



An artesian spring beneath a 200 year-old live oak *Quercus Virginiana* tree at Logtown provided fresh water for early settlers

ECOLOGY OF THE PEARL RIVER

The Pearl River was named for the pearls found at the mouth of the river by brother explorers Iberville and Bienville. Hardwoods, pines, clearcuts, thickets, salt marsh, freshwater swamp, oxbow lakes, and oak cheniers give this area highly diverse ecosystems to attract an abundance of wildlife, including waterfowl and migratory birds. The Pearl River and river swamp are tidally influenced, with bald cypress and blackgum in the swamp canopy. The shallow areas of the swamp have dense stands of southern wild-rice and the deeper (10-20 meters) pools are vegetated largely by pickerelweed. The river's fringe contains large beds of cow-lily and the banks occasionally contain wild-rice *Zizania aquatica*. The Pearl River swamp is noted for soaring Swallow-tail Kites in the summer.

The Pearl River supports over 130 fish species, making it one of the most diverse river systems in North America. The Gulf Sturgeon is one of the largest, and can grow longer than nine feet and weigh more than 300 pounds. They migrate in springtime from the salty marine waters in the Gulf to freshwater spawning areas such as the Pearl River.



Live Oak
Quercus virginiana



Bald Cypress
Taxodium distichum



Longleaf Pine
Pinus palustris



Sweetgum
Liquidambar styraciflua



HERITAGE TRAIL POSSUM WALK



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