The rediscovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker is a powerful reminder that there is still time out there to conserve important areas for habitat protection. It gives us hope that we can make a difference and can work to protect these natural areas.</p>
	<p>MEANWHILE, THE SEARCH CONTINUES...</p>
	<p>>>Sparling It's my hope that the search effort will eventually result in a viable population of birds... certainly not in our lifetimes but perhaps my grandchildren's grandchildren will be able to see an ivory-billed woodpecker fly through the woods as Teddy Roosevelt did when he cried "Lord God, what a bird!"</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR THE ALTAMAHA IS THE SITE OF ANOTHER LEGENDARY CREATURE.</p> <p>>>MALE NARRATOR NEAR DARIEN, GEORGIA'S ANSWER TO THE LOCH NESS MONSTER THE ALTAMA-HA-HA, A SERPENTINE CREATURE SOME 30 FEET IN LENGTH IS SAID TO ROAM THE RIVER WATERS</p>
	<p>>>Miles The Tama Indians of that area reported a great serpent in the river that hissed and screamed. In recent decades as more people move down to that area and more people buy boats and more people are fishing and hunting, the reports have skyrocketed. There's estimates that perhaps there have been 300 different sightings of Altamaha-ha, so there is something in the river.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR: KATHLEEN RUSSELL, EDITOR OF THE DARIEN NEWS HAS REPORTED ON MANY SIGHTINGS OF THE ALTAMAHA-HA OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES.</p>
	<p>>>Russell The Altamaha-ha has become a beloved part of McIntosh County even though he's pretty elusive, but a loving creature. It's just been kind of part of the community, and part of what we</p>

	are or what we might not know that we are. It's a fun thing for us to have the Altamaha-ha.
	>> MALE NARRATOR: REPORTS OF THE CREATURE BASKING ALONG THE MUDBANKS OR SWIMMING ALONG THE SURFACE OF THE WATER HAVE TRICKLED IN OVER THE YEARS. SCOTTY ROGERS, FORMER MAYOR OF DARIEN, REPORTS HAVING SEEN THE ALTAMAHA-HA WHILE DRIVING ALONG HIGHWAY 17.
	>>Rogers: On December 23 rd , 1973, got on the Champney River bridge, I looked to the west and I could see something that looked like a tractor trailer inner-tube inflated coming out of the water. But, it was coming vertical. Finally, a neck came out of the water and then a body something as big as an automobile. And this neck was attached to it and it looked like it was 18 to 24 inches in diameter. Then it looked like a horse's head on it without any ears.
	>> MALE NARRATOR: MANY SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS FOR THE ALTAMAHA HAVE BEEN OFFERED OVER THE YEARS. SOME BELIEVE THE CREATURE TO BE AN ATLANTIC STURGEON, A LARGE, PREHISTORIC LOOKING FISH WHICH MIGRATES FROM THE OCEAN UP THE ALTAMAHA RIVER. THESE FISH CAN REACH SIZES OVER 300 POUNDS AND LENGTHS OF MORE THAN EIGHT FEET. DOUG PETERSON OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA IS CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON THE ATLANTIC STURGEON POPULATION ALONG THE ALTAMAHA.
	>>Peterson: The Altamaha is one of the premier sturgeon producing rivers in the world. We've caught specimens in excess of 300 pounds. So, they're large fish, but they're rather docile. They do have large armored plates all over their bodies. Of course it's always possible that the Altamaha-ha is something that scientists just don't know about, it doesn't have anything to do with sturgeon. So the mystery goes on. We'll probably never know exactly what the Altamaha-ha is.
	>> MALE NARRATOR OTHER STRANGE CREATURE SIGHTINGS IN GEORGIA INVOLVE BIG CATS, OR PANTHERS ...
	>>Ozier: The big cat we know now is the Florida panther, which only occurs in extreme south Florida and there's maybe 70 or 80 individuals known to exist there. Once occurred throughout Georgia and other states throughout the southeast. We're pretty certain the native population of big cats disappeared from Georgia several decades ago. Cats that do still live in Georgia, of course we do have bobcats, which are significantly smaller than a panther or a cougar would be. They're spotted. They certainly have a short tail. One distinguishing characteristic about the cougar or the panther is they have a very long, thick tail, and that should be very noticeable in most situations.
	>>Ozier: Well we get a lot of reports in our office about potential sightings of black panthers or Florida panthers, but most of them are some other animal. And there's an example of one that was sent to our office a few years ago. >>Male: Now that's a sure black panther >>Ozier: People were observing some type of large, dark cat they thought across a slew of a lake, and it's walking against the backdrop of some cypress trees. And from a distance, which is hard to judge across that lake, it does look like a big cat and the trees look very big, but if you start looking closer and go to the site, the trees are actually much smaller than they appear and the cat was also much smaller and it turned out to be clearly a house cat once you got there and looked at the tracks and measured the size against the trees.
	>> MALE NARRATOR OVER GENERATIONS, MANY WIVES-TALES HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN ABOUT OUR NATIVE

	SPECIES. WE'LL RUN THROUGH A FEW OF THE MOST NOTABLE ONES, BEGINNING WITH THE SPECIES THAT IS PERHAPS THE NUMBER ONE SOURCE OF MISUNDERSTANDING...SNAKES.
>>Jensen	There are a lot of fears and misconceptions about snakes and probably it derives from a couple of things: first of all, the fact that some of them are venomous and capable of killing people. That fear is probably overblown, at least in Georgia with our species. We have less than one person on average a year killed by snakebite.
	SNAKE LORE IS FILLED WITH STORIES OF HOOP SNAKES, WHICH TRAVEL BY ROLLING LIKE A WHEEL, TAIL IN MOUTH TO ATTACK... AND COACHWHIP SNAKES WHICH LASH THEIR VICTIM TO DEATH WITH SHARP, WHIPLIKE TAILS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH BEHAVIO, BUT IN THE ANIMAL WORLD, TRUTH CAN BE MUCH MORE INTERESTING THAN FICTION. AND SNAKES ARE A FASCINATING SPECIES.
>>Jensen	All species of snakes can swim. That doesn't mean that all species of snakes readily take to water, but you can put any snake in water and it will not drown. It's going to swim effectively.
>>Jensen	Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes, which, for the most part are thought of as an upland species, are very good swimmers and can disperse quite a ways over water, including over salt water or salt marsh. We have eastern diamondbacks on probably every one of our barrier islands and they're occasionally seen in the surf as they're dispersing.
>>Jensen:	Cottonmouths can bite underwater. That's something that folks often say they're not able to do, but they eat fish; they eat things that occur underwater, so of course they're able to bite underwater. However they're not likely to be in fear of predation when they're underwater. If you're in the water with them, they would rather swim away, so it's not like it's something that you really have to worry about.
>>MALE NARRATOR	DESPITE HAVING NO APPENDAGES, SNAKES ARE VERY VERSATILE ANIMALS AND CAN CLIMB AS WELL...
>>Jensen	We do have a couple of species that are specialized for climbing vertical surfaces of trees. Just on the bole of the tree, our rat snakes and our corn snakes can climb just inserting their belly scales into the grooves of pine bark or if it's a pretty rough-surfaced hardwood, they can do that as well.
>>Jensen	Snakes belong here just all of our wildlife, just like we do. They have a place on this earth and to me that's good enough reason why people should respect them and leave them alone. But they do serve ecological roles that are important. They serve both as important prey for a lot of animals and they serve as important predators for a lot of animals.
>>MALE NARRATOR:	LONG CONNECTED WITH DARKNESS, VAMPIRES, AND THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT...BATS ALSO PROMPT A LOT OF MISUNDERSTANDING.
>>Ozier	I think the habits of bats have caused them to be sort of associated with evil and bad things. The fact that they hide out during the daytime and come out at night, that's a little odd because it's different from what we're used to doing. Our culture is one that has tended to look at bats negatively. Now the Chinese culture on the other hand tends to have a positive view of bats. They're seen as a symbol of good luck. So it's not universal that bats are thought of badly.
>>Ozier	Georgia is home to about 16 different species of bats. One of the legends about bats or the myths is that they're going to come down and get tangled up in your hair intentionally. Of course

	<p>this is not something they do intentionally. It probably hardly ever happens at all. They want to be left alone. They want to find a place to hide and just eat insects and that's what makes them happy.</p>
	<p>>>Ozier Another misconception is that bats are blind. They all have eyes and they all can see. Now the eyes are small and may sometimes go unnoticed, but they do have them. And in nighttime they don't really use eyesight so much because they have the ability to use eco-location and they'll send out certain kinds of sound waves that bounce off their surroundings that enables them to miss trees and walls when they're flying around, and also enables them to find food.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR LIKE BATS, OWLS HAVE AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NIGHT AND DARKNESS THAT HAS INSPIRED FAR-FETCHED THEORIES.</p>
	<p>>>Johnson: People feel that, if you hear a screech owl calling outside your house, that someone in your house will soon die. Of course that isn't the case, but we still get calls from people that say, "Golly, what's going to happen. We heard something in our backyard. Is somebody going to die?" And we'll tell them, "No, if somebody does die, it's not because a screech owl called outside your bedroom window."</p> <p>>>Johnson: There's also a myth that the owl can turn its head 360 degrees. Now it can turn its head far further than any other animal, but you will never see... It's not physiologically possible or anatomically possible to turn your head totally around. So what happens is that they can get to a certain point, and then they're going to have to flip their head around very rapidly and then go at it from the other angle.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR OTHER BIRD BEHAVIORS HAVE ALSO BEEN THE SOURCE OF MISUNDERSTANDING. THE HUMMINGBIRD, WITH ITS SLIGHT BUILD AND DEMURE BEHAVIOR MIGHT SEEM INCAPABLE OF THE LONG MIGRATION IT MAKES ACROSS THE GULF OF MEXICO FROM SOUTH AMERICA. BUT, IN FACT HUMMINGBIRDS MAKE THIS TRIP ANNUALLY. STORIES HAVE ARISEN DESCRIBING HUMMINGBIRDS HITCHING RIDES ON THE BACKS OF GEESE...</p>
	<p>>>Johnson No, obviously it's not true, and you find, for example, that Canada geese don't migrate to Mexico and Central America. In fact, most of the geese that you see in the eastern United States are essentially non-migratory at the present time. <i>In fact</i>, most of the geese you see in Georgia in the wintertime are birds that were raised in the peach state.</p>
	<p>>>MALE NARRATOR THE PURPLE MARTIN IS A SONGBIRD THAT HAS ALSO SPARKED WILD MIGRATION THEORIES. MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT BEFORE MIGRATING, PURPLE MARTIN FLOCKS SEND A FEW SCOUTS TO SCOPE OUT LOCATIONS.</p>
	<p>>>Johnson: From all of the banding information that we have, we find that that doesn't seem to be the case. We find that the purple martin scouts are typically the oldest birds in the flock. And they may stay at a site, particularly if they've nested at that site before. And then in a few days, the rest of the birds that will be nesting in that particular location will arrive on their own</p>
	<p>>>Johnson: I think the reason people come up with these interesting stories is they make good story fodder. But, there are so many amazing things that are true about wildlife that if people just researched it a little bit or we did a little bit better job of telling people some of the fascinating stories that do exist out there in the natural world, they're every bit as interesting as these fanciful folk tales that we come up with and choose to believe.</p>
	<p>>>FEMALE NARRATOR</p>

	<p>IN THE OUTDOORS, INSECT BITES, ALLERGIES, AND OTHER MINOR IRRITATIONS ARE COMMON. HERE ARE THE FACTS A FEW HOME-SPUN REMEDIES YOU MAY HAVE HEARD. COVERING CHIGGER BITES WITH CLEAR NAIL POLISH HAS LITTLE EFFECT. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, CHIGGERS DO NOT BURROW INTO YOUR SKIN, BUT ATTACH THEMSELVES LIKE TICKS. JELLYFISH STINGS SHOULD BE RINSED IMMEDIATELY WITH SALT WATER. BAKING SODA OR MEAT TENDERIZER MAY HELP, BUT FRESH WATER, ALCOHOL, AND URINE ARE NOT EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND MAY ENCOURAGE THE RELEASE OF MORE VENOM. WHILE TOBACCO CAN REDUCE THE PAIN OF A BEE STING, IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED. USE ICE INSTEAD. IT'S BEST TO SCRAPE THE AFFECTED AREA WITH A HARD FLAT ITEM SUCH AS A CREDIT CARD TO REMOVE THE STINGER. BEFORE TRYING ANY HOME REMEDIES, BE SURE TO CONSULT A PHYSICIAN... AND BE SAFE WHEN ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS!</p>
	<p>>> MALE NARRATOR THE OKEEFENOCHEE ISN'T THE ONLY AREA OF GEORGIA RICH WITH MYTH. GEORGIA'S LANDSCAPE IS DOTTED WITH AREAS THAT HAVE PROVOKED WILD TALES THROUGH THE YEARS. ONE OF THE MOST WELL KNOWN OF THESE SITES IS THE ROCK WALL AT FORT MOUNTAIN</p>
	<p>>> White: The wall stretches for over 800 feet near the top of the mountain. It goes from a rock cliff on one side around to a rock cliff on the other side. It meanders. I think most people find it intriguing because we don't know about its origin: who built it, why they built it. It was probably ceremonial in nature, but that doesn't really tell us why the people expended so much energy to climb this mountain, and bring all of these rocks and pile them up.</p>
	<p>>> Miles And what really frustrates archaeologists is they rarely find artifacts in these places because they were kept ceremonially clean and they left no artifacts, no charcoal to date and that sort of thing. But there's a lot of stories about Fort Mountain and supposedly there were times when Native American ghosts appear. And they were walking on the mountain and from there they step off into the stars. There's astronomers who believe that Fort Mountain is oriented to sunrises, particularly in the summer solstice.</p>
	<p>>> White The Cherokees of course had a legend that it was built by a strange race of people that they pushed out as they moved into the Southern Appalachians.</p>
	<p>>> MALE NARRATOR THE EXACT ORIGIN AND PURPOSE OF THIS ROCK WALL MAY NEVER BE KNOWN... TODAY FORT MOUNTAIN IS HOME TO A LUSH STATE PARK, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH TRAILS FOR HIKING, BIKING, AND HORSEBACK RIDING.</p> <p>VIEWS FROM THE OVERLOOKS ARE SPECTACULAR...</p> <p>NEAR EDENTON, GEORGIA... ANOTHER PREHISTORIC MYSTERY EXISTS.... THE ROCK EAGLE EFFIGY.</p>
	<p>>> Miles: Around 3000 years ago, the Native Americans around Edenton decided to build a huge eagle effigy. And they brought in thousands and thousands of stones from the surrounding countryside, and they built up this gigantic image of an eagle. The wings are spread; it's 120 feet wide. And the body rises up 10 feet from the ground and it's quite a sight. And to appreciate it, the people there built a 3-story observation tower. And to truly appreciate the eagle you have to climb to the top of it to see the whole image, and it will take your breath away; it's beautiful.</p>
	<p>>> MALE NARRATOR: WHILE THE PURPOSE OF THE ROCK EAGLE EFFIGY IS UNCLEAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT OTHER KEY PREHISTORIC SITES SUCH AS THE MOUNDS AT ETOWAH, AND THE UNUSUAL SHELL RINGS OF SAPELO ISLAND ON GEORGIA'S COAST HAVE HELPED</p>

	UNLOCK MYSTERIES OF GEORGIA'S PAST, REVEALING A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE FOUND THROUGHOUT OUR STATE.
	>>Crass: Georgia's been occupied for probably around 12,000 or 13,000 years, maybe a little bit longer than that. And what makes Georgia so special is that many of those sites are so well preserved. Archaeology tells us the story of who we are and how we got to where we are today in ways that written history cannot.
	>> MALE NARRATOR BEYOND THESE RICH CULTURAL SITES, GEORGIA'S DIVERSE GEOLOGY HAS SPARKED A NUMBER OF LEGENDS. ONE OF OUR MOST FABLED GEOLOGIC FEATURES IS TALULLAH GORGE. WITH A NAME DERIVED FROM A CHEROKEE WORD MEANING "FEARSOME," TALULLAH GORGE HAS INSPIRED FEAR AND FASCINATION FOR CENTURIES.
	>>Miles: The Cherokee Indians were afraid of Tallulah gorge. It was so dangerous to get down the bottom and the water made such a roaring sound and put up a mist that it became one of the entrances to hell. And they told stories that a hunting party disappeared and so a larger group of Indians went to check it out and they were met by these pigmy-like creatures, who were very vicious, very violent. So they became convinced that their hunting party had been killed by these pigmies, so they refused to go down into the gorge.
	>> MALE NARRATOR: THESE ARE BUT A FEW SITES AROUND GEORGIA THAT HAVE INSPIRED A WEALTH OF IMAGINATIVE TALES. OVER TIME, THROUGH SCIENCE AND EXPLORATION, WE'VE OVERCOME OUR FEARS OF SUCH PLACES, AND COME TO GRIPS WITH MANY OF THE CREATURES ONCE THOUGHT TO LURK IN THE SHADOWS, BUT IN THE PROCESS WE FIND THAT THE TRUTH IS OFTEN MORE INTERESTING THAN ANYTHING IN OUR DREAMS...OR NIGHTMARES....
	>> FEMALE NARRATOR: FUNDING FOR GEORGIA OUTDOORS HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM MARY HALL SINGLETON. AND BY THE IMLAY FOUNDATION.
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