



web of water

Web of Water Webisode 2: In the Piedmont

Transcript

Ian Sanchez: Well, here we are, passing through where the river passes through the foot of the mountain in the Piedmont, and you know that there's a lot of agriculture in this area, and a lot of farming that's going on at this point. You also can see that Mother Nature is still the great recycler, always recycling everything. And you're going to find that all the plants and animals will eventually make their way back into the earth, and be broken down by the decomposers as detritus, and that detritus, again, fueling the planet. Once those solar panels of the leaves suck up the energy of the sun, they continue to hold on to it, and they continue to feed new plants and animals that will be born from the earth. The character of the river has changed again. As we go through the Piedmont, we start off in that winding part of the upper Saluda, and now, it has opened up into this open, wide, flat water of Lake Greenwood. Just leaving Greenwood State Park, and now paddling towards the hydroelectric dam. All the lakes along the Saluda



River are man-made. Now they provide hydroelectric power and recreation for the residents around here, and for the tourists that come into this area. The river is going to make its way over that hydroelectric dam, then it's going to wind through the forested lands that are all privately owned, until it opens up again into Lake Murray. Then we know that we've reached the Sandhills. As we paddle through Lake Greenwood, on one side, we have Laurens County, and Laurens County is named after Henry Laurens. Henry Laurens was a Revolutionary hero. He was a very powerful man. In fact, he was the second president of the Continental Congress. Also, Andrew Johnson used to be a tailor in Laurens County, and he became President of the United States. On the other side, we have Greenwood. And in Greenwood, is the town of Ninety-Six, misnamed because they thought that was about ninety-six miles away from the trading post of Keeowee, with the Cherokee Indians. Again, that was so important, when the Native Americans would trade the deerskins up and down this same waterway. The river is very different than how the Native Americans would have seen it. Very soon, we're going to meet with a descendant of Native Americans. That will be Chief Louis Chavis. He's from the Beaver Creek tribe, and he's going to give us his perspective on this web of water [end].

