



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



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DID YOU KNOW?

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 very scenic & biodiverse fork counterparts in both quality and quantity of fishing.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Adds Boat to Patrol Program

On November 14, 2007, our Riverkeeper, Nelson Brooke, picked up Black Warrior Riverkeeper's new patrol boat from SeaArk Boats in Monticello, Arkansas. Honda Marine then picked up the boat at our office and returned it on November 30 with a new 90 HP, four-stroke motor we purchased at a discounted price.

Riverkeeper appreciates very much the generous support of several members who helped fund this important purchase, supplementing grants from the Bankhead Foundation, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, the Lintilhac Foundation and the Rotary Club of Birmingham. We are confident the boat will greatly enhance our patrol program.

In fact, this particular purchase was encouraged by none other than Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Chairman of Waterkeeper Alliance, who collaborated with David Whiteside and Honda Marine to negotiate the discounted price. According to Kennedy, "Honda Marine has been a world leader in developing and deploying clean, quiet four-stroke technology in its outboard engines. Many Waterkeepers across the country favor Honda's four-strokes because they protect the environment by dramatically reducing hydrocarbon pollution as well as noise pollution. Honda's quiet engines ease onboard communication among passengers and allow Waterkeepers to sneak up on unwary polluters. Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Waterkeeper Alliance are proud of our long and productive partnership with Honda Marine and we are grateful for their commitment to clean waterways."

The Honda motor is attached to SeaArk's BayFisher, a 20ft boat with a modified V aluminum hull and 12 person capacity including captain's chair. The boat also includes a trolling motor and excellent storage spaces. It complements our original patrol boat, an 18ft aluminum Lund with a two-stroke Evinrude engine, donated by a generous member in 2006. Nelson Brooke will patrol as Riverkeeper in both boats as well by foot, car, plane, and canoe. (We respectfully request that a member donate a canoe to replace the aging one Nelson uses to patrol streams inaccessible by boat.)

Patrolling — whether by boat, plane, foot, car, or canoe — is a defining aspect of any Waterkeeper organization's work. Every one of the 162 locally funded and controlled Waterkeeper groups across the world employs a full-time, paid "Waterkeeper" staff person (Nelson in our case) to monitor that group's designated watershed and patrol area, collect evidence of pollution, and serve the public as a visible, accessible, water-based advocate. When their patrols uncover evidence of pollution harming wildlife, public health, and/or recreation, Waterkeeper groups are not afraid to use litigation if necessary. Black Warrior Riverkeeper is no exception.



Ready to launch: Riverkeeper's new patrol boat. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Aerial patrols, provided free by SouthWings, aid many of Riverkeeper's pollution investigations. Learn more at www.SouthWings.org.

Nelson Brooke's Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER[®] Patrol Log

Here is a chronological summary of just a few of the many activities that Nelson Brooke, our staff Riverkeeper and Executive Director, performed recently as watchdog and spokesman of the Black Warrior River watershed. To report pollution, call (205)458-0095, e-mail: nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org, or use the new "Report Pollution" feature on our website: www.blackwarriorriver.org.

September 4: Reviewed 33 polluters' files in Montgomery at ADEM's headquarters with John Kinney. The following 8 are violating their permits: Jasper WWTP, Akron Lagoon, Cordova WWTP, East Walker County WWTP, Moundville Lagoon, Northport WWTP, and Metalplate Galvanizing Plants #1 & #2.

September 8: Taught dozens of children about watersheds at the Friends of the Locust Fork River's annual Family Day on the River with Elizabeth Salter, the Alabama Rivers Alliance's Watershed Organizer.

September 14: Checked out Mud Creek in Hanceville (Cullman County) with Charlie Scribner and found a whole lot of brown water coming out of the Hanceville Wastewater Treatment Plant's discharge pipe. We caught them in the process of having a bypass, which is the discharge of untreated sewage. I took pictures and samples, then reported it to ADEM. Sample results yielded extremely high levels of total suspended solids.

September 27: Joined John Wathen, Hurricane Creekkeeper, on his Hurricane Creek patrol. We checked Black Warrior Minerals' coal mine discharge that is staining the creek bottom orange.



Riverkeeper catches Hanceville Wastewater Treatment Plant illegally discharging untreated sewage into Mud Creek. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Sediment from coal mining and coalbed methane operations smother Davis Creek. Photo by Nelson Brooke.

October 4: John Wathen and I explored Davis Creek in Tuscaloosa County with local Denny Capley. This creek has been severely impacted by coal mining and coalbed methane operations to the point that gravel bars are choking the stream bed. This is a beautiful creek, but much of its habitat has been lost to sedimentation. It should be placed on Alabama's 303(d) List of impaired streams.

October 17: Patrolled the Oliver pool in Tuscaloosa from the Riverview boat launch with Nancy Callahan and Angie Sogol. We went upriver past NUCOR Steel where a barge was discharging bilge water into the river, leaving a gray film on the water's surface. The asphalt plant and chemical plant were emanating some awful odors so bad that I could barely breathe. We then entered Hurricane Creek's mouth just below Holt Lock & Dam. On our way back I noticed turbid water and foam coming from NUCOR Steel's discharge pipe. I quickly pulled over and took photos and samples. I promptly reported this to the ADEM Birmingham Field Office. Sample results showed elevated levels of aluminum and total suspended solids.

October 24: John Kinney and I met with the Hanceville Water & Sewer Dept. to discuss what they are doing to fix their wastewater treatment plant (See September 14). We talked about efforts to fix their ongoing raw sewage overflows and spills. They are working with an engineer and have committed about \$500,000 to plant rehab.

October 25: Patrolled the Mulberry Fork with Birmingham News reporter/photographer Beverly Taylor. We launched at Copeland Ferry and headed upriver past Burnt Cane Creek, the Birmingham Water Works' drinking water intake, and Red Star Mine. As we passed Horse Creek I noticed white foam on the water to the right. I pulled over to find East Walker Wastewater Treatment Plant's discharge pipe spewing out gray colored water with foam standing two to three feet tall on the water's surface. I took photos and reported it to ADEM.

November 14: Picked up Black Warrior Riverkeeper's new patrol boat from SeaArk Boats in Monticello, Arkansas. See page 1 for the exciting details!

November 30: Received Riverkeeper's new boat from Honda Marine, with new four-stroke motor installed.



Riverkeeper catches NUCOR Steel's discharge pipe (in trees in front of building) emitting turbid water and foam into the Black Warrior. Photo by Nelson Brooke.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Legal Docket

Alabama Biodiesel Corporation (Tuscaloosa County)

On August 22, 2007, Riverkeeper filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court against Alabama Biodiesel for the company's unpermitted oil and grease discharges into the Black Warrior River in Tuscaloosa County, next to Moundville Archaeological Park. AL Biodiesel's **discharge of pollutants without an NPDES permit** is a violation of the Clean Water Act and similar provisions of Alabama law, and is grounds for enforcement by civil action. The discharges occur just upstream of the Moundville public boat launch, where many residents and visitors fish, boat and swim. There are also several residents at Riverbend Farms subdivision downstream who have frequently complained of oily pollutants in the water that effect their enjoyment of the river when they and their children fish, boat and swim.

Riverkeeper is supportive of companies promoting renewable/sustainable energy, but these companies must be held accountable to pollution guidelines imposed on all other energy industries. However, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has once again done its best to avoid holding a polluter accountable. On December 2, 2007, ADEM imposed an inadequate Consent Order against AL Biodiesel, in an attempt to block our lawsuit. Riverkeeper was working on a settlement with AL Biodiesel when they filed a Motion to Dismiss our lawsuit on November 20, 2007, seeking protection under the Consent Order. Riverkeeper contested AL Biodiesel's Motion to Dismiss with a Brief in Opposition filed December 12, 2007. Riverkeeper will soon file comments in response to ADEM's Consent Order.

Birmingham International Airport (Jefferson County)

This summer, Riverkeeper initiated legal action to prevent stormwater violations at the Birmingham Airport's runway extension project. This massive construction project, which began around May 2002, has **disturbed approximately 243 acres**. Stormwater runoff from much of this area has been inadequately contained or treated during most of this time. As a result, Village Creek runs reddish-brown with muddy water every time we have a significant rainfall, exacerbating scenic degradation and ecological concerns. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control and sediment control, required by state regulation, have been inadequately designed, implemented and/or maintained by the contractors. Pollutants have gone as far downstream as Bayview Lake where sediment islands are forming in the lake.

Riverkeeper filed suit on April 3, 2007 against the Birmingham Airport Authority and construction companies for their part in this neglect. The Airport and two contractors, Dunn and Ellard, filed Motions to Dismiss our lawsuit in April 2007, as they claim to be working with ADEM on the problem. Their collaboration does not appear to be successful in preventing pollution, however, as laboratory results of Riverkeeper's water sample downstream of the airport on November 14, 2007 revealed **high levels of turbidity**. Riverkeeper will present its position in a January 30, 2008 hearing with the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), ADEM's governing board.

Metro Recycling, Inc. (Blount County)

Riverkeeper and the Friends of the Locust Fork River filed suit against Metro Recycling, Inc. in U.S. District Court on August 21, 2007. Metro Recycling's tire landfill discharges into an unnamed tributary of Whites Creek, a tributary of the Black Warrior's Locust Fork. Metro Recycling's **discharge of pollutants without an NPDES permit** is a violation of the Clean Water Act and similar provisions of Alabama law. Our water sampling revealed that the pollutants Metro illegally discharged include: Benzene (**known carcinogen**), Chloromethane (**possible carcinogen**), 1,2-Dichloroethane (**probable carcinogen**), Ethylbenzene, Toluene, Vinyl Chloride (**known carcinogen**), and Xylenes, o,m,p. ADEM proposed an inadequate Consent Order which was signed by Metro Recycling on September 21, 2007 and went to public notice on October 21, 2007. Riverkeeper filed public comments about the Consent Order on November 7, 2007.

Praco & Pumpkin Center Mines (Jefferson and Walker Counties)

Riverkeeper filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court against Cherokee Mining, LLC on July 27, 2007 for violations of the Clean Water Act at the company's Praco Mine and Pumpkin Center Mine. We uncovered **410 violations** of the mines' permit for discharges with unacceptable levels of iron, manganese, total suspended solids, and low pH (acidity). The mines discharged the polluted water to tributaries of the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. Yet again, ADEM stepped in with an inadequate Consent Order on September 24, 2007 and Cherokee Mining filed a Motion to Dismiss our lawsuit on October 11, 2007. Riverkeeper and Cherokee Mining both filed briefs in November 2007 about the Motion to Dismiss, and we await the Judge's decision.

Vulcan Materials Bessemer Quarry (Jefferson County)

Riverkeeper uncovered **465 violations** of Vulcan Materials Bessemer Quarry's permit. The discharges from this limestone quarry muddied Fivemile Creek (and Valley Creek below it) for many miles downstream, and are detrimental to aquatic species including fish and other creatures that depend on clean water. ADEM attempted to pre-empt Riverkeeper's lawsuit with a Consent Order. Riverkeeper appealed the Consent Order to the Alabama EMC. The EMC refused to hear the case and Riverkeeper appealed the refusal to the Montgomery County Circuit Court on March 23, 2006. Vulcan Materials has filed a motion for Summary Judgment asking that our appeal be dismissed for lack of standing. Riverkeeper has filed a briefing arguing that we clearly have standing and the case should be heard on the merits. Riverkeeper argues that ADEM's Consent Order was not properly entered because the six penalty factors required by statute were not considered and there is no factual basis given for the penalty imposed by ADEM.

The public has a right to know how ADEM assesses the fines they impose in Consent Orders against polluters, including Vulcan Materials. Riverkeeper cannot determine if a penalty is properly imposed if ADEM does not disclose its method of arriving at a penalty. Public involvement in the setting of penalties is an important aspect of the Clean Water Act. ADEM prefers to operate in secret with back room sweetheart deals with the holders of its pollution permits. **ADEM opposed public disclosure and involvement**, perhaps because they fear their deals will not stand up to the light of day. Riverkeeper is dedicated to changing ADEM's "business as usual" approach to administrative actions. We are pushing for an ADEM penalty policy which will adequately deter violations of the Clean Water Act.

McWane, Inc. Pollution Case: Possible Clean Water Act Ramifications

Since its enactment in 1972, Waterkeeper groups throughout the United States have used the Clean Water Act as the basis for lawsuits aimed at protecting waterways, and citizens who use them, from dangerous pollutants. However, some recent court decisions have effectively undermined the intent of the act and removed its teeth. One of these important cases, decided in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, involves McWane, Inc. and their Birmingham cast iron pipe foundry in North Birmingham.

In late October 2007 the court reversed the 2005 convictions of McWane and three company officials on criminal charges related to the illegal discharge of pollutants including oil, lead, and zinc to Avondale Creek, which flows into Village Creek. Village Creek is a main tributary of the Black Warrior River's Locust Fork. Vague language in the Clean Water Act, especially the definition of what is considered "navigable water," was the focal point of the decision. The Clean Water Act defines "navigable waters" as "the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas." McWane's attorneys argued that Avondale Creek is not "navigable" and therefore not protected by the Act. Prosecutors argued that Avondale Creek should be protected as Village Creek connects the stream to the Locust Fork and the Black Warrior River, which are considered "navigable waters."

The decision in the McWane case was based on a 2006 ruling by the US Supreme Court in *Rapanos et ux., et al. v. United States*, in which Justice Kennedy determined that prosecuting parties must prove there is at least a "significant nexus" between the water body in question and a navigable water in order to be considered for protection under the Clean Water Act. The eleventh circuit court stated that while a witness for the prosecution demonstrated a continuous, uninterrupted flow between Avondale Creek and the Black Warrior, prosecutors failed to present evidence proving a "significant nexus" between them. Therefore, the appellate court overturned the 2005 conviction and ordered a new trial for McWane and two of the three company officials.

The decisions in these two cases could have effects reaching far beyond the implications for the parties directly involved. It could mean that unless the required "significant nexus" is established, polluters could discharge harmful wastes and chemicals to small streams such as Avondale Creek without fear of repercussions under the Clean Water Act. This is a scary thought for those who live on or enjoy fishing, swimming, paddling or hiking along the streams that feed our larger rivers and is a perfect example of why Riverkeeper supporters should encourage their representatives in Congress to pass the Clean Water Restoration Act (H.R. 2421), which aims to restore the Clean Water Act's original intent. To contact officials serving the Black Warrior watershed please visit: www.blackwarriorriver.org/elected-officials.html.



Polluted by McWane, Inc: Avondale Creek near its confluence with Village Creek in Birmingham. Photo by Nelson Brooke.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Investigations Help EPA's Raid of Metalplate

Metalplate Galvanizing's Plant #2 in North Birmingham has been polluting a tributary of Avondale Creek for years. Avondale Creek flows into Village Creek, a tributary of the Black Warrior's Locust Fork. I first learned about Metalplate's pollution in March 2006 from an anonymous complaint. The complainant said the plant's pollution was visible from Google Earth. I began investigating and the orange-stained creek is indeed visible from satellite. After a discharge, the creek usually turns bright orange due to a large amount of heavy metals. I never saw an insect, minnow, fish, or crayfish living in this creek. I wondered how our state agency, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), could allow a regulated facility to do such harm to a stream. I took photos and monitored the stream day and night, waiting for the moment I would catch Metalplate in the act of discharging polluted water.



Nelson Brooke (author) tests pH & conductivity downstream of Metalplate's polluted discharge. Photo by Charles Scribner

On May 11, 2007, I stopped by the stream just as a large downpour started, and sure enough, they were discharging. I took a water sample which showed elevated levels of iron and zinc. Although this sample was compelling, it showed metal levels far smaller than samples taken by the Storm Water Management Authority. It sure is a good thing SWMA was out there sampling, because ADEM sure wasn't. We go down to ADEM headquarters in Montgomery once a month to review polluter's files. That is where I uncovered what SWMA found and what Metalplate's monthly self-reporting did not show. Given that ADEM knew of Metalplate's awful pollution, it is alarming they did not move swiftly to enforce the law and hold this brazen polluter accountable.

I quickly realized this situation warranted federal intervention by the Environmental Protection Agency. I began working with them to uncover pollution issues at not only Metalplate Plant #2, but also Plant #1 nearby. EPA intervention typically occurs due to state agency inability or inaction. In this case it seems to be both. On October 10, 2007 the EPA Criminal Investigation Division raided Metalplate's facilities. According to the EPA's website, CID "refers cases that pose significant risks to human health and the environment for criminal prosecutions." This case is being handled by the U.S. Department of Justice's U.S. Attorneys. Perhaps Metalplate will be held accountable after all.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Merchandise

To order these and other items in support of Black Warrior Riverkeeper, please visit <http://www.blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html> or contact Charles Scribner at 205-458-0095 or cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org
All prices below include shipping & sales tax.
Prices are even lower if you buy at our office or events — shipping fee removed.



Riverkeeper Long Sleeve T-shirt (Grey)
 Available in S, M, L, XL. Small color logo on left chest, large logo centered on back (pictured). **\$18**



Riverkeeper Short Sleeve T-shirt (White)
 Available in S, M, L, XL. Small logo on left chest, large logo centered on back (pictured). **\$15**



Riverkeeper Decal
 Logo with adhesive on back. Durable. Great on bumpers or windows! (4in x 4in). **\$1**



Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps
 Organic, biodegradable, concentrated, and highly rated. Great for home or outdoor use! 4oz bottles available in Peppermint, Eucalyptus, or Unscented. **\$7**

Knight & Hale[®] GAME CALLS

Knight & Hale Video: Ultimate Whitetail Season VI
 Join Harold Knight, David Hale, and *Hank Williams, Jr.* on 10 hunts for some big ol' bucks! VHS. **\$12**

Knight & Hale Video & Cassette: Gobbler Guide
 Features turkey hunting lessons from Knight and Hale, and the handy Field Guide gives you the stage the birds you're hunting are in depending on the date. Includes hunting tactics. VHS, cassette, and field guide. **\$17**

Knight & Hale Turkey Bag
 This blaze-orange Turkey Transport Bag allows you to safely pack your turkey out of the woods. Durable and washable. **\$6**

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Holds First Annual Membership Meeting

Black Warrior Riverkeeper held its First Annual Membership Meeting at the Birmingham Zoo Auditorium on November 7, 2007. Clay Ragsdale (President, Board of Directors) called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. The program commenced with Staff Reports by Charles Scribner (Director of Development), John Kinney (Program Director), Mark Martin (Prosecuting Attorney) and Nelson Brooke (Riverkeeper and Executive Director). Clay then introduced his fellow Board Members: David Tidwell (Vice President), Gina McWilliams (Treasurer), Gordon Black, Rob Brewer, Mike Cowan, James Lowery, Kent Upshaw, and David Whiteside (Founder).

After recognizing the considerable service of the current Board of Directors, Clay lead our Members' Election of returning and new Board Members. The slate of four candidates was unanimously approved. The Members approved new terms for Gina McWilliams and David Whiteside. Simultaneously, the members welcomed two exciting additions to the Board: Janice Gilliland and Elberta Reid.

M. Janice Gilliland, MA, MSPH, PhD is a Research Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at UAB. Her primary research interest is in childhood obesity and related risk factors, particularly those factors related to the physical and social environment. Prior to coming to UAB, she was employed at the Alabama Department of Public Health as an environmental epidemiologist where she worked doing health risk assessments for communities located near National Priority List hazardous waste sites. Janice grew up in west Alabama, and has long had an interest in protecting the Black Warrior River and other natural water systems. In rare moments of spare time, Janice enjoys canoeing, kayaking, and other water and outdoor activities.

Elberta Reid was formerly a member and chairman of the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission and represented the county on several committees of the Regional Planning Commission. She has been active in local arts and community organizations and a number of environmental groups, including the Birmingham Audubon Society, Alabama Audubon Council, The Alabama Conservancy, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, and Friends of Jemison Park. Elberta was chairman of the ad hoc committee of environmental organizations that sponsored and lobbied through the Alabama legislature, over a four-year period, legislation for the Forever Wild land acquisition program. Shortly afterward she was the recipient of a Malcolm Stewart Award for Conservationist of the Year from The Alabama Conservancy and a Golden Leaf Award from the Nature Conservancy of Alabama. Elberta's main hobby is birding, and she also enjoys reading, bridge, tennis, and canoeing.

Charles Scribner subsequently introduced the winners of Riverkeeper's first annual awards:

Business Partner of the Year – Amy Vickers: Red Rain Environmental General Store

Volunteers of the Year – Roseanna Whiteside & Lauren Whiteside

Conservation Group of the Year – The Friends of the Locust Fork River

Riverkeeper Watchdog of the Year – John Wathen, Hurricane CREEKKEEPER®



After awards, Charles introduced renowned biology professor, researcher and author, Dr. W. Mike Howell. Among countless other accomplishments, at age 24 Dr. Howell discovered and described a new species of fish, the Watercress Darter (*Etheostoma nuchale*). Found only in the Black Warrior River watershed, the Watercress Darter is now on the federal Endangered list. Dr. Howell relayed this and many other fascinating stories and points in his Keynote Presentation: "The History and Biodiversity of the Black Warrior River Watershed."

Clay adjourned the successful meeting at exactly 8:15pm, as promised. Special thanks to the Birmingham Zoo for hosting, Milo's Tea Company for donating local and all-natural sweet & unsweet tea, and many of our Members for attending!

Board of Directors Spotlight: James Lowery

James Lowery is one of Black Warrior Riverkeeper's longest serving Board Members, having joined in 2003. James recently retired as UAB's Director of Management Support Services and considers himself an "Amateur Scientist." He is active in environmental education as a member of nine environmental and science related Boards, serving as an officer on six of those Boards. James' widespread involvement in Alabama non-profit organizations was featured in the August 28, 2005 *Birmingham News* edition of "Good Work."

Along with countless environmental awards, James has been honored three times as a vigilant member of Alabama's Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 01090. James gives excellent presentations concerning constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment, as well as about urban streams he has walked. He is also an experienced speaker about Antarctica, the Netherlands, and astronomy, and leads guided tours of Alabama's Wetumpka Astrobleme (Impact Crater). During rare breaks in his multifaceted community service, James enjoys paddling whitewater rivers as a member of the Birmingham Canoe Club. To learn about the other members of our Board, visit: www.blackwarriorriver.org/board.html.



James Lowery atop a glacier in Antarctica. Photo by Peggy Lowery.

About Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

Black Warrior Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving habitat, recreation, and public health throughout the largest river watershed fully contained within Alabama, America's leading state for freshwater biodiversity.

Founded in 2001 by David Whiteside, our full-time employees include Nelson Brooke—Executive Director & Riverkeeper, John Kinney—Program Director, and Charles Scribner—Director of Development & Newsletter Editor. We also benefit greatly from the services of our in-house Prosecuting Attorney, Mark Martin. Alabama's 2007 Conservation Organization of the Year, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is governed by a Board of Directors and is a proud member of Waterkeeper Alliance.

About WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE

The first Riverkeeper patrol boat was launched by military veterans and fishermen who mobilized in 1966 to challenge polluters on the Hudson River. That Riverkeeper's contributions to the Hudson's amazing recovery has inspired the creation of 162 locally funded and controlled "Waterkeeper" organizations on waterways across the world.

Waterkeeper Alliance was founded in 2000 to connect and support local Waterkeeper organizations, while allowing them full control over their finances and administrative decisions. Waterkeeper Alliance offers legal, scientific, and administrative advice, provides networking opportunities, and often advocates for issues common to multiple local Waterkeepers (such as mercury pollution — a major issue in the Black Warrior River watershed).



MEMBERSHIPS / DONATIONS

Please complete and return with check to: Black Warrior Riverkeeper, 712 37th Street South, Birmingham, AL 35222



NAME(S) _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY, ST, 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:

- ___ Plicate rocksnail (Leptoxis ampla) - endemic snail on federal Endangered list.....\$25
___ Watercress Darter (Etheostoma nuchale) - endemic fish on federal Endangered list.....\$50
___ Vermilion Darter (Etheostoma chermocki) - endemic fish on federal Endangered list.....\$100
___ Flattened Musk Turtle (Sternotherus depressus) - endemic reptile on federal Threatened list.....\$250
___ Black Warrior Waterdog (Necturus alabamensis) - endemic amphibian, federal Threatened list candidate.....\$1000
___ Other Dollar amount.....\$
___ In-kind donation (List donated goods or professional services):
___ Volunteer time (List hours and type of volunteering):
___ Stock (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 honorary / memorial gift: _____

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services of monetary value will be provided in exchange for contributions. To donate by credit card or to purchase merchandise (shirts, bumper stickers, hunting/fishing gear, Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps) please contact Charles Scribner at 205-458-0095 or info@blackwarriorriver.org



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HIGHER GROUND ROASTERS WINS NATIONAL ROASTER OF THE YEAR

Local Makers of Black Warrior Riverkeeper Roast Coffee Win National Award for Quality & Sustainability

On September 23, Higher Ground Roasters, Inc., took the top award for *Roast Magazine's* Fourth Annual Roaster of the Year competition. From a national applicant pool, Higher Ground was chosen based on quality, sustainable practices, innovation, and overall contribution. Higher Ground won the Microroaster Category. Higher Ground supports Riverkeeper through the "1% for the Planet" program and by giving us 10% of the proceeds from "Black Warrior Riverkeeper Roast." 12oz and 2lb bags of this 100% organic, fair trade, and shade grown blend is available at **Barkely Bob's** (Cullman) **Capture Studio Cafe** (Tuscaloosa), **Crestwood Coffee** (Birmingham), **Java and Jams** (Birmingham), **Manna Grocery** (Tuscaloosa) **Mast General** (Arden & Asheville, NC), **Northern Star** (Norcross, GA), **Olde Towne** (Huntsville), **Organic Harvest** (Vestavia), **Percasso's** (Guntersville), **Publix** (Birmingham), **Red Rain** (Homewood), **Tria** (Homewood), **V. Richard's** (Birmingham), **Whole Foods** (Mountain Brook) and **Riverkeeper's online store:** <http://blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html>.



World Wildlife Fund Helps Us Again!

WWF recently honored Black Warrior Riverkeeper with yet another pivotal grant for **Riverkeeper patrol & education programs.** Black Warrior Riverkeeper and WWF also just teamed up in Birmingham to organize **WWF's Southeast Rivers and Streams Support Fund Conference.** The two-day meeting of WWF's Southeast grantees was generously hosted by **Architecture Works.**



Milo's Tea Company

Milo's Tea Company recently donated a very generous batch of **Milo's Famous Tea** to Black Warrior Riverkeeper's First Annual Membership

Meeting at the **Birmingham Zoo**, as well as our Annual Strategic Planning Session in Moundville. Riverkeeper members, staff, and board all enjoyed Milo's local and all-natural sweet & unsweet teas!

Eco-Friendly Newsletters Printed on Fox River Paper's 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper

We raised our printing expenses to switch to Fox River Paper's "80# Text" paper, which is 100% post-consumer recycled. We utilized the "Environmental Calculator" on www.foxriverpaper.com to project our newsletters' environmental savings over the course of one year:



1048.16 lbs wood ~ 1476.96 gal water ~ 1.52min BTUs energy ~ 316.16 lbs emissions ~ 168.76 lbs solid waste