



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



B L A C K W A R R I O R R I V E R K E E P E R ' S N E W S L E T T E R

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DID YOU KNOW?

~At the southern edge of Appalachia, three small rivers, or "forks" (Sipsey, Mulberry, and Locust) form the Black Warrior River just west of Birmingham.

~The National Park Service rated the Black Warrior's three forks in the top 2% of U.S. streams for "outstanding remarkable values."

Sewage in the Black Warrior River watershed

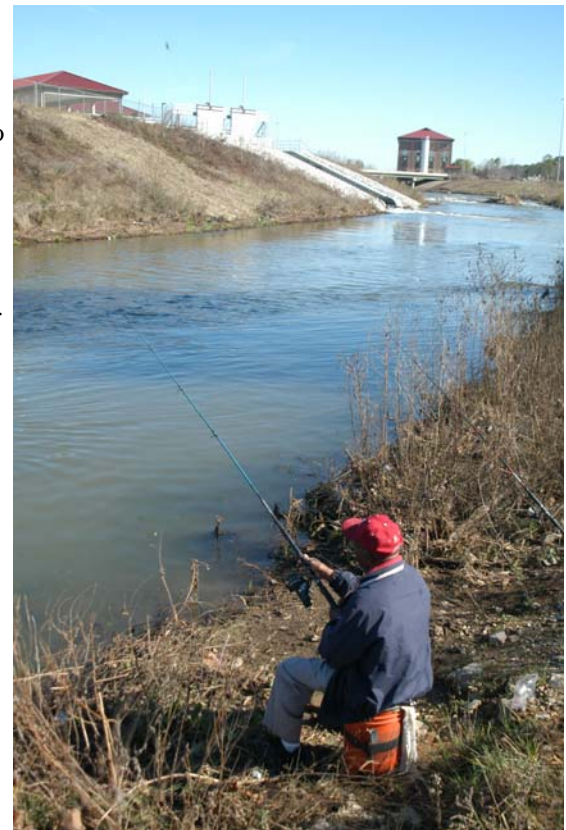
The Black Warrior River watershed includes 16 counties and is home to over one million people. A very important source of drinking water for Birmingham, Tuscaloosa and many other cities, the Black Warrior is unfortunately plagued by sewage. There are 72 wastewater treatment plants and lagoons discharging throughout the basin. Permitted by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) with federal permits under the Clean Water Act, these facilities face little effective regulation. ADEM has an informal agreement with wastewater utilities that allows them to operate in violation of their permits so long as they claim that they are "working on improvements" for their plants or collection lines. ADEM has sporadically enforced the law, but only after a considerable amount of time has passed and much raw sewage has entered streams.

Citizen enforcement of the Clean Water Act through lawsuits *does* get ADEM moving, however! This helps guide our anti-pollution strategies. Black Warrior Riverkeeper has taken a comprehensive look at 53 of the municipal and private wastewater treatment plants and lagoons throughout the basin. Of those, 23 are in major violation of their permits, 9 have issues that we are watching, 18 are in good condition, and 3 are not yet in service. There are also 19 treatment facilities for schools. Out of the 23 Clean Water Act violators we found, Black Warrior Riverkeeper has issued 5 Notices of Intent to Sue. We are talking with officials at the other facilities, hoping that we can get a voluntary commitment from them to clean up their mess. We have summarized violations over the past five years for 18 out of the 23 facilities, which cumulatively violated the Clean Water Act at least **24,657** times.

Donaldson Correctional Facility in Jefferson County has been a long-term focus for Black Warrior Riverkeeper. After we issued a 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue Donaldson for sewage violations, the Alabama Attorney General's office took the case from us on the 57th day. ADEM could have taken it, but they allowed Donaldson to discharge illegally into Big Branch of Valley Creek for 9 years! Over the past 5 years, the prison violated its permit 1,060 times. ADEM knew their lack of diligent prosecution entitled us to carry on, so they asked the Attorney General to step in and protect the Department of Corrections (DOC) from our suit.

Designed for 900 prisoners, Donaldson holds 1,600 inmates, resulting in overloads at its wastewater treatment plant. After we intervened in the lawsuit, the DOC agreed to work with us, and contracted a private sewer operator called NOVUS Utilities to operate the treatment plant. NOVUS has spent over \$400,000 on upgrades, such as building a 100,000 gallon surge basin. Donaldson has met permit limits since August 2005.

Many of those in charge of running sewage treatment facilities take sewage treatment as lightly as ADEM. Still, pathogens can live in stream bottom sediments for up to 12 months after discharge. (www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/sewage/sewage.pdf) Sewage is a serious threat to public health and our right to fish and swim. We promise to fight the deregulation of wastewater treatment, and we will help improve facilities discharging sewage into the Black Warrior.



Subsistence fishing by Valley Creek WWTP, which treats 65 million gallons of sewage daily.
© Nelson Brooke

Winston County: Judge Frank M. Johnson and “The Free State of Winston”

By KATHLEEN “KICK” KENNEDY

David Whiteside, founder of Black Warrior Riverkeeper, has deep roots within the Black Warrior River watershed in Winston County, a noteworthy location for Alabama’s many civil rights movements. Nestled in the northwest section of the Black Warrior River watershed, Winston County was one of the last frontiers in the settlement of Alabama. Geographically a part of the Southern Appalachians, Winston is a hilly county with infertile soil causing it to be sparsely settled.

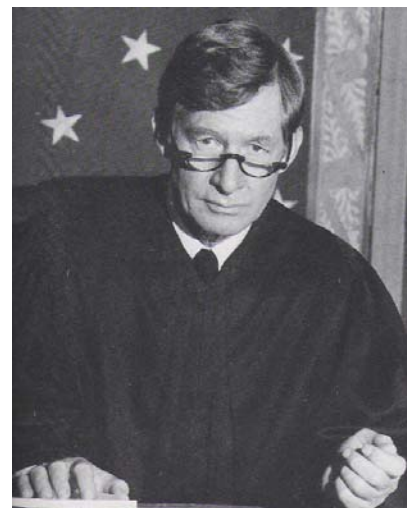
Resulting from its harsh topography, antebellum Winston was missing two significant factors found throughout the rest of Alabama – cotton and slaves. Winston had the fewest slaves in Alabama according to the 1850 and 1860 censuses. Without cotton or slaves the rugged Winstonians did not see the election of Lincoln in 1860 as a threat or a valid reason for secession. They opposed secession in 1861 and sought to be neutral in the impending “war of Northern aggression.” Over 2,500 citizens held a famous neutrality meeting at Looney’s Tavern in the spring of 1862 and voted to remain neutral. Winston did not secede, but ultimately supplied more troops to the Union than to the Confederacy. “The Free State of Winston” tag stuck to this day, symbolizing the rugged individualism of past and current residents.

David Whiteside’s great-uncle, Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., showcased his Winston County Individualism as a federal judge trying to uphold the Constitution and rule of law in Alabama during the turbulent 1950s and 1960s. Judge Johnson was a man who utterly vindicated my family’s central notion that a single man can make a difference. Johnson, a Republican, countered segregation with a stream of decisions that upheld basic civil rights for black Southerners. “The Judge” or “Judgie” as Whiteside affectionately called him, issued the decisive vote on the Montgomery bus boycott case, legally disbanded the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, and issued the permit for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to march from Selma to Montgomery. Klansmen burned crosses in his yard and firebombed his mother’s house twice. Johnson and his family were under federal protection for several decades. Gov. George Wallace called Judge Johnson an “integrating, scalawagging, carpet-bagging, race-mixing, bald-faced liar” who should be given “a barbed-wire enema.” Many called Johnson “the most hated man in the South.”

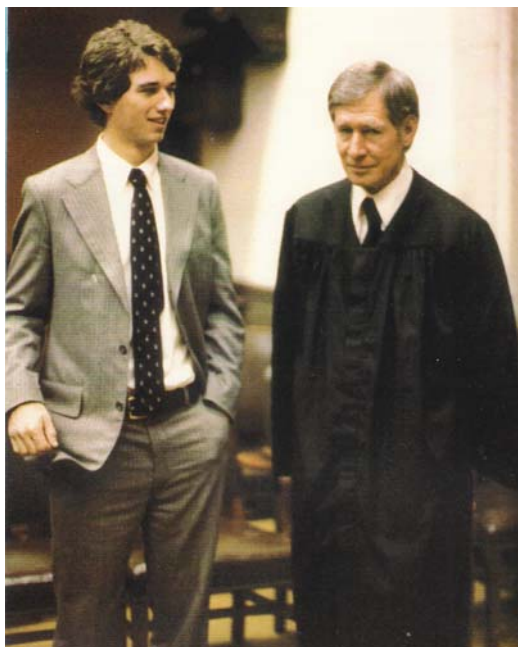
Judge Johnson and his family risked their lives for justice, and America is better for it. Johnson would need all the toughness he acquired growing up in the wild Winston terrain to ignore these constant threats by the Ku Klux Klan and other detractors. In the end, his most severe critics, such as Gov. Wallace and the Alabama Legislature, admitted they were wrong. An official Winston County historical marker in Haleyville reads: “Johnson transcended the prejudices of his time and made his mark as one of the great jurists in American history.” Martin Luther King Jr. said Johnson “gave true meaning to the word *justice*.”

My father, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (President of Waterkeeper Alliance, of which Black Warrior Riverkeeper is an autonomous member organization) wrote the first of many books published about Judge Johnson while living in Alabama for several years. During this time, Johnson’s great-nephew David Whiteside was about to enter the world, and my young father requested that he be the Godfather. Today my dad is an active mentor for David and Black Warrior Riverkeeper. Meanwhile, David’s sister Lauren Johnson Whiteside shares our families’ passion for civil rights and community service, having volunteered hundreds of hours to Black Warrior Riverkeeper as an outreach and event coordinator.

Winston County remains a rugged frontier in many ways, largely due to the vast wilderness of the 180,000 acre William B. Bankhead National Forest, which covers half of the county and includes the incredible Sipsey Wilderness. The creeks in Winston feed into the Sipsey Fork, one of the three major headwater tributaries of the Black Warrior River. Clean water, like equal civil liberties, is a right to which all Americans are entitled. Every person needs clean water. However this right is being taken from citizens by industrial and municipal polluters who do not follow the rule of law. In protecting our water, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is enforcing the rule of law, often through the judicial process, to preserve this basic human right for millions of Alabamians. We should all “salute the U.S. Constitution” in honor of Judge Johnson!



Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. of Haleyville stood for justice in America. © Penny Weaver



Robert Kennedy Jr. (left) with Judge Johnson in Montgomery, Alabama © Frank McCoy, Jr.



Left to Right: Robert F. Kennedy III, R.F.K Jr., and David Whiteside in Hyannis Port, MA © Kathleen Kennedy

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Legal Docket

NEW CASES

B L O U N T S V I L L E H C R L A G O O N
(B L O U N T C o .)

Black Warrior Riverkeeper served a Notice of Intent to Sue (NOIS) the Blountsville HCR Lagoon, alleging **1,797 violations** of the Clean Water Act. These sewage-related discharges enter into Blue Springs Creek of the Mulberry Fork. Our 60 day notice period expired May 29. On May 30, ADEM issued public notice that they have entered a consent agreement with Blountsville regarding *some* of these violations, imposing an inadequate fine of \$2,400. Stay tuned to our newsletter and website for more information: www.BlackWarriorRiver.org/docket.htm

B R O O K S I D E V I L L A G E W W T P (J E F F E R S O N C o .)

Black Warrior Riverkeeper served a Notice of Intent to Sue (NOIS) the Brookside Village WWTP, alleging **1,134 violations** of the Clean Water Act. These discharges enter into Newfound Creek, a tributary of Fivemile Creek of the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. This notice was filed on May 19, 2006.

With the filing of this notice of intent to sue, **Black Warrior Riverkeeper has addressed over 11,000 Clean Water Act violations** through legal actions since 2002 !

ONGOING CASES

C O R D O V A W A S T E W A T E R
T R E A T M E N T P L A N T
(W A L K E R C o .)

Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed a Motion to Intervene and a Complaint in Intervention on April 28, 2006, in the Circuit Court of Walker County. We allege **618 violations** of their permit. ADEM filed their complaint in this case on November 9, 2005. We are entitled to intervene as a matter of legal right and are doing so to ensure that ADEM diligently prosecutes the case.



Cordova Wastewater Treatment Plant
© Nelson Brooke (Nov. 29, 2005)

E A S T W A L K E R C O . S E W E R A U T H O R I T Y
(W A L K E R C o .)



Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed a Motion to Intervene and a Complaint in Intervention on April 28, 2006, in the Circuit Court of Walker County. We allege **4,473 violations** of their permit! ADEM filed their complaint in this case on or about October 20, 2005. We are entitled to intervene as a matter of right and are doing so to ensure that ADEM diligently prosecutes the case.



4,473 Clean Water Act Violations
East Walker Co. Wastewater Treatment Plant
© Nelson Brooke 2005

V U L C A N M A T E R I A L S B E S S E M E R Q U A R R Y
(J E F F E R S O N C o .)

Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Notice of Appeal was filed in Montgomery County Circuit Court on March 23. The case was assigned to Judge Bill Shashy who set it for non-jury trial on July 18, 2006. Vulcan Materials has filed a motion to dismiss our appeal alleging lack of standing. ADEM and EMC have filed a motion to dismiss alleging lack of standing and sovereign immunity. Neither motion has any merit, in our attorney's opinion. Riverkeeper alleges **465 violations** of Vulcan Materials Bessemer Quarry permit.



Historic coal victory for Hurricane CREEKKEEPER® (Tuscaloosa County)

For the first time in Alabama's history, citizen groups have used a lawsuit to force the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to deny a coal mining permit. Along with the Alabama Rivers Alliance, our fellow Waterkeeper, John Wathen (Hurricane Creekkeeper) successfully argued that the state of Alabama is not allowed to continue to issue permits for pollution in water that is already federally listed as degraded. As Hurricane Creekkeeper, Wathen is the investigative arm of the Friends of Hurricane Creek. Tuscaloosa Resources, Inc's 2002 permit affects the North Fork of Hurricane Creek, a cache of biodiversity which flows into the Black Warrior River in Tuscaloosa County.

The 303(d) section of the Clean Water Act lists polluted streams as "impaired." If a stream is listed as such, a state's environmental regulatory agency — ADEM in this case — cannot issue any new permits to discharge the pollutants that caused that stream to be listed as impaired in the first place. ADEM acknowledged that Hurricane Creek's North Fork was "impaired" but argued it was not due to aluminum, iron, or turbidity — pollutants it tolerated in Tuscaloosa Resources' permit. Montgomery County Circuit Judge Truman Hobbs wrote in his ruling that the evidence clearly showed the creek was impaired by these same pollutants that the mining company's permit allowed. The Alabama Environmental Management Commission, which oversees ADEM, previously concluded there was no evidence the quality of the water had been degraded, a finding Hobbs said was "clearly erroneous." "Not only is there ample evidence in the record that the impairment is due to 'iron, aluminum or turbidity'," Hobbs ruled, "but also this court could discern little to the contrary."

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., president of Waterkeeper Alliance, applauded the decision, stating, "This is, for us, an encouraging thing because the courts are standing up and saying, 'Enforce the law against an agency'." Kennedy lamented that ADEM is known as a "poster child for the 'capture movement' around the country basically because it has become a spokesman for regulated industries." Accordingly, like his friends at Black Warrior Riverkeeper, John Wathen hopes that the ruling will force ADEM to reconsider their habit of making dubious agreements with polluters. "We expect more in the future," Wathen said, "and if ADEM doesn't throw away their rubber stamp we're going to break it for them."



John Wathen (left) and Alabama Rivers Alliance's Adam Snyder inform media about coal and Hurricane Creek. © John Wathen

Strip mining threat may resurface in Cordova (Walker County)

Besides intervening in a case regarding Cordova Wastewater Treatment Plant's illegal sewage discharges (see "Legal Docket" p.3) Black Warrior Riverkeeper is monitoring strip mining threats to this historic Walker County town on the Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior. Along with WildLaw, we have been helping the Cordova Improvement & Preservation Association (CIPA) in their efforts to stop the Cordova Industrial Development Board (IDB) from allowing Sloan Mountain Mining, LLC to strip mine 344 acres of land on the banks of the Mulberry Fork (see photo below).

Since the Black Warrior River sits on top of the Warrior Coal Basin, coal mining holds its place in the history of this watershed. However, we do not want to see a strip mine within 100 feet of such a great asset as the Mulberry Fork. Coal mines drain large disturbed areas, resulting in sedimentation. Inevitably, along with that dirt comes heavy metals found in coal seams. Until coal mining is properly permitted and permits are duly enforced, Black Warrior Riverkeeper will hold polluting mines accountable and will be on the lookout for new ones.

In fact, Black Warrior Riverkeeper has spent several weekends and evenings at Cordova City Council and IDB meetings, downtown protests, and other gatherings to express concerns over this Cordova mining proposal. Fortunately, at Cordova's IDB meeting on May 3, Chairman George Weaver reported that Drummond Company has pulled out of negotiations over the property, and that there are no negotiations with any other mining companies.

Many Cordova leaders believe that the land is still being quietly shopped to mining companies. In addition to pollution and habitat destruction inherent in strip mining, this shortsighted threat could stymie CIPA's award-winning plans to employ smart growth and positive economic development that will surely help this community with the completion of I-22. Moreover, potential mining pollution threatens not only Cordova but thousands of people downstream who depend on the Black Warrior as a source of drinking water and recreation.

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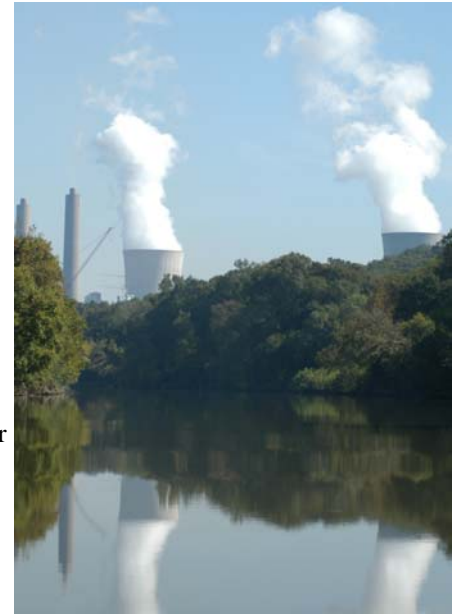
The Mulberry Fork of the Black Warrior River passes by a potential Cordova strip mine. © Nelson Brooke Flight provided by SouthWings.org.

Alabama Power to cut *some* pollutants at Miller Steam Plant (Jefferson Co.)

Alabama Power Company has agreed to reduce several pollutants from its Miller Steam Plant, which sits at the confluence of Village Creek and the Black Warrior River’s Locust Fork. The agreement, signed on April 24, settles a federal lawsuit claiming that a newer phase of the Miller Steam Plant was built illegally under the Clean Air Act. Alabama Power stockholders, rather than ratepayers, will pay for the federal fine of \$100,000 and the plant’s loss of sulfur dioxide pollution “credits” worth \$4.9 million. Technological improvements reducing particulates and nitrogen oxide, such as scrubbers already budgeted by Alabama Power, will be expedited.

Unfortunately, the settlement does not require Alabama Power to reduce mercury from the plant. In 2003, the Miller Plant emitted **1,589 pounds of mercury**, making it America’s fourth dirtiest power plant in terms of mercury emitted. Alabama Power will install a continuous mercury monitoring system by 2009, which should provide more information about mercury pollution from the largest discharger in the Black Warrior basin. However, tangible mercury cutbacks remain unregulated. The settlement also mandates nothing in the way of reducing carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming, despite the plant ranking **fifth worst nationally in 2003 for carbon dioxide emissions**.

Federal courts ruled that the Miller Plant’s expansion violated the “New Source Review” provisions of the U.S. Clean Air Act. The New Source Review rule was added to the Clean Air Act in 1977 so that old plants could not modify and increase their equipment indefinitely without meeting pollution standards. Alabama Power is owned and operated by Atlanta-based Southern Company, one of the leading forces against national pollution controls, including the Clean Air Act. Their lobbying of Congress and the White House continues to result in disproportionate burdens of mercury, carbon dioxide, and other pollutants for Alabamians.



The Miller Steam Plant faces increased pollution restrictions, but is still not required to reduce its notorious mercury and carbon dioxide emissions.
© Nelson Brooke (October 1, 2004)

<u>PLANT</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>MERCURY LBS. PER YEAR</u>
Monticello	Texas	2,097
Homer City	Pennsylvania	1,852
Keystone	Pennsylvania	1,851
MILLER	ALABAMA	1,589
Martin Lake	Texas	1,366

Dirtiest Power Plants in the Country
Source: EPA, Analysis: USPIRG 2003 Report

June 29th “Open House”: Meet our new Executive Director, Brantley Fry!

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is very pleased to invite you to meet our new Executive Director, Brantley Fry, at our Second Annual Open House, Thursday June 29th from 5:00 to 8:00pm. We will once again open our Avondale office to our members for refreshments and a silent auction featuring items donated by Southern Progress, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Don Stewart, Dr. Mike Howell, PRADCO fishing lures, Knight&Hale, Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps and more. We also have added new merchandise, including fishing lures, hunting equipment, and short and long-sleeve Riverkeeper T-shirts. Beverages, snacks, and parking spots will be free and plentiful!

Brantley Fry joins Black Warrior Riverkeeper as Executive Director in late June. Fry is a native of Birmingham who returned to her home town after living in Washington, D.C. While in D.C., she worked mainly as an environmental consultant, but also spent time working on Capitol Hill as a legislative researcher. She received her law degree from Vermont Law School in 2000 and her bachelor's degree from Hollins College in 1995. Fry has been interested in environmental issues since her high school days at The Altamont School, and hopes to channel that passion and experience towards improving the vital Black Warrior basin.

We are so excited about hiring Brantley! Her extensive knowledge of environmental law and policy will guide us to new levels in clean water advocacy. Brantley and her husband John Wilson hope to make the Black Warrior River basin’s future brighter for their children, Carlisle and Walker, as well as over a million citizens throughout this watershed we patrol.

Although it will be difficult for David Whiteside, our founder and current Executive Director, to leave Black Warrior Riverkeeper’s office temporarily, he and the rest of us could not be happier about our new leadership. We hope you will celebrate here on June 29th while helping us promote clean water and healthy communities. Please RSVP with Charles Scribner at (205) 458-0095 or CScribner@blackwarriorriver.org.



Brantley Fry’s environmental law degree and background in policy will be pivotal for our river basin!

Nelson Brooke's Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Patrol Log

Here is a chronological summary of just a few of the many activities that Nelson Brooke, your Black Warrior Riverkeeper, performed recently as watchdog and spokesman of the Black Warrior River watershed. To report pollution to Nelson, please call our office at (205)458-0095 or e-mail: NBrooke@blackwarriorriver.org. For more information, visit www.BlackWarriorRiver.org

March 13: I arrived in Cordova for a press conference and rally against the Industrial Development Board's (IDB) move to strip mine for coal along the Mulberry Fork. When I got to city hall, there was nobody there to my surprise. I stuck around and was about to leave when a woman from the Jasper Daily Mountain Eagle showed up. She brought the good news that Drummond Company had backed out of mining there "due to economic reasons." The Cordova Improvement & Preservation Association (CIPA) and Sandy Nichols with WildLaw held a press conference in nearby Dovertown. Sandy said she received a call from the IDB's lawyer that morning and he said "You won." (See p. 4). Cordova's Comprehensive Plan, largely facilitated by CIPA, won a national award recently. Locals are not willing to allow the future of their community to be squashed. They had over 700 names on a petition that they were going to give the IDB. This was a great evening full of thanks. Sandy and I are not aware of a community stopping a coal mine like this before.

April 4: Patrolled Bankhead Lake. Passing Drummond Company's Shoal Creek Mine I noticed fishermen fishing at the discharge known as "the waterfall." This seemingly natural waterfall is a destination point for people. Stopping there and I checked the pH and conductivity/ total dissolved solids with my hand-held HANNA meters. The pH was 8.9, the conductivity was 2,229uS, and the TDS was 1,045ppm. This pH discharge is within their allowable limit under ADEM's permit, yet it is a violation of the Clean Water Act. This portion of the Black Warrior River has a use classification for Fish & Wildlife that requires discharges of pH between 6 & 8.5. With a conductivity reading that high, Drummond is discharging far too many heavy metals. This outfall discharges water that is being pumped out from the underground mine. On a happier note, while heading upriver to Howton's Camp for lunch, I spotted a bald eagle on a piece of driftwood lodged in a sediment bar. Although this portion of the river is the most polluted of the Black Warrior River's impoundments, it is still a beautiful place.



Sadly, fishermen often mistake Drummond Company's Shoal Creek Mine discharge as a natural waterfall.
© Nelson Brooke

April 7: I met with a Stormwater Management Authority geographical information systems (GIS) analyst. We worked together to come up with the total mileage for the Black Warrior River. We measured from the headwaters of the Mulberry Fork in Marshall County to the Black Warrior's confluence with the Tombigbee River in Demopolis (the county line for Greene, Marengo and Sumter Counties). The headwater stream for the Mulberry is named Warrior Creek — how appropriate. The Mulberry Fork is 123 miles long, and the Black Warrior River proper is 170 miles long, making the river 293 miles long.

April 8: Helped with the Five Mile Creek Cleanup put on by the Five Mile Creek Greenway Partnership, the Freshwater Land Trust, and Alabama Power Service Organization. This year's cleanup was held near Huffman High School. While some volunteers helped clean the creek, others worked on the new constructed wetland at Huffman High School. I joined in on that effort. We planted lots of water plants, shrubs, and trees around the site, which was very muddy. The wetland will take runoff from the school and its parking lot, so pollutants will be treated by the plants before entering Five Mile Creek.

April 17: I met with Tuscaloosa's Mayor Walter Maddox to discuss the Tuscaloosa Wastewater Treatment Plant's illegal sewage overflows and other permit violations. My hope was to get an understanding of whether or not he and the city are committed to cleaning up their wastewater problems. Mayor Maddox told me they are working hard to improve their system, which he admitted had been allowed to deteriorate in some places over the years. If Tuscaloosa does not clean up on their own, we are prepared to persuade them.

April 28: Went to Smith Lake for the Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee's Alabama Power Renew Our Rivers Cleanup. Seven of us headed out on a flat-topped aluminum boat and were gone for several hours, collecting large pieces of fugitive styrofoam that has escaped from people's docks over the years. We piled roughly 2,000 lbs. of it! It gets stuck back up in sloughs and along the banks. This cleanup plus one the day before pulled 320 tons of trash out of Smith Lake! The lake is a reservoir on the Sipsey Fork of the Black Warrior River.

May 3: Took a reporter with the Jasper Daily Mountain Eagle out on the Mulberry Fork in Walker County. We put in at the Copeland Ferry bridge and made our way up to Cordova, where Cane Creek flows into the river. A highlight of the trip was seeing a juvenile eagle flying overhead. The Jasper Daily Mountain Eagle ran a cover story about Riverkeeper as a result of this trip.



Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee cleanup removed 320 tons of trash.
© Nelson Brooke

A b o u t B l a c k W a r r i o r R I V E R K E E P E R [®]

The Mission of Black Warrior Riverkeeper is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the needs of over 1.1 million people throughout sixteen counties in the heart of Alabama. Monitoring the river and holding industry accountable for their discharged pollutants has made us an important proponent of clean water and public health throughout the watershed. Founded in 2001 by Birmingham citizens, our three full-time employees include Nelson Brooke—Riverkeeper (patrolman and spokesman), Charles Scribner—Director of Development, and David Whiteside—Executive Director. We also benefit greatly from the services of in-house Chief Prosecuting Attorney, Mark Martin, and Legal Program Coordinator, John Kinney. Alabama’s 2006 *Watershed Organization of the Year*, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is governed by a board of directors and is a proud member of Waterkeeper Alliance.

A b o u t W A T E R K E E P E R [®] A l l i a n c e

The first Riverkeeper patrol boat was launched by fisherman and their friends 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 153 locally funded and controlled “Waterkeeper” organizations on waterways across the country and the world. Waterkeepers (including Alabama’s Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper and Mobile Baykeeper) patrol local waterways, respond to citizen complaints, and enforce environmental laws. Waterkeeper Alliance was founded in 2000 to connect and support local Waterkeeper organizations, while allowing them full control over their finances and administrative decisions. The 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 basin).

M E M B E R S H I P F O R M



Please complete and return to:

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER[®]

712 37th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35222



NAME(S) *(please list everyone in your household so they can all be members!)*

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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

PLEASE CHECK A CATEGORY:

- _____ Speckled Darter.....\$10
- _____ Redfin Darter\$25
- _____ Warrior Darter\$50
- _____ Tuskaloosa Darter\$100
- _____ Watercress Darter\$250
- _____ Vermilion Darter\$1,000
- _____ Snapping Turtle.....\$5,000
- _____ Alligator Snapping Turtle.....\$10,000
- _____ OTHER (Please List)

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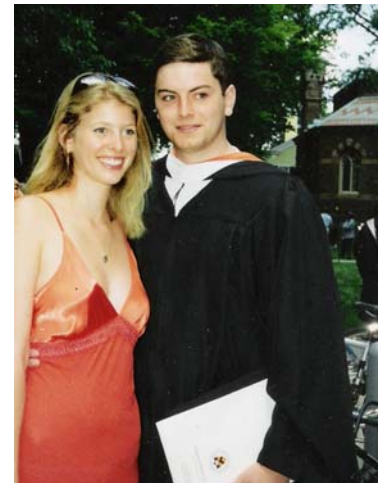
A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

Black Warrior Riverkeeper: Alabama's 2006 Organization of the Year

Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA), the statewide organization working to unite Alabamians in protecting our right to clean water, recently selected Black Warrior Riverkeeper as Alabama's 2006 Watershed Group of the Year at their annual Watershed Leadership Conference. ARA also gave their individual *River Hero* award to John Wathen, Hurricane Creekkeeper and our fellow Waterkeeper! (See page 4 for more on John).

Princeton Thesis on Coal Mining in the Black Warrior River basin

Birmingham's **Elizabeth Yates** (right) just completed her 100-page Princeton thesis on the history of coal's safety and environmental hazards in the Black Warrior basin. Yates' fiancé, director of development **Charles Scribner**, wrote his Princeton thesis on the History of Waterkeeper Alliance. For this and other research about the Black Warrior and our efforts to protect it, please visit: www.BlackWarriorRiver.org/library.htm



Alabama environmentalist Elizabeth Yates will marry Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Charles Scribner in Birmingham this July! Pictured at Princeton University June 2005

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www.BlackWarriorRiver.org



Computer Support and Live Rock for Black Warrior Riverkeeper
As Systems Administrator for New Merkel Consulting Group, **Baird Castleberry** (left) has provided countless volunteer hours streamlining Black Warrior Riverkeeper's varied pollution research networks. As bassist for the acclaimed band **Smokeshack**, Baird has also provided excellent live music at many Black Warrior Riverkeeper fundraiser parties in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa!