



# Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



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## The Black Warrior Joins America's Most Endangered Rivers

Pollution caused by coal mining near the Black Warrior River has landed the river on the annual list of America's Most Endangered Rivers™ – a report issued by the conservation group American Rivers.

The Black Warrior River and its tributaries are a major drinking water source for Birmingham, Jasper, Cullman and Tuscaloosa. The headwaters of the Black Warrior include the federally designated Wild and Scenic Sipsey Fork, which, along with the river's Mulberry and Locust Forks, is rated among the top 2% of United States streams by the National Park Service. The river, known for fishing, boating, commercial navigation, recreation, and wildlife, also runs through the Warrior Coal Field, where most of Alabama's coal reserves are found.

For many years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has allowed the majority of the Black Warrior River watershed's approximately 95 active coal mines to operate under a general permit known as Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21. NWP 21 does not take local wetland and stream conditions into account, study the possible impacts of the mines or provide for public input. This situation contrasts with the process in other Appalachian states, where the Corps last year suspended the use of NWP 21 to require more careful consideration of a mine's impacts on water resources and the environment.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has wisely closed this dangerous mining loophole across the Appalachian coal mining region – except for Alabama," said Gerrit Jobsis, American Rivers' Southeast Regional Director. "It's time to give Alabama's people, clean water, and wildlife the protection they deserve."

Eva Dillard, staff attorney for Black Warrior Riverkeeper, agrees: "Under NWP 21, the Corps has allowed numerous mines to operate in our watershed with no consideration of their cumulative impacts on water quality or the environment. With NWP 21 up for possible renewal in 2012, now is the time to tell the Corps to end the use of this rubber stamp in Alabama."

Black Warrior Riverkeeper Nelson Brooke states, "Our wetlands and headwater tributary streams are critical conveyors of clean water, controllers of runoff and flooding, and providers of fish and wildlife habitat. Their loss under NWP 21 hurts the river, local communities, fishermen and sportsmen, and ultimately the state.

American Rivers is calling on the Corps to discontinue the use of NWP 21 and include Alabama in all protective guidance and regulations that apply to Appalachian region mining. Ending the use of NWP 21 in Alabama would force the Corps to consider the cumulative impact of mines on the Black Warrior River and allow local people to voice their concerns.

American Rivers also called on the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and Alabama Surface Mining Commission to strengthen coal mining permits and enforcement efforts. Additionally, these agencies should collaborate with the Corps to address the cumulative effects of mining on the river.

For 26 years, American Rivers has sounded the alarm on 360 rivers through our America's Most Endangered Rivers report. The report is not a list of the "worst" or most polluted rivers, but is a call to action for rivers at a crossroads, whose fates will be determined in the coming year. By shining the spotlight and mobilizing grassroots action, we help save rivers from sewage pollution, new dams, mining, and other threats.

TAKE ACTION ~ Learn more about coal pollution and sign the Most Endangered Rivers petition at: [blackwarriorriver.org/news/black-warrior-chosen-among-america-s-most-endangered-rivers.html](http://blackwarriorriver.org/news/black-warrior-chosen-among-america-s-most-endangered-rivers.html)

*Kayakers enjoy surfing a rapid known as 5-0 on the Mulberry Fork after a big rain. Amidst widespread national coverage of the Most Endangered Rivers report, MSNBC ran this photograph with their story.* Photo by Nelson Brooke.



*Sloan Mountain Mine strips for coal within 100 feet of the Locust Fork.* Photo by Nelson Brooke. Flight by [SouthWings.org](http://SouthWings.org).



## Clean Water Groups Defend State Effort to Reduce Polluted Runoff

The Alabama Rivers Alliance, Black Warrior Riverkeeper and the Cahaba River Society have filed a motion to intervene in a permit appeal by a business organization filed against the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to help defend the agency's stormwater program for small cities.

Represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center, the groups say the lawsuit by the Business Alliance for Responsible Development (BARD) is a delaying tactic aimed at keeping local and state stormwater controls weak and ineffective. Without adequate programs to control polluted runoff from development and urban uses, downstream communities and businesses will continue to shoulder the high costs to clean drinking water and repair flood damages.

"Rivers, streams, coastal waters and lakes are critical to Alabamians for drinking water, recreation, wildlife and the economy. Polluted runoff is harming those uses. Every delay in halting polluted runoff means more degradation of our water and higher long-term clean-up costs for the public," said Gil Rogers, head of the Clean Water Program for the Southern Environmental Law Center, which filed the motion with the Alabama Environmental Management Commission on March 24, 2011.

Under the federal Clean Water Act, ADEM is required to set up a permitting program for small cities to control their polluted stormwater runoff. In August 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency rejected ADEM's first version because it did not meet basic requirements of the law. It was the first time the EPA had ever taken such a step with any state. ADEM subsequently made some modest improvements and issued a final permit on February 1. Stormwater runoff is widely acknowledged as one of the most serious causes of water pollution in Alabama.

"Many responsible developers in Alabama are already achieving the standards called for in ADEM's permit. Better stormwater practices that safeguard drinking water and help prevent flooding are proven to save money and make money for developers and communities," said Beth Stewart, Executive Director of the Cahaba River Society. "In these tough economic times, green projects with lower stormwater costs give developers and communities a competitive advantage, but lax stormwater controls undercut innovative developers and transfer costs to local governments and downstream neighbors."

BARD's challenge of ADEM's stormwater permit represents one more salvo in its continued resistance to improving development practices that protect water quality. For years, BARD has incited local governments to fight against standards that better manage development. BARD's misguided advice that local governments are doing too much to stop stormwater pollution has already made some cities and counties vulnerable to EPA audits and enforcement oversight. In 2009 and 2010 the EPA found that the stormwater programs of cities and counties in the Birmingham-Hoover metro area were not meeting basic requirements of the Clean Water Act.

"Traditionally, our organization has been on the opposite side of ADEM, as we consistently challenge them to do a better job of protecting Alabama's waters," said Eva Dillard, Staff Attorney for Black Warrior Riverkeeper. "We're taking ADEM's side in this appeal because we don't want to see the permit weakened even further, which is BARD's main objective."

"Enforceable permits are absolutely essential to stopping the devastating impacts of uncontrolled stormwater across Alabama," said Mitch Reid, the Alabama Rivers Alliance's Program Director. "Protecting our rivers is a shared responsibility of government at every level and this permit provides a level playing field so that no community is disadvantaged for doing the right thing for our environment."

The proposed permit will govern the local stormwater programs of about 60 smaller cities and counties for the next five to seven years. Just as important, ADEM noted that this permit will be the basis for other stormwater permits that will be written for larger cities and counties, as well as for the Alabama Department of Transportation.



Poor erosion controls allow muddy runoff to fill this sediment pond in Clay.  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



This Gardendale construction site has erosion gullies so deep that you can almost walk under the silt fence.  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Poor erosion controls at this Tuscaloosa site render silt fences useless and allow incredible amounts of sediment to flow into nearby streams.  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



# Groups Sue ALDOT for Flawed Environmental Study on Northern Beltline

In violation of federal law, the state Department of Transportation failed to fully account for the environmental impacts of the massive, high-priced Northern Beltline, groups said in a lawsuit filed April 11 in federal district court in Montgomery. The 52-mile beltline was recently pegged at \$4.7 billion, a 38% increase from just a few months ago. Much of that would come from federal coffers, but state taxpayers would be responsible for nearly \$1 billion in matching funds. At about \$90 million per mile, the beltline would among the most expensive interstate beltways in history.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper sued the agency for violating the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires a thorough evaluation of environmental impacts and alternatives in order to identify the most cost-effective and least damaging alternatives for projects funded with federal money. “We have been waiting for years for ALDOT to do its homework before proceeding as required by federal law. Unfortunately, this expensive and outdated highway project continues to move forward without a study of the most cost-effective way to bring economic growth to this part of the state,” said Gil Rogers, senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, which represents Black Warrior Riverkeeper in the suit.

The state’s \$1 billion share of the beltline exceeds ALDOT’s annual construction budget for the entire state, and would be almost five times as much as ALDOT’s annual budget for road and bridge maintenance statewide. The high price of the state’s match means that many other necessary projects—such as safety improvements, bridge repair and road maintenance in Montgomery, Mobile, Huntsville, and elsewhere, including Birmingham—would go unfunded to accommodate the beltline. ALDOT has failed to undertake any comparison of the true economic development impacts of this project with other transportation improvement alternatives, nor does the \$4.7 billion price tag take into account the additional cost to local governments of providing services like secondary roads and utilities to accommodate new growth in the region. Further, the beltline would likely trigger a shift of economic activity away from existing Birmingham neighborhoods.

“ALDOT’s inadequate study of this roadway’s cumulative economic and environmental impacts led to decisions being made in a vacuum without proper planning or public input,” said Nelson Brooke, staff Riverkeeper for Black Warrior Riverkeeper. “Sprawling development along this highway will lead to increased pollution in local streams and rivers to the detriment of all who live downstream.”

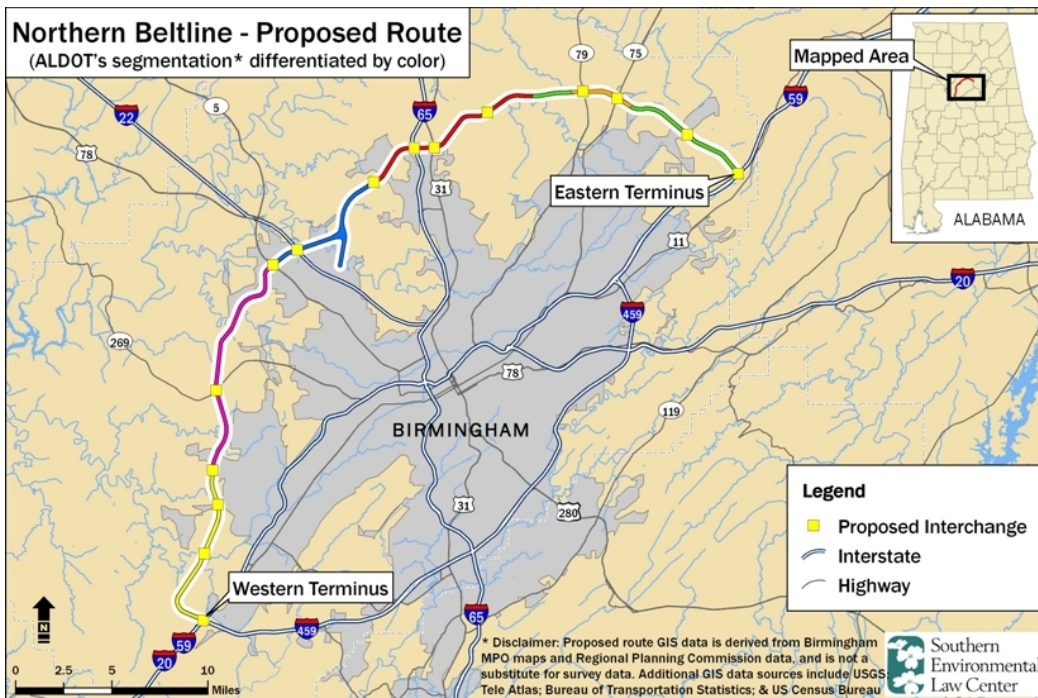
The Northern Beltline was first proposed a half century ago, when engineers routinely designed bypasses around metro areas to relieve traffic. Today’s transportation experts increasingly recognize the built-in liabilities of bypasses—declining downtowns, sprawl, loss of open space, impaired water quality, and increased traffic and smog.

ALDOT completed an environmental study on the project in 1997 and chose the route for the Northern Beltline that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cited as the most environmentally destructive. Because no work on the project occurred over the next three years, the analysis expired. ALDOT was legally required to re-evaluate its study and factor in changed conditions and correct deficiencies. Instead, in 2006, ALDOT released an extremely limited study covering only 3.4 miles, which according to the lawsuit amounts to an illegal segmentation of the project under the National Environmental Policy Act. Moreover, ALDOT has continued to ignore the environmental impacts of development spurred by the 3.4-mile segment and the beltline as a whole.

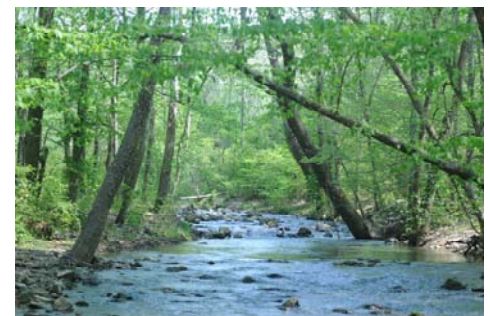
For more information, including maps, articles, analysis, and our organizations’ **August 9 comments urging the Metropolitan Planning Organization to drop the beltline from its four-year funding plan**, visit: [blackwarriorriver.org/northern-beltline.html](http://blackwarriorriver.org/northern-beltline.html).



*On ALDOT’s watch: muddy water from erosion at a Corridor X road construction site hits Village Creek.*  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



*Southern Environmental Law Center’s Map of the proposed Northern Beltline Route (4/12/2011).*



*Turkey Creek is in the Beltline’s proposed path. Its crystal clear upper reaches are formed by springs.* Photo by Nelson Brooke.

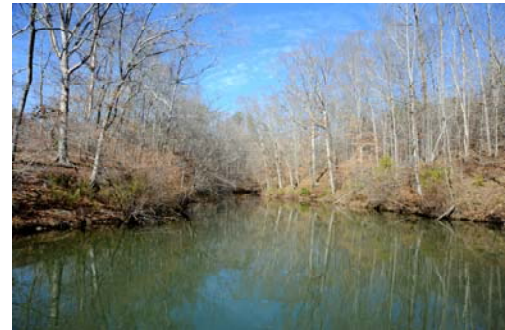
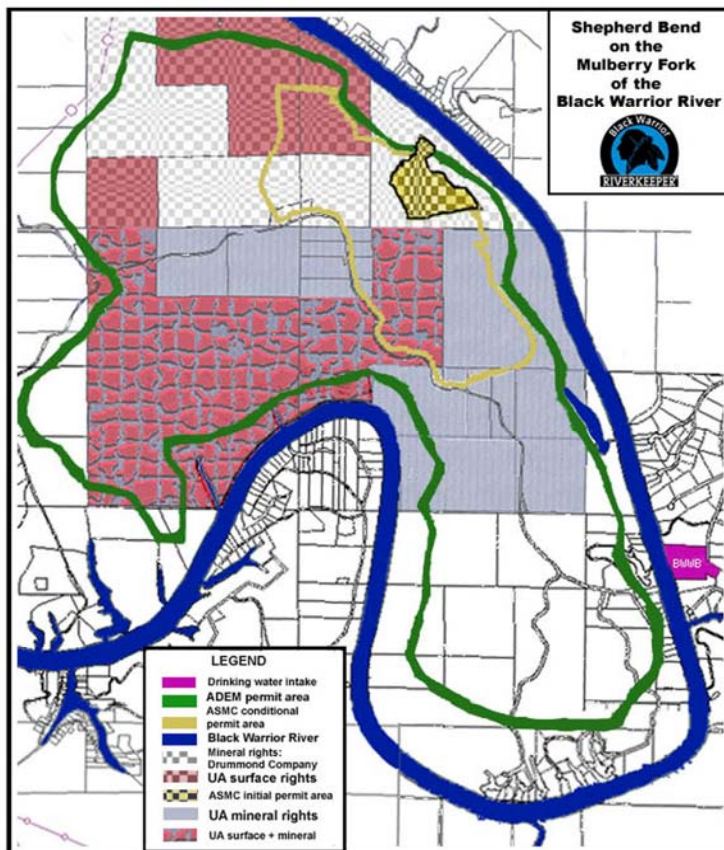


*The endangered vermilion darter lives in the Turkey Creek watershed and nowhere else in the world.* Photo by Nelson Brooke.

## Birmingham City Council Implores UA to Stop the Shepherd Bend Mine

In their March 15 City Council Meeting, the City of Birmingham unanimously passed “A Resolution imploring the University of Alabama System to neither sell nor lease their significant land and mineral holdings to allow coal mining at Shepherd Bend.” Black Warrior Riverkeeper shares the City’s concern about the Shepherd Bend Mine, a major threat to the Black Warrior River’s Mulberry Fork and Birmingham-area drinking water. Black Warrior Riverkeeper continues to ask that the UA System join the City of Birmingham, the Birmingham Water Works Board, and countless concerned citizens and student organizations in opposing this dangerous mine proposal.

As of August 15, 2011, UA has not indicated whether they will lease their land or mineral rights to Shepherd Bend LLC. Black Warrior Riverkeeper continues to challenge ADEM’s flawed wastewater discharge permit for mine. On July 22, 2011, an administrative Hearing Officer gave a favorable recommendation for ADEM’s permit. Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Southern Environmental Law Center will appeal if the Environmental Management Commission (EMC: the board overseeing ADEM) rubber-stamps that decision. Visit [blackwarriorriver.org/news/help-protect-birmingham-s-drinking-water.html](http://blackwarriorriver.org/news/help-protect-birmingham-s-drinking-water.html) for updates and a larger version of Jenn Patterson’s map below.



*A slough along Shepherd Bend that would receive wastewater discharged by the mine.*

Photo by Nelson Brooke.



*Looking upstream on the Mulberry, Shepherd Bend is on the left and the BWWB water intake facility is on the right.*

Photo by Nelson Brooke.

### RESOLUTION NO. 366-11

**Submitted by: Councilor Valerie Abbott**

**Recommended by: Councilor Valerie Abbott**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Birmingham believes that clean, safe, reasonably-priced drinking water and the environmental health of the Black Warrior River basin are both essential to the quality of life of residents of the Birmingham area and the State of Alabama; and **WHEREAS**, we believe that the Shepherd Bend Mine would be detrimental to the quality of drinking water in Birmingham and the surrounding area, and to the health of the Black Warrior River itself. This damage would result from the discharge of waste water from coal mining into the Black Warrior’s Mulberry Fork, across the river from a major drinking water intake for over 200,000 customers of the Birmingham Water Works Board; and

**WHEREAS**, despite widespread opposition, in October 2010 the Alabama Surface Mining Commission issued a permit to Shepherd Bend, LLC for the mining of 286 acres adjacent to the river. The BWWB is appealing this permit and has offered detailed information as to how the wastewater discharges from the mine will introduce both toxic pollutants and sediment into the water. These pollutants can result in increased treatment costs (typically passed on to customers), decreased water quality, and possible health risks, as well a degradation of the river. The BWWB also stated that a mine this close to a major water intake would be “incompatible and unprecedented”; and

**WHEREAS**, Shepherd Bend, LLC has leases necessary to start mining an initial 34 acres. If they choose to mine beyond that first small increment, they will have to obtain leases from other property owners, including the University of Alabama System, a major owner of both land and mineral rights at Shepherd Bend. As a practical matter, without the consent and full participation of the UA System, it may not be cost effective to mine Shepherd Bend at all; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Birmingham strongly believes that the damage which would be done to drinking water, the harm to fish and wildlife, and the tons of sediment dumped into the river and the adjacent wetlands are all excellent reasons to not to allow this project to go forward; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Birmingham, with Mayor William A. Bell, Sr. concurring, that we implore the University of Alabama System to neither sell nor lease their significant land and mineral holdings to allow coal mining at Shepherd Bend.

**ADOPTED** by the Council of the City of Birmingham March 15, 2011 and Approved by the Mayor March 22, 2011.

## Nelson Brooke's Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Patrol Log

Here is a chronological summary of just a few of the many activities that Nelson Brooke, Riverkeeper, performed recently as patrolman and spokesman of the Black Warrior River watershed. To report pollution anywhere in the watershed, please call (205)458-0095, email: [nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org) or fill out the online "Report Pollution" form at [blackwarriorriver.org](http://blackwarriorriver.org).

**February 11:** Visited Corridor X construction site near connection with I-65 with ALDOT to inspect erosion controls.

**March 3:** Sampled discharge water from Metalplate Galvanizing's two Birmingham facilities and found high levels of the heavy metal zinc. Their discharges eventually flow into Village Creek, which is impaired by excess zinc.

**March 6:** Checked Hanceville WWTP's discharge to Mud Creek prior to the Birmingham Canoe Club's annual Mulberry Fork Race.

**March 10:** Found black water from Shoal Creek Mine flowing into Big Shoal Creek.

**April 20:** Documented significant erosion problems at a large construction site off Hwy. 43 in Northport that has had issues over the past couple years, causing muddy runoff into a tributary of Mill Creek.

**May 1:** Went to Holt to help Hurricane Creekkeeper John Wathen with tornado recovery.

**May 13:** Patrolled the Locust Fork near Birmingham. Found brown water coming from a pipe in an industrial area North of the river. Found acidic water with a pH of 5.2 s.u. coming from a facility owned by Warrior River Services. Sampled Jap Creek Mine's discharge and found manganese in excess of permit limits.

**May 25:** Found polluted water leaving Metro Recycling's Blount Co. tire landfill in violation of our federal Consent Decree.

**June 9:** Found black coke ash runoff from Hickman, Williams & Company entering a storm drain in Birmingham.

**June 17:** Sampled discharges from Metalplate Galvanizing's two Birmingham facilities and found very high levels of zinc.

**June 28:** Flew over National Coal's Poplar Springs Mine with SouthWings. This massive coal mine stripping North of Jasper has violated its discharge permit thousands of times over the past several years. Sadly, Clear Creek and Blackwater Creek are on the receiving end.

**July 7:** Patrolled Black Warrior Minerals' Fleetwood Mine with Hurricane Creekkeeper John Wathen. We found orange water being discharged into tributaries of Hurricane Creek and the creek itself.

**July 18:** Patrolled the North River between Berry and Samantha around the Fayette-Tuscaloosa county line looking into Walter Energy's 7/15 North River Mine coal slurry spill. Hundreds of thousands of gallons of coal slurry were spilled into an unnamed tributary to Freeman Creek, which flows into the North River upstream of Lake Tuscaloosa.

**July 19:** Took Assistant U.S. Attorney General Ignacia Moreno, Northern District U.S. Attorney Joyce Vance, EPA Region 4 Water Protection Division Director James Giattina, and several U.S. Department of Justice attorneys from Washington, D.C. on a Mulberry Fork patrol. We toured Shepherd Bend, Alabama Power's Gorgas Steam Plant, and other spots.

**July 26:** Flew over Walter Energy's North River Mine, the coal slurry spill site, the North River, and the upper end of Lake Tuscaloosa. I found evidence that coal slurry is still heavily impacting Freeman Creek, some is making its way into the North River, and the spill's plume was making its way into the upper end of the lake.



A Northport construction site's pollution.  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Hurricane Creek rendered nearly treeless in Holt by the tornado. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



National Coal's Poplar Springs Mine.  
Photo by Nelson Brooke. Flight by [SouthWings.org](http://SouthWings.org).



The North River polluted by Walter Energy's North River Mine coal slurry spill. Note the water's gray color.  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Metro Recycling stained this creek orange. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Fleetwood Mine discharges orange water into a tributary of Hurricane Creek.  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.

## SweetWater Completes 2011 “Save the Black Warrior” Collaboration

SweetWater Brewing Company has completed the 2011 edition of its Summer “Save the Black Warrior” campaign in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa. Since the annual program’s launch in 2008, Save the Black Warrior has raised more than \$35,000 to support Black Warrior Riverkeeper’s non-profit river patrol and clean water advocacy. Alabamians visited their favorite restaurants and bars throughout the program to purchase paper fish for \$1, \$5 or \$10, or a custom-made “Save the Black Warrior” shirt.

Patrons signed or decorated their paper fish for display throughout the businesses. Black Warrior Riverkeeper’s “shop” webpage ([blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html](http://blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html)) lists venues still selling the T-shirts. Awareness for the river increased considerably through promotional and educational posters and fliers (see example on the left) that SweetWater created pro-bono for display at more than thirty participating accounts.

The top Birmingham-area fundraising location was The J. Clyde, followed by Rojo. The top Tuscaloosa fundraising location was Egan’s, followed by Mellow Mushroom. These leading fundraisers won Black Warrior Riverkeeper patrol boat trips and SweetWater Brewery tours. To see the complete list of establishments involved in Save the Black Warrior, visit [savetheblackwarrior.com](http://savetheblackwarrior.com). That event website also featured a contest to win an Arc’teryx jacket donated by Mountain High Outfitters, who sponsored “Save the Black Warrior” along with Silverrock Cove.

“We are always grateful to have such strong fundraising and outreach support from the SweetWater team, particularly right after the American Rivers organization selected the Black Warrior for its 2011 Most Endangered Rivers list, due to coal mining,” said Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper.

“We value our relationship with the Black Warrior Riverkeeper and think it is a necessity to unite beer drinkers and continue to educate, promote and protect our rivers year after year,” adds Freddy Bensch, SweetWater’s “Big Kahuna”. (That is SweetWater-speak for “owner”). “SweetWater fans are loyal and great activists, we can’t thank them enough for giving of their liver to help save the river!”

SweetWater runs similar river protection collaborations with other Waterkeeper Alliance organizations in the South, including French Broad Riverkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, Neuse Riverkeeper, and Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. This season, SweetWater also launched a new Waterkeeper Ale, a hefeweizen brew created specifically to bring awareness to the Waterkeeper organizations, their mission and the campaigns at hand. This and other award-winning SweetWater varieties were featured at “SweetWater Beer Dinners” benefitting Black Warrior Riverkeeper at the J. Clyde (July 15) and Little Savannah (August 8).



### Board Spotlight: Tony Diliberto

Tony Diliberto, known to most as “Tony D.,” started playing in the water as a wee lad. Growing up in south Alabama on Cotton Creek he learned to love the water. He spent a great deal of time in water as a Boy Scout, canoeing and exploring. After graduating from the University of Alabama in 1997, he moved to Birmingham for a job. It was about 1999 when he discovered whitewater kayaking and what a wonderful resource the Black Warrior River system offers. He cut his teeth in the sport on the Locust Fork and Mulberry Fork River and to this day still spends a decent amount upside down on these rivers.

Tony is the President of the Alabama Cup Race Association, which governs the state’s premier whitewater slalom events that take place on the Locust and Mulberry Fork River and has also worked with the North Alabama Whitewater Festival since its inception. He also serves as the VP of Artwalk and is veteran committee head for the Sidewalk Film Festival. As far as his day job, Tony is the Regional Marketing Manager for Tire Pros and covers a 6 state region in the Southeast. He lives in Southside with his wife Amelia and their two loving pups, Tanner and Boodog. Tony was elected to our Board of Directors starting January 1, 2011. View bios of our other Board members at [blackwarriorriver.org/board.html](http://blackwarriorriver.org/board.html).

“Tony D.” during the filming of Lewis Communications’ Black Warrior Riverkeeper documentary, which can be viewed at [blackwarriorriver.org](http://blackwarriorriver.org). Photo by Constellation Imageworks.



# 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 organization advocating for clean water, wildlife habitat, recreation, and public health in our patrol area, the Black Warrior River watershed. This river basin is entirely contained in Alabama, America’s leading state for freshwater biodiversity.

Our staff includes Nelson Brooke (Riverkeeper), Eva Dillard (Staff Attorney), John Kinney (Enforcement Coordinator), Jenn Patterson (Program Director), and Charles Scribner (Executive Director). Contact us at 205-458-0095 or [info@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:info@blackwarriorriver.org) to report pollution and inquire about volunteering, donating, or events. Please visit [blackwarriorriver.org](http://blackwarriorriver.org) to learn more and receive updates.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is a proud member of Waterkeeper Alliance ([waterkeeper.org](http://waterkeeper.org)). Our fellow independent Waterkeepers in Alabama are Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, and Tennessee Riverkeeper.



Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, a Forever Wild area. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



## 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.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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** (shirts, stickers, hunting/fishing gear, car tags, dock markers, Dr. Bronner’s Soaps, hats, etc.), visit [blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html](http://blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html) or contact us at: 205-458-0095 or [info@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:info@blackwarriorriver.org).

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 / honorary gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

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## Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Ripples

### Summer Interns: Heroic Student Warriors

**Colleen Forrer** is a Geography Masters student at the University of Alabama focused on water quality assessment using Remote Sensing. Colleen speaks at several Birmingham Neighborhood Meetings about the Shepherd Bend Mine's potential threats to their tap water. She also helped with "Save the Black Warrior" and membership survey analysis.

**Caitlin McClusky** is president of the University of Alabama Environmental Council (EC) and a member of the Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment (CASE). Caitlin has been heavily involved with outreach about the Shepherd Bend Mine among Birmingham Neighborhoods, nonprofits, students, and businesses.

**Kyle Williams** is a student at Cumberland School of Law. Kyle researched and analyzed multiple legal issues including the Army Corps' use of Nationwide Permit 21 to allow coal-mining activities. He also drafted affidavits and legal memoranda as well as represented BWRk during various patrols, cleanups, and government meetings.

**Tripp Windham** is an Urban Environmental Studies student at Birmingham-Southern College. Tripp researched pollution issues in Village Creek, organizing cleanups and presentations there. He also helped with events such as Earthbound's Earthfest and Save the Black Warrior. He frequently contributes photography for our facebook page.

### Clean Water Act's 40th Anniversary

2012 is the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Locally and nationally, we and other Waterkeepers will celebrate and discuss ramifications of the statute's anniversary throughout the year. More info will follow at [blackwarriorriver.org](http://blackwarriorriver.org) and [waterkeeper.org](http://waterkeeper.org). Meanwhile, YOU can help protect the statute by telling your U.S. Senators to **oppose H.R. 2018**, a bill that would significantly weaken the CWA. Find your Senators' contact info at [congress.org](http://congress.org). The CWA has been our best tool to address pollution. Questions? Email [info@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:info@blackwarriorriver.org).

### Black Warrior Riverkeeper's 10th Anniversary

Black Warrior Riverkeeper became the 72nd autonomous member organization of Waterkeeper Alliance on **September 25, 2001**. In the coming months we look forward to celebrating that birthday and our steady progress ever since. We have worked very hard to help protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries over the last ten years, and could not have come this far without the advice, volunteering, and donations of our members. Please make a special 10th Anniversary gift to help us keep progressing!

### Resources Saved Annually by Printing Newsletters on Neenah Paper's 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper



524.08 lbs wood ~ 738.48 gal water ~ 0.76 min BTUs energy ~ 158.08 lbs emissions ~ 84.38 lbs solid waste