



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?

- Mark Martin, in-house Chief Prosecuting Attorney for Black Warrior Riverkeeper, was recently awarded *Legal Hero* status by the Sierra Club.
- When Black Warrior Riverkeeper was founded in 2001, we were the 72nd autonomous chapter of Waterkeeper Alliance. Now there are 153 local Waterkeeper groups on 5 continents!

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Turns 5!

Black Warrior Riverkeeper celebrates its Fifth Anniversary on September 25, 2006. Birmingham's David Whiteside and Roger Conville founded the non-profit organization in 2001. Whiteside wrote the Waterkeeper Alliance proposal to start Black Warrior Riverkeeper while staying in New York with Waterkeeper Alliance's President, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (his godfather), and sometimes with comedian/actor Robert Klein. Kennedy and Klein remain major supporters of Black Warrior Riverkeeper.

Whiteside was finishing the Black Warrior proposal when terrorists attacked our great nation on September 11, 2001. Understandably, many charitable donations after 9/11 went to large organizations involved in disaster relief. This trend siphoned donations away from more localized, grassroots charities. It is a milestone for any non-profit to make it through the first five years, let alone flourish in the immediate aftermath of 9/11.

There was, and is, a tremendous need for Black Warrior Riverkeeper. The Black Warrior is the largest river system entirely contained within Alabama, "the River State." Home to more species of freshwater fish, snails, mussels and crawfish than any other state, Alabama paradoxically features America's lowest-ranked environmental protection agency, ADEM.

Our valuable but vulnerable Black Warrior Basin is so important to biodiversity, recreation, and public health that we have received widespread help from across the country. During our first five years, we received generous support from foundations as well as celebrities like Laurie & Larry David, Lorraine Bracco, Edward James Olmos, and Jon Fishman. However, we could not protect the Black Warrior without local support from Alabama citizens.

With your help, Riverkeeper has assisted the Black Warrior Watershed on many fronts. Before 2001, Alabama lacked a non-governmental organization solely focused on protecting the entire Black Warrior River Basin. Since then, your local Riverkeeper, Nelson Brooke, has patrolled a remarkable portion of the basin's 6,276 square miles, while making countless educational presentations to schools, officials, and civic groups. Using evidence that Nelson collects, our Chief Prosecuting Attorney, Mark Martin, has filed legal actions — when necessary — to address over 11,000 Clean Water Act violations in the Black Warrior River Basin.

The 2006 Alabama Watershed Group of the Year, Black Warrior Riverkeeper now employs six staff members. 85 inspiring volunteers have worked over 200 hours in 2005 and over 500 hours already in 2006. A testament to democracy in action, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is only as strong as our membership base. We look forward to increasing that base, and the scope of our advocacy, over the next five years.



*Riverkeeper staff onboard the patrol boat (L-R)
Top: Mark Martin, John Kinney, Brantley Fry. Bottom:
David Whiteside, Sipsy, Charles Scribner, Nelson Brooke.
© Katherine Simmons Berdy, KSB Photography*

Come celebrate our 5th Birthday at parties in two Black Warrior River Basin cities:
 Birmingham: Sept. 27th (7:30-12:00) at Bottletree w/Rollin in the Hay live! (3719 3rd Ave S.)
 Tuscaloosa: Nov. 10 (9:00-1:30) at "4thand23rd" w/Baak Gwai live! (401 23rd Ave)
 For questions or to make birthday donations: cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org or (205)458-0095

Development Proposed on Pristine Inland Lake (Blount Co.)

A proposed development on Inland Lake has the potential to cause lasting impacts on the water quality of the lake and that of Birmingham's drinking water. Inland Lake in southeast Blount County is a 5,000-acre lake with good, clean water and limited public access. The lake has extremely clear, deep water that provides a great place for fishing, swimming, and skiing. Along with many aquatic species, the lake and its surrounding area support a variety of wildlife, as evidenced by numerous sightings of Bald Eagles, geese, owls, deer, bears, coyotes, and large cats. The lake is surrounded by thousands of acres of undeveloped land and is accessible by only two roads. Although no endangered species are documented to dwell in the vicinity, no detailed wildlife study exists there.

In the 1930s, the agency that later became the Birmingham Water Works Board bought the rich river bottomland of the Blackburn Fork and built the 7.5 mile-long lake to serve as an industrial water supply for Birmingham. The lake now serves as a major source of drinking water for the city, and consistently receives high marks for water quality. To protect the drinking water, the Water Works imposes a list of rules for fishermen and boaters, including a rule that no boats with bathrooms are allowed on the lake. There are 33 cabins that remain along the shoreline, and the Water Works has been systematically purchasing the long-term licenses, tearing down the cabins, and trying to remove septic tanks that could leak into the lake.

This protective measure may be compromised significantly if developer Gadson Woodall, III succeeds in his plan to develop the entire southeastern side of the lake for what will be called "Gadson's Retreat." The planned community could affect over 20 miles of beautiful shoreline with its 4,000-5,000 dwellings, sewage treatment plant, full service marina with boat docks, dry storage facility, boating ramps with covered docks in the water, convenience store, gas station, large class A hotel, four golf courses, private clubs, recreation facilities, restaurants, retail and office areas, schools, and fire & police complex. The development is slated for a prolonged seven phases, resulting in a small town that sits right up against the entire south side of Inland Lake. The potential risks associated with this proposal include sedimentation during development; stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces such as roofs, sidewalks, parking lots, and roads after development; nutrients and herbicides from the golf course; the impact of marinas on the lake; and the potential for sewage treatment problems.

In response to the proposed development, local residents in Blount County, led by Debbie Snow, mounted a petition drive to oppose the development and presented the petitions at the Blount County Commission meeting in July. During the meeting, some commissioners and a state legislator expressed concerns over the cost of road improvements needed to support such a development. The Commission voted to have the county's engineer meet with Oneonta officials to determine how to handle the subdivision approval process and delayed the vote on the subdivision regulations. The development also must receive water access permits from the Water Works for the marina, hotel dock, and condominiums. The Water Works recently denied access to the lake because Woodall failed to provide detailed engineering plans detailing how the lake would be protected. The Water Works says that the reports must show how runoff would be prevented during construction and what backup systems would exist to prevent spills at the sewage treatment plant.

The denial of access does not resolve the matter, because Woodall plans to develop the detailed plans which will take four to six months work and between 300-500 thousand dollars to complete. Woodall told our Riverkeeper, Nelson Brooke, that as part of this effort his engineers are taking turbidity and chemical samples daily and will continue to do so during development, if approved. During this time, Black Warrior Riverkeeper will help develop a strategy to minimize impacts to the lake. We will continue to provide input during county commission meetings, talk with Birmingham Water Works and continue discussions with Gadson.



"Gadson's Retreat" would cover the entire lower side of Inland Lake, as shown here in "The Retreat at Inland Lake: Revised Master Plan Study" © Stephen Fuller, Inc. 5.30.2006



The proposed development may compromise the scenery and water quality of Inland Lake, a major source of Birmingham's drinking water.

© Debbie Snow

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

May 16: Patrolled Five Mile Creek by canoe from the Brookside baseball field to Linn's Crossing. For the first part of the trip, tires and trash were prevalent. Along the way I saw numerous catfish, drums, river redhorse, and bass. I passed a coalbed methane well water intake device and the Prudes Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. On one segment of the creek is a man-made channel where blasting to make way for the railroad has left vertical walls with dynamite drill-hole scars and exposed coal seams that were leaching iron. Mining throughout the watershed has left coal chunks, red dawg rocks, and slag on the gravel bars. Farther downstream, the creek becomes more and more beautiful. A healthy stand of trees lines the banks. This is a great leisure paddle of approximately eight miles and just under four hours.

May 22: Patrolled Village Creek by canoe, covering approximately fifteen miles from the Shady Grove Rd. bridge below Bayview Dam to Porter Rd. by Miller Steam Plant. Despite the stigma associated with its polluted past, this section of Village Creek is absolutely beautiful. Just downstream of Bayview Dam is a sandstone gorge often compared to the Sipsey Wilderness within Bankhead National Forest. This area is home to big leaf magnolias and eastern hemlocks. This population of eastern hemlock trees is considered to be the southernmost occurrence of the species. Around the halfway point, the Woodruff Mill dam crosses the creek with a breach on the right side. A beautiful barred owl swooped across the creek and landed in a tree, then watched me pass by. I found four acid mine drainages from old coal mines putting heavy metals such as iron and aluminum into the creek. Toward the lower end of the trip, at least six whole cars have been dumped from Woodruff Mill Road high above on the ridge top. After this point, the creek is beautiful until you reach the Miller Steam Plant.

May 24: Patrolled the Locust Fork from Howton's camp to Miller Steam Plant. I found an acid mine drainage with a pH of 2.3 and a very high concentration of heavy metals. This type of pollution occurs throughout the Black Warrior Basin due to sloppy coal mining practices over the years. I also witnessed a coal barge's bilge being pumped out through two pumps at Birmingham. This is a common practice that discharges coal particulates and oil into the river. As far as I know, nobody regulates this practice. Other than these two findings typical of coal operations, the Locust Fork seemed to be fairing well.

June 3: Attended the Bankhead Lake Cleanup held at Buddy Vines Camp on the Locust Fork, just upstream of where it flows into the Mulberry Fork, forming the Black Warrior River. This cleanup was organized by the Black Warrior River Basin Clean Water Partnership, Alabama Power Company, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Around 70 volunteers removed 4.4 tons of trash from the river. We found everything from plastic bottles and Styrofoam to gas cans and refrigerators.

July 6: Met with Larry Barwick, a field inspector with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM). I used maps to show him where I found acid mine drainage (AMD) sites, four along Village Creek and one on the Locust Fork. Larry will see if these sites are already on the OSM's AMD list, and then he will inspect these sites to determine their severity. OSM prioritizes sites for clean up, as AMD remediation is extremely expensive. With so many acid mine drainage sites in our watershed, several will not be cleaned up for decades.

July 17: Our member, Julie Burchfield, reported a water quality issue on White Oak Creek across from Smith Camp. After spending 4th of July week there, her boys and her friend's children ended up with bacterial infections. One boy had a cut on his hand and ended up with a bacterial infection all the way up his arm. The doctor said the bacteria came from the river. She plans to do some bacteriological sampling and see if the marina has a sewage pumpout. The Burchfields have never seen a problem like this in their 28 years on the river. I've heard about several people getting bacterial and staph infections after swimming in the river. It is very important that people use caution when choosing where to swim, especially when swimming with any cuts or abrasions. Wash thoroughly with soap after swimming.

Throughout July: I met with representatives at six wastewater treatment plants and lagoons in our watershed: Country Park Subdivision WWTP, Peachtree Crossing Mobile Home Park WWTP, Morris Mobile Home Court Lagoon, Jasper WWTP, Parrish HCR Lagoon, and Riley Maze WWTP. These facilities are responsible for **9,674 violations of the Clean Water Act** over the past five years. By talking with them, I got a better idea of whether they are willing to stop their pollution. Three of them proved they are well on their way to optimum performance, and all six demonstrated willingness to stop polluting. Improper management of facilities and maintenance of collection lines seem to be the underlying problems with every system. It is amazing that a municipality or a business owner would allow such an expensive asset to fall apart. Yet again, all signs point to ADEM's failure to uphold the law and stop pollution from occurring.

August 14: Johnny Kinney and I put in at Clevenger's Marina near the mouth of Valley Creek and headed upstream to Big Branch in the patrol boat. To navigate the creek, we left the patrol boat for a canoe and paddled toward Donaldson. The creek is so full of sediment that it is impassible in a normal boat. Due to the nutrients and sediment load, water plants and cattails completely cut off the main channel so that we eventually had to leave the canoe and hack our way through. We hiked upstream and observed dark grey-black sediment covering the bottom of Big Branch. Our feet disturbed the muck on the bottom that released a horrible odor. We tested water in three places: coming from Donaldson's wastewater plant discharge, in Big Branch upstream of Donaldson's discharge, and in Big Branch way downstream of Donaldson's discharge. Unfortunately, the beautiful stream of Big Branch is severely impaired.



Riverkeeper member Hilary Aten performs pollution tests on acid mine drainage near Five Mile Creek. © Nelson Brooke

Hyche Landfill Expansion Proposed To Receive More Trash (Winston County)

Residents of Addison, AL and people who love Smith Lake are worried about Hyche Landfill expanding its operations. Located in Winston County, this landfill is permitted to receive construction and demolition waste (inert solid waste) from Winston County and thirteen approved manufactured home builders. The landfill has a history of illegally accepting prohibited waste and allowing polluted leachate to make its way out of the landfill into groundwater and a spring-fed tributary of Boone Creek, which flows into Rock Creek, a major tributary of Smith Lake and the Black Warrior River's Sipsey Fork. Citizens are worried by the county commission's move allowing Hyche Landfill to receive waste from an expanded 40 mile radius. At a recent public hearing over 130 people packed into the Double Springs courthouse to tell three Winston County commissioners what they thought. Not a single person spoke in favor of the landfill. The overwhelming message: Smith Lake is an important resource that should be protected for future generations. The people up there realize that an asset like Smith Lake is far more economically vital to the county's future than a little bit of revenue from a landfill. Unfortunately, the commissioners seem to be in favor of the landfill, despite local opposition. In an apparent effort to subdue the crowd's worries about leachate pollution, Commissioner Grady Bachelor stated that Hyche Landfill had 7 groundwater monitoring wells on site. He lied: there are simply no water testing wells there.

The people of Winston County deserve to hear the truth. Construction and demolition landfills are not required to conduct groundwater monitoring because the waste stream they are accepting should not include any contaminants of note. However, when it is known that a landfill is receiving waste streams that are not permitted (such as putrescible garbage, industrial waste, toluene, and xylene), then ADEM should be levying fines to deter the violations, and requiring the landfill to conduct appropriate tests. Apparently ADEM is not concerned about protecting groundwater, Smith Lake, or the citizens of Winston County.

ADEM has uncovered violations during fifteen inspections of the Hyche Landfill since 1993. They have not fined this landfill operator Tarrie Hyche once! What then will deter him from accepting unpermitted waste in the future, especially from an expanded service area? Locals are talking about forming a citizen committee so they can monitor the landfill on their own as a third party. The people from Winston County and elsewhere that care about Smith Lake are going to have to do just that. Black Warrior Riverkeeper is maintaining contact with concerned citizens to ensure that ADEM enforces the permit protecting waterways from Hyche Landfill.



Hyche Landfill's leachate (bottom right) illegally pollutes Boone Creek, which flows into Rock Creek, a major tributary of the Black Warrior's Sipsey Fork and Smith Lake. © Nelson Brooke

Alabama Department of Health's Fish Advisories Omit Black Warrior Basin

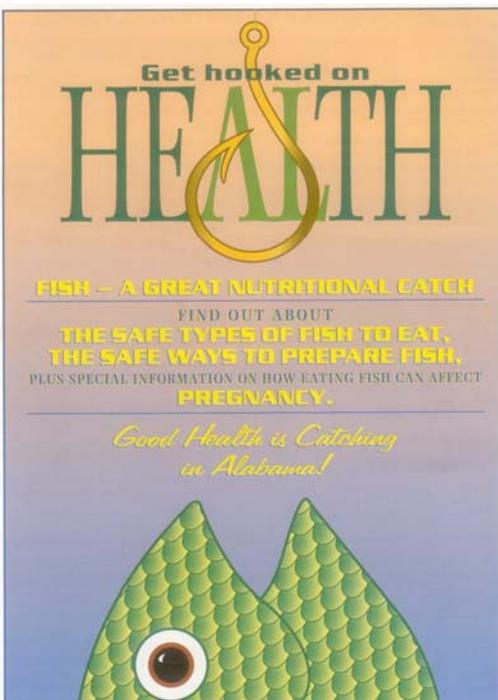
As of March 2006, there are only two fish consumption advisories in the Black Warrior River Basin. One would think that this is a good thing, but the lack of advisories may not be due to safe fish as much as due to lack of analysis. Currently, over 30 sections of the river and its tributaries are listed as impaired for various reasons (for example pH, metals, pathogens, etc.). Curiously though, there are only two current fish consumption advisories in the Black Warrior River Basin. These advisories are "No Consumption" advisories for Largemouth Bass due to mercury, and they apply to Opossum and Valley Creeks in Jefferson County. A "No Consumption" advisory instructs the public to avoid eating the named species of fish in the defined area.

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) develops fish advisories based on samples gathered from 28 major reservoirs, 26 stream locations, and 19 public fishing lakes. The sampling occurs on a five-year rotational basis, with additional water bodies being monitored on a need basis.

According to the ADPH, the Locust Fork, Big Yellow Creek, Hurricane Creek and Village Creek have not been sampled since November 1998, and the next sampling in the Black Warrior River Basin is not until Fall of 2007. This schedule conflicts with the five-year rotational schedule supposedly followed by ADPH. As of today, the sampling on these waterways is already three years overdue.

The Alabama Department of Public Health analyzed samples from some water bodies in the Black Warrior Basin in the last five years (Warrior Lake in Greene County; Bankhead Reservoir, Holt Reservoir, Oliver Reservoir, Lake Tuscaloosa, and North River in Tuscaloosa County; and Smith Reservoir in Winston and Cullman Counties). None of these samples resulted in an advisory being issued.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is working to raise awareness of fish advisories and to promote timely and accurate sampling within the basin. For more information about the advisories and to learn about ways to consume fish more safely, see ADPH's Risk Assessment and Toxicology page at <http://www.adph.org/risk>.



RIVERKEEPER[®] Intervenes in BARD v. SWMA Lawsuit (Jefferson County)

On June 20, Black Warrior Riverkeeper and the Cahaba River Society filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit brought against Jefferson County's Storm Water Management Authority (SWMA) by the Business Alliance for Responsible Development (BARD) and others. The Southern Environmental Law Center www.selcga.org is providing our legal representation.

As required by the Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Water Quality Act of 1987, the state legislature in 1995 gave Jefferson County's 23 municipalities the authority to implement a storm water program, which created SWMA in 1997. SWMA was created to reduce water pollution through water quality monitoring, education, and erosion control implementation throughout the watersheds of Jefferson County (which consists entirely of the Black Warrior and Cahaba River Basins). SWMA does a much better job than our state agency, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), despite ADEM's efforts to take away SWMA's authority. While not perfect, SWMA is far superior to ADEM in terms of responding to citizen complaints and performing inspections.

However, BARD (composed of member groups Saiia Construction, LLC, Liberty Park Joint Venture, LLP, Drummond Company, Inc., Daniel Realty Company, LLC, USS Realty, Greater Birmingham Area Association of Homebuilders, Inc., Alabama Power Company, Curtis White Companies, Inc., Alabama Associated General Contractors, Alabama Gas Corporation, Alabama Coal Association, Wachovia Bank, Stonegate Realty, Riverwoods LLC, Coalbed Methane Association of Alabama, Barber Companies, Inc., Thompson Tractor Company, Inc., RealtySouth, Tractor & Equipment Co., Association of Builders & Contractors) — mostly developers and resource extractors — opposes SWMA's authority.

BARD complains that SWMA goes beyond what it is required to do in some of its projects. The bottom line is that BARD does not want to have a strong regulator. They are used to ADEM's poor enforcement of environmental laws. Inadequate enforcement and regulation of stormwater runoff from construction sites and mines leads to the severe sedimentation of our streams — an externalization of costs that places the burden on all of us rather than the polluter. Stricter regulation and enforcement would force certain companies to spend adequate time and money to clean up their mess.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is intervening in this lawsuit to protect a worthwhile agency that serves its communities by lessening water pollution burdens. Local communities deserve the right to protect their own resources. The last thing we need is SWMA to be stripped of their authority, and have it handed over to ADEM. ADEM is not capable of carrying an additional load!



SWMA's job is to monitor polluting construction sites like this (right) in Birmingham. If BARD successfully undermines SWMA's authority with this suit, such scenes will become more common in Jefferson County. © Nelson Brooke

RIVERKEEPER[®] Approved for "1% For The Planet" Donations



Businesses donating 1% of their sales to the natural environment

Black Warrior Riverkeeper was recently admitted into a select group of environmental groups approved for donations through the "1% for The Planet" program started by Patagonia and its heroic founder and President, Yvon Chouinard. 1% For The Planet is an alliance of businesses committed to leveraging their resources to create a healthier planet. Member businesses recognize their responsibility to and dependence on a healthy environment and donate at least 1% of their annual sales to environmental organizations worldwide.

Here is how the giving process works: the generous businesses who have teamed up with Patagonia make their donations directly to their favorite environmental group(s) from 1% For The Planet's list of approved groups. There is no guarantee that Black Warrior Riverkeeper will receive any funds this year, but since we are now listed, it gives 1% for the Planet's businesses the option.

Please note, Black Warrior Riverkeeper members and any other interested parties: If any of you have a business that is a member of 1% for the Planet or would like to join them to support Black Warrior Riverkeeper, please contact Melissa Powers: melissa@onepercentfortheplanet.org or Charles Scribner: cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org. Thank you, Riverkeeper members, for helping us grow to the point where we are approved for such great opportunities!

ONGOING CASES

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Legal Docket

B A R D v . S W M A (J E F F E R S O N C o .)

The trash you see in storm drains such as the one to the right flow directly into your local waterways, unfiltered. SWMA is a local agency protecting citizens and property from the litter, sedimentation and petrochemicals that runoff into waterways after rainstorms. Please see the article on page 5 for a detailed summary of this new case.



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 initiated a civil enforcement action by serving a Notice of Intent to Sue (NOIS) on the Jefferson County Housing Authority, the operators of the Brookside Village WWTP. We allege **1,134 violations** of the Clean Water Act by this facility. These illegal discharges of sewage enter into Newfound Creek, a tributary of Fivemile Creek of the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. The notice was served on May 19, 2006 and our 60 day notice period expired July 18. On June 20, ADEM entered a special order by consent with the Housing Authority regarding *some, but not all*, of these violations, and imposing a fine of \$7,300.

We find it interesting that ADEM continues to take action on such matters only after we have served a NOIS on the facility. We applaud ADEM for taking enforcement action and hope to continue to encourage them to do so when appropriate — so long as they pursue the matter diligently and effectively. Unfortunately, ADEM is frequently neither diligent nor effective in prosecuting permit violators. The fine issued in this case is the lowest that ADEM could have issued given the number of violations alleged in the consent agreement. This is so, even though ADEM states in the Special Order that the violations alleged therein may have contributed to the 2004 303(d) listing (for biology) of that stream. ADEM does not appear to have taken these violations very seriously. We hope they will diligently monitor the facility's compliance with the Order and its progress as it improves the facility and brings it into compliance with its NPDES permit.

Stay tuned to our newsletter and website for more information: www.BlackWarriorRiver.org/docket.htm

D O N A L D S O N C O R R E C T I O N A L F A C I L I T Y (J E F F E S O N C o .)

In 2003, a reporter for *The Birmingham News* notified David Whiteside of numerous violations at Donaldson Waste Water Treatment Plant. Nelson Brooke reviewed Donaldson's file and confirmed the large number of NPDES permit violations of the Clean Water Act. He also noted — unsurprisingly — that ADEM had not taken effective enforcement action on these violations.

Riverkeeper initiated legal action by serving, on November 10, 2004, a 60 day notice of intent to sue. On January 7, 2005, the Alabama Attorney General filed this action against the Alabama Department of Corrections (DOC). Riverkeeper intervened in that suit on February 11, 2005. DOC has now contracted with Alabama Utility Services (AUS) to operate and maintain the WWTP. AUS improved the plant by adding a new surge basin and has reduced the plant's number of violations. We expect AUS to eliminate all violations as soon as possible.

The Attorney General has now dismissed its complaint against the DOC. Riverkeeper, however, has continued our case against DOC because we feel that DOC must remediate the damage it has caused the creek. Riverkeeper feels that the massive amounts of sedimentation that have been deposited into the creek by the plant should be removed if such removal can be accomplished in an environmentally sound fashion. We will continue to pursue that goal through the pending case.



1,060 Clean Water Act Violations
Donaldson Correctional Facility
© Nelson Brooke

COMPLETED CASES

S L O S S I N D U S T R I E S (J E F F E R S O N C o .)

Wendy Allen Jackson, Director of the newly re-named Freshwater Land Trust (formerly the Black Warrior Cahaba Rivers Land Trust) is delighted to report that the Sloss Industries land settlement has been completed in a satisfactory manor. The Land Trust is looking forward to protecting this land in perpetuity.

The Land Trust is working hard to try to incorporate this critical 350 acre land acquisition into the Five Mile Creek Greenway. This historic settlement was prompted by a lawsuit filed by Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Alabama Rivers Alliance, and L.E.A.F.



500 Clean Water Act Violations
Sloss Industries' Wastewater Treatment Plant
© 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 one 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 David Whiteside, our three full-time employees include Nelson Brooke—Riverkeeper (patrolman and spokesman), Charles Scribner—Director of Development, and Brantley Fry—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)

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER [®] is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Your contribution or membership is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

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FIFTH BIRTHDAY EDITION!

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Above: Elizabeth Salter enjoys canoeing and cleanups on Five Mile Creek, a Birmingham tributary of the Black Warrior.

Elizabeth Salter: A Birmingham environmentalist, Elizabeth has greatly assisted us with river/lake cleanups, marketing, mailers, watershed map development, and even GIS cartography/analysis!

Jennifer Taylor: As *National River Cleanup Week Coordinator* for the Locust and Mulberry Forks, Jennifer helps us restore the Black Warrior's headwaters. In order to protect the Sipsey Fork as well, she types Riverkeeper databases for Winston County. Jennifer also creates and donates red clay bowls at Earthborn Studios for our silent auctions. Earthborn Studios www.EarthbornPottery.net sells these clay goods to such top venues as Las Vegas' Bellagio Hotel and Birmingham's Hot and Hot Fish Club!

Right: Jennifer Taylor and Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Chief Prosecuting Attorney, Mark Martin, racing on the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River.

Riverkeeper recently received a generous donation in memory of Nace Ralph Cohen and Myrtle Heiman Cohen, honoring their long friendship with Ruth Johnson and Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr., our founder's great uncle.

