



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



America's Most Endangered Rivers Highlights Shepherd Bend Mine Threat

IN THIS ISSUE

National Pressure on UA to Stop Coal Mine	1
Northern Beltline Facts	2
Board Member Bio: Patti Whitt	3
Shannon Mine Lawsuit	3
Save Our Water with SweetWater	4
Donaldson Prison Sewage Lawsuit	4
Petition: Lands Unsuitable for Mining	5
Riverkeeper Patrol Log	6
Donation Form and "About us"	7
Riverkeeper Ripples	8

American Rivers named the Black Warrior River among America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2013, shining a national spotlight on the ongoing opportunity for the University of Alabama (UA) to stop the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine, which would threaten drinking water as well as river health, wildlife, and private property.

"The America's Most Endangered Rivers report is a call to action to save rivers that are facing a critical tipping point," said Rebecca Haynes of American Rivers. "We all need healthy rivers. They provide our drinking water, support the economies of our communities, and promote public health and quality of life. We hope citizens will take action to ensure a healthy Black Warrior River for generations to come."

The river is threatened by a proposed strip coal mine at Shepherd Bend on the Black Warrior River's Mulberry Fork in Walker County. The 1,773-acre Shepherd Bend Mine would discharge wastewater at 29 points across the river from a Birmingham Water Works Board drinking water intake facility serving 200,000 people. One discharge would be 800 feet from the intake. Discharges would introduce toxic pollutants and sediment into the drinking water source, elevating health risks and increasing water treatment costs for families and businesses in the greater Birmingham area.

American Rivers and its partners called on the UA System Trustees to prevent the lease or sale of UA's land and mineral rights to Shepherd Bend, LLC. That company is run by Garry Neil Drummond, a Trustee Emeritus of the UA System. A large and growing coalition of businesses, organizations, students, scientists, water consumers, and other citizens are urging the UA System Trustees to take a strong stance against the mine, helping ensure that this valuable water source is protected for future generations.

"The Shepherd Bend Mine is a major threat to the river, Birmingham-area drinking water, and the University of Alabama System's good reputation," said Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. "Under the national spotlight, UA leaders should pledge to oppose any current or future mining proposal at this uniquely inappropriate location."

"Students throughout the UA System and the state oppose the construction of the Shepherd Bend Mine," said Caitlin McClusky, statewide coordinator for Coalition of Alabama Students for the Environment. "We believe the UA System has a responsibility to prioritize the protection of the public health of Alabama citizens over short-term profit."

"Like many of the families in Cordova, my dad raised four boys on a coal miner's wage, and I appreciate that," said Randy Palmer of the Citizens Opposed to Strip Mining on the Black Warrior River. "Cordova was devastated by tornadoes on April 27, 2011. Cordova's 20 miles of riverfront presents our best opportunity for redevelopment. Mining this riverfront would destroy that economic opportunity, not to mention quality of life."

The Black Warrior River flows through a 6,276 square mile basin, providing drinking water to many of the watershed's one million residents. The Black Warrior and its headwater streams, one of which (the Sipsey Fork) carries a national Wild and Scenic River designation, are home to a great diversity of wildlife including 127 species of fish and 36 species of mussels. This river and its tributaries are a popular destination for fishing, paddling, swimming, and other forms of recreation. Take action for the river at: AmericanRivers.org/BlackWarrior.

Rivers connect us to each other, nature, and future generations. Since 1973, American Rivers has fought to preserve these connections, helping protect and restore more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, on-the-ground projects, and the annual release of America's Most Endangered Rivers®. Headquartered in Washington, DC, American Rivers has offices across the country and more than 100,000 supporters, members, and volunteers nationwide. Their annual America's Most Endangered Rivers® report is a list of rivers at a crossroads, where key decisions in the coming months will determine the rivers' fates.



Photo: Nelson Brooke

Facts about the \$5,445,000,000.00 Northern Beltline

- The proposed Northern Beltline north and west of Birmingham has raised serious questions from local communities, taxpayers, and conservation groups about whether this project is best for greater Birmingham, from an environmental, economic, and transportation perspective. The 52-mile, 6-lane highway will cost taxpayers \$5.445 billion, or \$104.7 million per mile.¹ It will be the most expensive road project in the history of Alabama, and one of the most expensive (per mile) ever built in the nation.
- The highway will cross and permanently alter Black Warrior and Cahaba river tributaries in *67 places* (including impacts to *2 major sources of drinking water*). It will destroy *16 wetlands* and *3,078 football fields' worth of forest*. This route is the most environmentally destructive of the seven routes initially considered by the Alabama Department of Transportation.²
- If completed, the road would only relieve 1-3% of traffic on I-20/59 through downtown Birmingham, and it will not reroute significant truck traffic. In fact, traffic will increase on the heavily-congested section of I-59 through Trussville and Argo.³
- Construction of the Northern Beltline has been ranked 36th in priority by the Regional Planning Commission⁴, yet it is being prioritized by the Birmingham Business Alliance over much-needed fixes for current traffic, safety, and maintenance problems.
- As a result of the 2012 federal transportation bill known as MAP-21, potential future funding considered for this road can now be spent on other road and bridge projects around Birmingham, and throughout the state, that are needed. 63 unfunded projects in metro Birmingham could all be completed for well over *\$1 billion less* than the cost of the Northern Beltline. These 63 projects include widening I-65, improving 280, widening I-59/20, and completing all 50 of the Regional Planning Commission's visionary projects in the region. All of these other projects will generate jobs and long-term economic health, and they now compete directly with the Beltline for limited federal funding.⁵
- According to the Congressional Budget Office, the federal Highway Trust Fund, which provides money for most major transportation projects in Alabama, is "unsustainable." "Starting in fiscal year 2015, the trust fund will have insufficient amounts to meet all of its obligations, resulting in steadily accumulating shortfalls."⁶ Even without the Beltline, ALDOT has a backlog of traffic, safety and maintenance projects. The Beltline will make it harder to meet these needs.
- Public mass transit infrastructure can be funded with future would-be Beltline dollars according to the new federal transportation bill. Pursuing this missing transportation link in the Birmingham area may be a better investment.
- To help connectivity for Jefferson County and create jobs, ALDOT should consider alternatives like extending Corridor X to I-59 instead of sinking over \$5 billion into the Beltline.
- Any development that occurs along the Beltline route will likely not be "new" growth, but rather a redistribution of growth, capital, and jobs from older developed areas, producing empty homes, storefronts, and blight as has already occurred in parts of the Birmingham region. Even ALDOT has predicted that the road, when completed decades from now, will only attract 2,200 residents and 2,800 permanent jobs in the vicinity of the 52-mile corridor.⁷
- A small handful of corporate landowners in the path of the road stand to gain financially. They, along with road building, mining, development, and utility interests, are driving the support for this \$5.445 billion project along this chosen route, which has little transportation benefit for the region.
- The already large price tag of the road does not take into account the significant extra cost of sewer and other infrastructure that must be installed for the area to be developed. The additional major costs of extending water lines, power lines, local roads, public safety services, and schools have yet to be factored into the Beltline's overall price.

\$104.7



~~\$90 million per mile~~

- - -1-3% traffic reduction - - -

We deserve cost effective transportation.

¹ FHWA, <https://fhwaapps.fhwa.dot.gov/foisp/publicActive.do> (last visited August 12, 2013).

² FHWA, ALDOT, Final Environmental Impact Statement (June 26, 1997).

³ Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. *Public Involvement Meeting Documentation for 2035 RTP*. April 2010, p. 4-17.

⁴ <http://www.rpcgb.org/transportation/regional-transportation-plan/public-involvement/>; Birmingham Northern Beltline Termini Analysis, September 1993, p. 3.

⁵ Spencer, Thomas, *Transportation Bill Eliminates Designated Source of Funding for Northern Beltline but Keeps it on Track*. http://blog.al.com/sweethome/2012/07/transportation_bill_elimination.html; U.S. Congressional Research Service, *Surface Transportation Funding and Programs Under MAP-21: Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (P.B. 112-141)* (R42762; Sept. 27, 2012), by Robert S. Kirk, et. al. p.10 <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42762.pdf>; See also 40 USCS § 14501; 23 USCS § 133.

⁶ Congressional Budget Office, *Status of the Record; Status of the Highway Trust Fund*, April 24, 2013, http://www.cbo.gov/publication/44093?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_content=812526&utm_campaign=0.

⁷ ALDOT, FHWA, Final Environmental Impact Statement Reevaluation, March 2012, Appendix L.

New Board Member Bio: Patti Whitt

Patti Whitt retired three years ago from The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, where she served as Senior Program Officer and was charged with oversight of all competitive grant making activities. After her retirement, she continued to serve as a Grants Specialist for CFGB, specializing in environmental, arts and cultural organization requests.

A native of Oklahoma, Patti graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Journalism. She began her career as Public Relations Director of the Oklahoma City Symphony Orchestra, and has served as Public Relations Director of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, Public Relations Director of the Central New York Community Arts Council (CNYCAC), Associate Director of CNYCAC, and Executive Director of CNYCAC.

Patti has served as a Panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts and she has conducted seminars at Utica College, Syracuse University, and for the New York State Community Theatre Association. In addition to the Black Warrior Riverkeeper Board, Patti also serves on the Members Board of the Birmingham Museum of Art. She maintains an avid interest in all issues concerning the environment, arts and culture.

View our other Board Member bios at blackwarriorriver.org/board.html

New Black Warrior Riverkeeper Board member Patti Whitt. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER[®] Sues Shannon Mine for 758 Violations

On April 24, 2013, Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed a citizen lawsuit under the Clean Water Act and Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act in U.S. District Court for 758 water pollution violations at the Shannon Mine. The surface coal mine, run by Shannon, LLC, operates in Jefferson and Tuscaloosa counties in the Upper Black Warrior River watershed.

The lawsuit addresses the company's self-reported violations of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) No. AL0076597 dating back to February 2010 as well as additional violations identified by Riverkeeper's water sampling. While ADEM took administrative action for the self-reported violations subsequent to Riverkeeper's Notice of Intent to Sue, ADEM did not address all the violations identified by Riverkeeper nor did it assign a significant penalty for the longstanding violations by Shannon.

Shannon Mine has discharged pollutants into an unnamed tributary to Little Blue Creek, Little Blue Creek itself, Lick Branch and Blue Creek in violation of its NPDES permit, which permits 76 water pollution discharges at the 6,321 acre mine. These streams flow into to Valley Creek, a tributary of Bankhead Lake on the Black Warrior River. Valley Creek and Bankhead Lake are popular destinations for fishing, swimming, canoeing and kayaking, and other recreation.

Cited violations are primarily for selenium, which in larger amounts can be toxic to people and wildlife. Selenium bioaccumulates in the aquatic food chain and can result in selenium poisoning of fish, birds and other wildlife. The mine has also reported violations for iron and total suspended solids.

Nelson Brooke, staff Riverkeeper, noted, "Shannon Mine is polluting tributaries to Valley Creek in violation of its Clean Water Act permit, upstream of where thousands of people recreate each year. That's not the way it is supposed to work, so we aim to hold Shannon, LLC accountable to the law."

Eva Dillard, Staff Attorney, added, "Our objective in filing suit is to ensure that Shannon Mine is quickly returned to permit compliance to end the discharge of selenium and other pollutants to affected tributaries of the Black Warrior River."

The lawsuit is in its early stages and we will provide updates when major developments occur.



Shannon Mine: destroying a mountain and mining coal 600 feet beneath its original surface.

SweetWater Brewery Helps Southern Waterkeepers “Save Our Water”

Although water is one of the most vital resources on the planet, waterways continue to decline in quality and quantity in virtually every part of the world. Earth is home to one billion cubic kilometers of water, yet only 2.5 percent is fresh water. Of that, less than one percent is clean and accessible, leaving more than one billion people living without safe drinking water.

SweetWater Brewing Company realizes the importance of protecting these vital water sources and has once 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 most threatened rivers, streams and coastlines. The cause is near and dear to the brewery as clean water is also vital to the creation of their tasty brews.

“Many folks don’t realize that in addition to serving as a source for swimming, drinking and fishing in local communities, fresh waterways – Chattahoochee River in particular – account for a main ingredient making up 90 percent of our beer,” said SweetWater Founder Freddy Bensch. “Keeping our water clean is a cause that affects our entire community, so dedicating a beer and a campaign to give back to this effort was a no brainer for us.”

Kicking off July 4 and running through Labor Day, SweetWater’s “Save Our Water” campaign encourages patrons to “give of your liver to save the river” by purchasing SweetWater’s seasonal Waterkeeper® Hefeweizen ale, “Save Our Water” t-shirts, and making paper fish donations at participating restaurants, bars and retail accounts where the beer is sold across the Southeast. Proceeds from the sales will directly benefit local Waterkeepers such as Black Warrior Riverkeeper. Additionally, patrons can visit waterkeeperbrew.org to donate online, or purchase a custom “Save Our Water” pint glass at SweetWater’s weekly brewery tours.

In 2011 the brewers at SweetWater launched Waterkeeper® Hefeweizen, a beer with a cause, from which proceeds go back to the campaign. Now, as part of their seasonal Catch & Release line-up, the unfiltered brew returned to shelves and draft taps earlier this 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 nearly seven years ago, SweetWater has raised more than \$550,000 for the cause, with a whopping \$100,000 raised in 2012 alone. Today, the “Save Our Water” campaign supports 35 Waterkeeper® members in Southeastern cities where they distribute beer including Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina.

In Tuscaloosa, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is protecting the Black Warrior River plus Lake Tuscaloosa, the city’s drinking water source. Mountain High Outfitters is again donating prizes to bartenders and servers throughout Tuscaloosa who raise the most money for Black Warrior Riverkeeper. To see the list of locations selling paper fish, visit: blackwarriorriver.org/news/save-our-water-2013.html. Locations also selling “Save Our Water” shirts include CopperTop, Crimson Tavern, and Rounders.

“We are so excited to team up with SweetWater for a 6th year of paper fish and shirt sales,” said Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. “We want to increase our Tuscaloosa support base in 2013, so ‘Save Our Water’ is a perfect fit for raising money and awareness at 20 businesses in this great river city.”



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Donaldson Prison Sewage Lawsuit

On February 28, 2013, Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed suit under the Clean Water Act in U.S. District Court for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit violations at Donaldson Correctional Facility’s wastewater treatment plant in west Jefferson County.

The sewage treatment plant discharges to Big Branch, a tributary of Valley Creek upstream of Bankhead Lake on the Black Warrior River. Bankhead Lake is among the most popular sections of the river for recreation. Donaldson Correctional Facility has a long history of discharging improperly treated sewage.

Nelson Brooke, staff Riverkeeper, explained, “We sent the Department of Corrections a notice of our intent to sue in 2004 for improper sewage treatment at Donaldson Correctional Facility, an action which instigated the prison’s cleanup after over a decade of sewage pollution. Unfortunately, the prison’s contractors are again violating the permit to discharge properly treated wastewater, allowing bacteria to flow into Big Branch. We are again taking legal action to hold the State’s contractors accountable for polluting the river upstream of where countless people live, swim, recreate, and fish on a regular basis. It’s time to get this mess cleaned up.”

Eva Dillard, Staff Attorney, added, “State facilities like the Donaldson Wastewater Treatment Plant should not only follow the law, they should exemplify best practices necessary to conserve and protect the valuable water resources that belong to the citizens of Alabama.”

Since the lawsuit’s filing, the plant’s operator has been working with contractors to fix some of the problems that caused the violations. The judge has entered an order allowing Black Warrior Riverkeeper staff and a water treatment expert to make a site visit to this maximum security prison’s plant on September 4, 2013. We will provide updates when major developments occur in the case.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Petition: Lands Unsuitable For Coal Mining

Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed a Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition on September 10, 2012 with the Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC) to designate 40,300 acres adjacent to the Birmingham Water Works Board's Mulberry Fork drinking water intake as lands unsuitable for coal mining. The petition opens another front in our ongoing initiative to stop coal mining upstream of the public water intake facility that supplies water to around 200,000 Birmingham-area residents.

According to Riverkeeper Nelson Brooke, the petition's goal is to protect an important resource: clean, safe and affordable drinking water. "Protecting the source of our drinking water, the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River, is the most cost and resource effective way to provide clean drinking water now and in the future. It makes absolutely no sense for the State to issue permits to pollute the source of our drinking water, so that drinking water customers can then pay to clean up a polluter's mess."

Staff Attorney Eva Dillard adds, "The Birmingham region has invested substantially in the Mulberry Fork intake and we want to preserve and protect that investment. We believe that the drinking water supplied by the Mulberry Fork represents a critical site-specific resource. Continuing to permit surface coal mining operations near the Mulberry Fork puts that investment, not to mention the public health, at risk."

Areas that affect renewable resource lands where mining could result in a substantial loss or reduction of the long-range productivity of the water supply are eligible for designation as lands unsuitable for mining. Renewable resource lands are defined as geographic areas, like the Mulberry Fork and surrounding lands, which contribute significantly to the long-range productivity of water supply.

Previously, Riverkeeper has focused on raising public awareness about the proposed Shepherd Bend and Reed Minerals No. 5 mines, both of which would discharge upstream of the Mulberry Fork intake. In reference to both mine proposals, the Birmingham Water Works Board has publicly commented, "We are concerned that this proposed mine has the potential to adversely impact the Birmingham area drinking water." The Board has appealed the ASMC permits granted for each of these mines. Meanwhile, the University of Alabama System Trustees have not yet decided whether they will lease or sell UA's significant property for the Shepherd Bend Mine.

The LUM Petition represents an additional, comprehensive strategy to protect drinking water beyond the threat of individual mines; the ultimate goal is to make a preventive determination of where coal mining can safely occur and not harm the Mulberry Fork public drinking water supply. Coal mining is known to contribute metals (including iron, manganese, arsenic and selenium, among others), sediment, and other pollutants to receiving waters, which leads to greater demands on treatment operations and increased treatment costs.

Added filtration costs are typically passed on to Birmingham Water Works Board drinking water customers, according to Board Vice President Darryl Jones, and there exists the risk that a significant rain event during drought or a catastrophic failure at an adjacent mine could contribute high levels of pollutants that the plant's current filtration system could not treat, which could force closure of this intake for a significant period.

The ASMC will consider all information submitted during the public comment process and public hearing, and will release a final written decision (with reasoning) within 60 days of the July 9th, 2013 public hearing. To date, the LUM process has proceeded as follows:

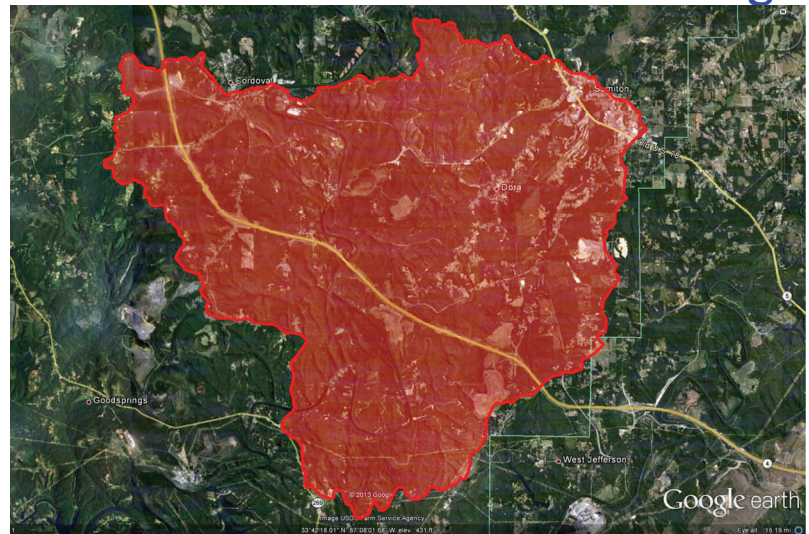
- 1) Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed a Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition with the ASMC on September 10, 2012.
- 2) LUM Petition was accepted by ASMC as complete on October 9, 2012.
- 3) ASMC sent a public notice to stakeholders on October 24, 2012 starting the public comment process ending January 31, 2013.
- 4) ASMC held a Public Hearing on July 9, 2013 after the close of the public comment period.
- 5) ASMC will release a final written decision within 60 days of the public hearing.

In the LUM petition process, there is no burden of proof. The process is intended to be legislative in nature and emphasizes fact finding. This is a significant difference (and advantage) compared to the adversarial permit appeal system, which assigns burdens of proof and presumptions that can sometimes skew outcomes.

Instead, in this case, the ASMC is charged with making a factual finding as to whether the lands at issue are "suitable" for mining or whether mining there *could* cause a significant loss or reduction of this important public resource, which is used for recreation, fishing, swimming, and drinking water. Differing from the administrative permitting process, the LUM process affords the ASMC an opportunity to think *prospectively* about whether it is appropriate to mine in certain areas or whether, because of sound scientific evidence, mining should be "off limits" in certain sensitive places.

Unfortunately, in past permitting decisions the ASMC and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management have indicated that they think it is okay to allow surface coal mining adjacent to and upstream of this drinking water source. They contend that wastewater discharges from the mine will not negatively impact streams, wetlands, the river, aquatic life, fishing, swimming, source water, or tap water. This process provides an opportunity to set the record straight and give ASMC enough information to make the right decision.

To read our petition and learn more about the process, visit: blackwarriorriver.org/news/lands-unsuitable-for-mining.html



Black Warrior Riverkeeper's 268-page Lands Unsuitable for Coal Mining Petition has asked the Alabama Surface Mining Commission to designate the 40,300 acre Walker County area highlighted in red as off-limits to surface coal mining. Map created with geospatial data from: surface-mining.state.al.us/page3.html

Nelson Brooke's 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. **Report Pollution** via (205)458-0095 or nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org or use our online "Report Pollution" form at blackwarriorriver.org.

January 18: Flew over Mulberry Fork coal mines with SouthWings to look for pollution issues after heavy rains. Found Burton Mine bypassing its treatment pond due to flooding, pumping muddy water directly into Burton Creek.

February 8: Patrolled the Mulberry Fork near Shepherd Bend and Gorgas Steam Plant with a class from Auburn's Urban Studio.

February 13: Patrolled Mulberry Fork from Reed's Ferry to Sipsey, checking on permitted sewage and coal mine discharges.

February 21: Patrolled Big Branch, a tributary of Valley Creek, and sampled wastewater treatment plant effluent from the Alabama Department of Corrections' Donaldson Correctional Facility.

February 26: Testified before the White House's Office of Management & Budget in Washington, D.C. about coal ash pollution from coal-fired power plants and the need for better regulations to safeguard our rivers and our health.

March 11: Investigated a citizen's complaint about stinky processed chicken sludge spreading on fields, and potential runoff into the Locust Fork in Blount County.

March 19: Checked water quality in Camp Branch, a tributary of Bayview Lake and Village Creek historically polluted by US Steel's coal mining and steel operations.

March 20: Patrolled Gorgas Steam Plant on the Mulberry Fork with the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

April 6: Along with several hard-working volunteers, participated in the Lake Tuscaloosa Cleanup organized by the City of Tuscaloosa and co-sponsored by us.

April 9: Participated in the Alabama Rivers Alliance's River Action Day in Montgomery. We paddled the Alabama River and talked with Legislators about the importance of protecting Alabama's rivers.

April 16: Patrolled the river's Oliver Pool next to the University of Alabama with a UA Freshwater Studies class.

April 17: Patrolled Hurricane Creek with John Wathen, Hurricane Creekkeeper, and patrolled the river's Oliver and Warrior pools to check local discharge pipes and look for pollution issues.

April 18: Checked UA's new stormwater pipe, which drains the newly developed/developing part of campus just uphill of Manderson Landing at River Road Park, on a non-rain day and found muddy water flowing out of it.

May 3: Patrolled the Mulberry Fork from Gorgas to Cordova to check discharge pipes.

May 22: Patrolled Valley Creek in Adger to check discharges from the Shannon Mine and a large log and trash pile building up on old Johns Rd. bridge.

May 24: Along with two hard-working volunteers, participated in the Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee's Smith Lake Cleanup. We hauled a boatload of styrofoam out of one slough!

June 18: Investigated Hunt Refinery's June 17th oil spill on the river downstream near Fosters. I documented a good amount of oil still on the river after I witnessed the cleanup crew remove oil containment devices from the river and leave the scene. The cleanup crew told me the EPA had given them permission to halt the cleanup.



Burton Mine bypassing its treatment pond, pumping muddy water directly into Burton Creek.

Photo by Nelson Brooke. Flight provided by SouthWings.org



Nelson samples wastewater treatment plant effluent from Donaldson Correctional Facility.

Photo by John Kinney.



Even on this non-rain day, muddy water flows from UA's new stormwater pipe which drains the new part of campus uphill of Manderson Landing at River Road Park.

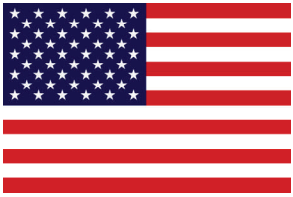
Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Contractors prematurely removing cleanup equipment after Hunt Refinery's oil spill. Nelson documented oil still on the river after the cleanup. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Riverkeeper volunteers load our patrol boat with styrofoam from Smith Lake. 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.....\$ _____

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 and short-sleeve t-shirts, stickers, front bumper plates, dock signs, hats, etc.), 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 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 full-time staff includes Nelson Brooke (Riverkeeper), Eva Dillard (Staff Attorney), John Kinney (Enforcement Coordinator), and Charles Scribner (Executive Director). Contact us at 205-458-0095 or info@blackwarriorriver.org to report pollution or to discuss how you can help. Learn more about our work at blackwarriorriver.org.

We are a proud member of the Alabama Association of Nonprofits, Alabama Rivers Alliance, GuideStar Exchange, River Network, and Waterkeeper Alliance. Our fellow Waterkeepers in Alabama are Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper, Little River Waterkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, and Tennessee Riverkeeper.



Your Riverkeeper, Nelson Brooke. Photo by Frank Chitwood, Coosa Riverkeeper.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

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Resolutions Opposing the Shepherd Bend Mine

Many thanks to the following government, civic, and scholastic groups who voted to pass formal resolutions urging **the University of Alabama System Trustees** to stop the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine — a major threat to drinking water for the greater Birmingham area:

- Birmingham City Council
- Forest Park / South Avondale Neighborhood Association
- Glen Iris Neighborhood Association
- North Titusville Neighborhood Association
- South Titusville Neighborhood Association
- UA Student Government Association
- UAB Graduate Student Association
- UAB Public Health Student Association
- UAB Student Government Association
- University of Montevallo Student Government Association
- Woodlawn Park Neighborhood Association
- YMBC Civic Forum

To see the full list of businesses and groups opposing the mine, and to learn how to help, visit: blackwarriorriver.org/ShepherdBendMine.html

Interns: Students Taking Action

Ayumi Byrd is an undergraduate student in UAB's Global and Community Leadership Honors Program. She helped us prepare fundraising and outreach letters to select stakeholders throughout the Black Warrior River watershed. She also assisted with our 10th Anniversary event in Birmingham at Good People.

Erykah Hampton is a student at Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School who joined us through their innovative Corporate Internship Program. She interviewed drinking water supply managers for every city and county in the Black Warrior River watershed, and created a detailed spreadsheet about tap water supplies, their protection plans, and their customers.

Caitlyn White is a student at Cumberland School of Law. She conducted legal research on a variety of statutes, including the Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and investigated how these statutes could be used to protect people and wildlife in the Black Warrior River watershed.

Want to volunteer? (All ages) email: info@blackwarriorriver.org

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