

edgable and experienced in flood-proofing methods and licensed contractor for advice. They generally are knowl- architect, structural engineer, or consult a design professional, new or existing structures. When elevating or flood proofing

How Do I Elevate or Flood Proof My Home?

gov/national-flood-insurance-program. situation. For more information, visit <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>. mation provided at these offices to better understand your to flood proof your home or property, consult the infor- permit offices. Before you build or make any attempt department of public works and engineering and building Flood-zone determinations are provided by the local building permit offices, and local public libraries. department of public works, department of engineering, Administration are available for review at the local Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Insurance from the Federal Emergency Flood maps and publications

Flood-Hazard Areas



U.S. Geological Survey hydrographer servicing the Withlacoochee River at U.S. Highway 84 near Quitman, Georgia, streamgage (02318500), April 3, 2009. (Photograph by Gregory B. Donley, USGS).

listed under “Local flood emergency phone numbers.” issues. The emergency phone number for your area is about road closures, evacuations, and other public safety response agencies use this information to make decisions City, Georgia. During floods, the public and emergency and the National Weather Service (NWS) in Peachtree satellite telemetry to the USGS in Atlanta, Georgia of this publication) that transmit stage data through river stage stations (ten are shown on the reverse side River Basins. This system is a network of automated flood-monitoring system in the Withlacoochee and Little local agencies, operates a other Federal, State, and (USGS), in cooperation with The U.S. Geological Survey

Flood Monitoring in the Withlacoochee and Little River Basins

Flood-Tracking Chart

Withlacoochee and Little River Basins in South-Central Georgia and Northern Florida

Prepared in cooperation with

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

General Information Product 155
Printed on recycled paper

turn off utilities. remove only the most important items including pets, and furniture inside, raise essential items as high as possible, If you must evacuate, secure your home. Bring outdoor and destruction. Their advice is based on knowledge of the predicted magnitude of the flood and the potential for death

Do leave if local authorities recommend evacuation.

information during the flood. to the local media for the latest and NWS Web pages and listen Stay informed. Visit the USGS Surviving During a Flood—Do's and Don'ts heaters, and air conditioning compressor units. as refrigerators, washing machines, clothes dryers, water lines; and elevating furniture, carpets, and appliances such sandbagging; turning off all electrical circuits and gas steps to protect your family and property. These include take all necessary and appropriate and flood warnings are issued, or is located in a flood-hazard area If your property is known to flood

Flood Safety and Property Protection Measures

covered; if not, you might want to add this coverage. flood insurance policy to see if your home's contents are furnishings inside the structure may be costly. Check your structure and not the contents. During floods, damage to improvement loan. These policies may cover only the it was required when they obtained a mortgage or home Some homeowners purchased flood insurance because to filing any claims. agents. Flood insurance must be purchased 30 days prior about flood insurance is available through local insurance properties that have previously flooded. Information in the participating communities to everyone, even for is backed by the Federal Government and is available separate flood insurance is available. This insurance in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, communities that participate from floods; however, in policies do not cover damage Regular homeowners' insurance at <http://www.fema.gov/protecting-homes>.

published manuals on protecting your home from floods install a plug, stand-pipe, or backup valve. FEMA has heavy rains. One possible solution is to have a plumber in the floodplain, have sewers that can back up during updated building codes. Many houses, even those not

Local Flood-Emergency Phone Numbers

(All county numbers are emergency management agency (EMA) offices or best available):

Georgia contacts:	
Berrien County	(229) 686-6588
Brooks County	(229) 263-7558
Colquitt County	(229) 616-7025
Cook County	(229) 896-2266
Lowndes County	(229) 671-2790
Tift County	(229) 388-6060
Thomas County	(229) 225-4190
Turner County	(229) 567-4313
Worth County	(229) 776-8211
City of Adel	(229) 896-3771 Police (229) 896-7375 Fire (229) 896-2780 Utilities
City of Ashburn	(229) 567-2323 Police (229) 567-4952 Fire (229) 567-2424 Utilities
City of Nashville	(229) 686-6558 Police (229) 686-3331 Fire
City of Quitman	(229) 263-7556 Police (229) 263-4311 Fire (229) 263-4166 Utilities
City of Sylvester	(229) 776-8500 Police (229) 776-8511 Fire (229) 776-8513 Public Works
City of Tifton	(229) 382-3132 Police (229) 391-3972 Fire (229) 391-3944 Public Works
City of Valdosta	(229) 242-2606 Police (229) 333-1835 Fire (229) 259-3530 Engineering

Florida contacts:

Hamilton County	(386) 792-6447
Madison County	(850) 973-3698

Cover photograph. Little River near Adel, Georgia, April 3, 2009 (Gregory B. Donley, USGS).

ISSN 2332-3531 (print)
ISSN 2332-354X (online)
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/gip155>

The information on this page is provided in the interest of public safety and is taken from various sources including: American Red Cross Flood Safety Web site at <http://www.red-cross.org/prepare/disaster/flood>, accessed July 31, 2013. Federal Emergency Management Agency Plan, Prepare & Mitigate Website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan-prepare-mitigate>, accessed July 31, 2013. Federal Emergency Management Agency Web site at <http://www.ready.gov/floods>, accessed July 31, 2013.

they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless electrically charged even after they have been unplugged. equipment. Some appliances, such as television sets, remain contain broken or dangerous objects. floodwaters will cover floors with slippery mud that can use caution when entering flooded buildings. In addition, flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours, so Look before you step. Small animals that have been the area has been ventilated. flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for city/county emergency management office. Report downed power lines to the power company or electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. The number two cause of flood-related deaths is Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

and distillation. flood. Treatment methods include boiling, disinfection, or lake and stream water from areas not affected by the other forms of safe supply such as spring water, rainfall, drinking-water supply, consider bottled water or treating illness or death. When flooding interrupts the normal pollutants and waterborne diseases that can result in Do not drink floodwater. Floodwaters carry harmful may be washed out. Turn around, don't drown! protection—the road or bridge beyond the barrier around road barriers—they are put up for your drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive Do not drive through a flooded area. More people knock you off your feet.

number one cause of flood-related deaths. Water currents Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the

For More Information

If you would like more information about one of the following agencies, please call, e-mail, or check the following Web sites:

- U.S. Geological Survey
Georgia Water Science Center
phone: (678) 924-6700
e-mail: dc_ga@usgs.gov
<http://ga.water.usgs.gov>

Georgia Emergency Management Agency
phone: 1 (800) TRY-GEMA or (404) 635-7000
<http://www.gema.ga.gov>

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
phone: (404) 656-3500
<http://www.gadnr.org>

Georgia Floodplain Management Unit
phone: (404) 675-1757

National Weather Service
Southeast River Forecast Center
phone: (770) 486-0028
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc>

National Weather Service
Tallahassee Weather Field Office
Phone: (850) 942-8851
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tlh>

American Red Cross
South Georgia Chapter
phone: (229) 242-7404
www.valdostaredcross.org

Withlacoochee and Little River Basins streamgaging network funded in part by (in alphabetical order): City of Valdosta Georgia Environmental Protection Division Lowndes County Suwannee River Water Management District USGS Cooperative Water Program USGS National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP)

By Anthony J. Gotvald, Brian E. McCallum, and Jaime A. Painter
Layout by Caryl J. Wipperfurth

U.S. Department of the Interior
SALLY JEWELL, Secretary
U.S. Geological Survey
Suzette M. Kimball, Acting Director

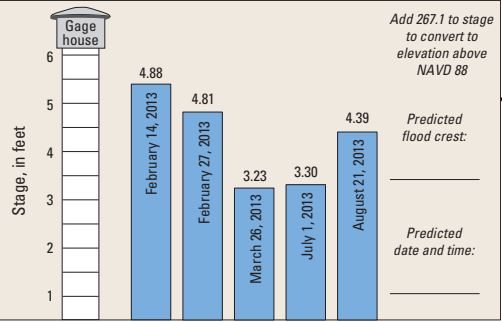
Flood-Tracking Chart for the Withlacoochee and Little River Basins in South-Central Georgia and Northern Florida

This Withlacoochee and Little River Basins flood-tracking chart can be used by local citizens and emergency response personnel to record the latest river stage and predicted flood-crest information along the Withlacoochee River, Little River, and Okapilco Creek in south-central Georgia and northern Florida. By comparing the current stage (water-surface level above a datum) and predicted flood crest to the recorded peak stages of previous floods, emergency response personnel and residents can make informed decisions concerning the threat to life and property.

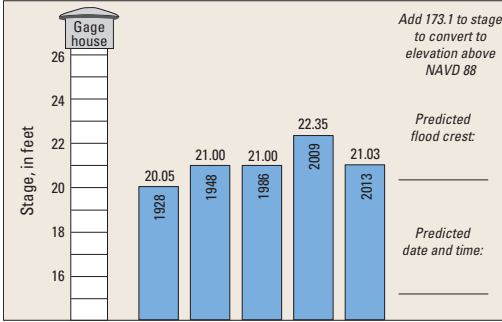
This chart shows a map of the basin with the location of selected real-time river stage stations, which are listed by name and station number. For each site, colored bars represent the five highest recorded peak stages and the years in which they occurred. The white bar provides a scale to record the most recently reported river stage from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS Georgia Water Science Center displays available real-time river stage data on the Web at <http://water.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/rt>.

For each of the selected stations that is a flood-forecast point, the predicted flood-crest information from the National Weather Service (NWS) can be recorded. USGS data are used by the NWS for its flood-forecasting models. The NWS routinely broadcasts this forecast information to the media and on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio (NWR). Current NWR broadcast frequencies can be accessed at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrbro.htm>.

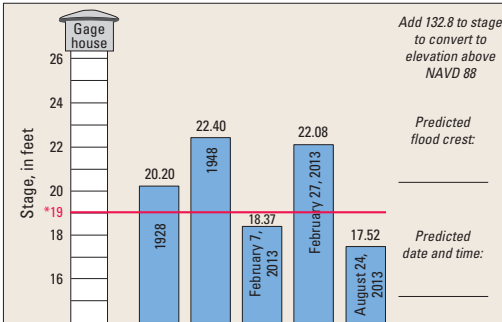
Little River at Upper Ty Ty Road, near Tifton GA
(02317797) 2011–13



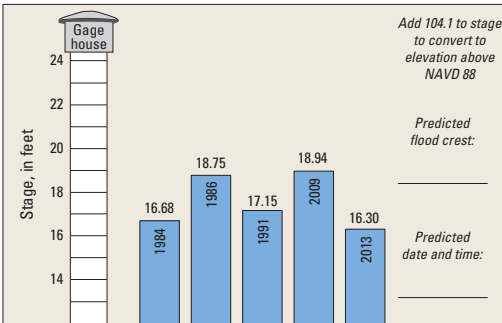
Little River near Adel GA
(02318000) 1928, 1941–73, 1984, 1986, 1991, 2003–13



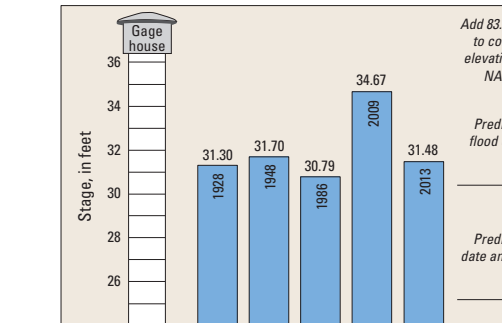
Little River at GA 122, near Hahira GA
(02318380) 1928, 1948, 2011–13



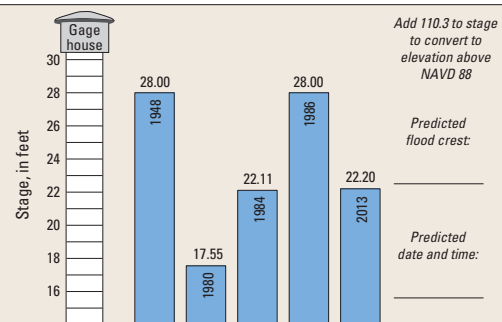
Okapilco Creek at GA 333, near Quitman GA
(02318700) 1980–2013



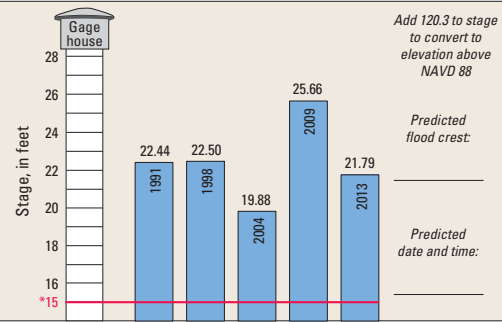
Withlacoochee River at US 84, near Quitman GA
(02318500) 1928–31, 1938–49, 1953–54, 1964, 1979, 1984, 1986, 1989–2013



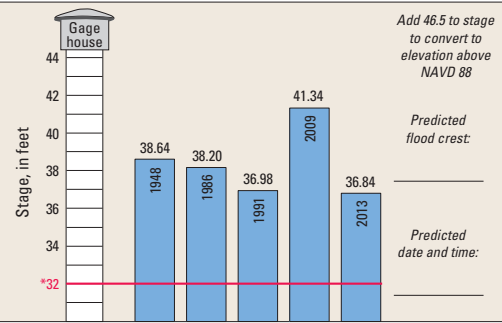
Withlacoochee River at US 41 near Valdosta GA
(02317755) 1948, 1977–78, 1980, 1984, 1986, 1989–90, 2011–13



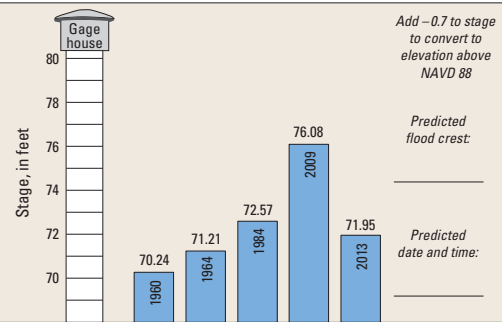
Withlacoochee River at McMillan Road, near Bemiss, GA
(023177483) 1988–2013



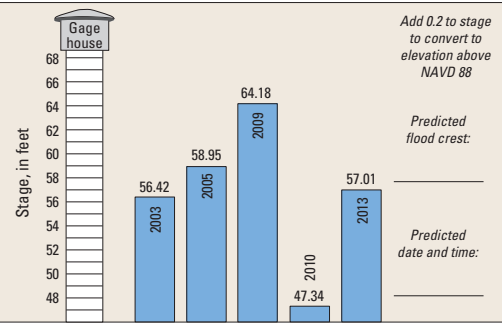
Withlacoochee River near Pinetta FL
(02319000) 1928, 1932–2013



Withlacoochee River near Madison FL
(02319300) 1960, 1965–72, 1976–77, 1984, 2005–13



Withlacoochee River near Lee FL
(02319394) 2001–07, 2009–10, 2012–13



EXPLANATION

Elevation—In feet. Datum is North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88)

High: 217
Low: 137

Hydrologic unit boundary

USGS streamgage

How to convert stage to NAVD 88

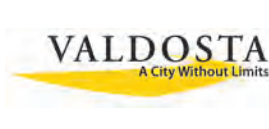
EXAMPLE: Withlacoochee River near Valdosta (02317755). If stage equals 28.00 feet (ft), and datum conversion factor equals 110.3 ft, elevation above datum is 28.00+110.3=138.30 ft.

NOTE: It is important to know your home's elevation.



For real-time streamflow data and other water-resources information, access the USGS Georgia Water Science Center home page at <http://ga.water.usgs.gov>

For National Weather Service predicted peaks and other information access the Southeast River Forecast Center home page at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc>



Flood-tracking chart prepared in cooperation with