



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



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DID YOU KNOW?

There are three other grassroots chapters of Waterkeeper Alliance in Alabama: Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, and Hurricane Creekkeeper. See p.5 for more info on Tuscaloosa County's Hurricane Creekkeeper, which protects Hurricane Creek, a crucial tributary of the Black Warrior River.

Umicore Pollutes Jasper & Birmingham's Drinking Water

A chemical industry in Arab, AL has been discharging large volumes of bromide into the Riley Maze Wastewater Treatment Plant for years. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) oversees the plant's daily discharge to Riley Maze Creek and administers the permit. This plant is allowed to receive pretreated wastewater from Umicore Specialty Chemicals through ADEM's indirect discharge permit system.

Bromide is apparently not considered a pollutant by ADEM, as they have allowed Umicore to discharge it untreated to the wastewater plant, which discharges it untreated into Riley Maze Creek. This creek is on the state's 303(d) List of impaired waterways due to excessive siltation and toxicity from the wastewater plant. Riley Maze Creek is a tributary to Tibb Creek, also impaired by the wastewater plant's discharge. A total of nine stream miles are impaired. ADEM has known of these impairments since 1998.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper began investigating this plant in 2005 and initiated cleanup of its faulty operations by issuing a 60-day Notice of Intent to sue on October 26, 2006. ADEM pre-empted us by taking the case and we have been submitting comments on their draft Consent Order. During this commenting process Riverkeeper exposed an issue that ADEM had wholly overlooked in its Order: toxicity failures at the plant. When a plant fails toxicity tests that means its discharge is a threat to the well-being of aquatic life in the receiving waters. Our findings resulted in substantial changes in the draft Order, including stricter penalties. See p. 6 for more info on that legal action.

During this same time period Riverkeeper learned that the City of Jasper and the City of Birmingham were both having problems with their drinking water supply from the Mulberry Fork. Riley Maze Creek & Tibb Creek are tributaries of the Mulberry Fork. Umicore's unregulated discharge of bromide is compromising two cities' drinking water. You would think that ADEM would have immediately halted all discharges of bromide to the river. Nope! The Birmingham Water Works Board had to discontinue use of the Mulberry Fork water supply until they were sure that bromide was no longer compromising operations. In order to halt the pollution the BWWB had to sue Umicore after failed negotiations. A judge has called for the majority of the bromide to be alternately discharged into a wastewater plant in the Tennessee River basin.

Why is bromide threatening our water supply? Amazingly, Umicore was discharging so much into the Mulberry Fork's tributaries that Birmingham's water intake some 92 miles downstream was affected. When bromide comes into contact with chlorine, a commonly used disinfectant for drinking water supplies, it forms disinfectant byproducts known as trihalogenated methanes. Disinfectant byproducts are known to pose a cancer risk to humans. For more information on this subject, see the following link from the Journal of Young Investigators: <http://www.jyi.org/volumes/volume5/issue4/features/vora.html>



Riley Maze Wastewater Treatment Plant in Arab, AL discharges improperly treated wastewater to Riley Maze Creek, prompting legal action. © John Kinney



Umicore's significant bromide discharges compromise drinking water from the Birmingham Water Work's Mulberry Fork intake. © Nelson Brooke

RIVERKEEPER® Joins National Campaign against Cypress Mulch

Black Warrior Riverkeeper has launched a campaign to ask its 1,000+ members, 12,000+ supporters on MySpace.com and Facebook.com, and the general public to refrain from buying cypress mulch. The lower part of the Black Warrior River watershed is known for its beautiful and ecologically vital cypress wetlands.

Riverkeeper hopes that gardeners will choose to save our cypress swamps by purchasing mulch made from sustainable resources. You can help by asking Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe's, and other stores and businesses that sell, buy, or use cypress mulch to boycott this product.

In times of drought conditions, mulch will play a vital role in people's gardens and yards. Cypress mulch is being harvested from cypress wetlands which have taken hundreds to thousands of years to grow. There are sustainable alternatives you can use such as pine bark, pine straw, lawn clippings, and recycled tire chips.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is spreading this message with fellow members of Waterkeeper Alliance: Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper & Atchafalaya Basinkeeper. *The New York Times* ran Waterkeeper Alliance's fliers opposing the use of cypress mulch. More information is available at: <http://saveourcypress.org/>.



Cypress swamp in Hale County on the Black Warrior. Cypress swamps provide vital habitat for aquatic species and birds and are an essential component of a healthy floodplain.

© Nelson Brooke

**Why Kill A Tree
To Grow A Flower?**

**We pledge not to buy
or use cypress mulch.**

We are proud to protect our vital Cypress Swamps!

for more information visit:
www.saveourcypress.com
www.waterkeeper.org
www.basinkeeper.org
www.lmrk.org

Say NO to Cypress Mulch

WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

*Black Warrior Riverkeeper and other Waterkeeper groups in the Gulf Region are circulating this Cypress Mulch Pledge to be displayed in stores. A similar announcement was run in *The New York Times* and *Waterkeeper Magazine*.*

© Waterkeeper Alliance

Help RIVERKEEPER® by Shopping on Two Websites for Nearly Anything!

Black Warrior Riverkeeper recently joined iGive.com, an online shopping website that will donate up to 26% of purchase prices to Riverkeeper if you take a minute to sign up as a shopper using our link below. The site is very simple to use, and features 687 great stores, exclusive deals, and free shipping offers! Please use our special link: <http://www.iGive.com/BWRk> to sign up as a potential shopper. Any time you return to the site, your purchases will help raise money for our water protection efforts! Plus, if you shop within 45 days of joining, we will get an additional donation of \$5. None of these donations create extra charges for shoppers.

Shortly after learning about iGive.com, Riverkeeper was also invited to Giveline.com, a very similar online shopping site that provides our supporters with additional opportunities to help Riverkeeper through normal online shopping. Giveline.com offers more than a million bestselling products including books, movies, music, electronics, housewares, gifts and more. Every purchase generates a substantial donation to Riverkeeper – an amazing average of 16% of store sales, sometimes as high as 33%. To get involved, please visit Black Warrior Riverkeeper's special shopping link on Giveline.com: <http://www.giveline.com/default.asp?v=V033808541>.

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, or to schedule his educational presentation, call 205-458-0095 or e-mail: NBrooke@blackwarriorriver.org. For more info: www.BlackWarriorRiver.org

February 9: Patrolled Valley Creek with John Kinney by canoe. We paddled to Birmingham Hide & Tallow and followed foamy water on the surface to a discharge running through the woods and down the bank into the creek. The water was murky-brown and stunk like a zoo. An oil sheen was visible on the water's surface by the discharge. I took an oil & grease sample for lab analysis and reported the discharge to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's Birmingham Field Office. The result from the oil & grease sample was 57 mg/L which is way over their permit limit of 15 mg/L.

February 20: Patrolled the Mulberry Fork after putting in at the Copeland Ferry bridge. I checked out Red Star Mine and Quinton Mine. I motored up Burnt Cane Creek to where Quinton Mine discharges into a tributary of the creek. It was so shallow there I had to raise the motor and paddle into shore. Cattails have grown over the mouth of this stream and an orange stain lined the base of the cattails and the banks. I discovered acid mine drainage upwelling out of the hillside, presumably



Acid Mine Drainage pollutes Burnt Cane Creek in Walker County. © Nelson Brooke

from an old underground mine. The water stunk of sulfur and stained everything bright orange.

March 15: Patrolled the river near Moundville. At the boat launch there was an oil slick on the water's surface that could be seen for a ways upstream and about a quarter mile downstream. The smell of vegetable oil was in the air. We headed upriver to Carthage Branch, a stream that receives wastewater illegally from the Alabama Biodiesel operation. A thick layer of oil was covering the water's surface and their discharge was sending a plume out into the river. I grabbed an oil & grease bottle to sample the active discharge. I reported the incident to James Couch in the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's Birmingham Field Office. He said he'd "try to get somebody out there." I called the owner of the facility to tell him about the problem and he proceeded to say: "Well, I have a hard time believing that." He said he'd check on it first thing in the morning. Sadly but unsurprisingly, I have yet to hear back from him or the ADEM inspector. The result from the oil & grease sample was 6,755 mg/L, which is 450 times over the permit limit of 15 mg/L! Worse, they don't even have a permit to discharge.

March 19: Paddled Five Mile Creek with colleagues and friends. We put in at Linn's Crossing and paddled for approximately 11.5 miles to Snowville – Flat Top Rd. on the Locust Fork. This was a great paddle, although the first section smelled pretty bad and there was a fair amount of stringy algae on the bottom. I assume this was due to excess nutrients from either Prudes Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant or Five Mile Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant upstream of Prudes. We saw lots of fish, especially river redhorse migrating upstream. Also we saw spotted bass, sunfish, a few turtles, belted kingfishers, great blue herons, a redtail hawk, and we pushed wood ducks downstream for the duration of the trip. We found a minimum of four acid mine drainage (AMD) sites, one of which was on the Locust Fork just upstream of the Five Mile Creek's mouth. This is the largest volume AMD site I've seen. There were 8+ outfalls through the river's high bank coming from



Riverkeeper Nelson Brooke monitors Alabama Biodiesel's discharge near Moundville.

© Dixon Brooke, Jr.

a large orange/red pond above. The pH in the pond was not bad at all: 6.3 SU, but the conductivity topped out my meter at >3,999 uS/cm (meaning very high levels of metals were being discharged). We are soon expanding our AMD monitoring.

April 19 & 30: Investigated Metro Tire Landfill in Blount County with Blount Countian reporter Ron Gholson and Sam Howell, President of the Friends of the Locust Fork River, www.flfr.org. Residents near the landfill have been complaining for two years about water and air pollution from this tire landfill, seeing no action out of ADEM. The water smelled of petrochemicals and its surface and the debris around the creek were covered with a brown/black tar-like substance. As we got closer to the landfill the smell became stronger, the goop more prevalent, and tire chunks littered the creek bed. The first trip was to survey the scene. The second trip was to take water samples. We tested for volatile organic compounds and the results are scary though not surprising. Levels of two carcinogens, benzene and vinyl chloride, were found to be above the maximum contaminant level for drinking water. This facility is discharging polluted water without a permit.

April 10 & 30, May 2: Received complaints about fish dying in the North River, where the North River empties into Lake Tuscaloosa, and at the upper end of the lake near Binion Creek. Excessive levels of bacteria killed hundreds of white crappie, bass, and carp. These high bacteria levels are also causing swimming advisories on the lake. It is important that people be mindful of this as public health is at risk. You can become ill after coming into contact with high levels of bacteria, especially if you ingest the water or if you have cuts or abrasions on your skin.



Blount County's Metro Tire Landfill discharges carcinogens and a black tar-like substance into a tributary of White's Creek. © Nelson Brooke

RIVERKEEPER® Announces New and Ongoing Volunteer Projects

Volunteers founded Black Warrior Riverkeeper in 2001, and have been increasingly crucial to our advocacy and education campaigns ever since. Please see the list below and let us know which project(s) you would like to assist. To sign-up, please email or call Charles Scribner at cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org or 205-458-0095.

Action Alert Response

Volunteers will pledge to follow up quickly on all “Action Alert” emails that Nelson Brooke, our staff Riverkeeper, sends to our email list. Examples include signing petitions, or calling public officials about an upcoming decision that affects water quality.

River Cleanups

Volunteers will help organize a river cleanup sponsored by Black Warrior Riverkeeper. Coordinating a river clean-up will include identifying the location, advertising the event, securing press coverage of the event, arranging for recycling and waste disposal, etc.

Event Publicity Team

Volunteers will put up fliers on campus and town sites, in stores, etc. This will help us advertise fundraisers and educational events, and also make our name, logo, and contact information more visible in new places.

MySpace.com Outreach

Volunteers will receive instructions about how to perform various types of public outreach to Black Warrior Riverkeeper’s 10,000 Friends on MySpace, as well as to potential Friends. Black Warrior Riverkeeper was one of the first non-profits to use MySpace. In April we were a finalist for their first Environmental Impact Award!

Village Creek Documentary Viewings in Schools

Volunteers will contact teachers in schools and universities about showing Riverkeeper’s Village Creek Documentary to their classes. This 15-min DVD features celebrities, local experts, and Riverkeeper staff, spreading the word about a vital yet polluted Black Warrior tributary.

River Amenities Research and Outreach

Volunteers will help identify and catalogue river amenities such as marinas, restaurants, camp grounds, boat ramps, etc. along the Black Warrior River and its tributaries so that Black Warrior Riverkeeper will be able to post the information on its website as a service to its stakeholders and use the information for outreach. Research will include computer and phone book research as well as research in the field to identify the amenities and to distribute outreach materials at these locations.

Creel Surveys near Popular Fishing Spots

Volunteers will spend time at two different fishing spots, and fish if they want to – one on Valley Creek and one on Village Creek. Many people fish in these spots and we want to understand what species of fishes are being caught, how often they fish there, if they are eating the fish, if they see pollution while on the creek (if so, what type?), if pollution in the creek negatively affects them, etc.

Public Officials Research

Volunteers will help identify and catalogue public officials serving within the Black Warrior River watershed so that Black Warrior Riverkeeper will be able to post the information on its website as a service to stakeholders and use the info for outreach to the officials.

Pollution Permit Research

Volunteers will get our list of zip codes within the Black Warrior River watershed and use them to run searches for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits — permitted discharges of pollution allowed by the Clean Water Act. Searches will be run on several easy-to-use Environmental Protection Agency websites. This type of research helps us identify countless potential polluters.

Alabama Water Watch Testing for Schools

Volunteers will meet with teachers at local elementary, middle, and high schools as well as community colleges and universities to discuss the possibility of including a water-based curriculum in science courses. The goal is to connect more students with streams while teaching them how to assess water quality and habitat. Alabama Water Watch www.alabamawaterwatch.org posts monitoring results online.

Database Entry

Volunteers will receive important lists of people that Riverkeeper hopes to contact about pollution issues. Volunteers will type names, addresses, etc from these lists into simple Microsoft Access or Excel databases. Can be done at Riverkeeper office or elsewhere if possible.

Letters to the Editors of Newspapers

Volunteers will choose one or more newspaper(s), whether small town or big city, and scan them daily for articles relevant to the Black Warrior River & its tributaries. After finding a relevant article, volunteers will write a letter about that article, in support of a cleaner, healthier Black Warrior River watershed. Volunteers will send their letter to the newspaper’s editor for possible publication.

Researching Relevant Events and Tabling at them

Volunteers will peruse the “Calendar” section of Black Warrior Riverkeeper’s website, www.BlackWarriorRiver.org, to see if there are events listed at which they could represent us. Volunteers will also research similar events not listed on our website. After asking us if a given event would be good for representing us, volunteers will get materials to display/distribute there at Riverkeeper’s event table.



*World Wildlife Fund
generously provided
funds toward the growth
of our new and ongoing
volunteer projects.*
www.worldwildlife.org



Volunteer Adam Aydelott pulls a refrigerator and other trash out of Valley Creek at a Riverkeeper cleanup. © Nelson Brooke.

Hurricane CREEKKEEPER® Teams up with Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

Tuscaloosa County's Hurricane Creek is the southernmost free flowing stream in the Appalachian Mountains. Because of its location on the Appalachian Fall Line, the Hurricane Creek's unique flora and fauna combines the abundant biodiversity of the coastal plains and Appalachia within one special watershed. To protect this vital tributary of the Black Warrior, The Friends of Hurricane Creek sponsors creek cleanups, provides speakers to civic, social, and church groups, advocates for responsible development, organizes recreational opportunities, and supports programs to increase the quality of life along the creek.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper has frequently collaborated with The Friends of Hurricane Creek and their patrolman, John Wathen, who holds the title of Hurricane Creekkeeper. As autonomous local programs of Waterkeeper Alliance, Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Hurricane Creekkeeper team up for educational events, pollution investigations, and strategic planning. We are now honored to present John Wathen's explanation of Hurricane Creekkeeper:

As the enforcement and investigative division of the Friends of Hurricane Creek it is the duty of the Creekkeeper to inspect the watershed at regular intervals in search of problems associated with all possible sources of pollution. There are many sources from industrial and residential development. Developers should take every precaution in excavations anywhere in the Hurricane Creek watershed. Due to the sandy and gravel type soil there is an increased danger of erosion that clogs a large number of tributaries feeding the creek. Usually, the Creekkeeper can simply talk to the developer and explain the nature of the problem and they will address it. There have been times when legal action was necessary to bring violators into compliance.

We use many surveillance tools to investigate complaints and suspicious activities. Aerial surveillance is an extremely useful tool when polluters hide their violations behind closed gates. With the help of SouthWings, www.southwings.org whose slogan is "Conservation through Aviation," we have been able to regularly perform inspections of large scale developments and mining activities.

Another tool is the canoe. The Creekkeeper frequently paddles different stretches of the creek, looking at the various tributary entrances for telltale signs of mine waste pollution and sewage overflows. When a problem is found the Creekkeeper often reverts back to the aerial approach to find the source. Advocacy plays an important role in the protection of Hurricane Creek.

Another of the Creekkeeper's duties is to educate the general public about the need for a healthy and thriving stream embedded within a stone's throw from a major metropolis like Tuscaloosa. Within a bicycle ride from a major university lies Hurricane Creek, a virtual living laboratory full of new and exciting opportunities for students and research scientists alike.

As members of Waterkeeper Alliance we have a special connection to a network of legal information concerning every facet of the Clean Water Act. Waterkeeper Alliance keeps us up to date on regulation changes and legal interpretations of different legislation as it occurs. This valuable service allows us to better assess our position and become more efficient in our legal strategies. The Creekkeeper takes seriously the tasks that are presented in protecting Hurricane Creek. With friends like Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Black Warrior Riverkeeper, and Waterkeeper Alliance's staff of attorneys, scientists, economists, and other advisors, the job is getting much easier.

For more information about the Friends of Hurricane Creek visit www.hurricaneecreek.org or take a virtual tour of the hurricane creek watershed at www.imrivers.com/hurricane.



Jim Shaddox, President of The Friends of Hurricane Creek (left) on patrol with John Wathen, Hurricane Creekkeeper. © Nelson Brooke

RIVERKEEPER® Forms Advisory Council to Provide Multifaceted Expertise

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is pleased to announce that we are forming our first-ever Advisory Council to provide expertise in various fields. Advisory Council members are being selected from areas that often intersect with our work, such as engineering, business, law, politics, education, outdoor recreation, public relations, and relevant fields of science. Our growing list of Advisory Council members currently includes over seventy highly-regarded experts in various occupations, as well as diverse locations throughout the Black Warrior River Basin. It has been an incredible honor every time we have confirmed a new advisor on this "all-star" list!

Black Warrior Riverkeeper will be consulting these experts on an as-needed basis. Additionally, the Advisory Council will have annual meetings to provide an opportunity to network among themselves, learn more about our work, and share additional advice about situations affecting the Black Warrior and its tributaries. The first meeting is on June 13th, generously hosted by Birmingham's Architecture Works. Riverkeeper's staff and board of directors look forward to collaborating with these special volunteers in the coming months and years. For more information contact Charles Scribner at 205-458-0095 or cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Legal Docket

NEW CASES

Quinton Mine (Walker County)

Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) filed with ADEM by Quinton Mining, LLC show that the Quinton Mine in Walker County violated its permit limits for total suspended solids, iron and minimum pH (acid) for a total of **244 days of violation** since March, 2005. As a result of these violations we served Notice of Intent to Sue Quinton Mining, LLC on May 16, 2007. The illegal pollution was discharged to Barnes Branch and unnamed tributaries to Burnt Cane Creek in the Mulberry Fork Watershed. Along with our action on the Praco/Pumpkin Center Mines, this NOIS marks Black Warrior Riverkeeper's first legal action involving coal mines, an important step towards fulfilling our strategic plan by addressing the large amount of illegal pollution discharged by many coal mines. The majority of Alabama's active coal mines are located in the Black Warrior River Watershed.



Quinton Mine on the Mulberry Fork. © Nelson Brooke

Praco & Pumpkin Center Mines (Jefferson and Walker Counties)

On May 16, 2007 Black Warrior Riverkeeper served Notice of Intent to Sue Cherokee Mining, LLC for violations of the Clean Water Act at the company's Praco Mine and Pumpkin Center Mine, which are governed under one NPDES permit. We allege **410 violations** of the mines' permit for discharges with unacceptable levels of iron, manganese, total suspended solids, and low pH (acid). The mines discharged the polluted water to tributaries of the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. All of the violations took place in 2006.

ONGOING CASES

BARD v. SWMA (Jefferson County)

The Business Alliance for Responsible Development (BARD) has continued its ongoing campaign against *truly* responsible development by fighting in court the county-wide governmentally-authorized authority with the responsibility of ensuring that BARD's members protect local waterways whenever they develop or disturb land. BARD has sued Storm Water Management Authority (SWMA) in the Jefferson County Circuit Court in an action that, if successful, could imperil SWMA's continued existence. Riverkeeper and the Cahaba River Society, as the two watershed environmental groups covering the entire area of Jefferson County, have joined together to intervene in the suit on behalf of SWMA. The suit is currently pending a Summary Judgment Motion filed by SWMA that we believe has an excellent chance of success. We anticipate a full victory for SWMA and we have pledged to help make that happen in every way possible. Polluted stormwater from irresponsible development is one of the largest problems in the Black Warrior Watershed.

Birmingham International Airport (Jefferson County)

Riverkeeper has taken 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 roughly **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 mud, siltation and sedimentation every time we have a significant rainfall, exacerbating flood potential and ecological concerns. Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are required by state regulation, have been inadequately designed, implemented and/or maintained by the construction contractors. The pollutants have gone as far downstream as Bayview Lake where mud islands are forming in the lake. Riverkeeper filed suit on April 3, 2007 against the Birmingham Airport Authority and three construction companies for their part in this neglect. The suit is currently pending in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.



Turbid water and foam from the Airport expansion pollutes Village Creek after a rain. © Nelson Brooke

Riley Maze Creek WWTP (Marshall and Cullman Counties)

In our last newsletter we updated our readers on this case, noting that we had filed comments on ADEM's proposed unilateral order to the Arab Sewer Board, which was supposed to address the facility's **331 violations** of the discharge parameters of its water permit and at least **40 unpermitted discharges of raw sewage**. As a result of our comments, ADEM more than doubled the fine associated with the Order in a subsequent draft from \$13,200 to \$27,000, and included multiple provisions instructing the facility's operators to address problems related to the toxicity of the plant's effluent. Despite Black Warrior Riverkeeper's comments requesting that ADEM strengthen the Order even further, the department issued the Administrative Order in late April. We continue to monitor the area (see page 1).

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 [®]

Black Warrior Riverkeeper’s mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. We are a 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. Monitoring waterways, educating the public, and holding major polluters accountable has made us an important proponent of clean water in our patrol area, the entire Black Warrior River Watershed. Founded in 2001 by David Whiteside, our full-time employees include Nelson Brooke—Riverkeeper (patrolman & spokesman) and Charles Scribner—Director of Development. 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. Please call 205-458-0095 to report pollution (we investigate citizen tips) and to inquire about volunteering , donating, or events.

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 156 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. 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 basin).

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



Please complete and return with check 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: _____ CITY, ST, ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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

PLEASE CHECK A CATEGORY:

- ___ Redfin Darter\$25
- ___ Warrior Darter\$50
- ___ Tuskaloosa Darter.....\$100
- ___ Watercress Darter.....\$250
- ___ Vermilion Darter.....\$1000
- ___ Other dollar amount.....\$ _____
- ___ In-kind donation (list donated items or professional services): _____
- ___ Volunteer time (list hours and type of volunteering): _____

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 this contribution



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BLACK WARRIOR RIVERKEEPER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bottletree Hosts Riverkeeper Benefit Concert on Thursday, June 14th, 8pm-2am

Come see 3 great bands: **Organic Earthbound**, **Locust Fork Band**, and **Alo's Meds**! \$10 tickets (benefiting Riverkeeper) available at www.theBottletree.com or at the event at **Bottletree**: 3719 3rd Avenue S., Birmingham. For more info call Charles Scribner: 205-458-0095.

MySpace Nominates Black Warrior Riverkeeper for Impact Award!
Surfrider Foundation Shares Prize Money with Riverkeeper!



**Surfrider
Foundation®**

MySpace.com, a social networking site that has become the world's most visited website, recently nominated Black Warrior Riverkeeper for an Environmental Impact Award. The award's winner, **Surfrider Foundation**, generously decided to split its \$10,000 prize with us and the other finalist, "Grease Not Gas." Thank you, Surfrider and MySpace! We were among the first nonprofits to utilize MySpace for outreach, and we have since taught other groups such as Waterkeeper Alliance and Friends of Red Mountain Park how to use it. MySpace provides a dynamic yet cost-free platform from which we circulate educational blogs, pollution updates, action alerts, event invitations, volunteer opportunities and more to our 10,000 MySpace friends. Being nominated for a Impact Award was an amazing honor and enhanced our visibility on MySpace, connecting us with many new allies. Check out Riverkeeper's customized MySpace page at: www.myspace.com/black_warrior_riverkeeper

Teacher Sets Volunteer Example

Heather Bailey, Cottondale Elementary 3rd Grade teacher, has set a great example of how someone can help the Black Warrior in many ways. She is distributing five copies of our Village Creek DVD for Tuscaloosa-area classrooms and will be setting up tables with Riverkeeper info at various summer events. She also donated to us in memory of her father **Steve Evans**, who loved the Black Warrior. Heather's class held a "Save the Planet!" conservation fair on May 4th. For more information about our volunteer projects, see p. 4 or contact 205-458-0095 or email: cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org

Eco-Friendly Newsletters Enabled by Fox River Paper's 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper

In keeping with our passion for environmentally responsible practices, this issue is our second in which we use **Fox River Paper's** "80# Text" brand paper, which is 100% post-consumer recycled. We utilized the "Environmental Calculator" on www.foxriverpaper.com to project our newsletters' total environmental savings for 2007's four issues:



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