



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



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Biodiesel Settlement Protects Two Endangered Species

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Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Alabama Biodiesel have reached a settlement to the pollution lawsuit Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed on August 22, 2007 in United States District Court. The Honorable Judge John E. Ott has approved the settlement requiring Alabama Biodiesel to cease illegal discharges of oil and grease, obtain a pollution permit mandated by the Clean Water Act, and pay \$27,500 for a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) in the Black Warrior River watershed.

The settlement benefits Jefferson County's Tapawingo/Penny Springs, habitat of the federally endangered Vermilion and Watercress Darters and a pristine tributary of Turkey Creek, which in turn is a major tributary of the Black Warrior River's Locust Fork. Both endangered species live only in the Black Warrior watershed. The parties chose the Freshwater Land Trust, an Alabama non-profit land conservation organization, to receive Alabama Biodiesel's SEP payment and lead the restoration project. Black Warrior Riverkeeper is pleased that the entire payment will permanently contribute to ecologically vital improvements in the Black Warrior watershed.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed the lawsuit in response to the company's unpermitted oil and grease discharges into an unnamed tributary of Carthage Branch, a tributary of the Black Warrior River immediately upstream of the Moundville public boat launch and Moundville Archaeological Park, where thousands of Alabamians, tourists, and researchers visit the river each year. Locals reported an oily residue diminishing their enjoyment of fishing, swimming and boating, as Moundville resident and Black Warrior Riverkeeper member Mark Storey explained in The New York Times on March 11, 2008.



Like the Watercress Darter, the Vermilion Darter (above) is an endangered species found only in the Black Warrior watershed. Both fish live in Tapawingo/Penny Springs, which this settlement will help restore.
Photo by Patrick O'Neil; Source: *Fishes of Alabama*.



Carthage Branch is visited by thousands of people each year here at its confluence with the Black Warrior River.

Photo by Nelson Brooke



Crystal clear water from Tapawingo/Penny Springs enters the more turbid Turkey Creek.

Photo by Nelson Brooke

DID YOU KNOW?

You can save **water** and **money** by using a rain barrel to catch and store water for your lawn and indoor/outdoor plants. Rain barrels come in many shapes and sizes, including inexpensive plastic models and classic wooden ones. Both types, or even small barrels for apartment dwellers, can be purchased by calling **Red Rain** at 205-862-6206. Shipping available throughout the US!

Visit this website for the settlement agreement: http://blackwarriorriver.org/biodiesel_settlement.pdf

Visit this website for the original lawsuit: http://blackwarriorriver.org/biodiesel_lawsuit.pdf

For more information on this settlement, contact Nelson Brooke: 205-458-0095, nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org or Wendy Jackson, Executive Director, Freshwater Land Trust: 205-226-7900. www.freshwaterlandtrust.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.

March 18: Flew with SouthWings volunteer pilot Dan Fitzjarrald over the lower part of the watershed below Tuscaloosa, looking at logging practices around river bottom hardwoods and cypress wetlands. Found many areas with cypress wetlands damaged by clearcutting.

March 21: Found sewage pollution coming out from under Birmingham through the Valley Creek stormwater drainage system. I reported this (which has been an ongoing issue for years) yet again to ADEM, SWMA, and JeffCo Environmental Services.

April 1: Took samples of muddy water entering Village Creek from the Birmingham Airport's runway expansion construction site, and muddy water headed for Fivemile Creek (a tributary of Valley Creek) from the new Bessemer High School construction site.

April 8: Went to Montgomery for the Alabama Rivers Alliance's River Action Day along with many citizens from across the state to talk with our legislators about the Alabama Water Agenda's water policy reform issues as well as pollution issues in the watershed.



Sewage from an unidentified source enters Valley Creek from these storm sewer culverts at 5th Ave. N & 7th St. N, making the water cloudy. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Polluted water far above Birmingham Hide & Tallow's permit limits being discharged into Valley Creek. Photo by Nelson Brooke.

May 15: Took a sample of muddy water headed for Fivemile Creek from the new Bessemer High School construction site. What I documented leaving the site constituted the worst runoff conditions I've seen since becoming Riverkeeper in January 2004. I then checked out numerous construction sites around the Tuscaloosa area that have been doing a poor job with erosion & sediment control.

May 20: Patrolled Holt Lake with author Jim Felder. The spring foliage was spectacular along the bluffs there near the Fall Line. A ways upstream of Holt Lock & Dam, Daniel Creek flows into the river. This creek has a sediment bar (from decades of coal mine runoff) extending from its mouth out into the river causing a navigational hazard. Other than that and a few new houses that have clearcut all the trees along the riverbank, this stretch of river is as scenic as it gets on the main stem.

Large amounts of muddy water gush out of the construction site for Bessemer's new high school after a heavy rain, filling the stream drainage below. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



April 11: John Kinney and I visited the unnamed tributary below Metro Recycling's tire landfill in Blount County, where I took a water sample that indicated the presence of cancer-causing pollution making its way downstream towards Whites Creek, a tributary of the Locust Fork.

April 11 (part 2): Took a sample of muddy water entering Village Creek from the Birmingham Airport's runway expansion site.

April 22 (Earth Day): Patrolled Valley Creek in Bessemer by canoe with John Kinney and found Birmingham Hide & Tallow discharging polluted water coming out of their discharge pipe. Samples taken showed elevated levels of pollutants far above permit limits. Also, we found a terribly nasty spot (where we have found polluted runoff from their facility before) to be in poor condition with tan foam standing a foot tall on top of the water where some sort of illegal discharge occurs.

May 8: Took a sample of muddy water entering Village Creek from the Birmingham Airport's runway expansion site.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Legal Docket

Alabama Biodiesel Corporation (Tuscaloosa County)

See this issue's cover story for the details of this case's very constructive settlement!

Birmingham Airport Authority / Dunn Construction (Jefferson County)

Riverkeeper initiated legal action in 2007 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 significant rainfall, **exacerbating scenic degradation and ecological concerns**. Riverkeeper determined that 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 Dunn Construction for their part in this neglect. The Defendants filed Motions to Dismiss our lawsuit, claiming that ADEM's Consent Order fixes the problem. This claim appeared questionable at best, considering that **Riverkeeper has continued to detect significant water quality violations** for turbidity each time there has been a significant rainfall at the airport. These are ongoing violations of the permit and Alabama stormwater regulations. The lawsuit was stayed pending resolution of ADEM's administrative action against the defendants.

U.S. District Court Judge Inge Johnson has lifted the stay. On May 28, 2008 Judge Johnson also entered an Order dismissing the motions to Dismiss filed by the two Defendants! This ruling involves the same issue now on appeal in our case against Praco and Pumpkin Center Mines (see below). In her order, **Judge Johnson wrote that she found the defendants' arguments "less than convincing."** Of importance to the Court was that, despite completion of their requirements under ADEM's consent order, Riverkeeper still detects ongoing violations at the site. Riverkeeper is attempting to reach an amicable settlement of the lawsuit and a solution to the turbidity problem.

Duck River Dam Proposal (Cullman County)

Riverkeeper joined the Alabama Rivers Alliance, the Friends of the Mulberry Fork River, Wild South and three individuals to file an action in U.S. District Court challenging the Duck River dam permit, which was issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on November 9, 2006. In the action filed September 10, 2007, Riverkeeper and the other plaintiffs contend the permit should not have been issued because **the Environmental Assessment the Corps prepared was defective on many levels**. The Duck River is a major free-flowing tributary of the Black Warrior River's Mulberry Fork, and a beautiful destination for kayaking, canoeing, and observing wildlife.

Riverkeeper and the other plaintiffs have joined in a Motion for Summary Judgment on March 31, 2008 which we hope will conclude this litigation in our favor. We are asking the Court to rule that the Army Corps of Engineers should have conducted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before granting a permit to dam the Duck River. An EIS is by nature more thorough than an Environmental Assessment, which the Corps chose to prepare.

Pleasant Grove South Mine (Walker County)

On May 12, 2008, Riverkeeper mailed a Notice of Intent to Sue to Quality Coal Co., Inc. for **161 violations** of the Clean Water Act at their Pleasant Grove South Mine, which discharges into Lost Creek, a tributary of Mulberry Fork of Black Warrior River. Their attorney has contacted us and we have agreed to meet with them before proceeding with a lawsuit.

Praco and 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 Black Warrior River's Locust Fork.

ADEM stepped in with an inadequate Consent Order on September 24, 2007 and Cherokee Mining subsequently filed a Motion to Dismiss our lawsuit on October 11, 2007. After briefing, Judge William Acker ruled in our favor and dismissed the Defendant's Motion to Dismiss! The Defendant have appealed to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. They have now filed their Appellant Brief. Amicus Curiae (friend of the court) briefs have been filed supporting their position by Alabama Coal Association and the State of Alabama.

Riverkeeper is preparing our Appellant Brief in response. We expect Amicus Curiae briefs to be filed by water protective groups in Georgia, Alabama and Florida, supporting our position. The issue involved affects the rights of citizen plaintiffs to file Clean Water Act lawsuits unimpeded by state administrative actions. Because the right to file such actions to enforce the laws is pivotal, we are receiving encouragement and support from a broad array of citizens and organizations. We remain buoyed and very optimistic of a positive outcome.

Shepherd Bend Mine Proposal (Walker County)

In November, 2007, ADEM issued public notice of the Department's intent to issue an NPDES permit for the Shepherd Bend Mine (Winter 2008 cover story), which would be **located directly across river from the Birmingham Water Works drinking water intake** on the Mulberry Fork. On December 13, 2007, Black Warrior Riverkeeper filed comments expressing our concerns regarding the proposed mine and requested that the department hold public hearing concerning Shepherd Bend's permit application. As of June 5, ADEM has not provided Riverkeeper with an official response to our comments or request for a public hearing. While ADEM's inactivity on this issue has kept Riverkeeper in the dark for 6 months, it could mean that Department officials are rethinking their proposal to issue the permit. We are monitoring the situation carefully with help from several of our Advisory Council members in Birmingham, Cordova, and Tuscaloosa.

Cancer Rule Change: Collaborative Victory for Public Health in Alabama

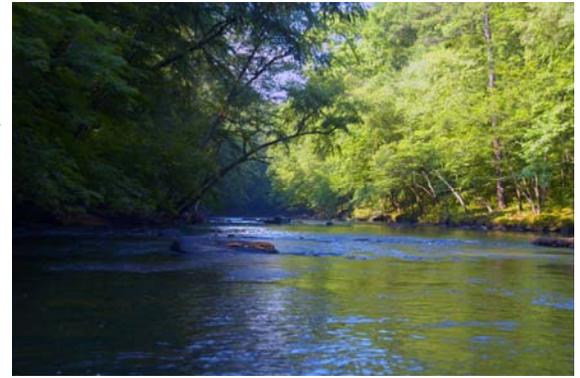
On April 18th the Environmental Management Commission passed a rule change reducing the allowable cancer risk levels in Alabama's waterways from 1 in 100,000 to 1 in 1 million! This initiative was first brought to the Commission's attention by the Alabama Rivers Alliance, Black Warrior Riverkeeper, and 16 other environmental organizations in the spring of 2007 (see below for the full list). After almost a year of hard work by the citizens and the Commission, the right decision was made! We commend the EMC for this decision and all of the citizens and groups who worked so hard to keep it moving forward.

Another important step was made on April 18th by the EMC. They voted to hold 2 of their meetings outside of Montgomery in other parts of the state to encourage more attendance by the public. The ADEM Reform Coalition, a coalition of 41 member organizations from across the state, including the Alabama Rivers Alliance and Black Warrior Riverkeeper, recommended this idea in our original Blueprint for ADEM Reform published in 2002. The idea of moving the meeting locations and times to accommodate working citizens is Blueprint recommendation #20.

We commend the Commission for recognizing the importance of fostering more public participation and awareness in ADEM's important work. The Commission also passed several other important water quality rule-making changes that will help improve the standards under which Alabama's waterways are protected. Citizen advocacy and participation does work and we saw the results of those efforts! We would especially like to thank attorney, David Ludder, who has been a steadfast source of leadership, knowledge, and hard work on all of these initiatives.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lowry, Executive Director: Alabama Rivers Alliance (www.alabamarivers.org)



Allowable Cancer risk levels in Alabama's waterways, such as Blackwater Creek, this tributary of the Black Warrior's Mulberry Fork, are now ten times more stringent. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water Is Life

Cancer Risk Petitioners: Alabama League of Environmental Action Voters, Alabama Rivers Alliance, Inc., Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Inc., Cahaba River Society, Inc., Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Episcopal Diocese of Alabama - Task Force for the Stewardship of Creation, Flint River Conservation Association, Inc., Friends of the Little Cahaba River, Friends of the Locust Fork River, Friends of Hurricane Creek, Friends of Rural Alabama, Inc., Lake Watch of Lake Martin, Inc., Lookout Mountain Heritage Alliance, Inc., Mobile Baykeeper, North Alabama Citizens for Environment Protection (NACEP), Save Our Saugahatchee, Sierra Club, Inc. - Alabama Chapter, Southeastern Alabama Group - Sierra Club, Inc., and Wolf Bay Watershed Watch

Janna Dettmer: Summer Legal Intern 2008

Greetings Black Warrior Riverkeeper supporters! My name is Janna Dettmer and I'm working as the organization's legal intern for the summer, from May 12 to August 15. I can't express to you all how very excited I am to be part of this dynamic organization.

I have just finished my first year of law school at Cumberland School of Law and hope to work on water and/or food issues in the future. I am originally from Traverse City, MI and attribute my love of water from growing up on Lake Michigan. I graduated from Denison University in 2000 having majored in History and International Studies. Immediately following graduation, I worked in Romania as a Peace Corps volunteer. Upon completion, I went to Washington, D.C. to prepare for law school.



While in D.C., I decided to change course and go to graduate school. I attended the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and obtained my masters in International Development. In my last year there, because of my strong interest in human rights, specifically economic and social rights, I realized that I needed to go to law school (hindsight is 20/20). After a one year stint working at a law firm in Arizona, my fiancé and I made a joint decision to move to Birmingham so that he could continue working for his company and I could attend law school. I am so honored to be working for public health and environmental justice at Black Warrior Riverkeeper. Their two in-house attorneys, John Keeling (Staff Attorney) and Mark Martin (Prosecuting Attorney), are excellent mentors!

Legal Intern Janna Dettmer (right) and fiancé Marco Amaro on Thumb Lake in Michigan. Photo by Janna's very proud father, Michael Dettmer.

Ian Worley, Environmental Professor and Riverkeeper Mentor, Retires

Ian Worley, Director of the University of Vermont's Environmental Program for 14 years, retired May 10, 2008 after 38 years of academic service at UVM. Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Program Director, John Kinney, and Founder, David Whiteside both benefited greatly from Worley's classes while majoring in Environmental Studies as UVM undergraduates. Along with Waterkeeper Alliance leaders Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Mary Beth Postman, Worley served as an advisor for Whiteside's senior thesis, which resulted in the founding of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. Ian Worley will be missed at UVM, but his academic legacy continues to strengthen America.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Board of Directors Spotlight: Gordon Black

Gordon Black began paddling in Boy Scouts at the age of 12, and has not stopped since, spending most of his spare time and a substantial portion of his professional career in various kinds of boats. A professional paddler and paddlesports administrator since 1983, Gordon has frequently been a featured speaker and instructor at conferences, symposiums, safety summits, camps, and schools. He has contributed to and edited books on paddling and authored numerous articles.

Gordon is currently Education Director for the Cahaba River Society, where he delivers the CLEAN environmental education program. He still sneaks away as much as possible to just paddle for fun, often on the Mulberry and Locust Forks of the Black Warrior River!

Gordon Black and son Ian kayaking the Atlantic Ocean in 2006. As a paddling professor, Gordon specializes in water safety. Photo by Alison Chapman.



Grand Canyon Film and WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE Promote Conservation

MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN'S

GRAND CANYON ADVENTURE

RIVER AT RISK

PRESENTED BY
TEVA

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
KOHLER

Grand Canyon Adventure: River At Risk is in IMAX® and IMAX 3D theatres worldwide, including Birmingham's McWane Science Center, through November 26, 2008. McWane Center is hosting a special film event with Black Warrior Riverkeeper on August 26. Call 205-458-0095 for more info.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Waterkeeper Alliance are proud to support the giant-screen film *Grand Canyon Adventure: River At Risk* which opened in select IMAX® theatres and IMAX 3D theatres worldwide, starting March 14, 2008. As dedicated advocates for water conservation and river restoration, local Waterkeeper Alliance programs such as Black Warrior Riverkeeper are forming grassroots partnerships with theatres showcasing the film on a local level to promote the film's message and our mission. This spectacular and educational film is showing at Birmingham's McWane Science Center now through November 26, 2008. Check schedules at: http://www.mcwane.org/subpages/IMAX_Movies.asp.

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk is the captivating story of the worldwide water crisis and the great drought now plaguing the American Southwest — a topic which should resonate with viewers in the recently-parched Southeast. Audiences will join a team of explorers, including Waterkeeper Alliance Chairman Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., on an exhilarating Colorado River whitewater adventure as they seek important answers about water conservation. From the journey's launch at Lee's Ferry to the world-famous Lava Falls rapids, from the turquoise waters of Havasu Falls to the scorched river delta in Mexico, *Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk* is a riveting cinematic celebration of water—and what each of us can do to make a difference. To view the trailer visit: <http://www.blackwarriorriver.org/videos.html>.

On Tuesday, August 26, 2008, McWane Science Center will host an event with Black Warrior Riverkeeper in which we will show the film, serve refreshments, and make presentations about water conservation and advocacy in Alabama. To learn more about the event, contact Charles Scribner at 205-458-0095 or cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org. Meanwhile, outdoor enthusiasts, please support Teva, a proud sponsor of both the film and Black Warrior Riverkeeper!

Waterkeeper Alliance Chairman Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (rowing) and his daughter Kick (front right) joined anthropologist/author/explorer Wade Davis (back) and his daughter Tara (front left) on a white water trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. The expedition was filmed by MacGillivray-Freeman Film Company as a 3D IMAX feature, Grand Canyon Adventure: River At Risk. Photo by MacGillivray-Freeman Film Company.



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 fees removed.



Riverkeeper Short Sleeve Tee (Red, White or Blue)
Now in S, M, L, XL, 2XL. Small shirts in Red or Blue feature “girl-style” cut. Small logo on left chest, large logo centered on back. **\$15**

Riverkeeper Long Sleeve Tee (Gray)
Now in S, M, L, XL, 2XL. Small color logo on left chest, large logo centered on back (pictured). **\$18**



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



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Join Harold Knight, David Hale, and *Hank Williams, Jr.* on 10 hunts for some big ol’ bucks! VHS. **\$12**

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

About Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

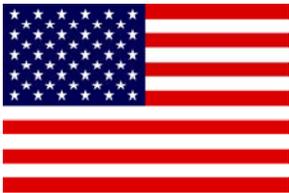
Black Warrior Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. We are a citizen based non-profit organization working to improve water quality, habitat, recreation, and public health throughout our patrol area, the Black Warrior River watershed. This vital river basin is entirely contained within Alabama, America's leading state for freshwater biodiversity. Monitoring waterways, educating the public, and holding polluters accountable has made us an important proponent of clean water throughout the basin.

Founded in 2001 by David Whiteside, our full-time staff includes Nelson Brooke—Executive Director & Riverkeeper, John Keeling— Staff Attorney, John Kinney—Program Director, and Charles Scribner—Director of Development & Newsletter Editor. We also benefit greatly from the services of 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. Call 205-458-0095 or email info@blackwarriorriver.org to report pollution or discuss volunteering, donating, or events. Learn more at www.BlackWarriorRiver.org.

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 contribution to the Hudson's amazing recovery inspired the growth of 177 autonomous "Waterkeeper" organizations across the world. Waterkeepers (including Alabama's Black Warrior Riverkeeper, 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 watershed). Learn more about Waterkeeper Alliance at www.Waterkeeper.org.



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 memorial / honorary 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, etc.) please contact Charles Scribner at 205-458-0095 or cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org.



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Our Coffee Blend Now in More Stores!



Higher Ground Roasters, Roast Magazine's National Micro-Roaster of the Year, now sells 12-oz and 2-lb bags of Black Warrior Riverkeeper Roast in more stores than ever! Higher Ground donates 10% of sales of this delicious, fair trade, shade grown, and organic coffee to Black Warrior Riverkeeper. Buy at www.highergroundroasters.com or these fine stores:

Berkeley Bob's (Cullman), **Bottletree** (Birmingham), **Capture Studio** (Tuscaloosa), **Crestline Bagel** (Mountain Brook), **Crestwood Coffee** (Birmingham), **Java & Jams** (Birmingham), **Java Jolt** (Jacksonville), **Manna Grocery** (Tuscaloosa), **Mast General** (Arden/Asheville, NC), **Nature's Grocer** (Vernon, CT), **Nomad Supply** (Birmingham), **Northern Star** (Norcross, GA), **Olde Towne** (Huntsville), **Organic Harvest** (Vestavia), **Percasso's Coffee** (Guntersville), **Publix** (Birmingham), **Red Wagon** (Herman, MO), **The Coffee Vine** (Rainbow City), **Tria Market** (Homewood), **V. Richards** (Birmingham), **Whole Foods** (Mountain Brook). These stores also serve the brew in-house: **Bottletree**, **Crestline Bagel**, **Crestwood Coffee**, **Java & Jams**.

Volunteers Help Black Warrior Riverkeeper Reach New Heights!

Black Warrior Riverkeeper has benefited greatly from a steady increase in volunteer support over the past few years, with 146 volunteers contributing a record 2,619 service hours in 2007! Among countless success stories, here are recent highlights:

Dixon Johns won **The Altamont School's** first annual Environmental Citizen Award on May 21, 2008. Dixon worked with Black Warrior Riverkeeper and **AbTech Industries** to research and present "Project Eco-Stream: Renewing Runoff, Restoring Rivers," winning 3rd Place in Alabama's Science Fair Regionals!

Tsu-Mei Chen, an undergrad at the **University of Alabama** in Tuscaloosa, worked with us to expand our pollution permit research project, and now studies EPA's ECHO website monthly to send us lists of Clean Water Act violators in such systematic fashion that, by the end of her 12-month project, she will have uncovered violators in all of the 97 zip-codes located throughout our watershed!

Art Richey, an undergrad at **Birmingham Southern College**, mapped and listed properties on the Lower Black Warrior River, an area hundreds of miles from our office that we patrol less often due to time and gas constraints. He then updated our website's entire "Elected Officials" page to improve communication between our members and politicians. Due in no small part to his community service, Art was the only student in Alabama to win a prestigious **Truman Scholarship** in 2008!

A breakthrough which combined volunteering and fundraising occurred in 2007 when, for the first time, three employees from **Southern Progress** (**Kelly Smith**, **Lauren Whiteside**, and **Roseanna Whiteside**) volunteered for over 30 hours each, thus earning us three \$1,000 grants from Time-Warner's Employee Grants Program.

Special thanks to **World Wildlife Fund** for generously supporting our volunteer, education, and outreach programs! To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Charles Scribner at 205-458-0095 at cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org.