



# Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



## Progress Begins on Public Notification of Sewage Spills

As part of an overall effort to improve reporting and public notification of sewage overflows, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has released two new tools. The first tool is an online map which allows citizens to identify the exact location of all current spills in the state: [gis.adem.alabama.gov/sso/index.html](http://gis.adem.alabama.gov/sso/index.html). The second tool is an opt-in email notification system that will inform citizens of a sewage spill in their selected county or counties. To sign up to receive notifications, citizens need to follow these steps:

1. Visit the Alabama Department of Environmental Management website: [www.adem.alabama.gov](http://www.adem.alabama.gov)
2. On the left sidebar, enter your email address for ADEM email notifications, then click submit
3. Check the last box to be notified of Sanitary Sewer Overflows
4. Select the counties you live and recreate in and then click submit

These improvements come on the heels of a petition filed in March by the Alabama Rivers Alliance, Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Friends of Hurricane Creek, Little River Waterkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper and Tennessee Riverkeeper. The petition asks the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), the board which oversees ADEM, to improve requirements for public notification of sewage spills. Although wastewater treatment plants are required by Alabama law to “immediately” notify the public of sewage spills, there are no regulations to specify a time, plan or even a minimum level of notification.

Recent high profile events, like a huge sewage overflow in Northport which put up to 4,000,000 gallons of sewage into the Black Warrior River right before the busy July 4, 2016 weekend, highlighted this pressing problem and prompted the petition. Public concern has grown recently with widespread media coverage of the petition as well as an interactive map the groups released in 2017 showing 2016 sewage spills. In only two weeks after being released, that online map was viewed over 32,000 times.

The data underlying the map indicates that between 28.8 million gallons and 46.2 million gallons of sewage overflows were reported in 2016, not including the 9% of spills reported that did not include a volume estimate. The true number of sewage spills that occurred across Alabama in 2016 is even higher than the map indicates, as the data reported was incomplete and there were countless recurring spill locations which were not reported as required by law. For over 28% of spills, the operator admitted it did not verbally notify ADEM within 24 hours as required by law. For 23% , no effort was reported by operators towards notifying the public despite the fact that “immediate notification” of the public is required by law.

“We commend ADEM’s development of a centralized notification system,” said Black Warrior Riverkeeper staff attorney Eva Dillard, who represents the petitioners. “We look forward to combining this system with other important tools outlined by our petition that will further improve public notification and better protect the citizens of Alabama from sewage overflows.”

Sewage treatment facilities are still required to report spills electronically to ADEM within 24 hours of detection. Upon receiving those reports, ADEM will now send email alerts within 15 minutes to anyone who has opted in to their new notification system. Meanwhile, the EMC is now studying the issue of public notification presented by the petition. They will be conducting a stakeholder meeting regarding this issue in the coming months in an effort to find the most practicable solution for ensuring the protection of public health. Stay tuned for updates at [BlackWarriorRiver.org](http://BlackWarriorRiver.org). To view the petition, visit: [blackwarriorriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Petition.3.7.17.pdf](http://blackwarriorriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Petition.3.7.17.pdf)



*Sewage flows from a Birmingham manhole, enters a nearby storm drain, and eventually flows to Village Creek, a major tributary of the Black Warrior River's Locust Fork in Jefferson County.*  
Photo by Nelson Brooke.

## Lawsuit Challenges Morris Mine's Stream Fill Permit on the Locust Fork



*Imperiled by flawed permits for stream filling at coal mines: the Black Warrior River's Locust Fork in Jefferson County.*

Photo by Nelson Brooke.

Conservation groups are challenging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' approval of another permit authorizing coal mining material to be dumped into streams that feed into the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River in Jefferson County. The groups charge that the federal agency failed to account for the permit's adverse effects on a watershed that has been continuously degraded by previous and current mining activities for decades. The Southern Environmental Law Center filed the challenge on March 21, 2017 on behalf of Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Defenders of Wildlife, arguing that allowing stream filling at Black Warrior Minerals Mine #2 is yet another example where the agency has rubberstamped approvals without properly analyzing the site-specific and broader impacts of the permit, including compromised water quality, habitat degradation, and threats to rare aquatic wildlife.

"The Corps' lax approach toward issuing stream fill permits has resulted in many miles of important streams and acres of wetlands being filled with coal mining waste," said Nelson Brooke, Black Warrior Riverkeeper. "The Corps' permitting system is too destructive for Alabama's water resources, which deserve lasting protection from coal mining activities."

With over 100 permitted coal mines in the Black Warrior River watershed, impacts from coal mining are some of the biggest threats to water quality in the region. Black Warrior Minerals Mine #2 is a 1,368 acre mine that represents a second phase of the Morris Mine, which began with a surface mining operation at Black Warrior Minerals Mine #1. Polluted water discharged from this mine will go into waters that feed the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River. The Locust Fork is already listed as impaired by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and is home to some of Alabama's rarest species and their federally-protected critical habitat. The Locust Fork is also a popular destination for fishing, paddling, and other forms of outdoor recreation, a multi-billion dollar industry for Alabama.

Mine discharges will also flow into Turkey Creek, known habitat for listed species such as the flattened musk turtle and various endangered fish. Yet the Corps of Engineers and Fish and Wildlife Service routinely fail to consider the impacts of mines like this on these species, finding here that the mine would have no effect on imperiled aquatic species.

"The permitting process for coal mines such as this not only fails to comply with federal laws, it wreaks havoc on Alabama's beautiful waterways, the quality of drinking water, and the fish and wildlife that depend on these resources," said Catherine Wannamaker from SELC. "When miles of streams and wetlands are permanently filled in as they will be at this site, they can no longer function to filter out pollution such as sediment and heavy metals. The lax permitting process for these mines also threatens the great biodiversity that makes Alabama's rivers unique."

The Southern Environmental Law Center, Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Defenders of Wildlife challenged a similar mining permit on the Locust Fork in late 2015, and the Corps of Engineers suspended that permit in response to the lawsuit. Unfortunately, the Corps and Fish and Wildlife Service have approved the BWM Mine without considering any of the issues raised in the earlier case.

EPA has commented that the discharge limitations and best management practices typically required at coal mining sites on the Locust Fork are ineffective in maintaining water quality and are allowing the continued degradation of the river. However, the Corps continues to issue these permits without adequate protections or appropriate mitigation measures.

To read the complaint, visit: [blackwarriorriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/BlackWarriorMineralsComplaint.pdf](http://blackwarriorriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/BlackWarriorMineralsComplaint.pdf)

## New FISH GUIDE Program Helps Fishermen across Alabama

Our Waterkeeper neighbor Coosa Riverkeeper has developed a new program, FISH GUIDE, as a response to surveys conducted with over 125 fishermen on the Coosa River. Along with providing fishermen with supplementary information about the fish consumption advisories, the new program also features a toll-free hotline for fishermen to immediately hear the advisories throughout the State.

Several of Coosa Riverkeeper's partners across Alabama are sponsors of this free public service, including Alabama Rivers Alliance, Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, and Mobile Baykeeper.

In 2016, there were 34 fish consumption advisories on the Coosa River and its tributaries for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and methylmercury. The advisories are recommendations made by the Alabama Department of Public Health concerning the portion size and frequency of fish consumed in specific waterbodies throughout Alabama. According to Coosa Riverkeeper's surveys conducted with more than 125 fisherman on the Coosa River, nearly half of the fishermen were unaware of these advisories, and what it means for the health of themselves and their families.

Coosa Riverkeeper's FISH GUIDE program was created to educate fishermen throughout the state and alert them to the fish consumption advisories in their watershed. FISH GUIDE also offers multiple videos with alternatives to traditional preparations of the fish that reduce the risk of the dangerous toxins.

"In Alabama, our state motto is "We Dare to Defend Our Rights" but our fishermen and their families don't have a right to know where fish consumption advisories are in their local waterways. Nearly every river in Alabama — The River State — has fish consumption advisories," Justinn Overton, Executive Director of Coosa Riverkeeper said. "We saw a need for a better way to alert citizens of these advisories and were excited to tackle the challenge. We are confident our new toll-free hotline will make these advisories more accessible and easier to understand for the hundreds of subsistence fishermen throughout the Coosa River and the entire state."

The program includes three main components. First, a toll-free hotline lists all advisories throughout the state, by watershed. Fisherman can simply call 1 844-219-RISK to hear the current fish consumption advisories throughout Alabama. Second, an interactive map of the Coosa River shows where to find all 34 fish consumption advisories, local marinas and bait shop, and public access points like boat ramps and canoe launches. Third, short videos demonstrate alternative ways to filet a fish and recipes that reduce exposure to dangerous legacy toxins like PCBs.

"Alabamians have a right to eat the fish they catch, but if those fish aren't safe to eat they deserve to know that," said Nelson Brooke, Black Warrior Riverkeeper. "Every fisherman on Smith lake and Lake Tuscaloosa needs to know there are mercury fish consumption advisories on these lakes, so they can make informed decisions about where to fish and which fish are unsafe to eat — that is the purpose of FISH GUIDE."

To learn more about the toxins in our fish and rivers, and for more information on FISH GUIDE, visit:

[CoosaRiver.org/FishGuide](http://CoosaRiver.org/FishGuide)

### COOSA RIVER FISH GUIDE

presents

## Alabama Fish Consumption Advisory Hotline

# CALL (844) 219-RISK

to hear the fish consumption advisories  
on your local waterways!

*Call the number above and...*

- Press **1** for the Coosa River and Lakes
- Press **2** for the Tallapoosa River and Lakes
- Press **3** for the Alabama River
- Press **4** for the Gulf Coast, Mobile & Baldwin County
- Press **5** for the Tombigbee & Sipsey River
- Press **6** for the Black Warrior River and Lakes
- Press **7** for the Cahaba River & Lake Purdy
- Press **8** for the Tennessee River and Lakes
- Press **9** for the Southeast Alabama region

*(Chattahoochee, Choctawhatchee, Conecuh, Sepulga, Yellow & Pea)*

**To learn about specific contaminants in your fish & ways to reduce your exposure, please visit**  
[CoosaRiver.org/FishGuide](http://CoosaRiver.org/FishGuide)

This FREE public service is sponsored by:



*A great American tradition: a grandfather and grandson enjoy fishing together on the Black Warrior River's Mulberry Fork in Walker County. Photo by Nelson Brooke.*

## Conservation Groups Join Legal Battle to Protect Endangered Wildlife

Conservation groups have moved to intervene in a federal challenge filed by 18 states, including Alabama and South Carolina, to undo important protections for endangered species. Representing Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Defenders of Wildlife, and the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, the Southern Environmental Law Center filed a motion to intervene on February 28, 2017 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama in support of the rules. These rules allow agencies to more fully protect important and vulnerable “critical habitats” in the Southeast that are necessary for the survival of species such as endangered sea turtles and piping plovers.

“Alabama ranks number 1 in the U.S. for freshwater biodiversity, yet pollution and habitat loss put 19% of our freshwater fish species at risk,” said Charles Scribner, Executive Director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper. “Protecting habitat not only defends wildlife but also the millions of Americans who obtain drinking water from the same rivers these species inhabit.”

“For over four decades the Endangered Species Act has prevented hundreds of species from going extinct, and it has protected the beautiful places and diverse wildlife that make the Southeast so special,” said Catherine Wannamaker, Senior Attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center. “This attempt is the first salvo against the Endangered Species Act, so we are taking action to ensure these important protections stay in place for all who care about the South.”

“Habitat loss is the single greatest driver of extinction for most species,” said Jason Rylander, Senior Attorney with Defenders of Wildlife. “This is a direct attack on vital protections for our nation’s most vulnerable wildlife. Critical habitat gives endangered species a leg up on the road to recovery, which is why we have to defend these important protections.”

“These protections are vitally important in preserving our landscapes and ecosystems that make this region unique and that endangered wildlife depend on for survival,” said Natalie Olson, Land Use Program Director and Staff Attorney with the Coastal Conservation League. “In order to protect these rare and threatened habitats across the Southeast—our barrier islands, ocean beaches, wetlands, and forests—it’s imperative that these protections remain in place.”

The states opposing these protections, led by Alabama’s former attorney general Luther Strange, took no legal action for nine months after the new protections were put in place in March 2016. Yet just weeks after the election of President Trump, the states filed a lawsuit to throw out the rules. Shortly after filing, the states wrote to newly-elected President Trump and urged him to undo these protections. The Trump Administration also signaled that it might be considering such a rollback by seeking a stay of the litigation to re-examine its position.

Similarly, recent legislative efforts on the Hill seek to weaken the Endangered Species Act, which currently protects well over a thousand species and their habitats, by making it more difficult to list species or expediting the removal of already listed species. The 114th Congress saw no less than 130 bills and amendments that would have weakened the ESA. Already more than a dozen bills have been introduced in this Congress that would reduce protections for a variety of species. For 40 years, the Endangered Species Act has helped to preserve 98 percent of the plant and animal species under its protection from extinction. The ESA is responsible for protecting many species in the Southeast, including the American alligator, the brown pelican, the peregrine falcon, and the Atlantic piping plover.

More: [southernenvironment.org/uploads/words\\_docs/2017.02.28\\_Filed\\_Memorandum\\_in\\_Support\\_of\\_Motion\\_and\\_attachments.pdf](http://southernenvironment.org/uploads/words_docs/2017.02.28_Filed_Memorandum_in_Support_of_Motion_and_attachments.pdf)



*U.S. Fish and Wildlife recently proposed the Black Warrior waterdog as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act and proposed designating 669 river miles within 11 tributaries of the Black Warrior River basin as its critical habitat.* Photo by Joseph Jenkins.

## ADEM & Uniontown Let Paul W. Bryant Jr.'s Plant Disrupt Sewage Lagoon



*Uniontown's Harvest Select catfish processing facility owned by Paul W. Bryant Jr.'s Greene Group, Inc.*

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

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is asking the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the City of Uniontown to stop allowing local catfish processor Harvest Select to disrupt the sewage treatment process at the failing Uniontown Lagoon and its Sprayfield #1. Harvest Select, owned by Paul W. Bryant, Jr.'s Greene Group, Inc., discharges hundreds of thousands of gallons of processing wastewater into the Uniontown Lagoon every day.

The Uniontown Lagoon has the capacity to treat 525,000 gallons of wastewater per day. At times, Harvest Select has discharged that much in a single day, leaving the lagoon no capacity to hold or properly treat Uniontown's wastewater.

Chronic overflows from the Uniontown Lagoon and Sprayfield #1 into area streams are direct violations of the Clean Water Act which put the health of locals, livestock, wildlife, and downstream users in jeopardy. Despite the fact that ADEM and Uniontown have been in litigation for years over the lagoon's failures, neither the city nor ADEM has ever sought to limit the large volume of wastewater Harvest Select discharges into the Uniontown Lagoon.

Recently, ADEM drafted a renewal of Harvest Select's wastewater permit and, once again, did not seek to limit the amount of wastewater the catfish processor sends to the lagoon. In addition, Uniontown did not change Harvest Select's pretreatment requirements, even though the high concentrations of certain pollutants often present in the waste have similarly challenged the Uniontown Lagoon.

According to the letter, ADEM and Uniontown are missing an important opportunity to address some of the underlying causes of the Uniontown Lagoon's failures and lessen the burden of pollution on local residents, the environment, and all who fish, swim, and recreate downstream. The letter calls on ADEM to revise the draft permit with more stringent limitations and for Uniontown to strengthen Harvest Select's pretreatment standards.

Uniontown has been plagued by chronic raw sewage overflows and treatment failures at the lagoon and its sprayfield. Conservation groups have been fighting to get ADEM and Uniontown to address these and other pollution or public health issues for years, so far with little response from the City of Uniontown or ADEM.

To learn more about this issue and other pollution problems in Uniontown, contact the Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health and Justice: [blackbeltcitizens.org/](http://blackbeltcitizens.org/). To read the letter, visit: [blackwarriorriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Harvest-Select-Letter-3-17-17.pdf](http://blackwarriorriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Harvest-Select-Letter-3-17-17.pdf).



*Uniontown residents, including the Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health & Justice, have travelled to Montgomery for many years to protest sewage treatment failures neglected by ADEM.*

Photo by Nelson Brooke.

## Top UA PR Student Earns Grant to Intern at Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®



*Black Warrior Riverkeeper intern Hope Runyan.*  
Photo by The UA Department of Advertising and Public Relations.

Hope Runyan, a senior at The University of Alabama, received a grant from the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation to work with Black Warrior Riverkeeper. Runyan, a senior majoring in public relations, worked for the organization as a communications intern throughout the summer. The grant, provided by a partnership between the Munson Foundation and The University of Alabama's Department of Advertising and Public Relations, is the top highest award given to a student in the College of Communication and Information Sciences.

Last year, 589 volunteers donated a record 9,526 community service hours through Black Warrior Riverkeeper projects. Most of the volunteers were UA students.

"I am so honored to receive this grant and have the opportunity to work with an organization that has such a big impact on Alabama," said Runyan, a resident of Bessemer. "By directly affecting communities and having such a large influence throughout the state, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is allowing me to build on my communications skills in every task."

"We are so blessed to have The University of Alabama's PR program, perennially ranked among the nation's top 5, supporting us through the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation's innovative internship grant," said Charles Scribner, executive director of Black Warrior Riverkeeper.

The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation funds efforts that focus on the conservation of natural resources in eastern North America and the Caribbean Basin, with an emphasis on the United States. In addition to providing grants directly to environmental nonprofits such as Black Warrior Riverkeeper, the Munson Foundation assists conservation by funding this internship program at The University of Alabama.

"Thanks to the commitment of The University of Alabama and the generous welcome by hosting organizations, undergraduates have an opportunity to see how a small non-profit operates, and how communications can be a valuable tool in furthering the organization's mission and goals," said Angel Braestrup, executive director of the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation. "Black Warrior Riverkeeper is working to ensure that Alabama's amazing river resources are healthy enough to serve current and future generations, and Hope will be part of the next generation of leaders who understands just how important that is."

"The grant provides a salary for students interning at the conservation organizations," explained Dr. Joseph Phelps, chairman of The University of Alabama's Department of Advertising and Public Relations. "The students benefit from the paycheck and the excellent experience and the nonprofit organizations benefit from the student's efforts in an area that they typically do not have the funds to staff on a full-time basis. This is a great way for the foundation to meet its objectives and help students at the same time."

To read Hope's photo essays about her internship, visit: [blackwarriorriver.org/adventures-of-hope/](http://blackwarriorriver.org/adventures-of-hope/)

## Alabamians Appeal to Court to Hold EPA Accountable to Clean Water Act

On May 2, 2017, seven conservation groups from Alabama petitioned the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals to review the process undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine whether the State of Alabama is complying with its obligations to protect water in Alabama. In 2010, the petitioners — Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Inc., Friends of Hurricane Creek, Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Inc., Sierra Club Alabama Chapter, Friends of the Locust Fork River, and Alabama Rivers Alliance, Inc. — sent a petition to the EPA to commence proceedings to withdraw Alabama's water pollution permitting program because of the state's failure to comply with the minimum requirements of the Clean Water Act.

The 2010 petition identified 26 issues where Alabama failed to meet its obligation or did not comply with the Clean Water Act, including shortfalls in resources and personnel at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and its failure to develop an adequate enforcement policy.

"The EPA acknowledged the validity of our concerns throughout their review process," said Cindy Lowry, executive director of the Alabama Rivers Alliance. "However, the agency did not follow the proper steps laid out in the Clean Water Act in coming to their final decision to deny our petition. We must hold EPA and all agencies accountable to following the laws that have been put in place to protect our clean water."

Along with the procedural problems, petitioners dispute many of the Agency's specific findings. "Petitioners did their homework and provided very specific examples where ADEM and the State are not meeting its obligations," said David Butler, Cahaba Riverkeeper. "Despite having years to fix its program, ADEM is still failing to meet minimum Clean Water Act requirements."

Among the Clean Water Act requirements that ADEM is still failing to meet are providing adequate public notice of pollution discharge locations, inspecting specific facilities and capturing the economic benefit realized by polluters. The petitioners' objective for this petition to the court is to require the EPA to follow the procedure outlined in the Clean Water Act and address the petitioners' concerns in a fair and transparent process. To read the appeal, visit: [blackwarriorriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/EPA.Appeal.pdf](http://blackwarriorriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/EPA.Appeal.pdf)



# Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Membership / Donation Form

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

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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 /  Discover /  Non-monetary Contribution (Volunteer or In-Kind)

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

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

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

(Any gift above) In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

(Any gift above) In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & address to notify of memorial or honorarium gift: \_\_\_\_\_

## About Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

Our mission is to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries. We are a citizen-based nonprofit dedicated to improving water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, and public health in our patrol area, the Black Warrior River watershed. This vital basin is contained entirely in Alabama, America's leading state for freshwater biodiversity.

Our staff includes Nelson Brooke (Riverkeeper), Eva Dillard (Staff Attorney), John Kinney (Enforcement Coordinator), and Charles Scribner (Executive Director). Our website is [BlackWarriorRiver.org](http://BlackWarriorRiver.org).

To report pollution or to discuss how you can help protect your water, call us at (205) 458-0095 or email [info@blackwarriorriver.org](mailto:info@blackwarriorriver.org).

We are members of the Alabama Association of Nonprofits, Alabama Rivers Alliance, River Network, and Waterkeeper Alliance. Other Waterkeepers in Alabama include Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper, Little River Waterkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper, and Tennessee Riverkeeper.



*Nelson Brooke patrols the Black Warrior River.*  
Photo by John Wathen.

Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER®

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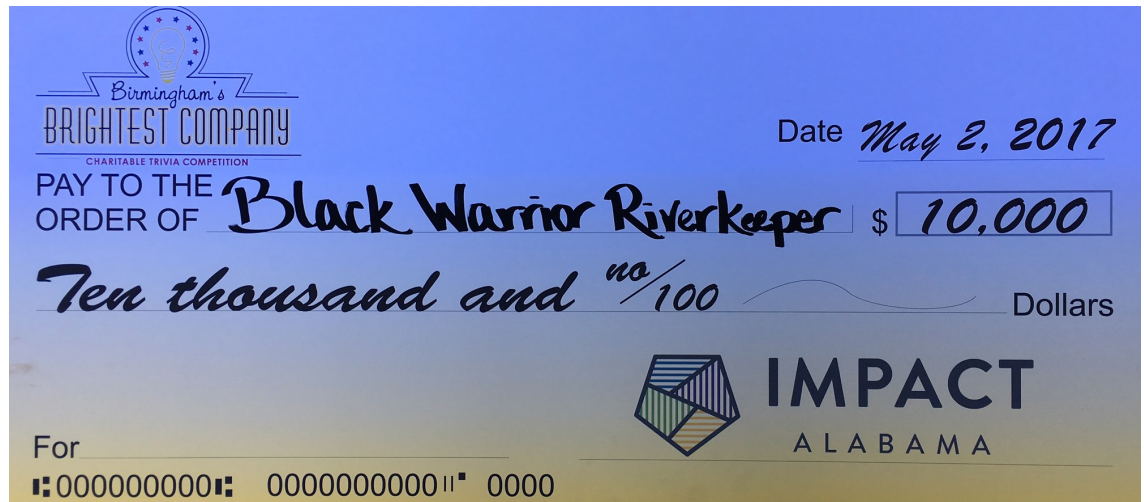
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## Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Awards

While the most rewarding part of our work is the work itself, we earnestly thank the great groups who have given us awards in 2017. Nelson Brooke won the Visionary Award from **SouthWings**. Charles Scribner won the Alumni Service Award from **UAB College of Arts & Sciences** and the James Lowery Service Award from **Alabama Rivers Alliance**. And for the third time in four years, Black Warrior Riverkeeper won the title of Birmingham's Brightest Company as Baird Castleberry, Bry Coburn, Stephen Coburn, Cheyanne Cote-Coburn, Eva Dillard, and John Kinney won **Impact America's** Brightest Company Charitable Trivia Competition.



## Black Warrior RIVERKEEPER® Interns

**Tiffany Colburn** is a recent graduate of UAB who studied public health and served on the Student Government Association. Tiffany reviewed facilities' discharge monitoring reports and researched the legendary Sipsey Creature who lurks near her home in Walker County.

**Jacqueline Taylor** is a recent graduate of Samford University who studied biology and was a member of the Christian environmental club, Restoring Eden. You may recognize her name: Jacqueline interned with us last year and enjoyed it so much that she returned! #WARRIOR

**Savannah Thompson** is a recent graduate of the University of Montevallo who studied Environmental and Social Policy and was a member of the UM Environmental Club. Savannah represented us at many public events and interviewed fishermen for our new creel survey project.

**Sha'Warren Webster** is a student at Holy Family Cristo Rey Catholic High School who participates in their innovative Corporate Internship Program. Sha'Warren reviewed facilities' discharge monitoring reports and assisted on many fundraising and educational outreach projects.