

Fighting to Protect Our Flint River

Written by Flint Riverkeeper Editor-in-Chief



Despite its humble origins near the Atlanta airport, the [Flint River](#) is undeniably one of the South's most precious natural resources. Generations have enjoyed the river as a resource to water communities, farms and industry alike, but also as an opportunity to experience the natural world through hunting, fishing, swimming and paddling. With 220 undammed river miles, the Flint is one of only 40 rivers left in the United States that flow for more than 200 miles unimpeded. Recent legislative efforts to dam a 50-mile stretch of the Flint to create a supply reservoir for Atlanta's burgeoning water crisis have earned the Flint River the #2 spot on the list of Top Ten Most Endangered Rivers, published by American Rivers. To learn more about this story you can read about the [top 10 most endangered rivers in America](#) on CNN.com.

Revered as one of the most [ecologically diverse river basins](#) in the Southeast, the Flint River is also at risk from pollution; absorbing stormwater, agricultural and industrial runoff as it flows south out of the heart of Atlanta. As part of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) river system, the Flint is entangled in the "tri-state water wars" in which Georgia, Florida and Alabama are struggling to determine water usage rights as Atlanta continues to grow beyond its resources.

The mission of the Flint Riverkeeper® (FRk) is to restore and preserve the habitat, water quality, and flow of the Flint River for the benefit of current and future generations and dependent wildlife. FRk is a full-licensed member of the Waterkeeper Alliance and participates in the Georgia Water Coalition.

Introducing "Flint" – new film celebrating Georgia's Flint River

American Rivers and Flint Riverkeeper are excited to give you a new film, "Flint" that celebrates the beauty of Georgia's Flint River.

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You can view the film here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wuhm8mHdx_4



“Flint” weaves together the river connections of three local people:

Robin McInvale: Robin's husband used to take her to the Upper Flint on fishing dates. Four decades later the couple retreats to their riverside cabin most weekends to canoe and fish the waters they know as well as they know each other, introducing their grandchildren to their love of the Flint.

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Jimmy Miller: Jimmy grew up fishing the lower Flint's shoals and diving its freshwater springs. He has traveled the world and currently works stints on a schooner in the Atlantic and Caribbean, spending his off-time in a simple riverside cabin, and on the river, south of Albany's Radium Springs.

Paul DeLoach: Paul is a pioneer among cave divers worldwide. He knows and loves the waters of the Flint River basin well, both above and below the surface, mapping the underground intricacies of the springs in most portions of the Floridan Aquifer in Georgia and Florida. One of the founders of Flint Riverkeeper, for decades he has been a leader in exploring and conserving the Flint's waters.

How you can help:

Share the YouTube link above on social media with the hashtag **#WeAreRivers**

You can also promote the web page www.AmericanRivers.org/Flint which will feature the film, along with an action the public can take to help restore the river.

Take Action:

Representative Lynn Smith, the powerful chair of the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee, is in a position to move SB 36 forward. Please send her a letter urging her to move the bill. Representative Smith's contact information can be found [here](#) .

SB 36 Fact Sheet can be viewed [here](#) .

Flint River-related News

November 8, 2017

[Water And Agriculture](#)

[In Georgia - Report Highlights Trends, Opportunities to Avoid Water Wars](#)

October 31, 2016

[Florida Crossroads –](#)

[Riverkeepers: Perspectives Downstream](#)

October 29, 2016

[Georgia faces another](#)

[crucial court test in water war](#)

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October 4, 2016 this weekend	Float on the Flint launches
October 3, 2016 Flint River below Atlanta	Lawsuit alleges pollution of
September 30, 2016 clean up the Flint	MillerCoors, Riverkeeper
August 23rd, 2016 County responds to growing popularity of kayaking	Rowin' on the river: Lee
August 23rd, 2016 pre-empts local zoning	Sabal officials: FERC ruling
August 16th, 2016 portable toilets for Sabal pipeline project touts safety record	Company providing
August 5, 2016 business owners concerned	Flint River endangered,
July 14, 2016 at SR 32 Flint River Boat Ramp	Improvements Under Way
March 14, 2016 state lawmakers closely	Flint Riverkeeper watching
February 16, 2016 commodity that must be protected	Experts: Water a precious
October 23, 2014 public to make their voice heard to protect Flint River	Flint Riverkeeper encouraging
October 22, 2014 make Dirty Dozen list	Proposed gas pipeline, Flint
October 18, 2014 Rivers Alive volunteers to clean up along 50 miles of waterways	Lee, Dougherty County
October 16, 2014 off in Albany	Water Wars film tour kicks
September 29, 2014 Dougherty County community opportunity to discuss pipeline	Public forum offers
March 13, 2014 effect	Flint River bill flows into
March 13, 2014 revive in months to come	Flint River fight sure to
March 8, 2014	S. Gordon Rogers:

['Protection' hard to find in this bill](#)

Flint River Fun Facts

Origin of the Flint's Name

More than 300 years ago a Creek Indian village existed

Special plants grow on-a special river

The shoals spider lily, discovered in the 1770s by naturalist

Unique features -

The Lower Flint contains springs and caves which are