

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

**David Zelski VO:**

Coming up on this week's Georgia Traveler...pony up for mule day in Calvary Georgia, celebrate something known as Swamp Gravy in Colquitt, fill up on a fancy food find with Phil, and we're on the hunt for fun at the Georgia Agrirama.

**Music**

On the road most every day, looking for a place where you can play, looking for the best place you can stay. From the mountains to the coast, looking for a trip you'll like the most, maybe even find a friendly ghost, we're Georgia Traveler. Well we're from Georgia and we travel, that's why we call it Georgia Traveler, and nothing rhymes with Georgia Traveler, but still we're called the Georgia Traveler.

**Woman:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

**Woman:**

We all have dreams.

**Man:**

To wear the green jacket.

**Woman:**

To see wild horses.

**Kid:**

To catch a major league ball.

**Man:**

To create memories with my family.

**Woman:**

Put your dreams in motion. Visit Georgia dot org.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

People are drawn to this state for its unbelievable beauty. We're working hard to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, proud sponsor of the programming that also enriches our lives.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

The Ray M. and Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation, Inc.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

Supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting.

**Woman:**

Thank you.

**David Zelski:**

Hello and Welcome to Georgia Traveler, I'm your Tour guide David Zelski, and right now I'm enjoying RiverFront Park in Downtown Albany, Georgia right by the beautiful Flint River that's because this week we're taking a look at Georgia's Southern Rivers Region. We have a lot of great stories for you, but first, let's take a look at some of the sights and sounds you'll see when you visit this part of the state.

## **MUSIC**

About 70 miles south of Albany, right along the Florida border, you'll find Calvary, Georgia, where on the first weekend in November, this town of 200 people grows to nearly 80 thousand...many arriving by way of horse or...mule?

**David Zelski:**

Half Donkey...Half Horse...Behold...The Mule, the mule is neither a boy nor girl. A mule is just sort of there?

**Wayne Windham:**

A mule is a unique animal because for one a mule cannot reproduce themselves. They have to be bread.

**David Zelski:**

Regardless, nearly 80 thousand mule enthusiasts annually flood the little town of Calvary, Georgia the first Saturday in November to celebrate these celibate creatures.

**Charlie McNaughton:**

Mule Day actually began 33 years ago. The Lions Club in Calvary, the membership had dwindled down to a very small number and so they wanted to find a way to increase the membership and also to have something for the community and also something to raise money. So they decided to honor the mule.

## **MUSIC**

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

**David Zelski:**

Every year the Calvary Lions Club undertakes the enormous task of organizing this massive event which begins On Mule Day Eve with a pilau dinner.

**Woman:**

Welcome to South Georgia how about having some pilau with us.

**Glenda Shepherd:**

This is called pilau, or chicken in rice in the wash pot. It's rice and chicken and broth and seasonings.

**David Zelski:**

That is some good pilau. At the crack of dawn before the pilau has time to digest, pancakes are served, sweetened with none other than Mule Day Sugar Cane Syrup.

**Man:**

Yea that looks good.

**David Zelski:**

A process generated by raw Mule Fuel. However through innovative 20<sup>th</sup> century technology, syrup making has changed but no one tell this mule that his constant walking in circles isn't necessary anymore; he or IT may lose incentive.

**Earl Williams:**

Most all the farms around this area, the small farms, most of them had an area to make syrup. They made their own syrup. They also sold syrup. You might know the city of Cairo, a little town up here is known as the syrup city. Well it was known for a time as Syrup Capitol of the World.

**David Zelski:**

Next to the Syrup mill is the Grist Mill, where Uncle Luke and his assistant always seem to have things under control.

**Assistant:**

You pour it into the hopper in measured amounts, not too fast...

**Uncle Luke:**

No

**Assistant:**

What you just pour it into the hopper?

**Uncle Luke:**

Well you've got a gage there to let the amount go in.

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

**Assistant:**

Oh, Ok.

**David Zelski:**

Vendors and performers are scattered throughout the grounds. You may find time to enjoy a little clogging show. Or maybe a tune from a few nearby Floridian tots. Charlie McNaughton and I had a chance to enjoy the Tallahassee Symphony Youth Orchestra.

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

And what's a Mule day with out a mule show. Several of the World's most talented Mules compete in 18 different events, from the log pull to the skills competition these Mules really know how to strut their stuff.

**Charlie McNaughton:**

Very simple type activities, we're not cruel to the animals or anything. We let the mules do different things to win prizes and trophies.

**David Zelski:**

Some Mule enthusiasts not participating in the show may even get a chance to ride for themselves. Here you may discover the next Roy Rogers. Smooth, sophisticated, debonair. Not far from the Mule show and pony rides, you'll find the Sling shots. \$1 buck gives you ten slings at a challenging target. I hit I think 9 out of 10, no I actually got one. Take a few minutes and skip on over to the Mule Day Museum. This is fun for adults and history buffs; however kids can always enjoy the petting zoo. And what's a mule day without a Mule day parade. Here the streets of Calvary are cleared, and filled back up with, well...A calvary.

**Wayne Windham:**

Mule day is an event that causes the community to rally around themselves.

**David Zelski:**

Here, the mules are judged from costumes to character, and awards are given to the tops in each field.

**Wayne Windham:**

Mule Day is just a good wholesome family festival.

**Man:**

Alright is that a deal?

**David Zelski:**

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

Mule day is the day every year in Calvary, Georgia. From pilau to prizes, a good time is guaranteed. So as long as horses and donkeys remain intimately involved, the mule will rule in South Georgia.

**MC:**

Yeehaw, walk your animals please. Walk your animals.

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

Back up near Albany our own Phil Proctor has made another fabulous food find.

**Phil Proctor:**

Hey this is Phil with Phil's Fantastic Food Finds. I'm at the crossroads of Highway 234 and 55 down here in South Georgia, 15 miles outside of Albany. And you know I've got a taste for catfish. Nothing Fancy.

**MUSIC**

**Phil Proctor:**

What is the specialty of Nothing Fancy?

**Katherine Poer:**

Catfish.

**Phil Proctor:**

Catfish.

**Katherine Poer:**

Catfish.

**MUSIC**

**Phil Proctor:**

Alright, ready to do some work. You know I came over to Nothing Fancy and I wanted to figure out what was going on. So I knew the first place I needed to start was here in the kitchen. Then you shake a little bit off here...hey I'm coming at you. Here you go.

**Cook:**

Alright we're going to put these in the grease.

**Phil Proctor:**

Going to put them in the grease.

**Cook:**

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

They cook about 6 or 7 minutes.

**MUSIC**

**Cook:**

Get them really, really close.

**Phil Proctor:**

Yea, really, really close. See you all didn't know I had skills, see I can go either hand, I'm kind of fish-bidextrous. Well no that doesn't work either.

**MUSIC**

**Katherine Poer:**

We have catfish on the bone, catfish fingers, catfish fillets, fried shrimp, boiled shrimp, fried oysters, mullet, mullet fingers and chicken strips.

**Phil Proctor:**

How do people keep up with all this?

**MUSIC**

**Phil Proctor:**

What's your favorite?

**Customer:**

The catfish.

**Phil Proctor:**

The catfish. Now I see you've got the whole catfish, have you ever tried the fillet?

**Customer:**

Yea.

**Phil Proctor:**

Or the catfish nuggets?

**Customer:**

No I've never tried the nuggets.

**Phil Proctor:**

What you've never tried the nuggets.

**Customer:**

I didn't even know they had that. It's not on the menu.

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

**Phil Proctor:**

What?

**Katherine Poer:**

When you come here it's all about the food.

**MUSIC**

**Katherine Poer:**

I want it to be somewhere you can come feel at home. Somewhere you can come bring the kids too and everybody just feels comfortable here.

**Phil Proctor:**

You know I did a little bit of cooking today. I did a little bit of cleaning. You all didn't see all that. Now I'm going to try my hand at serving. Alright I've got some, looks like catfish fillets here and I've got some whole catfish.

**Customer:**

I come probably from October to March, the cold season. I come every weekend.

**Phil Proctor:**

I'm a pretty big individual and so I like to eat a lot of food. I noticed that you guys do not hold back on the portions.

**Katherine Poer:**

Oh no, I don't want you to leave hungry. I won't let you leave hungry.

**Phil Proctor:**

You will not let me, she will not let me leave hungry.

**MUSIC**

**Katherine Poer:**

Here you go Phil

**Phil Proctor:**

Alright Katherine.

**Katherine Poer:**

Don't forget your cheese grits.

**Phil Proctor:**

My cheese grits. Ok we're going to try that. Well as you can see, I've had a great time. I spent a little bit of time in Nothing Fancy in the kitchen, had a great

## GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH CAPTIONING SCRIPT

time with the family, talking to a lot of great people. But they got a motto here, basically says, Fancy never filled up nobody. Well I'm going to see if it can fill me up. I'm Phil, just outside of Albany with another fantastic food find. Let me try some of these nuggets real quick.

### **David Zelski:**

Just over 40 miles east of Albany, we find Tifton, home to Georgia's Museum of Agriculture, the Agrirama.

### **MUSIC**

### **Sherry Miley:**

The Agrirama started as a living history museum back in 1976. We opened up with just a couple of houses, a barnyard, to show people what life was like during 1870-1910. As you can see as you see today, the Agrirama has grown tremendously. We are 95 acres of farm, a grist mill, a working grist mill, a working saw mill, our own print shop, our own drug store, marble top drug store, we have a doctor's office behind us here as you can see. We have a Masonic lodge, a cotton gin. We have it all. We are a complete living history village.

### **Ashlie Wilson VO:**

A living history village with an interesting history of its own.

### **Sherry Miley:**

The Agrirama was created back in the early 70's by the help of Ford Spinks, Senator Ford Spinks at that time, to preserve a lifestyle of agriculture and to preserve the historic significance of rural South Georgia, and the meaning of agriculture and the important part it played in South Georgia.

### **Sen. Spinks:**

The only thing that would fit this area would be an agricultural museum, we thought. I carried the idea back to the Senate and got some support there. When Jimmy Carter was in the Senate and we got it started to the point where after he became Governor, or was elected Governor, he broke ground for the facility. So that really then was the beginning of Agrirama.

### **Ashlie Wilson VO:**

And from those beginnings, the site has grown to include not only two museums, but a farm and a town reconstructed from historic buildings.

### **James Higgins:**

We have many structures that have been brought to our site and restored, and not just houses that you walk through, but things that are very interesting to the people that come through as well as our educational workshops.

### **Ashlie Wilson VO:**

## GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH CAPTIONING SCRIPT

Education is a big part of the Agrirama's mission and has been for over thirty years.

### **Sherry Miley:**

The educational program at the Agrirama is wonderful. It teaches the children by doing instead of just reading in a class book. And they do chores that a child would have done a hundred years ago had he lived in this area. So they get to experience a first hand knowledge of history in the making and they love it.

### **James Higgins:**

As the kids come in, some of them come in for basic tours, but most come in for what we call our workshops, where they will be dressed out in costumes periods of that time of year, time of the century if you will, 1870 to 1910. And then they will actually work in the houses, as far as the stoves, the wooden stoves, the fireplaces, helping cook, helping tend to the farms, look at the animals, work with the animals, different things that are able to do, and actually participate, and that way be able to take that back as a life long learning experience. And of course that heritage that they learn at that point is so important as far as taking it forward and implying it to current history and seeing where we came from at that time is just a tremendous educational facet.

### **Sen. Spinks:**

So many people today, especially school children, just don't know and don't understand what it took to bring us to where we are today. To preserve these facilities and these instruments and ways of life of yesteryear is really important in helping to explain to them where we are today and how we got here.

### **Ashlie Wilson VO:**

And that experience isn't reserved for students alone. It's available to anyone who visits the Agrirama.

### **Sherry Miley:**

Once you come on site, once you step out onto the grounds itself, you actually go back in time. The Agrirama is a great place for anyone to come visit. Bring your family, bring your parents, your children. We're a great place to come to and you really, you don't just to look through at artifacts, you get to experience by talking to the interpreters who are dressed in costume for our time period. You get the first hand experience from their grandparents. They will tell you stories. So it's not only a village that you get to see, artifacts from at time period gone by, but you to experience that time period gone by. It's a great place to come and relax, forget about your problems and enjoy yourself, especially when you are on the train.

### **David Zelski:**

You may think I am actually floating in the Flint River, but I am not. I am actually at the Blue Hole Spring at the Flint River-Quarium. This 175 thousand gallon

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

tank is just one of several exhibits you'll find when you visit this River-Quarium which is located in the heart of Downtown Albany. Now let's follow the Flint to our next destination. About 50 miles Southwest of Albany, you'll find Colquitt, Georgia where something known as Swamp Gravy has been preserving the region's history since 1994.

**David Zelski VO:**

Welcome to Colquitt, Georgia... With a little over a thousand citizens, Colquitt, Georgia boast an abundance of farmers, planters, harvesters, swamps, actors, artists...Actors and artists? Swamp Gravy.

**Jennifer Trawick:**

The official folk life play of Georgia.

**MUSIC**

**Joy Jinks:**

We were looking for a way to celebrate ourselves as a people.

**Mike Newberry:**

We're a mixture of true stories from this area.

**Joy Jinks:**

And so in 1990, I met Richard Geer the director not the actor. And according to what he said only 2% of people in America ever see live theater. And he wanted to bring back theater into the heart and soul of communities, which he calls theater of the people, by the people and for the people.

**Mike Newberry:**

The railroad was such an important part of small town life. The depot was a place that a lot of things went on, and you'll see that tonight in this play. When we come into here I think what we do is we realize for a little while the history that's gotten us to where we are today, the people that have gone on before us.

**MUSIC**

**Actress:**

Well the sheriff got there and he was asking...

**David Zelski VO:**

But what in the world is swamp gravy?

**Joy Jinks:**

Swamp Gravy's actually a dish that's cooked on the creek bank. You cook the fish and you have a fish fry. And you pour the grease off and you cook the onions and the potatoes and tomatoes and make like a gumbo.

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

**Mike Newberry:**

They mix it together and they call it Swamp Gravy.

**Joy Jinks:**

You can take the fish that you have if you don't catch many and put them in it to stretch the catch. It's actually a metaphor for taking what you have and making something out of it.

**David Zelski VO:**

Storytelling seems to be everywhere in Colquitt...From Swamp Gravy's foot-stomping performances to Murals decorating every inch of Colquitt.

**MUSIC**

**Jennifer Trawick:**

It started in 2000, with a grant through the national endowment for the arts to put murals in town. A lot of visitors like the murals and like to know the stories. We give mural tours to people who come to town.

**Pat Bush:**

We felt that there were a lot of mural projects we had seen many of them and even though they're beautiful we felt that so many of the projects were very much alike. And we wanted to do something different and we realized that what we have that is different is our stories. We wanted our murals to be something that would give a very positive message.

**David Zelski VO:**

Like Swamp Gravy the murals represent stories that have been passed down from generation to generation.

**Pat Bush:**

Neighbors which is the mural that is right beside this building is a favorite of many people. It's the story of a farmer that had broken his back and it was planting time. The two young children were trying to plant the crop but they were struggling. They were desperately trying to plant the crop but could not and looked up one day and saw their neighbors coming down the road bringing all the farm equipment with them. And before the day was done the crops were planted. We always loved that story and that's a favorite.

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski VO:**

Whether it's a musical that host 100 volunteer community actors or murals that decorate the walls of the city, small town Colquitt, Georgia has big time ambition and fun for the whole family. After enjoying some Swamp Gravy, head about 150

## GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH CAPTIONING SCRIPT

miles eastward along the Georgia Florida border and you'll find an actual swamp, North America's largest swamp in fact, The Okefenokee.

### **Keely Walker VO:**

The Okefenokee Swamp is vast, it's about 40 miles long and 20 miles wide, nearly 700 square miles total. It is a wildlife paradise unparalleled in the region.

### **Anthony Lampros:**

I remember visiting when I was probably 11 or 12, Stephen C. Foster State Park, which is in the very middle of Okefenokee Swamp. And going down there into the middle of that swamp for the very first time, it was an amazing experience to me. All the cypress trees and the dark waters of the tannic acid, the alligators and the snakes, I thought it was just the most fascinating place I'd ever been, spooky too.

### **Keely Walker VO:**

The swamp, to human eyes, appears uninhabitable, maybe even a bit desolate, but look closer, there are 30 species of native mammals inhabit the swamp, 14 species of turtles, 11 species of lizards, 36 snake species, 14 different families of fishes, 20 species of frogs and toads and over 200 species of birds. And the Swamp is a breeding ground for legends and myths.

### **Jim Miles:**

The Okefenokee Swamp has every kind of mystery imaginable. 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. You have these patches of light that just appear and float like a ghost. So there are many stories of ghosts lights down there.

### **Keely Walker VO:**

Joe and Steve Knight are familiar with many of these stories. They run "Okefenokee pastimes" an outpost for ecotourism on the eastern side of the swamp.

### **Steve Knight:**

We are known as the UFO people out at the swamp.

### **Joe Knight:**

When somebody does see something in the area, they tend to call us and tell us about it.

### **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 there's nobody living in there. It's not crisscrossed with roads. There's not settlements like there are in the Everglades and the Atchafalaya, so it is intact, who knows what could be in there. We could have a Big Foot that lives in the swamp.

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

**Keely Walker VO:**

The Okefenokee swamp has been protected since 1937 when after years of heavy logging and attempts to drain the swamp by dredging the 21-mile Suwannee Canal it was established it as a unit of National Wildlife Refuge System.

**Joe Yeager:**

Once you go out on your boat and you go out into the swamp, it's like nothing has changed. It's been kept very natural. It's a natural wildlife refuge that assures us that things stay the way they are.

**Keely Walker VO:**

There are three entrances to the swamp. The Suwannee Canal Recreation Area on the east side, the Okefenokee Swamp Park on the northside and Stephen C. Foster State Park on the east side. And there is no road through the swamp.  
T110

he only way to the other side is by boat or perhaps UFO. But in any case the Okefenokee Swamp is a natural area that must be seen and experienced to be believed.

**David Zelski:**

We conclude our visit to Georgia's Southern Rivers region with a trip to the Parks at Chehaw in Albany, Georgia. This massive park contains several exotic animals like cheetah, zebra, and rhino, just to name a few. Its just another sight to add to your list of must see attractions when you visit Georgia's Southern Rivers Region. Now here's a sneak peak at what's coming up on the next Georgia Traveler. We dive headfirst into the Georgia Aquarium, go on safari at the Atlanta Zoo, explore a brave new world at Turner field, and experience a new High for Atlanta. Now this Cheetah just challenged me to a race to find out once and for all who is the fastest land mammal, so I have got to go, but I do hope you join us for the next Georgia Traveler. Until we meet again, I'm David Zelski wishing you pleasant journeys.

**Woman:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

**Man:**

Located 16 miles east of downtown Atlanta on 3200 acres of natural beauty, Stone Mountain Park features a wide variety of entertainment and recreation for every member of the family. The sky ride offers up close views of the memorial carving. Guests can take a five mile train ride or a paddle wheel river boat cruise. And the crossroads area offers the chance to interact with demonstration crafters. The park also features ride the duck tours and the laser show spectacular. More information is available at stonemountainpark dot com.

GEORGIA TRAVELER 108- SOUTHERN RIVERS, SOUTH  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

People are drawn to this state for its unbelievable beauty. We're working hard to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, proud sponsor of the programming that also enriches our lives.

**Woman:**

And by the Ray M. and Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation. And by supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**Music**

Credits

**Man:**

This has been a production of Georgia Public Broadcasting.