



# Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



## IN THIS ISSUE

## Shepherd Bend Mine Proposal's Opposition Continues

Stormwater Focus	2
Riverkeeper Patrol Log	4
Watershed Updates	5
Board Member Bio: Elberta Reid	6
Save the Black Warrior: 2010 Recap	6
"About Us" and Donation Form	7
Riverkeeper Ripples	8

Black Warrior Riverkeeper opposes the Shepherd Bend Mine, which would discharge wastewater from coal mining into the Black Warrior's Mulberry Fork only 800 feet from a major drinking water intake for 200,000 customers of the Birmingham Water Works Board (BWWB). We have been proud to partner with community groups, student organizations, and numerous scientists and public health advocates to point out the risks of permitting a coal mine so close to a major Birmingham drinking water intake. We have been especially impressed by Cordova community leaders as well as students from UA, UAB and Samford who have worked hard to educate others and publicize the potential impacts of the Shepherd Bend Mine.

Despite widespread opposition, on October 19, 2010 the Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC) issued a permit to Shepherd Bend, LLC to mine 286 acres. The BWWB announced on November 17 that they are appealing this ASMC permit. The BWWB has offered detailed information as to how the wastewater discharges from the mine will introduce toxic pollutants and sediment into the water, potentially leading to increased treatment costs (typically passed on to customers), decreased water quality, and possible health risks. The BWWB also stated that a mine this close to a major water intake would be "incompatible" and "unprecedented."

Of the 286 acres permitted for mining by ASMC, Shepherd Bend, LLC has the leases necessary to start mining an initial increment of 34 acres. If Shepherd Bend chooses to mine beyond that first small increment, they will have to obtain leases from other property owners, including the University of Alabama (UA) System, a major owner of both land and mineral rights at Shepherd Bend. As a practical matter, without the consent and full participation of the UA System, it may not be cost effective to mine Shepherd Bend at all.

With the Southern Environmental Law Center, Black Warrior Riverkeeper continues an appeal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater discharge permit issued to Shepherd Bend, LLC by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) on July 21, 2008. This permit issued by ADEM in its own terms is in violation of federal and state law. The issuance of an NPDES permit is prohibited if the discharges allowed by that permit will cause or contribute to a violation of water quality criteria. Additionally, the ADEM permit would allow Shepherd Bend to discharge wastewater with 10 times the level of iron and 40 times the level of manganese recommended by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper has supplied expert testimony in the ADEM NPDES permit challenge about how the discharge of these pollutants would harm the river and drinking water. Dr. Robert Angus, a professor in the Biology Department at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, testified, "ADEM's exemption of iron, manganese, and TSS from almost all precipitation events, and failure to include limits on TDS, sulfate, chlorides, aluminum and other heavy metals at all, will cause a violation of Alabama's water quality standards because of its harm to fish and wildlife in the Mulberry Fork and its tributaries."

According to the Expert Report of Warner Golden, P.E., a Senior Engineer and Partner with environmental consulting firm NewFields, "The entire [1,773 acre] site will discharge approximately 3,187 tons of sediment into downstream wetlands and the Mulberry Fork. This is the equivalent of 160 dump trucks of sediment resulting from one storm event." While such a discharge might meet the legal requirements of ADEM's NPDES permit, it will nonetheless do great harm to the river and Birmingham-area drinking water.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper has asked that the UA System not rely on ADEM's and ASMC's judgment; the permits they issued are not sufficiently protective of water quality. Dr. Arthur Benke, UA Professor of Biological Sciences, remarked in a recent *Crimson White* article, "it is fortunate that The University of Alabama owns much of this land and has the opportunity to demonstrate the importance of long-term stewardship rather than short term profit. I hope the University will see the wisdom in putting a stop to the proposed activity."

In a letter sent October 19th to the UA System Trustees, Black Warrior Riverkeeper reiterated an earlier request that the Trustees carefully consider any decision to lease land or mineral rights to Shepherd Bend. **We encourage citizens to relay their concerns about the mine with the UA System's Tuscaloosa Office: 205-348-5861.** For more about the Shepherd Bend Mine, including maps, pictures, articles, and permit documents, visit [BlackWarriorRiver.org](http://BlackWarriorRiver.org).



*Nelson Brooke at Shepherd Bend with his Boxer Tulah. The Birmingham Water Works Board's Mulberry Fork Water Intake is shown across the river — too close to this proposed mining site.*  
Photo Courtesy of The Birmingham News.

## Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Increases Focus on Stormwater

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “Stormwater runoff is generated when precipitation from rain events flows over land or impervious surfaces and does not percolate into the ground. As the runoff flows over the land or impervious surfaces (paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops), it accumulates debris, chemicals, sediment or other pollutants that could adversely affect water quality if the runoff is discharged untreated.” (Source: [http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=6](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6)). Stormwater runs off forested areas, agricultural lands, rural and urban areas, dirt and paved roads, industrial sites, and construction sites. All of these types of stormwater contribute pollution to streams in the Black Warrior River watershed. Black Warrior Riverkeeper has decided to increase our focus on construction stormwater issues to address muddy water runoff that is harming our streams, wildlife habitat, property, and drinking water. Although muddy water from construction sites may seem fairly innocuous compared to other pollutants on which we often focus, such as sewage and industrial chemicals, dirt is a serious ecological problem.

Dr. Robert Angus, a professor in the Biology Department at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is one of several respected scientists informing us about the problems of stormwater runoff. As he recently wrote to us, “Excessive amounts of suspended sediments in the water column can inhibit the penetration of sunlight, hampering photosynthesis in aquatic plants and thus lowering the productivity of the system. It can inhibit visual activities of fish, such as predation or mating. A major impact of anthropogenic silt is the simplification of aquatic animal (fish and invertebrates) communities due to the filling in, or burying, of spaces between stones and gravel on stream bottoms with consequent reduction of habitat complexity, heterogeneity and stability. For example, macroinvertebrates need spaces to hide from fish predators. Some fish use spaces between rocks to lay their eggs.”

Adding to these problems, Dr. Angus notes, “As a watershed becomes developed, the coverage of impervious surfaces increases. This causes more rapid runoff, the streams become ‘flashier’ and the power of floodwaters causes bank erosion.”

The overarching goal of enhancing our construction stormwater focus is to protect the Black Warrior River watershed from stormwater pollution, whether it affects water quality, public health, recreation, and/or wildlife habitat. More specifically, we seek an increasingly holistic approach to addressing stormwater pollution, adding educational and collaborative strategies to complement our traditional tactics of patrolling and litigating.

We are proud to use Waterkeeper Alliance's proven method of on-water patrolling and, like all other Waterkeepers, we are not afraid to follow with litigation when necessary. Still, we recognize that these tactics are often more effective in addressing point-source pollution (pollution discharged out of a pipe under state regulation). Point-source pollution is ubiquitous throughout the highly industrialized Black Warrior River watershed, but non-point source pollution such as construction stormwater runoff is a growing threat.

We recognized this trend in our organization's strategic planning session, adding an emphasis on construction stormwater runoff to our more frequently applied focus on coal and sewage. Utilizing our core strategies of patrolling and litigation, we have had success addressing construction stormwater runoff problems, particularly in our case against the Birmingham Airport Authority. Still, the non-point source nature of stormwater runoff often lends itself less toward individual enforcement actions and more toward stakeholder meetings and statewide policy considerations. In scheduling more frequent, amicable, and informative meetings with major stakeholders in the construction arena (municipalities, construction firms, and developers), our goal is to improve relationships, understanding, and compliance at key sites in the watershed. Beyond the boundaries of our watershed, in collaborating more frequently with other nonprofit organizations and government agencies, our goal is to help improve local and statewide stormwater policy.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is in place to prevent local municipalities from allowing pollution to runoff into streams through municipal storm sewer systems (MS4s). Through the CWA, the Environmental Protection Agency requires state agencies and local municipalities to oversee regulation of stormwater pollution. Best management practices for erosion control and sediment control — such as staged land clearing, soil stabilization, established ground cover, erosion matting, site grading, drainage check dams, sediment ponds, and properly maintained silt fences — help prevent damage to water quality.



*Badly eroding construction site polluting a creek in the Mill Creek watershed, West of Northport.*

Photo by Nelson Brooke. Flight by [SouthWings.org](http://SouthWings.org)



*Erosion from poor development practices in the Mill Creek watershed upstream (see previous picture) cause Mill Creek to discharge incredible amounts of sediment into the Black Warrior River below Oliver Dam after rains.*

Photo by Nelson Brooke. Flight by [SouthWings](http://SouthWings.org)

## Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Increases Focus on Stormwater (Continued)

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is an increasingly active member of the Alabama Stormwater Partnership (ASP). ASP was formed in June 2007 by a collection of organizations concerned about the damaging effects of stormwater in Alabama's waterways. ASP is made up of 17 local, state, regional and national members including Alabama Rivers Alliance, Cahaba River Society, Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, and Southern Environmental Law Center. These organizations work throughout Alabama to protect and improve water quality, much of which is negatively affected by municipal stormwater pollution. ASP has continued advocating for stronger oversight by regulatory authorities by meeting with officials at EPA, state agencies, and local governments as well as providing comments on stormwater regulations currently under revision.

Together with ASP, over the past year we have been closely following the Alabama Department of Environmental Management's (ADEM) development of the Phase II general stormwater permit that regulates discharges from regulated small municipal separate storm sewer systems ("small MS4s"). This permit spells out the legal requirements for programs that small MS4s must implement and enforce to control stormwater discharges in their jurisdictions. The drafting of this permit is not just important to ensure that small MS4s follow the law and reduce stormwater pollution to the maximum extent practicable; ADEM has stated that this permit would be the "template" for the development of the two other permits that it must issue before the end of the year: the Phase I general permit (for cities in urbanized areas) and the general construction permit. Each of these permits has a term of five years. We collaborated with ASP to try to get the strongest, most protective permit possible, one that meets requirements of the Clean Water Act. In our opinion, ADEM's Phase II permit did not meet the requirements of applicable law. EPA agreed with us and objected to ADEM's Phase II general stormwater permit on August 9, 2010. The EPA objection is unprecedented; it is the first time EPA has objected to a state's proposed stormwater permit. ADEM submitted a revised permit, as a result, which has been accepted by EPA.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Southeastern Streams and Rivers Program approved a grant proposal this year for our increased focus on stormwater. Our goals for that grant include refining our patrol tactics, expanding our ASP policy work, and meeting with key stakeholders in the construction community. Through these meetings we would ideally like to prevent potential stormwater runoff problems and educate one another. In meetings with members of the business, government, and non-profit communities, we promote progressive stormwater solutions such as low impact development practices and green infrastructure. These approaches respect the natural topography and treat water as a resource, not a waste stream. Saving money with prevention measures, avoiding fines from ADEM and doing the right thing for water quality are good incentives.

This November, we were awarded a Mott Foundation grant through Mobile Baykeeper in collaboration with ASP. Our role in the grant is to help small cities develop better programs to control and regulate construction stormwater. A model stormwater ordinance and audit checklist are being developed for the cities' use. Jenn Patterson, Program Director, and Eva Dillard, Staff Attorney, will lead our efforts on this and the WWF grant.

In addition to these collaborative initiatives, our traditional practice of patrolling (and litigating when necessary) will remain an important tactic to address stormwater pollution. Through diligent patrols by our Riverkeeper, Nelson Brooke, our pollution case against the Birmingham Airport Authority (BAA) was closed on February 16, 2010, signifying that the BAA had fulfilled the requirements set during settlement. Since settling with us one year ago, the BAA spent over \$1.7 million implementing erosion controls and sediment controls at their runway extension construction site.

In 2011, Nelson will increasingly focus his patrol work on large construction sites such as the construction of ALDOT's final Corridor X (I-22) junction with I-65 in Birmingham. According to Jeremy Gray, a *Birmingham News* reporter, this Corridor X intersection with I-65 is "the largest road project in Birmingham-area history and the most expensive contract the Alabama Department of Transportation has ever awarded."



Our stormwater work is assisted by WWF funds.



Additional erosion control measures were added to this drainage at the Birmingham Airport in response to our case settlement. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Aerial view of ALDOT's Corridor X (I-22) construction nearing its final junction at I-65 in Birmingham.

Photo by Nelson Brooke. Flight provided by [SouthWings.org](http://SouthWings.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, Riverkeeper, performed recently as patrolman and spokesman of the Black Warrior River watershed. To report pollution call (205)458-0095, email: [nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org) or fill out the online "report pollution" form at [blackwarriorriver.org](http://blackwarriorriver.org).

**May 26:** Mulberry Fork – checked discharges from Cordova WWTP, East Walker County WWTP, and Red Star Mine.

**June 4:** Mulberry Fork – investigated complaints of muddy water in the Reed's Ferry area near Shepherd Bend.

**July 19:** Helped Taylor Steele, Turkey Creek Nature Preserve Manager, guide Legacy environmental educators on a Five Mile Creek paddle near Brookside.

**July 25:** Attended field trip led by Black Warrior Riverkeeper Board member Gordon Black at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve with the Keystone Center's Youth Policy Summit.

**August 5:** Mulberry Fork – patrolled from Reed's Ferry to the Sipsy Fork and back.

**August 27:** Self Creek – checked out this beautiful creek where the Northern Beltline is proposed to cross.

**September 1:** Mulberry Fork – checked discharges from Cordova WWTP, East Walker County WWTP, and Gorgas Steam Plant.

**September 4:** Checked out discharges from Shoal Creek Mine along Bankhead Lake on Labor Day weekend; their "waterfall" discharge was not looking good: found an oil sheen & foam on water's surface at the discharge; warned children not to swim there.

**September 7-8:** Patrolled from Selden Dam to Greene County Steam Plant; checked on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers creek mouth dredging operations, and discharges from Greene County Steam Plant.

**September 14:** Attended UAB students' Shepherd Bend Mine protest in Birmingham.

**September 16:** Attended UA students' Shepherd Bend Mine protest in Tuscaloosa.

**October 1:** Attended field trip on Turkey Creek with Freshwater Land Trust, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and others looking at removing the Old Shadow Lake Dam.

**November 4:** Checked out a major acid mine drainage issue from the old underground Banner Mine on the Locust Fork just upstream of its confluence with Five Mile Creek.

**November 12:** Checked out several streams around the Rosa Mine site near Cleveland.

**November 19:** Investigated a citizen's complaint of an overflowing manhole in Snead.



Acid mine drainage entering the Locust Fork upstream of Five Mile Creek. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Students learn about Turkey Creek's critters from Board member Gordon Black. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Shoal Creek Mine's discharge into Bankhead Lake on Labor Day weekend. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Legacy environmental educators paddle Five Mile Creek near Brookside with Taylor Steele and Nelson. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



Stakeholders on Turkey Creek discuss possible removal of the Old Shadow Lake Dam. Photo by Nelson Brooke.



UA Students protest the Shepherd Bend Mine at UA. UAB and Samford Students hosted similar Shepherd Bend events. Photo by Nelson Brooke.

## Black Warrior River Watershed Updates

On July 9, 2010 Black Warrior Riverkeeper sent a Notice of Intent to Sue (NOIS) under the Clean Water Act to **Birmingham Hide & Tallow**. A rendering facility which discharges to Valley Creek in Bessemer, Hide & Tallow violated its NPDES permit in required discharge monitoring reports to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) as well as in samples collected by Nelson Brooke. As a result of our NOIS, ADEM inspected Hide & Tallow on July 27 and subsequently issued a Notice of Violation September 24, 2010. In an effort to address the operational issues we identified, Hide & Tallow implemented modifications and engineered changes to their operations, including capping an outfall to Valley Creek and trucking that wastewater to Valley Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. While Hide & Tallow maintains that these changes have ended their permit violations, we continue to monitor their operations because of longstanding concern about their impact on Valley Creek.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper collaborated with several Smith Lake groups to successfully prevent the **Brushy Pond Mine** proposed by National Coal of Alabama at Brushy Pond. This mine would have significantly impacted Smith Lake. National Coal applied to the Alabama Surface Mining Commission (ASMC) and ADEM for permits that would allow mining and approve discharges from this coal mine to Coon Creek, Ryan Creek and Alder Branch. Because of a strong and organized effort by community stakeholders, the ASMC denied the permit application on June 23, 2010. As a part of our opposition, John Kinney performed a detailed compliance review of other National Coal mines in Alabama to share with the permitting authorities: all of their active mines in Alabama have a significant pattern of environmental noncompliance. During the 2008-2009 calendar years alone National Coal mines amassed at least 9,758 violations of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. On October 1, 2010, ADEM entered into a final Special Administrative Order by Consent with National Coal of Alabama for these ongoing permit violations and imposed a penalty of \$87,200.

**Hanceville WWTP** in Cullman County has been in violation of its permit limitations in every month for which reports are available since the beginning of 2009, with the exception of September 2010. The most common violations at Hanceville WWTP have been excessive concentrations of ammonia, biological oxygen demand, and solids. Untreated wastewater also spills from manholes and lift stations in Hanceville during most significant rain events. ADEM has issued several Administrative Orders and even filed a lawsuit against the Hanceville Water and Sewer Board as a result of the violations. Even though the Water and Sewer Board has hired independent contractors and applied for grants to help fix the WWTP's problems, the violations persist. The Hanceville WWTP discharges to Mud Creek, which flows into the Mulberry Fork upstream of popular paddling spots.

Discharges from **Riley Maze WWTP**, located in Arab, Marshall County failed tests for toxicity at least 9 times between July 2008 and June 2009. The plant has also violated its limitations for fecal coliform (as well as other pollutants) in no fewer than 11 months since August of 2008 and as recently as May of 2010. The plant's discharge reports since May of 2010 are not yet available through ADEM. The plant discharges to Riley Maze Creek. The problems continue despite ADEM issuing an Administrative Order on April 27, 2007.

Together with the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) and Friends of the Locust Fork River, Black Warrior Riverkeeper continues an appeal of ADEM's October 23, 2009 issuance of an NPDES permit to MCoal Corporation for the **Rosa Coal Mine**, which authorizes the discharge of pollution from 62 mine outfalls into tributaries of the Locust Fork. That appeal notes numerous factual and legal errors by ADEM in issuing the permit. Despite ample evidence to the contrary, an administrative hearing officer recommended that the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) uphold the issuance of the permit and they issued their Final Order on June 10, 2010. The case was appealed to Montgomery Circuit Court, which affirmed the EMC's Order December 8, 2010. We are currently considering options, including whether to appeal the Circuit Court's decision.

**Uniontown Lagoon** has a permit to discharge solely to a sprayfield but frequently and illegally overflows into Cottonwood Creek which eventually flows into Big Prairie Creek in Hale County. It has violated its permit limitations in every month for which reports are available, at least since January of 2009, when Southeastern Cheese Inc. began overloading the Lagoon with its process wastewater. The Lagoon routinely violates its discharge limitations for fecal coliform, biological oxygen demand, solids, and nitrogen. ADEM has issued weak administrative orders to Uniontown Lagoon and Southeastern Cheese, and the violations and subsequent ecological impacts persist.

From March 11-13, 2010 mechanical failures at Jefferson County's **Village Creek WWTP** caused the bypass of 101 million gallons of partially treated sewage. Despite millions of dollars and at least several years of upgrades at the plant, the Village Creek WWTP still appears vulnerable to massive bypasses such as this. As far as we are aware, neither ADEM nor Jefferson County notified the public of this major bypass, risking the health of anyone recreating in Village Creek or Bayview Lake downstream of the plant. Alabama currently has regulations that require WWTP plant operators to notify ADEM, the public and local public health authorities when spills occur.



*Birmingham Hide & Tallow's new pipe discharging into Valley Creek in Bessemer. Photo by Nelson Brooke.*



*Village Creek WWTP bypassed 101 million gallons of partially treated sewage during March 11-13. Photo by Nelson Brooke. Flight provided by [SouthWings.org](http://SouthWings.org).*

## Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Board Spotlight: Elberta Reid

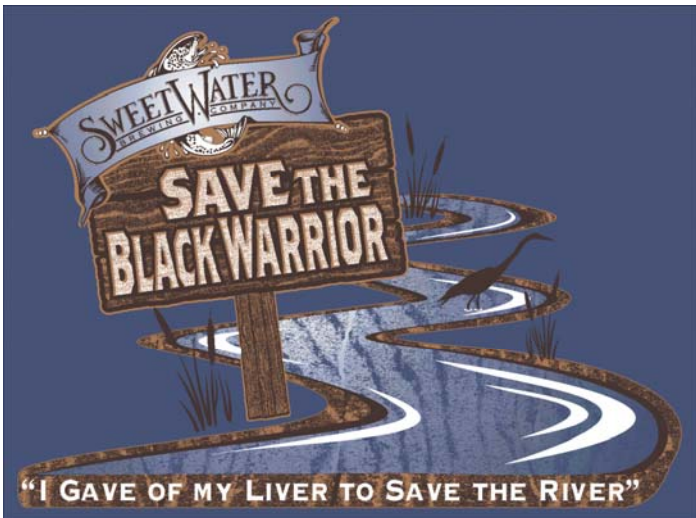
Elberta Reid joined Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Board of Directors in 2007 and serves as Treasurer. She grew up enjoying summer days on the Black Warrior and developed a passion for protecting the ecology of the watershed as well as its recreational values. Elberta helped with the effort to create the Sipsey Wilderness in the Black Warrior River watershed. She was formerly a member and chairman of the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission and represented the county on committees of the Regional Planning Commission.

Elberta has been active in local arts and community organizations and a number of environmental groups, including the Birmingham Audubon Society, Alabama Audubon Council, The Alabama Conservancy, Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, and Friends of Jemison Park. She was chairman of the ad hoc committee of environmental organizations that sponsored and lobbied through the Alabama legislature, over a four-year period, legislation for the Forever Wild land acquisition program. Shortly afterward Elberta was the recipient of a Malcolm Stewart Award for Conservationist of the Year from The Alabama Conservancy and a Golden Leaf Award from the Nature Conservancy of Alabama. Her main hobby is birding, and she also enjoys reading, bridge, tennis, and canoeing.

*Elberta Reid, Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Treasurer.*  
Photo by Mary Carolyn Boothby.



## SweetWater Completes 2010 "Save the Black Warrior" Collaboration



SweetWater Brewing Company has completed the 2010 edition of its month-long "Save the Black Warrior" campaign in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Dating back to the annual program's launch in 2008, Save the Black Warrior has raised more than \$30,000 to support Black Warrior Riverkeeper's river patrol and water quality monitoring efforts.

Countless citizens visited their favorite restaurants and bars throughout the program and purchased paper fish for \$1, \$5 or \$10, or a custom-made "Save the Black Warrior" t-shirt. Patrons signed or decorated their paper fish for display throughout the establishments. Awareness for Alabama's Black Warrior River increased immeasurably through Black Warrior posters and fliers SweetWater created for 39 participating businesses. The 2010 program raised nearly \$10,000 for Black Warrior Riverkeeper, with more donations incoming as several locations continue to sell merchandise. Visit [www.blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html](http://www.blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html) for a list of venues still offering the limited-edition shirts (design shown here).

SweetWater Brewing Company ([www.sweetwaterbrew.com](http://www.sweetwaterbrew.com)) is an Atlanta-based craft brewery specializing in aggressive West Coast style

beers. SweetWater's brews are unpasteurized and designed to be consumed fresh so distribution is limited to the Southeast. SweetWater runs similar river protection collaborations with other Waterkeeper Alliance organizations throughout the South, including French Broad Riverkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, Savannah Riverkeeper, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, and Upper Neuse Riverkeeper. SweetWater began partnering with their Atlanta neighbors at Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper several years ago. As SweetWater's markets expanded throughout the South, other Waterkeepers successfully requested their own collaborations with the company.

"Save the Black Warrior has been such an upbeat, interactive, and successful program," said Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. "The participating businesses have raised much-needed funds and awareness for the vital but vulnerable Black Warrior River watershed. We heard how much SweetWater had helped Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper in Georgia and asked if we could form a similar partnership. SweetWater was excited to collaborate with another Waterkeeper as their business expanded to our watershed."

Mountain High Outfitters and Silvercove Cove co-sponsored Save the Black Warrior, which included kick-off concerts by bluegrass favorites Rollin' in the Hay in Birmingham (Rogue Tavern) and Tuscaloosa (Brown's Corner). The top Birmingham fundraiser was J. Clyde, followed by Blackwell's. The top Tuscaloosa fundraiser location was Innisfree, followed by Egan's. These leading fundraisers won SweetWater Brewery tours and Riverkeeper patrol boat trips.



*New \$10 paper fish that donors signed for display on barroom walls. Made with FSC 100% Recycled Paper.*

# About Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



Black Warrior Riverkeeper's patrol boat at a chalk bluff on the river between Forkland and Demopolis. Photo by Nelson Brooke.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. We are a citizen-based nonprofit organization improving water quality, habitat, recreation, and public health in our patrol area, the Black Warrior River watershed. This basin is entirely contained in 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.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is governed by a Board of Directors and is a proud member of Waterkeeper Alliance ([waterkeeper.org](http://waterkeeper.org)). Our fellow Waterkeepers organizations in Alabama are Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, and Tennessee Riverkeeper. Our staff includes Nelson Brooke (Riverkeeper), Eva Dillard (Staff Attorney), John Kinney (Enforcement Coordinator), Jenn Patterson (Program Director), and Charles Scribner (Executive Director). Contact us at 205-458-0095 or [info@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:info@blackwarriorriver.org) to report pollution or to discuss volunteering, donating, or events. Learn more and get updates at [blackwarriorriver.org](http://blackwarriorriver.org).



## Membership / Donation Form



Please complete and mail form to:  
Black Warrior Riverkeeper  
712 37th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35222

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  Check enclosed /  American Express /  MasterCard /  Visa /  Non-monetary Contribution (Volunteer or In-Kind donations)

Credit Card number and expiration date (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mark a Donation Category

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- Watercress Darter.....\$50
- Vermilion Darter.....\$100
- Flattened Musk Turtle.....\$250
- Black Warrior Waterdog.....\$1,000
- Other Dollar amount.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Contributions are **tax deductible** to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services of monetary value will be provided in exchange.

**To purchase merchandise** (shirts, stickers, hunting/fishing gear, car tags, dock markers, Dr. Bronner's Soaps, hats, etc.), visit [blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html](http://blackwarriorriver.org/shop.html) or contact us at: 205-458-0095 or [info@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:info@blackwarriorriver.org).

In-kind donation (List donated goods or professional services): \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer time (List hours and type of volunteering): \_\_\_\_\_

Stock donation (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®

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## Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Ripples

### Graduate Students Intern for Riverkeeper

**Katie Clingan** is pursuing a Master's in Public Health at UAB. Katie researched the effects of pharmaceuticals on waterways and created a new page on our website about this problem. She represented Riverkeeper at community events, recruited members around the Smith Lake area, and helped with fundraising and educational outreach.

**Scott Frechette** is a law student at the University of Alabama and a member of the UA Environmental Law Society. Scott provided valuable legal research that helped us to draft a solid Notice of Intent to Sue in one industrial pollution case and updated our work on several important wastewater treatment plant cases.

**Ruth McVay** is a law student at Cumberland, where she is President of the Cumberland Environmental Law Society. Ruth identified riverfront stakeholders in Tuscaloosa County, researched the Endangered Species Act, and analyzed Surface Mining Commission files for an important coal policy issue. Ruth will research stormwater policy in 2011.

**Jeremy Richter** is a law student at Cumberland and a member of the Cumberland Environmental Law Society. After founding the North Jefferson Kayak Club, Jeremy organized a cleanup on Turkey Creek. He researched the Endangered Species Act and helped us apply for the Black Warrior's inclusion in a national list of significant waterways.

### Ross Morgan: Pro-bono Patrol Truck & Boat Help

Professional boat and car mechanic **Ross Morgan** generously volunteered over 100 hours of service this spring and summer, aiding our staff Riverkeeper in much needed maintenance and repair work on the patrol boat and truck. This sort of tedious work is time-consuming and expensive, so we greatly appreciate Ross' willingness to volunteer his time and expertise to the cause. Having a properly running boat (and truck to tow it) is critical to efficient patrols and safe operations. Thank you, Ross!

### Riverkeeper Event: McWane Science Center 1/18

Come to **McWane Science Center** for a Black Warrior fundraiser called "Sippin' with the Fishes" on **Tuesday January 18, 2011** (6:00 to 8:30). Experience the aquarium after dark, and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks, including SweetWater. Then, head to the IMAX® Dome Theater, learn about Black Warrior from Nelson Brooke, and watch "Wild Ocean" on the state's largest movie screen! \$20 tickets include Wild Ocean IMAX®, bar, dinner, and parking. Purchase tickets at [mcwane.org](http://mcwane.org) or call 205-714-8300.

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