



# Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



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### DID YOU KNOW?

Black Warrior Riverkeeper was chosen as "2007 Conservation Group of the Year" by the Alabama Environmental Council, Alabama's oldest conservation organization, at their 40th Anniversary Meeting. We are proud to collaborate often with the AEC and their new Executive Director, Michael Churchman.

## RIVERKEEPER® Water Sampling & Laboratory Analysis

Black Warrior Riverkeeper frequently benefits from the diligence of loyal members who call our office to report pollutants or discolored water. We have received complaints of streams flowing orange, milky white, or red with mud. Other streams reek of sewage, or appear to be covered with a layer of oil. Riverkeeper had made it a priority to respond to these complaints and find solutions. There is almost always a clear explanation for the complaints. Orange and white streams often result from elevated levels of iron or aluminum in drainage from active or abandoned mines. Red mud often results from construction site erosion. The first step towards addressing these types of problems is to locate their source. The second step is to determine exactly which pollutants are being discharged, and at what levels. Taking water samples at the point of discharge has become crucial in accomplishing this second step.

When we receive complaints, our Riverkeeper Nelson Brooke decides whether or not the situation requires taking a sample. Lab fees are costly for a non-profit, so we use this method selectively. If we choose to test the water, Brooke dons gloves and carefully collects samples as he records the time, date, and location. Samples are usually collected at the point of discharge, upstream to measure background pollutant levels, and downstream to determine the pollutant's effects as it moves through waterways. Riverkeeper takes the samples to Guardian Systems or Sutherland Environmental Company for lab analysis.

Sampling has played a major role in many of Riverkeeper's recent lawsuits. Muddy water Nelson collected at the discharge from the Birmingham Airport's runway extension project, for example, showed multiple violations of Alabama's water quality standards for turbidity, laying the groundwork for our lawsuit (see Issue 7: Winter 2007; Legal Docket).

Riverkeeper's cases often rely on self-reported information that permit holders must submit in Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) to ADEM. Water samples provide solid supplemental information in these cases. Alternatively, samples can prove that facilities without permits are discharging pollutants illegally. Such is the case with the Metro Tire Landfill, which has been leaking carcinogenic compounds from decomposing tires into a tributary of the Locust Fork without a permit. Because the facility has no permit, they are not required to submit DMRs, meaning that sampling the facility's discharge was the only way to prove that they were (and still are) polluting the river.

The Black Warrior's 6,276 square-mile watershed is a huge area to cover for a staff of four, only one of whom (Nelson) is primarily dedicated to patrolling, meaning we are often unavailable to immediately respond to pollution complaints. However, water sampling provides an excellent chance for our members to help. With proper bottles, obtained free of charge from Guardian or Sutherland, and the right training, members can do a great service by collecting samples when our staff is unavailable. This project may not be suited for everyone, as strict protocols must be followed. Detailed notes must be taken along with pictures (preferably digital), and proper chain-of-custody must be followed. With these requirements met, we happily accept evidence collected by volunteers. Donations are also welcome to help us cover rising laboratory fees.



*Downstream of Shoal Creek Mine, Nelson Brooke collects a water sample for laboratory analysis. Photo by John Kinney (author of this cover story).*

## 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](mailto:nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org), or use the new "Report Pollution" feature on our website: [www.blackwarriorriver.org](http://www.blackwarriorriver.org).

**May 3-4:** Patrolled the lower end of the river in the Demopolis area. I launched just downstream of the Demopolis Yacht Basin on the Tombigbee River and cruised downriver to Demopolis Lock & Dam. I headed upriver towards the Black Warrior's confluence with the Tombigbee. This part of the river is mostly undeveloped with trees lining the banks, hiding bald cypress and tupelo gum swamps. Numerous limestone bluffs along the river showcase ancient history. I found many coprolites (fossilized excrement) and fossilized mussels. Alabama Power's Greene County Steam Plant, situated on a bend in the river, has a large barge canal on the bend's downriver side. There were at least 15 fully loaded coal barges waiting to be unloaded. An anonymous local told me there are fish kills during the summer because of the Steam Plant's hot water discharge.

The next day I launched at old Lock 5, just upstream of the steam plant. I headed upriver to Armistead Selden Lock & Dam (the last lock & dam on the river) which is some 50 miles upstream of Demopolis. The setup there is strange: the lock is a canal cut through a bend in the river, and the dam is solo and just downstream of the lock cut on the upriver side of the bend. I camped in my hammock on the river's high bank just downstream of the lock. I awoke to a barge passing below. This trip was a refreshing stint on the river and, luckily, this southernmost section of the river is not plagued by many polluters.

**May 11:** Busted Metalplate Galvanizing & Steward Machine Company illegally discharging pollutants into a tributary of Avondale Creek as a rainstorm began in the afternoon. A large volume of dark, warm water was being discharged from both of their pipes and an oily sheen was visible on the surface. My samples showed elevated levels of metals.

**June 2:** Joined about 90 volunteers at the Bankhead Lake Cleanup at Buddy Vines Camp on the Locust Fork. I joined the Ravenswood Ferry. This flat-bottomed sternwheeler can run in 1.5 feet of water and has a lot of torque. We pulled a large boat out of a slough using a tractor.



Volunteers at the Bankhead Lake Cleanup pull an abandoned boat out of the water. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



ADEM does little while these 55-gallon drums in Midfield ooze contents onto the ground, annoy neighbors, and kill birds. Photo by Nelson Brooke.

**June 14:** Stopped by a site where hundreds of 55-gallon drums were being "stored" in Midfield. I found the drums during September 2006 thanks to a pollution complaint, and stop by intermittently to see if they have been cleaned up. The drums were still there. Many are exposed to the elements, allowing their contents to ooze onto the ground. I have found three dead birds on the drums. I talked with Sekou Brevett at ADEM's Hazardous Waste Branch about the drums. ADEM doesn't know what is in them (it is up to the property owner to find out), and ADEM doesn't push them to remove the drums because the owners are being "cooperative."

**June 29:** Went to an Environmental Management Commission meeting in Montgomery at ADEM's headquarters where they decided to further study the cancer risk petition issue. On behalf of 18 organizations including Black Warrior Riverkeeper, a petition was filed asking the EMC to better protect Alabamians from cancer-causing pollution by changing the cancer risk level for toxic water pollutants from 1 in 100,000 to 1 in 1,000,000. It was apparent the commissioners had already made up their minds when the time came to take a vote. The 7 commissioners voted to send the issue to ADEM for a 6 month committee review. ADEM, the Business Council of Alabama, the AL

Coal Association, and others were against the petition, citing undue economic hardship on Alabama businesses. ADEM Director Trey Glenn already had a proposal ready for committee members. It was heavily weighted with industry, business, and agency representatives. Is ADEM more interested in protecting the public from pollution, or in helping polluters make large profits at the expense of public health?

**July 3:** Went to Turkey Creek Nature Preserve with summer intern Russell Williams, and Paul Freeman from the Nature Conservancy. We went to survey the crayfish population and determine if they were native or invasive. This area is prime habitat for an endangered fish, the Vermilion darter (*Etheostoma chermocki*), so we were worried about the crayfish's impact on the darter. We found a great number of crayfish in the 6-7" size range with greenish claws. They are the Northern Crayfish (*Orconectes virilis*), which is an invasive (non-native) species. We only found one native crayfish (*Cambarus obstipus*), which is endemic to the Black Warrior. This may lead to further study.

**July 18:** Met Roald Hazelhoff of the Southern Environmental Center ([www.myecoscapescapes.org](http://www.myecoscapescapes.org)) and Taylor Steele at the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. They were hosting dozens of teachers from all over the state as part of the Legacy Environmental Education Summer Institute ([www.legacyenved.org](http://www.legacyenved.org)). Teachers learned about Turkey Creek and the endangered Vermilion darter as well as how to look for macroinvertebrates. We filmed part of Riverkeeper's upcoming documentary while visiting the Preserve.

**August 2:** Went to the North Tuscaloosa Neighborhood Alliance's second meeting. This is a group of 29 neighborhoods on the Northport side of the river that are opposing the proposed North River Town Center. This large scale commercial development would disturb over 69 acres of mostly wooded riverfront, including impacts to 2,791 linear feet of streams and 3.4 acres of wetlands, directly across from the Riverview boat launch. We plan on working with NTNA and many local citizens to protect the river from this shortsighted development.



# Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Legal Docket

## NEW CASES

### Alabama Biodiesel Corporation (Tuscaloosa County)

Riverkeeper has filed a lawsuit in U.S District Court against Alabama Biodiesel for the company’s unpermitted oil and grease discharges into the Black Warrior River in Tuscaloosa County, next to Moundville Archaeological Park. Alabama Biodiesel’s discharge of pollutants without an NPDES permit is a violation of the Clean Water Act and similar provisions of Alabama law, and is grounds for enforcement by civil action. The lawsuit was filed August 22, 2007.

Riverkeeper is currently negotiating with Alabama Biodiesel to find a solution amenable to both parties. The lawsuit should not be considered an indictment of the biodiesel industry. Riverkeeper is very supportive of companies promoting renewable and sustainable energy, but these companies have to be held accountable to the pollution guidelines imposed on all other energy industries.

### Duck River Dam (Cullman County)

Riverkeeper joined 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 an important tributary of the Black Warrior’s Mulberry Fork, and a beautiful destination for kayaking, canoeing, and observing wildlife.



*The scenic, free-flowing Duck River.*  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.

### Elk Corporation of Alabama (Tuscaloosa County)

Riverkeeper mailed a notice of intent to sue to Elk Corporation on June 14, 2007, having uncovered 256 permit violations for oil and grease, pH, and total suspended solids. The violations of Elk’s permit to discharge into the Black Warrior River went as far back as November 2002. Finally spurred into action by our notice, ADEM entered into an Administrative Consent Order with Elk on August 15, 2007. Elk has shown improvement in their recent discharge compliance. We will continue to monitor their efforts.

### Metro Recycling, Inc. (Blount County)

Riverkeeper and the Friends of the Locust Fork River filed suit against Metro Recycling, Inc. in U.S. District Court on August 21, 2007. Metro owns and operates a tire disposal landfill which discharges pollutants into an unnamed tributary of Whites Creek, a tributary of the Black Warrior’s Locust Fork. Metro’s discharge of pollutants without an NPDES permit is a violation of the Clean Water Act and similar provisions of Alabama law. Our water sampling revealed that the pollutants Metro illegally discharged include: Benzene (known carcinogen), Chloromethane (possible carcinogen), 1,2-Dichloroethane (probable carcinogen), Ethylbenzene, Toluene, Vinyl Chloride (known carcinogen), and Xylenes, o,m,p. Lab results of our samples also showed Benzene and Vinyl Chloride present in concentrations exceeding maximum contaminant levels for drinking water.



*Metro’s tire landfill.* Photo by Nelson Brooke.

### Sherman Industries, Inc. (Jefferson County)

Riverkeeper mailed a notice of intent to sue to Sherman Industries on June 19, 2007, having uncovered 29 permit violations for high levels of pH and Total Suspended Solids. In response to our notice, ADEM entered into an Administrative Consent Order with Sherman and published notice on August 16. Sherman has drawn up plans to add better stormwater treatment on-site and prevent these sort of violations in their discharges to Valley Creek. We will continue to monitor their progress.

## ONGOING CASES

### Praco & Pumpkin Center Mines (Jefferson and Walker Counties)

Riverkeeper filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court against Cherokee Mining, LLC on July 27, 2007 for violations of the Clean Water Act at the company’s Praco Mine and Pumpkin Center Mine. We uncovered 410 violations of the mines’ permit for discharges with unacceptable levels of iron, manganese, total suspended solids, and low pH (acidity). The mines discharged the polluted water to tributaries of the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River.

## RIVERKEEPER® Launches Fully Updated Website



Black Warrior Riverkeeper launched a new website! Visit the site at our old URL: [www.BlackWarriorRiver.org](http://www.BlackWarriorRiver.org). Along with tons of useful information, this website offers a more attractive, extensive, and user-friendly format. It also features interactive "Report Pollution" and donation options. While Riverkeeper's staff updates the site's content, two heroes deserve praise for their complex design and coding work on the new site: David Whiteside (our Founder) and Baird Castleberry.

The owner of New Merkel Consulting Group, an IT support business, Baird has helped Riverkeeper with computer maintenance since 2002. Along with David, Baird created our original website. Baird now works part-time for Riverkeeper (and other happy clients), as webmaster while helping with software and networking. Baird also plays at many Riverkeeper fundraisers with the bands Smokeshack and Alo's Meds.

*Atop Ruffner Mountain, IT consultant Baird Castleberry surveys the Black Warrior watershed. Photo by Kellee Strout.*



*IT woes? Call Baird: at 205-970-3950, and mention Riverkeeper!*

## MySpace.com Awards RIVERKEEPER® "Premium Impact-maker" Status

For over two years, Black Warrior Riverkeeper staff and volunteers have been working on educational outreach through MySpace.com, a social networking site that has become the world's most visited website. MySpace nominated Riverkeeper for its Environmental Impact Award in April 2007, which helped us reach 12,000+ supporters through paper-free and cost-free online outreach.

In September 2007, MySpace awarded Riverkeeper "Premium Impact-maker" status, which provides us unique access to new online tools for fundraising and outreach. The "Premium Impact-maker" tools were made public on September 24, when MySpace launched a new version of its revolutionary Impact Channel. These new features and tools will help Riverkeeper further engage our enormous and supportive online audience. MySpace also promoted us globally with this launch.

As part of its Impact Channel "re-launch," MySpace announced a landmark partnership with PayPal, the leading company for secure online payments. This collaboration resulted in a new MySpace fundraising tool (depicted next to this article) that will enable Riverkeeper to collect donations through our MySpace profile ([www.myspace.com/black\\_warrior\\_riverkeeper](http://www.myspace.com/black_warrior_riverkeeper)) and allow our thousands of MySpace supporters to fundraise on our behalf. Other exciting features include: the ability to set and track a fundraising goal, customizable design, and a "family tree" that records users who have utilized the tool on our behalf, and tracks how much they have raised for Riverkeeper. Thank you, MySpace and PayPal, and special thanks to our 12,000+ friends on MySpace!



*Riverkeeper's new MySpace fundraising tool allows secure online donations through PayPal.*

## Higher Ground Roasters Creates Organic Coffee for RIVERKEEPER®



Higher Ground Roasters, a top-rated 100% organic coffee company based in Leeds, Ala., has launched a new blend called Black Warrior Riverkeeper Roast! Riverkeeper receives 10% of the sales of this medium-roast blend, which is certified organic, fair-trade, and shade grown to preserve habitat. Higher Ground also generously supports Riverkeeper through the "1% for the Planet" program. 12oz and 2lb bags of our coffee are available online at [www.highergroundroasters.com](http://www.highergroundroasters.com).

You can also purchase Black Warrior Riverkeeper Roast at these fine stores: CAPTURE STUDIO COFFEE (Tuscaloosa), CRESTWOOD COFFEE (Birmingham), OLDE TOWNE COFFEE (Huntsville), ORGANIC HARVEST (Vestavia), RED RAIN (Homewood), TRIA (Homewood), V. RICHARDS (Birmingham) and WHOLE FOODS (Birmingham). Our blend is also brewed at CRESTWOOD COFFEE.

*If your local coffee shop does not sell Black Warrior Riverkeeper Roast, please ask them to, or just order it online!*



Businesses donating 1% of their sales to the natural environment



## RIVERKEEPER® Promotes Clean Boating Guidelines

### Engine, Fueling, and Bilge Care

1. Consider purchasing a cleaner, more efficient four-stroke engine.
2. Tune your engine regularly.
3. Prevent spillage by not topping off tank; fuel expands as it warms.
4. Inspect fuel lines for leaks or cracks. Do not bleed gasoline into water; catch it and dispose of it properly.
5. Keep fuel and oil from getting into the water at these 3 sites:
  - ~Fuel filter fitting – clean up with marine absorbent pad.
  - ~Fuel tank air vent – pump fuel slowly.
  - ~Bilge pump – use filters.
6. It is unlawful to pump any bilge water that appears oily or has a sheen.
7. Having oil absorbent pads in the bilge can prevent oil leaking.
8. Avoid using detergents or emulsifiers to clean the bilge:
  - ~Detergents can pollute the water.
  - ~Emulsifiers will disperse the oil, making the water appear clean, but it still may contain harmful pollutants.
9. Dispose of absorbents at your local oil recycling collector.



*Nelson Brooke patrols the Black Warrior near the mouth of Hurricane Creek in Tuscaloosa County. Nelson encourages everyone to enjoy the river and follow clean boating guidelines.*  
Photo by Michael E. Palmer / Tuscaloosa News.

### Boat Maintenance

1. Ask your dockmaster what kinds of vessel maintenance are allowed.
2. Clean water starts with good boat cleaning and maintenance methods, using the least toxic chemicals available.
3. Do all hull scraping, sanding, and chemical stripping on shore, and catch all debris.
4. Drape vessel with tarps to catch wastes from small to medium sized maintenance projects. Take longer projects to a boatyard.
5. Read labels and buy products that are environmentally safe. Use as little as possible.
6. Buy “non-toxic” and “phosphate-free” cleaners.
7. Or use cleaning alternatives found in your cupboards at home:
  - ~ For example, baking soda and a scrub brush can be used to clean heads, and one cup white vinegar in two gallons of warm water will make a good floor cleaner.
8. Avoid cleaners with bleach, ammonia, lye, or petroleum distillates.
9. Clean boat bottom ashore, over hard surfaces or tarp, and dispose of debris.
10. Remember, cleaners flow from pavement to storm drains and then to streams.
11. Do not spray paint in the marina or over water.
12. Use a hard, less toxic or non-toxic hull paint.
13. Use orange-pink colored propylene antifreeze / coolant instead of very toxic blue-green colored ethylene glycol.
14. Gently wipe hull often with soft cloth to remove soft growth.
15. Recycle oil, oil filters, antifreeze and batteries. Dispose of cleaning products properly. Many classify as household hazardous wastes.
16. Share leftover paint, varnish, cleansers, etc., with other boaters.



*Riverkeeper's Patrol Boat on the Locust Fork.*  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.

### Boat and Sewage Control and Pumpout Use

1. Do your part to help keep sewage out of America's boating waters.
2. Use marina pumpout facilities before casting off.
3. Prevent dumping any untreated sewage into streams, rivers, and lakes. It is illegal. Dispose of sewage at your local marina pumpout station upon return.
4. Keep diapers, sanitary napkins, oils, solvents and other harmful chemicals out of toilets.
5. Use only environmentally-compatible holding deodorants.

### Boating Litter and Fish Waste

1. Teach everyone on board that tossing anything into the water is just not done. Nothing overboard.
2. Smokers, use an ashtray and bring butts ashore.
3. Bring back all cans, bottles, and trash. Recycle as much as possible.
4. Keep litter bags aboard and use them.
5. Pick up trash in the water and onshore if reachable.
6. Recycle fish parts by two possible methods:
  - ~Compost with peat moss
  - ~Freeze and re-use fish parts as bait.
7. Avoid releasing dead or alive bait into the water. Often, bait are foreign species that can harm native species. Please don't leave bait trash on the banks.
8. Fishing line, lead weights, and soft plastic lures are Harmful; please dispose of them properly.

#### **Please Contain These Wastes and Dispose of Them Properly**

- Sawdust or concrete dust
- Sanding dust containing paint or varnish particles
- Caustic paint strippers
- Alkaline or acidic cleaners (i.e. 2 part teak cleaners)
- Engine oil, gas, and grease
- Wastewater or bilge water
- Hull paint residue containing cuprous oxide (copper) or TBT
- Organic solvents, including paint thinner, chemical strippers, & parts cleaners

## RIVERKEEPER® Wins Historic and Pivotal Decision in Alabama Court

Black Warrior Riverkeeper recently won a historic legal decision that could be pivotal for us and others trying to enforce the anti-pollution laws in this state. The decision will make it easier for Riverkeeper or other environmental groups to intervene in cases filed by ADEM, or the Attorney General, in state court. Because many steps preceded this victory, some background information is necessary.

Riverkeeper filed Notice of Intent to Sue the East Walker County Sewer Authority on August 15, 2005 for illegal discharges into the Black Warrior's Mulberry Fork. We uncovered 4,473 violations of this plant's permit, the largest number of violations we have addressed at a single facility. We later uncovered an additional 1,404 violations of their permit.

ADEM then filed their own lawsuit, potentially preventing us from ensuring adequate penalties for the Sewer Authority's significant and ongoing violations. We filed a Motion to Intervene in their lawsuit, but the judge denied our motion. Since the Alabama Code gives an unconditional right to intervene, on January 23, 2007, we filed an appeal to the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, in an attempt to intervene and promote real progress.

On August 3, 2007, Riverkeeper won a favorable decision in the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals. This decision upholds our right to intervene in court actions brought by ADEM or the Attorney General so long as we have members who are affected by the pollution.

The appeals court agreed with us that we have a right to intervene because the statute gives us that right. It held that when ruling on a motion to intervene as of right under the statute, the only question for the trial court is whether we fall within the statute and whether the motion was timely filed. The court first held the motion was timely filed. It then held that we fall within the statute if we are a person who is or may be adversely affected by the pollution complained of. Our allegation that our members' recreational or aesthetic interests are affected by the pollution is sufficient to fit the statutory definition of being adversely affected by the pollution, the court held.

This is the first Alabama case to decide two important issues for us: that the statute gives us a right to intervene, and that aesthetic and recreational interests are sufficient to give us legal standing. The court also said that the precedent interpreting the federal Clean Water Act sets the precedent for interpreting the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, since the latter is based on the former. While that is not a novel concept, it is the first time the appellate courts in this state have applied that concept to the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act.



*East Walker County Sewer Authority: 5,877 violations.  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.*

## RIVERKEEPER® Joins Constitution Convention Coalition

Riverkeeper recently joined the Constitution Convention Coalition, whose purpose is to connect citizen-based non-profits throughout Alabama in drafting a new constitution through a representative, citizen-led constitutional convention. A convention is needed to empower citizens to shape their own future by writing a more just Alabama constitution. The 1901 Alabama Constitution is a hindrance to the work of many non-profit organizations because it taxes families further into poverty, deters appropriate funding of social services and discourages citizen participation at all levels of government. Please sign up with Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform ([www.constitutionalreform.org](http://www.constitutionalreform.org)) and contact your legislators: urge them to Let the People Vote on holding a Constitution Convention.

## Board of Directors Spotlight: John David Tidwell

John David Tidwell joined Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Board of Directors in 2002, making him the longest-tenured member of our Board. After volunteering an incredible amount of time as our Board's President from 2004-2006, he was given a slight measure of relief by becoming Vice President in 2007. As Vice President, Tidwell runs our monthly Board meetings in the rare instances when our current President, M. Clay Ragsdale, III, cannot attend. He also provides outstanding volunteer support in such areas as grant writing, event organizing and strategic planning.

Tidwell brings multifaceted experience to our Board, having managed businesses and non-profit environmental organizations. He grew up on Five Mile Creek in northern Jefferson County, where he still resides. Tidwell now performs monthly water quality tests on Five Mile Creek through the Alabama Water Watch program [www.alabamawaterwatch.org](http://www.alabamawaterwatch.org), a volunteer project we promote throughout the Black Warrior basin.

Learn about the other members of our Board at: [www.blackwarriorriver.org/board.html](http://www.blackwarriorriver.org/board.html).



*On Village Creek (L-R): John David Tidwell, David Whiteside (Riverkeeper's Founder), Robert Klein (actor/comedian), and Mark Martin (Riverkeeper's Prosecuting Attorney).  
Photo by Arthur Crenshaw (Director of our documentary: [44 Miles Down Village Creek](#)).*



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—Executive Director and 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 2007 Conservation 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 or 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 military veterans and fishermen who mobilized in 1966 to challenge polluters on the Hudson River. That Riverkeeper’s contributions to the Hudson’s amazing recovery has inspired the creation of 161 locally funded and controlled “Waterkeeper” organizations on waterways across 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 watershed).

M E M B E R S H I P / D O N A T I O N 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: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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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
- \_\_\_ Tuscaloosa 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): \_\_\_\_\_

To donate by credit card or to purchase merchandise (t-shirts, bumper stickers, hunting & fishing gear, or Dr. Bronner’s Magic Soaps) please contact Charles Scribner at 205-458-0095 or [cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:cscribner@blackwarriorriver.org)  
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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**Jasper Coal and HoneyBaked to Play Benefit Concert at Bottletree on Thursday, November 8th, 8pm-2am**

Two excellent bands, **HoneyBaked** and **Jasper Coal**, have generously agreed to play a Riverkeeper fundraiser. \$10 tickets (all benefiting Riverkeeper) are available at [www.theBottletree.com](http://www.theBottletree.com) or before and during the event at **Bottletree**: 3719 3rd Ave South, Birmingham, 35222. For more info, or if you would like to donate in lieu of attending, contact Charles Scribner: 205-458-0095, [cscrubner@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:cscrubner@blackwarriorriver.org).

**Kerri Nichols: Bookkeeper**

**Kerri Nichols**, Riverkeeper's meticulous bookkeeper, is truly an unsung hero. Kerri ([blackbelt3d@hotmail.com](mailto:blackbelt3d@hotmail.com)) started working part-time for Riverkeeper a year ago, organizing payments and financial records. For 15 years Kerri has helped small and medium-sized businesses ease their accounting burden. Kerri was born in Tuscaloosa. After traveling extensively as an army child, she settled in Birmingham where she has one son. She enjoys camping, hiking, gardening, beaches, and Santa Rosa Island. **Polluters beware:** Kerri holds a third degree black belt in TaeKwonDo!

**Local Businesses Donate to Riverkeeper's 1st Advisory Council Meeting**

Riverkeeper held its first **Advisory Council** meeting on June 13th, generously hosted by Birmingham's **Architecture Works**, [www.architectureworks.com](http://www.architectureworks.com). Our growing list of Advisory Council members currently includes over eighty highly-regarded experts in policy, engineering, business, law, education, recreation, public relations, and science. Riverkeeper greatly appreciates the following supporters for donating to the meeting:

**Red Rain Environmental Store** ([www.redrainstore.com](http://www.redrainstore.com)): Higher Ground Roasters coffee.

**SweetWater Brewery** ([www.sweetwaterbrew.com](http://www.sweetwaterbrew.com)): Award-winning micro-brewery beers.

**TJ's Barbeque** (3608 5th Ave S, Birmingham 35222): Delicious BBQ pork sandwiches.

**Roseanna Whiteside** (Mother of Riverkeeper's Founder, David): Yummy desserts & sides.

Because Roseanna and her daughter, **Lauren Whiteside**, volunteered at this meeting and many other occasions (over 30 volunteer hours each, annually) both **Southern Progress** employees earned us \$1,000 grants through the **Time-Warner** volunteer grants program!

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

For the sake of promoting environmentally responsible practices, we raised our printing expenses slightly in order to use **Fox River Paper's** "80# Text" brand paper, which is 100% post-consumer recycled. We utilized the "**Environmental Calculator**" on [www.foxriverpaper.com](http://www.foxriverpaper.com) to project our newsletters' improved environmental savings over the course of a year (four quarterly issues):



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