



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



Top Scientists Join Our Opposition to the Proposed Shepherd Bend Mine

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The University of Alabama (UA) is the main owner of land and minerals at the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine site across from a major drinking water supply for the greater Birmingham area on the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River. Therefore, we recently sent UA’s Trustees and campus leaders two new letters from esteemed scientists who oppose this remarkably shortsighted coal mining proposal.

The 1,773-acre strip mine would discharge polluted water at 29 outfalls, including one that is 800 feet across the river from the Birmingham Water Works Board’s Mulberry Intake. Metals, sediment, and other pollutants discharged from the mine would lead to decreased source water quality for 200,000 citizens served by that intake, and potentially increased water bills for 600,000 Birmingham Water Works Board customers.

Three preeminent researchers on water pollution from coal mines recently wrote the following in a public letter highlighting the need to protect Birmingham’s drinking water from coal pollution: “Despite our extensive collective experience regarding permit applications in the coalfields of West Virginia and Kentucky, the Shepherd’s Bend mine is the first mining permit application that we have seen immediately adjacent to a public drinking water supply. Given the extensive literature linking surface coal mining to a variety of human health problems with enormous associated public health costs, such activity seems particularly ill advised.”

Dr. Emily S. Bernhardt (Associate Professor, Department of Biology and the Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University) has researched the impact of mountaintop removal and surface mining on freshwater ecosystems of the central Appalachians.

Dr. Margaret A. Palmer (Director, National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center; Professor, Department of Entomology, University of Maryland; Professor, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Center for Environmental Science, University of Maryland) has also studied the impacts of mountaintop removal, surface mining, and valley fill operations on aquatic ecosystems of the central Appalachians.

Dr. Michael Hendryx (Professor, Applied Health Science, Indiana University; Interim Chair, Department of Health Policy, Management and Leadership, School of Public Health, West Virginia University; Research Director, Institute for Health Policy Research, West Virginia University; Director, West Virginia Rural Health Research Center) is one of the most frequently cited experts regarding coal mining’s effects on community health, having written extensively on this topic in a multitude of peer-reviewed articles.

Relying on numerous peer-reviewed studies, the scientists’ letter states that “the accumulating body of research on this topic demonstrates that surface coal mining leads to severe, persistent and far-reaching degradation of water quality and biodiversity.” They conclude that, “In short, extensive research conducted in the central Appalachians makes it very clear that there are good reasons to be concerned about the water quality implications of surface coal mines. Without similar research and evidence to the contrary, the citizens and managers of Alabama would be prudent to assume that the same trends apply.”

Drummond Company’s subsidiary, Shepherd Bend, LLC, recently applied to renew its wastewater discharge permit, which ADEM has drafted (NPDES Permit No. AL0079162). ADEM had issued a wastewater discharge permit to Shepherd Bend, LLC, on July 21, 2008, but no mining ever started, and the permit’s five year term expired.

Regarding that new draft permit, Dr. Robert L. Hopkins, II, respected researcher of aquatic ecosystems, more recently sent a public letter to ADEM. Dr. Hopkins has close familial ties to the coal industry, yet still took a public stance against this threat to one of American Rivers’ *Most Endangered Rivers* and a major water source for Alabama’s biggest city. Dr. Hopkins’ letter focused on the new ADEM permit, but should also dissuade UA to ever lease or sell land or minerals for mining at this uniquely inappropriate location.

ADEM will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 28 at 6 pm on the mine’s new permit at Building 1400, Bevill State, 101 State Street, Sumiton, AL 35148. ADEM will also accept written comments before 5 pm on August 29 addressed to: Russell Kelly | Permits and Services | ADEM | P. O. Box 301463 | Montgomery, AL 36130-1463 | rak@adem.state.al.us. Read the scientists’ letters and take action at blackwarriorriver.org/ShepherdBendMine.html.

A COAL MINE NEXT TO A DRINKING WATER INTAKE.

IN WHAT WORLD IS THIS A GOOD IDEA?

The proposed Shepherd Bend Mine is a threat to your drinking water. Find out what you can do to stop it.

BlackWarriorRiver.org



Northern Beltline Update: Groundbreaking Ceremony Was Misleading

Along with the Southern Environmental Law Center, we released the following public statement regarding the April 21, 2014 groundbreaking event for construction of the first phase of the Northern Beltline.

“To continue investing in an unnecessary road that will cross and permanently alter streams and wetlands in 125 places, impacting two major sources of local drinking water, is nothing to celebrate,” said Nelson Brooke, Black Warrior Riverkeeper. “Today’s event is merely a distraction from the fact that the Northern Beltline remains a wasteful and destructive diversion from the Birmingham area’s pressing transportation needs, such as the I-59/20 upgrade and major traffic issues on I-65 and Highway 280.”

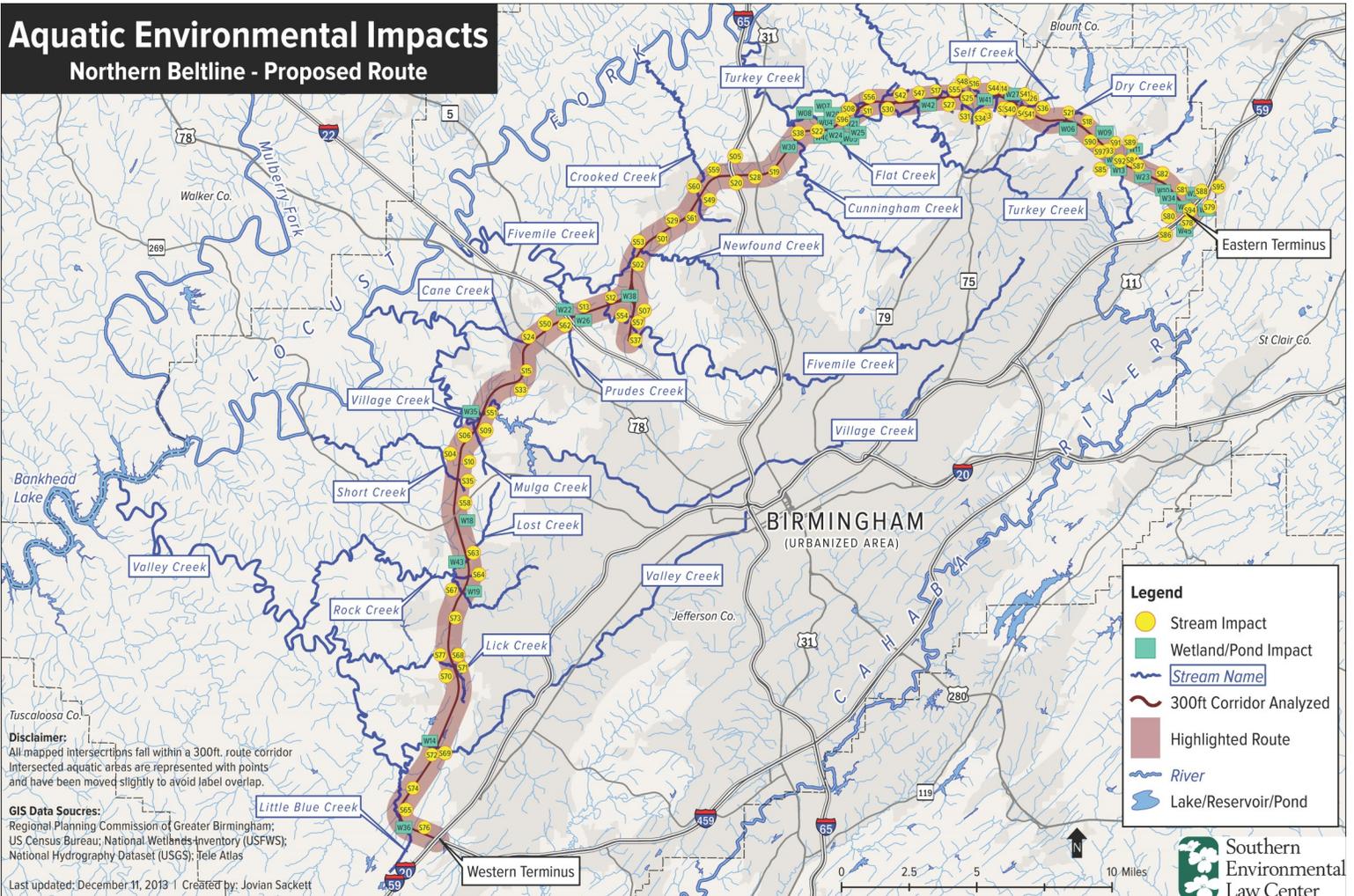
ALDOT has only obtained dedicated funding for the first 1.86 mile segment of the road and has not indicated how they will pay for the rest of the project. This is particularly problematic in the wake of an announcement this week that the Federal Highway Trust Fund, which Alabama relies on to fund transportation projects all over the state, is projected to run out of money this year.

“The lack of funding to get this project from start to finish – much less fund Birmingham’s other transportation needs – further illustrates that the Beltline is a bad idea for the region and a poor investment for the taxpayers,” said Gil Rogers, senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center. “Not only is this project needlessly damaging the Black Warrior and Cahaba River watersheds, but its \$5.4-billion price tag would use all of Alabama’s federal funding for much needed road improvements and maintenance projects around the state. Other states are sensibly shelving large projects that are far less costly than the Beltline in the face of economic realities.”

The proposed Northern Beltline has raised serious environmental, economic, and transportation concerns from local communities, taxpayers, and conservation groups, questioning whether this 35-year project is a good investment for the greater Birmingham region. The 52-mile, 6-lane highway will cost taxpayers \$5.445 billion, or \$104.7 million per mile, while it is only expected to relieve 1-3% of traffic. It would be the most expensive road project in the history of Alabama, and one of the most expensive (per mile) ever built in the nation.

SELC has filed two federal lawsuits on behalf of Black Warrior Riverkeeper in 2011 and 2013. The 2011 suit charged that the responsible agencies failed to provide a necessary analysis of alternative transportation investments as required by law, and to justify the environmental impacts and tremendous economic cost of the Beltline. SELC filed suit in 2013 challenging a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Northern Beltline’s first phase of construction, charging improper segmentation of the project and failure to follow the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Both of these cases remain active and have not yet been decided.

For more information about why the Northern Beltline would take Alabama in the wrong direction, please contact us anytime or visit blackwarriorriver.org/northern-beltline.html and southernenvironment.org/cases/northern_beltline.



The proposed Northern Beltline would cross and permanently alter Black Warrior and Cahaba river tributaries in 90 places (including impacts to two major sources of drinking water). It will also impact wetlands in 35 places and 3,078 football fields’ worth of forest.



SweetWater Brewery Helps “Save Our Water” this Summer in Tuscaloosa

In over 20 Tuscaloosa businesses between July 4 and Labor Day, SweetWater Brewing Company is raising money and awareness for Black Warrior Riverkeeper. SweetWater realizes the importance of protecting the South’s vital water sources. The Atlanta brewery has again teamed up with Waterkeeper Alliance – a global movement of on-the-water advocates who patrol and protect worldwide waterways – for their *Save Our Water* campaign, supporting the conservation of the Southeast’s rivers, streams and coastlines.

SweetWater’s *Save Our Water* campaign encourages patrons to “give of your liver to save the river” by enjoying SweetWater’s seasonal Waterkeeper Hefeweizen Ale, purchasing campaign t-shirts, and making paper fish donations at participating restaurants, bars and retail accounts where the beer is sold across the Southeast. Additionally, patrons can visit waterkeeperbrew.org to donate online, or purchase a custom *Save Our Water* glass at SweetWater’s weekly brewery tours.

The cause is near and dear to the brewery as clean water is also vital to the creation of their brews. In 2011, SweetWater launched Waterkeeper® Hefeweizen, a beer with a cause, helping to spread the campaign’s mission right on the beer label. Now, as part of their seasonal Catch & Release line-up, the unfiltered brew made its return to shelves and draft taps in June.

SweetWater founded the *Save Our Water* program in 2006 with its local Chattahoochee Riverkeeper in Atlanta, and efforts grew larger as the brewery did. Since the inception of the program eight years ago, SweetWater has raised more than \$700,000 for the cause, with a whopping \$150,000 raised in 2013 alone. Today, *Save Our Water* campaign supports more than 35 Waterkeepers in Southeastern states including Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Louisiana and Virginia.

In Tuscaloosa, Black Warrior Riverkeeper protects the Black Warrior River and Lake Tuscaloosa, the city’s drinking water source. Scott Smith of Supreme Beverage Company and Trent Tiffin of The University of Alabama will help Black Warrior Riverkeeper run *Save Our Water* in Tuscaloosa. Mountain High Outfitters will donate prizes to servers who raise the most funds for Black Warrior Riverkeeper.

“SweetWater has been an amazing corporate partner for Black Warrior Riverkeeper since 2006,” said Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. “It has been exciting to see them support more Waterkeepers throughout the South each year.”

Tuscaloosa-area businesses participating in *Save Our Water* include **Alcove**: 730 22nd Ave, **Brumfields**: 4851 Rice Mine Rd, **Buffalo Phil’s**: 1149 University Blvd, **Buffalo Wild Wings**: 2710 McFarland Blvd, **CopperTop**: 2300 4th St, **Cypress Inn**: 501 Rice Mine Rd, **Downtown Pub**: 2427 University Blvd, **Egan’s**: 1229 University Blvd, **High Tide**: 508 Red Drew Ave, **Houndstooth**: 1300 University Blvd, **Gnemi’s Top Shelf**: 407 23rd Ave, **Gray Lady**: 521 Greensboro Ave, **Green Bar**: 2209 4th St, **Innisfree**: 1925 University Blvd, **Mellow Mushroom**: 2230 University Blvd, **Moe’s BBQ**: 2101 University Blvd, **Rounders**: 1215 University Blvd, **Southern Ale House**: 1530 McFarland Blvd N, **Steamers on the Strip**: 1301 University Blvd, **Taco Mama**: 2104A University Boulevard, **Tuscaloosa Burger**: 1014 7th Ave, **Wilhagan’s**: 2209 4th St, **15th St Texaco**: 1902 Veterans Memorial Pkwy, and **1831**: 2304 4th St.

Additionally, special edition red *Save Our Water* t-shirts with Black Warrior Riverkeeper’s logo are on sale at these Tuscaloosa businesses for a limited time only: **Buffalo Wild Wings**, **CopperTop**, **Green Bar**, **Rounders**, and **Wilhagan’s**.



**PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO
CLEAN WATER
AND TASTY BEER!**

From July 4th through Labor Day, retailers are teaming up with SweetWater Brewery to help protect our rivers and waterways with the “Save Our Water” campaign. Thanks to great partners last year, we raised over \$150,000. Now, in our eighth year, our goal is \$175,000.

WHY WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE?
SINCE 1999, WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE HAS ACTIVELY WORKED TO PROTECT OUR RIVERS AND WATERWAYS AROUND THE WORLD.

With more than 30 Waterkeepers alone in the Southeast, the Waterkeeper Alliance has stopped hundreds of illegal discharges into our local rivers and waterways, removed tons of trash, provided education to tens of thousands of students, patrolled huge stretches of waterways, and forced governments and industries to comply with clean water laws.

Remember, without clean water we can’t have tasty beer.
To donate, visit www.waterkeeperbrew.org.

 WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE

Nelson Brooke's RIVERKEEPER[®] Patrol Log

Here is a chronological summary of just a few of the many activities that Nelson Brooke performed recently as Riverkeeper (patrolman and spokesman) of the Black Warrior River watershed.

Report Pollution:

Call: (205)458-0095

Email: reportpollution@blackwarriorriver.org

or use our online "Report Pollution" form at blackwarriorriver.org.

January 24: Patrolled Tuscaloosa Oliver Pool riverfront looking at stormwater runoff and erosion issues.

February 6: Attended our farm to table dinner at Epiphany restaurant in Tuscaloosa, which featured local beers from Druid City Brewing Company and local eats from Snow's Bend Farm and Katie Farms.

February 7: Patrolled Bayview Lake on Village Creek in Jefferson County to document all the floatable trash that is collecting there.

February 11: Conducted a site visit along with Riverkeeper staff at Donaldson Correctional Facility's wastewater treatment plant to assess operations.

February 20: Along with Riverkeeper staff, attended an Alabama Surface Mining Commission hearing on our appeal of their denial of our Lands Unsuitable for Coal Mining Petition, encouraging commissioners to do the right thing and protect the Mulberry Fork drinking water source.

February 26: Patrolled the North Birmingham EPA Superfund Cleanup area near Walter Coke in Collegeville/ Harriman Park to assess cleanup activities and contaminated soil stockpile handling.

February 27: Patrolled the Oliver Pool in Tuscaloosa with Alex Huryn's UA class.

February 28: Patrolled Shepherd Bend on the Mulberry Fork in Walker County with Samford professor Dr. Betsy Dobbins. Dr. Dobbins and a student are performing background water quality monitoring to create a backlog of pre-mining data.

March 7-9: Attended the annual Alabama Rivers Alliance Water Rally conference in Montgomery to learn from and network with other river helpers from across the state.

March 21: Patrolled Five Mile Creek in Tarrant with conservation photographer/videographer Hunter Nichols. Found nasty brown water discharging from ABC Coke, which turned the creek's clear, spring-fed flow cloudy.

March 24: Patrolled Texas Creek with our Enforcement Coordinator, John Kinney to assess impacts on the creek from Walter Energy's discharges from their underground Jim Walter Mine No. 7.

March 31: Patrolled Carthage Branch in Moundville to check on discharges from Veros Energy.

April 5: Took part in the 6th annual Lake Tuscaloosa Cleanup. Volunteers helped fill the Riverkeeper patrol boat up with loads of trash.

April 7: Patrolled after a heavy rain documenting sewage overflows out of Jefferson County sanitary sewer manholes in the Village Creek basin.

April 9: Checked on Valley Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant's massive National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System outfall into Valley Creek in Jefferson County.

April 11: Attempted to give a presentation about ongoing Uniontown sewage spill issues to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission in Montgomery, along with Black Belt Citizens United for Health & Justice, but EMC commissioners denied us the right to speak.

April 16: Patrolled Veros Energy in Moundville and discovered remnants of a spill in an unnamed tributary to Carthage Branch near the river.

April 19: Took part in Riverkeeper's annual Earth Day celebration – Earthbound's Earthfest – at Avondale Brewing Company, where the advocacy focus was urging UA to stop the Shepherd Bend Mine.



Trash from Birmingham floats to Bayview Lake on Village Creek.

Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Samford biology student tests water quality at Shepherd Bend.

Photo by Nelson Brooke.



ABC Coke polluting Five Mile Creek in Tarrant.

Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Veros Energy polluting streams near the river in Moundville.

Photo by Nelson Brooke.

Nelson Brooke's RIVERKEEPER® Patrol Log (Continued)



Students at the Village Creek Spring Street Cleanup in Ensley.
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Untreated sewage overflows from a manhole in Birmingham.
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Foul gray-black water spilled at Southeastern Cheese being pumped out of Cottonwood Creek in Uniontown. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Defend Rivers paddle brought together over 100 paddlers in over 70 boats to celebrate protecting Alabama's waterways.
Photo by Nelson Brooke.

April 21: Attended the Northern Beltline groundbreaking ceremony in Palmyerdale with Sarah Stokes, Attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, where proponents continued to spread misinformation about the purported funding for and benefits of the beltline. Proponents in suits tossed red dirt with gold-tipped shovels while celebrating the first phase of construction, which consists of a six-lane highway between Hwy 75 & Hwy 79, a stretch aptly dubbed the "Road to Nowhere." (See p. 2).

April 23: Met with EPA Region 4, including new Regional Administrator Heather McTeer Toney, in Atlanta along with many others to discuss enacting effective regulations regarding coal ash pollution in Alabama.

April 26: Volunteered at the annual Village Creek Spring Street Cleanup in Ensley. As a "Street Captain" for Village Creek Society, I led a group of students on a trash cleanup along many city blocks.

May 8: Attended a hearing on a permit modification for Black Warrior Minerals Mine No. 1 (aka Morris Mine), at the Alabama Surface Mining Commission in Jasper, where colleague John Kinney spoke.

May 20-21: Patrolled Gorgas Steam Plant on the Mulberry Fork in Walker County, Miller Steam Plant on the Locust Fork in Jefferson County, and Greene County Steam Plant on the Black Warrior River in Greene County, to check on their water pollution discharge pipes.

May 30-June 2: Attended the annual Waterkeeper Alliance conference in Pittsburgh to learn from and network with over 225 Waterkeepers from around the world. This year's conference was also held in conjunction with River Network, so there were even more river advocates from across the country to learn with.

June 16: Met with Jefferson County Environmental Services staff along with John Kinney to discuss sewage overflow issues within the massive Jefferson County sanitary sewer system.

June 17: Met with North Tuscaloosa County residents whose well water is both drying up and contaminated. Their drinking water wells started having problems after natural gas (coalbed methane) wells were drilled and fracked in the area.

June 19: Attended an Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust board meeting along with Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Manager Charles Yeager to support the Thomas Tract addition to Turkey Creek NP.

June 20: Gave a presentation about ongoing Uniontown sewage spill issues to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission in Montgomery, along with Ben Eaton, Vice President of the Black Belt Citizens United for Health & Justice.

June 25: Patrolled the Mulberry Fork around Shepherd Bend and Gorgas Steam plant with the Southern Environmental Law Center's Southern Exposure summer film fellows.

July 8: Participated in City of Birmingham press conference at East Lake Park along Village Creek by paddling a canoe in East Lake, showing support for local public lands and Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit.

July 11: Patrolled the Mulberry Fork from Cordova to Gorgas with Lewis Communications staff and Julie Price, UAB Coordinator of Sustainability.

July 16: Patrolled Uniontown with Adam Johnston, Alliance Coordinator at the Alabama Rivers Alliance, checking on Uniontown's sewage sprayfield overflows into Freetown Creek, a tributary to Chilatchee Creek in the Alabama River basin, and on Cottonwood Creek – a tributary to Big Prairie Creek in the Black Warrior basin – which has been plagued with illegal overflows from the Uniontown Lagoon and Southeastern Cheese's wastewater sprayfield. We found nine ongoing overflows from the sprayfield into Freetown Creek, and found workers pumping stinky, gray-black water out of Cottonwood Creek, which they said was the result of a spill from the cheese plant.

July 18: Participated in the Defend Rivers paddle on the Alabama River put on by the Alabama Rivers Alliance. This event convened over 100 paddlers in over 70 boats to celebrate protecting Alabama's waterways.

Board Member Bio: Professor William Andreen

William L. Andreen (Bill) is the Edgar L. Clarkson Professor of Law at the University of Alabama School of Law. He joined the Alabama faculty in 1983. He also serves as the Director of the school's Summer Exchange Program with the Australian University (ANU) where he is an Adjunct Professor of Law. Bill has visited and taught at a number of law schools including Washington & Lee University, the ANU, Lewis & Clark Law School, Addis Ababa University, and Mekelle University (Ethiopia). He has also served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at the ANU's National Europe Center. Bill teaches Environmental Law, Administrative Law, and International Environmental Law. His writing has largely concentrated on the Clean Water Act, but he has also written on a number of other environmental and regulatory topics.

Bill graduated from the College of Wooster and received his law degree from Columbia. After practicing with an Atlanta law firm, he joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, in 1979 as Assistant Regional Counsel. He remained with EPA for four years. Bill has served as a legal advisor to the National Environment Management Council of Tanzania; as chair of the Environmental Law Section of the American Association of Law Schools; and as President of the Alabama Rivers Alliance. He is currently a member of the Environmental Law Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN); a Scholar Member of the Center for Progressive Reform; and serves as Of Counsel to the Alabama Rivers Alliance and GASP. Bill joined Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Board in 2013.

To view the biographies of the other members of our Board of Directors, please visit: blackwarriorriver.org/board.html.



Fishing in the Black Warrior River Watershed



Nelson Brooke with a Striped Bass from Clear Creek near Camp McDowell in the Sipsey Fork watershed.
Photo by Rev. Mark Johnston.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper wants everyone to get outdoors and enjoy fishing! Not only is fishing a great sport, pastime, and Alabama tradition, but it gets folks down to waterways that they will hopefully want to help protect.

There is a lot worth protecting in this area: the Black Warrior River watershed is home to 127 freshwater fish species. In fact, Alabama rivers contain 38 percent of North America's fish species.

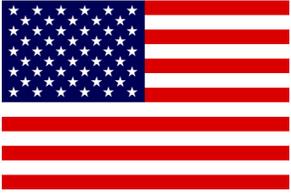
Most of Alabama is blessed with clean water, and the fish in many waters are safe for eating. There are a few water bodies, however, where the Alabama Department of Public Health advises that fish not be eaten. Call 800-201-8208 for the latest information on fish advisories in Alabama.

For an overview about the Alabama Department of Public Health's advisories, visit: <http://adph.org/tox/assets/FishAdvisoryInfo.pdf>. For the most recent fish advisory, visit: <http://www.adph.org/tox/index.asp?formid=565&id=1360>.

Comprehensive information about where to fish in Alabama is here: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/where/>. For more information about other forms of recreation in the Black Warrior basin, visit: <http://blackwarriorriver.org/recreation.html>.

With thousands of spotted bass per river mile, the Black Warrior River's free-flowing Locust Fork is the best all-around fly-fishing river among the Black Warrior's three major forks (Sipsey, Mulberry and Locust), surpassing its scenic and biodiverse counterparts in both quality and quantity of fishing. For fly-fishing gear and info, contact our partners at Deep South Outfitters in Vestavia (205-969-3868), Orvis in Birmingham (205-970-5176), or Riverside Fly Shop in Bremen (256-287-9582).

We are indebted to fishermen who contact us at reportpollution@blackwarriorriver.org or 205-458-0095 if they spot pollution or large fish-kills in the watershed. We also appreciate Kyle Mabrey, B.A.S.S. Tour Pro, for his support as a member of our Advisory Council.



Membership / Donation Form



Please complete and mail form to:
Black Warrior Riverkeeper
712 37th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35222

Name(s) _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____ Email(s): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you enjoy the Black Warrior River, its tributaries, or its Sipsey, Mulberry, or Locust Forks, please tell us how and where:

Payment Method: Check enclosed / American Express / MasterCard / Visa / Non-monetary Contribution (Volunteer or In-Kind donations)

Credit Card number and expiration date (mm/yy): _____

Please Mark a Donation Category

Plicate Rocksnail.....\$25

Watercress Darter.....\$50

Vermilion Darter.....\$100

Flattened Musk Turtle.....\$250

Black Warrior Waterdog.....\$1,000

Other Dollar amount.....\$ _____

In-kind donation (List donated goods or professional services): _____

Volunteer time (List hours and type of volunteering): _____

Stock donation (Please call Charles Scribner at 205-458-0095 for easy instructions).

(Any gift above) In Memory of: _____

(Any gift above) In Honor of: _____

Name & address to notify of memorial or honorarium gift: _____

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services of monetary value will be provided in exchange.

To purchase merchandise (long/short-sleeve shirts, stickers, front bumper tags, dock signs, hunting gear, hats), visit blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html or contact us at: 205-458-0095 or info@blackwarriorriver.org.

About Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

Black Warrior Riverkeeper’s mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. We are a citizen-based nonprofit advocating for clean water, wildlife, recreation, and public health in our patrol area, the Black Warrior River watershed. This basin is contained entirely in Alabama, America’s leading state for freshwater biodiversity.

Our staff is Nelson Brooke (Riverkeeper), Eva Dillard (Staff Attorney), John Kinney (Enforcement Coordinator), and Charles Scribner (Executive Director). Call us at 205-458-0095 or email info@blackwarriorriver.org to report pollution or to discuss how you can help. Learn more at blackwarriorriver.org.

We are proud members of the Alabama Association of Nonprofits, Alabama Rivers Alliance, GuideStar Exchange (Gold), River Network, and Waterkeeper Alliance. Other Waterkeepers in Alabama include Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper, Little River Waterkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, and Tennessee Riverkeeper.



Nelson Brooke finishes another patrol. Photo by Jeff Williams, Constellation Imageworks.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

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We offer a wide range of service projects for volunteers from any age group or location. Contact Charles Scribner to learn more and get started: call 205-458-0095 or email info@blackwarriorriver.org

Camisha Allen is a 9th grader at Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School. Through her school's unique Corporate Internship Program, Camisha worked in our office every Friday of this academic year, plus one Monday each month. She catalogued the pollution discharges at several coal mines in the watershed, while also helping prepare fundraising letters.

Robert Cayaban is a student at the University of Alabama studying Civil Engineering and Environmental Sociology, and is actively involved in the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment. He updated databases on stormwater and mining permits in the watershed, and assisted with the *Save Our Water* program sponsored by SweetWater Brewing Company.

Jamie Naman is a graduate student at the UAB School of Public Health concentrating in environmental health science and toxicology. Along with researching regulatory compliance for municipal water treatment facilities, she helped with educational outreach and fish consumption advisories.

Virginia Selden is a law student at the University of Virginia and has volunteered with us since her days as an Altamont Knight. She studied the sampling and reporting frequencies required by coal mining permits issued in other states. She also researched the standard of review for a legal petition and catalogued violations and complaints from Donaldson Correctional Facility's wastewater treatment system.

Riverkeeper Accolades: Early 2014

GuideStar, the leading source of information on American nonprofit organizations, again awarded us the top rating, **Gold**, based on impact, effectiveness, and transparency.



Impact Alabama, a nonprofit dedicated to developing and implementing substantive service-learning projects, awards \$10,000 to the charity or company that wins its annual trivia contest, **Birmingham's Brightest Company**. Bry Coburn, a longtime member, generously donated our entry fee. We then scored highest among all 46 teams, including many Goliaths.

Orvis recently opened its first store in the Birmingham area, at the Summit, and chose us to be the store's official **Conservation Partner**. The store donated a portion of its Grand Opening proceeds to us and will collaborate on future events and service projects. The oldest continuously operated catalog company in the country, Orvis is the premier outfitter of the distinctive country lifestyle and outdoor adventures. We are proud to join Orvis in promoting conservation and outdoor recreation, a multi-billion dollar industry in Alabama.

Singing For Change, founded by Jimmy Buffett to empower people to create positive change in their communities, gave us \$2,500 as the winner of its **Social Media Spirit Award**. The contest measures effectiveness in educational online outreach.