



# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

*Protecting for 20 years from 1997 to 2017*

# PROTECTING FOR 20 YEARS



Since 1997 Mobile Baykeeper has had 10 board presidents and a lengthy roster of incredible board members, an amazing and diverse staff (starting with one and reaching fourteen in 2017), and more than 4,500 members whose sustaining support has helped us get to where we are today.

We have worked on a multitude of issues in almost every town in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, as well as many in Monroe, Jackson and Clarke Counties. We've also worked on statewide issues and even a few national campaigns when we knew there were issues threatening the health of our beautiful Mobile Bay Watershed and coastal communities.

We've had our fair share of victories and tough losses. We fought against major road and pipeline projects affecting our drinking water supply. We stopped Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import and export terminals from endangering Mobile Bay. We dealt with the nation's largest environmental disaster in 2010 – the BP/Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster. Following the spill, we built living shorelines to restore some of the damage that was done. We've cleaned up thousands of pounds of litter and removed thousands of apple snails from Three Mile Creek.

We've had an incredible 20 years, but we still have a long way to go. We know 2018 is going to be an important year for Mobile Bay. The two biggest threats we will tackle are sewage spills and coal ash. Regardless of the issue, we always strive to work together with civic, business and industry leaders to ensure our common goals for a healthy environment, economy, and community are the primary drivers behind every decision we make. Mobile Baykeeper speaks up on behalf of Mobile Bay and our voice is strong thanks to our incredible members and the community support we have earned over the last 20 years. Your support and involvement is why we do what we do.

Sincerely,



Casi (kc) Callaway  
*Executive Director & Baykeeper*



*Above: My son Coleman (10), husband Jarrett, and I enjoy an afternoon canoeing on the Delta. They were clearly focused on something else!*

## Baykeeper Staff: Now and Then



*Above: Bobby Kennedy and I speak to the crowd during Bay Bash 1999 when he came down to officially induct Mobile Baykeeper into Waterkeeper Alliance. At this time, I was the only Baykeeper staff member.*



*Above: Now a staff of 14, The Baykeeper team celebrated a very successful 2017 during the annual holiday party at my house. It's amazing how much we have grown over the years!*

# A YEAR OF NEW HEIGHTS



As I look back on 2017, I can't help but be grateful to have served as Board President during such a special time in Mobile Baykeeper's history as we celebrated 20 years of being the advocate, watchdog, and protector of the Mobile Bay Watershed. We kicked off 2017 with a reunion at the home of founding member Jack V. Greer on the western shore of Mobile Bay - the same place where the Baykeeper story began 20 years ago. This set the tone for a year of new heights where we witnessed an extraordinary amount of growth to many of our key programs.

Now covering four high schools across four watersheds in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, SWAMP (an education action program that educates students on watersheds and trains them to become water quality monitors) continued to expand its reach and inspire more young people to become stewards of our local watersheds. The addition of the AmeriCorps Program nearly doubled our staff size, while more importantly, enabled us to better patrol and monitor local waterways, educate more students on watersheds and water quality, and engage a broader, diverse volunteer base.

This growth, however, didn't come without its share of challenges. With more than 27 million gallons of sewage spills reported in 2017 and an ongoing lawsuit against Daphne Utilities, sewer was without a doubt the biggest issue we faced throughout the year. The sewer issues didn't stop with Daphne though. Regardless of the utility, there is a consistent theme we see throughout the area – a dire need to invest in infrastructure upgrades and improvements in public notification.

We need your support to ensure we can continue being the watchdog, informed voice of reason, and collaborator for solutions in Coastal Alabama. It has been an honor to serve as your Board President and I look forward to staying actively engaged as a board member in the future. Thank you for your commitment to clean water, clean air, and healthy communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Keith".

Wayne Keith  
*Outgoing Board President*



*Above: My grandchildren and I enjoy one of our favorite afternoon activities - taking the boat out on Dog River.*

## 2017 Highlights



*Above: Fellow board member Bryan Pape and I help volunteer at the post-race party following the 13th Annual Publix Grandman Triathlon in June.*



*Above (L to R): Sumpter McGowin (current Board President), Casi, and I enjoy a laugh at Mobile Baykeeper's 20th Anniversary Bay Bash in December 2017.*

# OUR LEADERSHIP

## Board of Directors

### President



**Sumpter McGowin**  
*Phelps Dunbar LLP*

### Vice-President



**Steve McClure**  
*Hargrove - EPC*

### Secretary



**Rebecca Williams**  
*Williams Financial*

### Treasurer



**Cullan Duke**  
*Regions Bank*



**Kelly Finley**  
*FM Talk 106.5*



**Cullen Jacobs**  
*RCJ Construction*



**Wayne Keith**  
*Keith Air Conditioning*



**Jep Hill**  
*CPSI*



**Ray Mayhall**  
*SERVPRO Southwest Mobile*



**Paul Myrick**  
*The Kullman Firm*



**Benson O'Connor**  
*White-Spinner Investments, LLC*



**Bryan Pape**  
*WBP Management, LLC*



**Scott Posey**  
*AM/NS Calvert*



**Debbie Quinn**  
*Alabama Trails Commission*



**Sam St. John**  
*Logical Computer Solutions*



**Jasmine Washington**  
*Stantec*



**Lee Webb**  
*Trustmark Bank*

### Special Thanks

Special thanks to outgoing board members Lee Adams, Kelly McGriff and Mel Washington for years of dedication and service to Mobile Baykeeper. We greatly appreciate their efforts and wish them all the best!



Waterkeeper® Alliance is a global movement uniting more than 340 Waterkeeper organizations around the world. Waterkeepers protect more than two million square miles of rivers, streams and coastlines in the Americas, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa. Our mission is swimmable, fishable, drinkable waters worldwide.

## Staff



**Casi (kc) Callaway**  
*Executive Director & Baykeeper*



**Justine Herlihy**  
*Development Director*



**Cade Kistler**  
*Program Director*



**Hanlon Walsh**  
*Communications Director*



**Jamie Bullock**  
*Education & Outreach  
Coordinator*



**Laura Jackson**  
*Program & Grants Coordinator*



**Chad Chappell**  
*Membership & Volunteer Coordinator*



**Rebecca Domangué**  
*Operations Manager*

## AmeriCorps Members



**Diego Calderon-Arrieta**  
*Patrol & Monitoring*



**Ellie Mallon**  
*Patrol & Monitoring*



**Angelica Howard**  
*SWAMP*



**Leslie Revel**  
*SWAMP*



**Sarah Hogan**  
*Volunteer Engagement*



**Karrie Quirin**  
*Volunteer Engagement*

## Young Advisory Council Leadership Committee



**Jep Hill**, *President*  
*CPSI*



**Brent Keith**, *Vice-President*  
*Keith Air Conditioning*



**Laura Curtis**, *Secretary*  
*Castlen Elementary*



**Renita Allen**  
*Cunningham Bounds LLC*



**John Cutts**  
*American Tank & Vessel*



**Lyndsey Dixon**  
*Wilkins Miller LLC*



**Reggie Hill**  
*Success 4 The Future*



**Elizabeth Mack**  
*Spring Hill College*



**Breck Pappas**  
*PMT Publishing*



**Benton Thompson**  
*Merrill Lynch*



**Charles Tisher**  
*Clark Greer  
Latham & Associates*



**Lacie Williams**  
*Energy Technical Services*

### Special Thanks


Special thanks to outgoing Young Advisory Council Leadership Committee Members Jessica Callahan and Ashley Robinson for their dedication and commitment to the Young Advisory Council. We are grateful for their support and wish them the best of luck!

# ENSURING **RESPONSIBLE** GROWTH



**BP Restoration - Coal Ash - Advocacy at a Glance - AmeriCorps**

**W**e work to ensure responsible growth through early and continued involvement in policy, planning, and funding to protect, restore, and enhance the Mobile Bay Watershed and coastal communities. We ensure early involvement in proposed policies, projects, and funding. We identify and monitor key ongoing and long-term issues. We develop internal response plans for natural and man-made disasters.



*“We must not let the lesson of the BP Oil Disaster be lost. Projects funded with BP disaster dollars must support a strong economy and community by protecting and restoring our environment.”*

*- Casi (kc) Callaway*

## RESTORING ALABAMA'S COAST

Nearly eight years after the 2010 BP Oil Disaster, we continue to remain actively engaged in ensuring restoration projects restore what was lost during one of the nation's worst environmental disasters

**O**n April 20, 2010, one of the nation's worst environmental disasters struck Alabama's Gulf Coast – the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster. Eleven men died and more than 200 million gallons of oil gushed into the Gulf of Mexico for 87 days. Oil hit Alabama's beautiful white beaches and caused an estimated \$1 billion of economic damage – forever reminding us the intrinsic link between the health of our environment and economy.

Today, nearly eight years later, we still see news reports trickle in with additional findings of human and marine life health impacts. We still see tar balls wash up on our beaches. Since the disaster, our main focus has been on restoration – ensuring we select projects that restore the damage that was done to our environment, economy, and community in Coastal Alabama.

In 2017, we remained actively engaged in BP Restoration efforts. We submitted comment letters to each member of the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC) expressing our support and opposition to several of the projects on the proposed funding list. Projects we strongly supported included land acquisition projects, trail development projects, living shoreline and wetland restoration projects, and stormwater infrastructure projects. We also supported funding for sewer projects, but determining which projects to fund with limited dollars presented a significant challenge. We oppose any projects

that create negative environmental impacts and those that do not benefit the entire community.

In March 2018, the AGCRC announced a total of \$315 million selected for restoration projects on Alabama's Gulf Coast. We were glad to see many worthy projects selected, including sewage infrastructure upgrades, funding for The Mobile Greenway Initiative, Little Lagoon Restoration, various stormwater management projects, and other projects focused on park and trail development. In total, 27 of the projects we supported made it to the evaluation funding stage, and 18 of those made it to the final list of funding recommendations.

On the other hand, we were disappointed to see how much money was selected for other projects – like building roads that will simply fill holes in budgets, not transform our community. Nearly \$100 million and one-third of the total funding was allocated to projects that could have a negative impact on the environment. Two of the six projects we formally opposed made this list, so we still have more work to do.

There is significant amount of money left to be spent from the RESTORE Act and we will continue staying engaged to **ensure** these funds are spent wisely. This will help us be resilient against the next natural or man-made disaster that strikes our beautiful Gulf Coast.



# COAL ASH IN THE DELTA

A toxic danger quietly polluting the Mobile River in the heart of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta

Often referred to as North America's Amazon, the Mobile-Tensaw Delta is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world. It feeds life into our rivers, creeks, bays, and bayous and provide us with recreational opportunities like swimming, fishing, boating, and hunting. It also serves as the backbone to many of our critical industries - seafood, tourism, shipping, and real estate - that depend on healthy waterways to thrive. Unfortunately, the Delta and Mobile Bay are facing a potential threat - a "silent danger" known as coal ash.

Coal ash is the toxic byproduct of burning coal and contains heavy metals such as arsenic, mercury, and lead which can endanger human health, wildlife, drinking water, and nearby waterways. At Alabama Power's Plant Barry in North Mobile County, more than 21 million tons of toxic coal ash is sitting in an **unlined pond** (meaning there is no barrier for pollution to leak out of the pond) next to the Mobile River in the heart of the Delta. In November 2016, to comply with federal regulations, Alabama Power announced preliminary plans to "cap in

place" its coal ash and leave it to sit in a 597-acre unlined pond - polluting groundwater and jeopardizing our health for years to come.

The pond is held together by a dam made of coal ash, dirt, and clay, making it susceptible to collapse from the effects of a hurricane or heavy rain. If a coal ash spill were to occur, the impacts would be catastrophic. Similar incidents have occurred across the United States, such as the one billion gallon Tennessee Valley Authority spill in Kingston, TN in 2008 that cost an estimated \$1.2 billion to clean up over nearly 10 years. Today, other utilities in the Southeast (Georgia and South Carolina) have made the responsible decision to dig up coal ash and move it away from critical waterways.

Alabama Power is a well-respected leader throughout the state and we want to see them **do the right thing** by following the lead of these utilities and moving the coal ash away from the Mobile River. This is **the only safe option** to protect the health of our environment, economy, and community for the future.

## Let Your Voice Be Heard

*We need you to take action* to ensure our health, economy, and way of life is protected from coal ash. Visit [mobilebaykeeper.org/coalash](http://mobilebaykeeper.org/coalash) and send our pre-drafted letter (or write your own) to officials from Alabama Power to express your concern. If you prefer to send via regular mail, please send your letter to the following addresses:

Mark Crosswhite, President & CEO  
Alabama Power Company  
600 18th. N. Birmingham, AL 35203



# REPORT CONFIRMS POLLUTION

Detailed report highlights groundwater pollution and dam safety concerns at Plant Barry



and testing by a certified, independent lab show evidence of ongoing and illegal groundwater pollution at Plant Barry.

**This pollution was confirmed by Alabama Power's own groundwater monitoring results**, released in March 2018, which resulted in a \$1.25 million fine for pollution at all six of its plants across the state, including \$250,000 specifically at Plant Barry. The federally required report shows high levels of pH and several pollutants such as arsenic, boron, chloride, fluoride, and sulfate in the groundwater beneath and around Plant Barry. Despite receiving ADEM's highest penalty, Alabama Power has no current plans to stop or clean up this pollution.

In 2015, Mobile Baykeeper began thoroughly scrutinizing the coal ash pond at Plant Barry. Working alongside Waterkeeper Alliance and the Southern Environmental Law Center, we have sampled, analyzed, and investigated the pond to identify potential concerns with groundwater pollution and safety of the dam.

There is strong evidence that the location of the ash pond is unsafe for coal ash disposal and storage. Located in a low-lying swamp adjacent to the Mobile River, it was built over a small creek and is prone to flooding. Field investigations conducted regularly over the past two years

Additionally, an investigation from an independent dam safety expert revealed that the safety assessment conducted by the facility was inadequate and lacked necessary detail to determine risks. The report also shows that capping in place is **not advised** as significant protective measures would have to be in place to combat the inevitable, long-term erosion of the dam and potential for it to collapse. Collectively, these findings demonstrate that capping in place is not appropriate. The **only safe option** is for Alabama Power to dig up its coal ash and move it away from the river.

To read the full investigation report, visit [mobilebaykeeper.org/coalash](http://mobilebaykeeper.org/coalash).

## Community Voices

### On the *importance* of protecting the Mobile-Tensaw Delta....



**Marl Cummings**

Avid Boater & Fisherman

*"The Delta is a very peaceful natural setting only minutes from my home, and homes of my family and friends. It also functions as a natural water filter, seafood nursery, storm barrier/buffer, not to mention a critical life support system for Mobile Bay. Its continued health and protection is vital in so many ways."*



**Harriet King Ingraham**

Avid Paddler

*"Paddling the Mobile-Tensaw Delta is a quietly dramatic adventure where I experience both the fragility and durability of Alabama's natural history. I never fail to return feeling refreshed, hopeful, and with a strong sense of place. It's our job to make sure it stays that way."*



**Kendall Dexter**

Avid Delta Explorer

*"After years of introducing folks to the Delta, I've learned it's much more fun showing the rewards of this treasured natural resource than the mistakes. Ensuring its protection for the future must be a top priority for Coastal Alabama leaders."*

# ADVOCACY AT A GLANCE

A glimpse of other efforts in 2017 to ensure responsible growth in Coastal Alabama



## 1. Mobile Harbor Deepening and Widening

The Army Corps of Engineers is currently proposing plans to deepen and widen the Mobile Harbor. We realize the value of our Port to our economy and support this growth, as long as it is done responsibly and all environmental impacts are weighed before any decisions are made. We remain actively engaged in this process through diligent research, submitting formal comments to The Corps, and speaking at various public meetings. Our main environmental concerns we want addressed are impacts on shorelines, shrimp, fish, and oysters, as well as the disposal of dredged material. We will continue to stay involved in this issue to ensure the protection of our natural resources.

## 2. Fish River Sewer Line

Baldwin County Sewer Service applied for a permit and planned to construct a new sewer line under Fish River, until we became involved and opposed the project. The primary concern with placing a sewer line under the river is the possibility of a major spill occurring undetected, threatening the health of residents who swim, fish, and play on this beautiful waterway. We worked with a group of passionate local citizens to mobilize community members and let the Army Corps of Engineers know we strongly opposed this project. The response was overwhelming! Because of our efforts, the sewer line was instead hung from the County Road 32 Bridge, where a break or spill would be obvious and quickly fixed if it occurred. This was a **huge victory** for clean water and the Fish River community - demonstrating that together, we can all make a difference.



## 3. Advocating for Stronger Environmental Protection

Our members and our community believe strongly that our mission to protect the Mobile Bay Watershed transcends national politics. With the election of the new administration, environmental laws came under fire in 2017. As a result, we successfully collaborated with 26 different local businesses and civic organizations such as the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Alabama State Port Authority, and AM/NS Calvert to send letters urging the federal administration to protect EPA funding. Having strong leadership at these agencies creates an important backstop when we don't have strong protections through our state agency (ADEM). We will continue collaborating with diverse partners to ensure laws remain in place that protect the health of our environment, economy, and community in Coastal Alabama.

## Other Projects We Closely Monitored

### Map for Mobile

We submitted comments to the City of Mobile to incorporate waterway buffers, low impact development (LID) practices, and other measures in the City's zoning update to enhance our quality of life and protect our environment.

### Construction Projects Affecting Wetlands

We submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers concerning various road and development projects proposed to fill critical wetlands in Dog River, Wolf Creek, Big Creek Lake, and other local waterways.

### By the Numbers

We monitored a variety of project proposals throughout the year, submitting a total of 27 comment letters to relevant decision makers to ensure responsible growth.



# SERVING COASTAL ALABAMA

AmeriCorps Program expands watershed patrol, monitoring, education, and outreach efforts

2017 was a year of growth and many firsts for Mobile Baykeeper. During this time, we received more federal grants in one year than we have been awarded throughout our entire 20-year history. One of these included a \$41,000 grant from the Alabama Governor’s Office of Volunteer Services. This enabled us to launch the AmeriCorps Program and hire six part-time AmeriCorps Members to expand our watershed patrol, monitoring, education, outreach, and volunteer recruitment efforts over a one year term of service.

The Members cover three main focus areas, with two members dedicated to each of the following programs: 1) Patrol & Monitoring – Actively patrolling local waterways, conducting water sampling, and responding to citizen concerns; 2) Strategic Watershed Awareness and Monitoring Program (SWAMP) – Educating citizens on watersheds and water quality and training them to become water quality monitors through our and 3) Volunteer Engagement – Building a diverse volunteer base by re-engaging existing volunteers and cultivating new volunteers.

Since joining the team in September 2017, all six Members have played an integral role in advancing our mission – and their results speak for themselves. In the first three months of their service, Patrol & Monitoring Members Ellie and Diego helped address **22 citizen concerns** and **tested 150 bacteria samples** from local rivers and creeks. SWAMP Members Angelica and Leslie **educated 463 students** and helped **train 70 students** to become certified water quality monitors. Lastly, Volunteer Engagement Members Sarah and Karrie

successfully managed the most widely attended apple snail roundup in Baykeeper history, with more than **300 volunteers** present who helped removed **4,423 apple snails** from Langan Lake and prevent this invasive species from spreading further along Three Mile Creek.

“This grant given to Mobile Baykeeper will help individuals make a positive impact in their local communities by protecting Mobile Bay and the surrounding area.” - **Alabama Governor Kay Ivey**

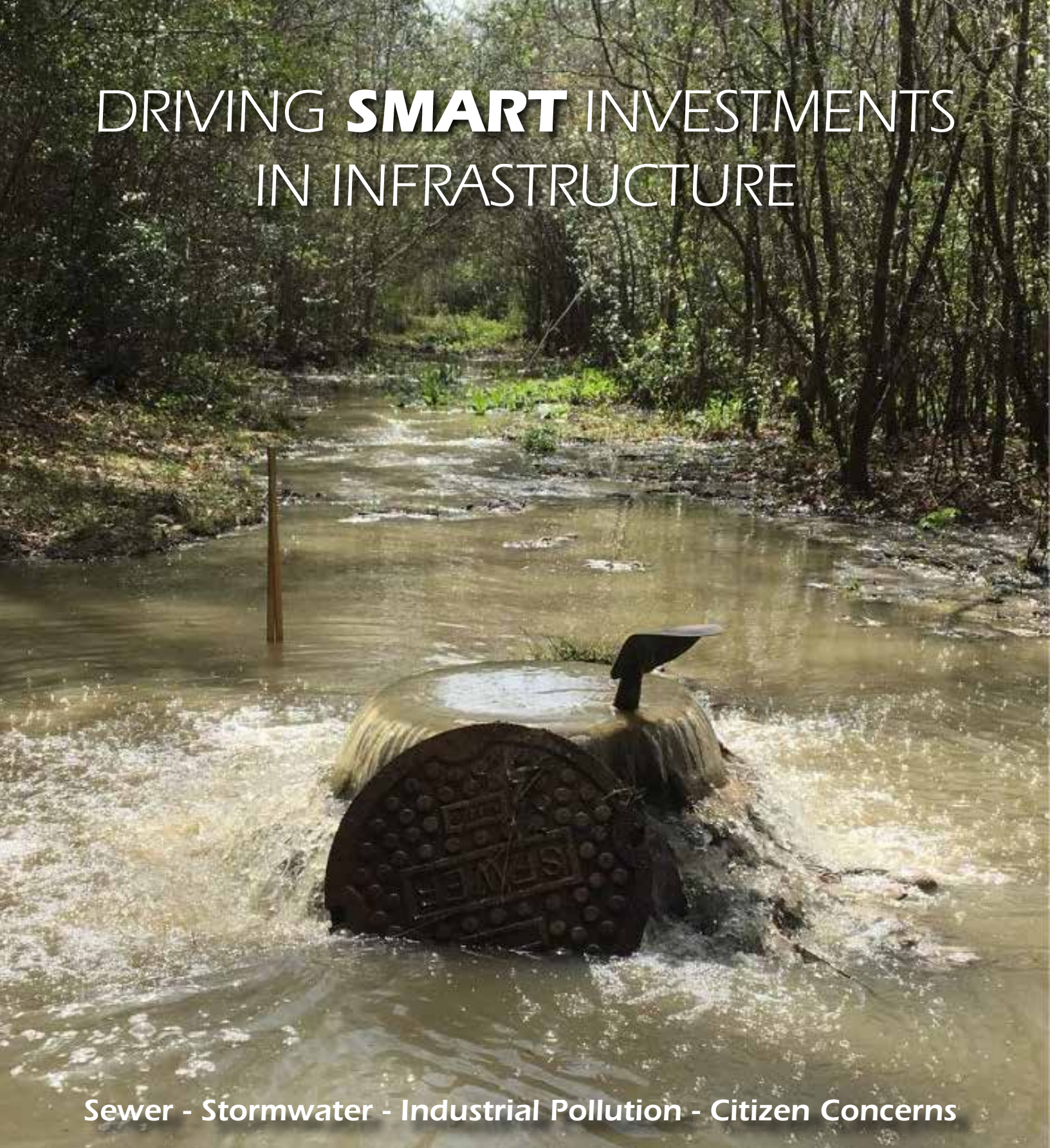
With several months left of their service and plans to sustain this valuable program at Mobile Baykeeper in the future, we look forward to witnessing the positive impact our AmeriCorps Members will have on our work for clean water, clean air, and healthy communities in 2018 and beyond.

## About the AmeriCorps Program



The Alabama’s Governor Office of Services works to increase an ethic of service and volunteerism in the State of Alabama by developing and supporting a network of AmeriCorps State programs that place service members in organizations, expanding their capacity to meet the state’s greatest needs including education, health care, substance abuse, homelessness, and maintaining a healthy environment.

# DRIVING **SMART** INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE



**Sewer - Stormwater - Industrial Pollution - Citizen Concerns**

**G**rowth and age are the two biggest challenges to our water infrastructure. On the project level, we work to reduce environmental impacts from stormwater, wastewater, and industrial pollution by actively monitoring projects and holding both public and private entities accountable when necessary.

# TOP SEWAGE STORIES OF 2017

March 8, 2017



## Sewage Right-to-Know Petition

Alongside eight other water advocacy organizations in Alabama, we urged ADEM to better protect the health of our citizens by taking steps to improve the public notification process following sewage spills.

April 11, 2017



## Release of Interactive Sewer Spill Map

We once again joined together with eight other water advocacy organizations in Alabama to create a map to inform the public of reported sewer spills across the state, similar to the “Sewage Spill Explorer” web tool we developed in 2016 which focuses specifically on Coastal Alabama.

November 21, 2017



## Comments Submitted on Bayou La Batre Permit

We submitted comments to ADEM regarding the reissuance of Bayou La Batre’s sewage permit to ensure it was more protective of critical oyster harvesting areas in Portersville Bay and Grand Bay.

March 12, 2017



## Second Creek Sewage Spill

Baykeeper Program staff was first to the scene after a 252,000 gallon sewage spill occurred on Second Creek in West Mobile, immediately alerting nearby residents and the public who were unaware of the spill. This further reinforced the need for the “Right to Know” petition to be adopted.

August 7, 2017



## Fly Creek Sewage Spill

Program staff immediately tested the water and notified unaware residents following a 266,000 gallon sewage spill on Fly Creek, resulting in a neighborhood outcry for improved public notification and the City of Fairhope inviting us to conduct a bacteria study of Fly Creek with frequent testing.

December 20, 2017



## Lawsuit Filed Against Daphne Utilities

We filed a lawsuit against Daphne Utilities for violating the Clean Water Act by fraudulently reporting and failing to report sewage spills in D’Olive Creek and Mobile Bay.



# LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST DAPHNE UTILITIES

Local utility charged with Clean Water Act violations for fraudulently reporting spills

**O**n December 19, 2017, we filed a lawsuit (preceded by a 60-day Notice of Intent to sue) against Daphne Utilities for failing to report and fraudulently reporting sewage spills into D'Olive Creek, which discharges into Mobile Bay. The utility failed to comply with its permit and violated both the Clean Water Act and Alabama Water Pollution Control Act.

The most egregious violation occurred on August 11, 2017, when more than one million gallons of raw sewage spilled from the treatment plant into D'Olive Creek, only to be reported as “zero gallons”

reaching waterways by the utility. This was one of a long history of violations dating back to January 2015. Since this time, Daphne Utilities reported 26 sewer overflows totaling more than 743,220 gallons of sewage, incorrectly reported the name of waterways affected by spills, and released large amounts of pollution into

Mobile Bay. Our in-depth investigation into this issue included review of video and photographic evidence, interviews with former and current utility staff members, field research, aerial surveys, and reviewing available spill data. One employee even described witnessing spills with bacteria levels “too numerous to count” and one 500,000 gallon spill as “the worst I had seen in my 20 year career”.

## The Big Picture

Sewage spills endanger our ability to safely swim, fish, and play in our local waterways. We want to see all utilities make necessary infrastructure upgrades to prevent spills from occurring and protect the health of our community.

Upper management at Daphne Utilities has endangered our ability to safely swim, fish, and play in Mobile Bay and surrounding rivers and creeks. These sewage issues at Daphne and throughout Coastal Alabama will be thoroughly addressed

throughout 2018 until we see a resolution and can ensure the health and safety of our citizens in Coastal Alabama.

*Note: This case is still ongoing at the time this publication is printed. To stay updated, follow us on social media and read our latest “Bay Blog” posts at [mobilebaykeeper.org/bayblog](http://mobilebaykeeper.org/bayblog).*

## Background: The Clean Water Act

Passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act sets general standards for the overall health and quality of our waterways. The passage of this act made it illegal to discharge pollution into waterways unless a permit was obtained. This permit gives citizens the right to know what type and how much pollution is entering local rivers, creeks, and bays.



## Frequently Asked Questions About Our Lawsuit

### 1. What permit did Daphne Utilities violate?

Daphne Utilities, similar to all wastewater treatment facilities, has a permit to discharge pollutants known as a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES), better known as a water discharge permit. This permit places specific requirements on how Daphne Utilities treats sewage and the amount of pollutants that are allowed to discharge into the Blakeley River, which flows into Mobile Bay and is used by the community to swim, fish, and play. Per its discharge monitoring reports, Daphne Utilities has and continues to violate limitations set by its permit, including a violation of Enterococci (a harmful bacteria) of more than 4,000% of the legally allowed amount.

### 2. How do we have the authority to file a lawsuit?

The Clean Water Act allows any citizens or citizen groups to file a citizen suit if they are adversely affected by the actions of an alleged polluter. This act recognizes that these suits will benefit the general public (not just the plaintiff) and offers a “citizen suit” provision because there are times when state and federal agencies will lack the will or ability to properly hold a polluter accountable.

### 3. Has Mobile Baykeeper been involved in similar lawsuits in the past?

Yes, we have experience advocating for clean water through lawsuits over our 20-year history, but we will always try to work with the other party and collaborate for solutions before taking the case to court. Previous lawsuits include cases against the Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) in 1999, the Water Works and Sewer Board in the City of Prichard in 2004, Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) in 2007, Bayou La Batre Utilities Board in 2008, and most recently the Plains All-American Pipeline in 2014.

### 4. What do we hope to accomplish as a result of this lawsuit?

We want to see immediate public notification, accurate reporting of spills, more frequent testing conducted, and utilities investing in necessary infrastructure upgrades to withstand the amount of rainfall and growth we see in Coastal Alabama. Regarding the case against Daphne Utilities, there is a serious culture change that needs to happen so management is no longer pressuring staff members to falsely report spills and jeopardizing public health. Ultimately, our goal is to eliminate future spills from occurring in the first place, which will allow citizens to safely swim, fish, and play in our local rivers, creeks, and bays.

*Visit [mobilebaykeeper.org/sewer](http://mobilebaykeeper.org/sewer) to learn more about our work on local sewer issues. For more information, please contact Program Director Cade Kistler at [ckistler@mobilebaykeeper.org](mailto:ckistler@mobilebaykeeper.org) or call 251-433-4229.*



# ADDRESSING STORMWATER ISSUES

Growth challenges the health of local waterways in Mobile and Baldwin Counties

**W**hat does being the rainiest area in the nation have to do with pollution in our favorite creeks? If we ignore it...everything!

Stormwater runoff – the rainwater that runs across our yards, streets, and parking lots - picks up everything left on the ground before entering local waterways. This polluted stormwater is transported through ditches and pipes directly into the closest river or creek with no treatment. It is a particular threat to waterways in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. As growth and development accelerates near the coast, irresponsible construction practices, inadequate drainage, poor planning, and flawed policies challenge the health of local rivers, creeks, and bays.

In Baldwin County and West Mobile, two areas in particular where development is rapidly changing the landscape, it is common to see muddy stormwater filling local creeks and rivers. This muddy water can block light from reaching vital seagrass beds, clog fish gills, and fill in our creeks and bays. Why does this matter? Too much muddy water means unhealthy fish and shallower creeks and bays.

To combat this problem, our program team spends hours each week in the field looking for potential issues, testing water quality, and ensuring pollution is stopped. We use special meters to measure levels of muddiness in

a river from construction sites and send samples to labs for analysis when we suspect illegal discharges.

This work is not without challenges. ADEM, our state environmental agency, lacks sufficient funding and places a low priority on enforcement. As a result, pollution issues we see in the field are often handed poorly by regulators. For example, In February 2017, pollution from a construction site in Fairhope was documented by our program staff multiple times and reported to ADEM. After several months of inspections, correspondence

with City of Fairhope officials, and numerous citizen concerns reported to us, ADEM filed a stop work order for the site – preventing the contractor from working on the site until further notice.

Stormwater runoff - the rainwater that runs across our yards, streets, and parking lots - picks up everything left on the ground before entering local waterways and polluting our rivers and creeks.

Less than two weeks later, however, the order was lifted and the contractor resumed work. With each subsequent rainstorm, mud rushed from the site into nearby Point Clear Creek and eventually into Mobile Bay. No fines were ever issued for the pollution that filled Point Clear Creek.

We aren't finished working on these issues yet. Your support will help us continue to focus on this issue and others by identifying and preventing stormwater pollution through inspections, testing, and advocating for clear rules and policies that eliminate stormwater pollution altogether.



# CITIZEN CONCERNS AT A GLANCE

An overview of pollution issues reported to us throughout the year and how we addressed them to ensure the protection of our local waterways



## 1. Bleach Dumped Into a Storm Drain

**Issue:** A facility was photographed dumping sodium hypochlorite (bleach) directly into a storm drain.

**How We Addressed It:** Our program staff investigated the issue and found another illegal discharge occurring at the time of investigation. We worked with the City of Mobile to ensure the company was issued a notice of violation. The City explained that any additional violations would result in ADEM becoming involved as well as potential criminal charges against the facility.

## 2. Excessive Litter at an I-65 Underpass

**Issue:** A concerned citizen informed us of a major litter issue in the underpass of I-65 and Moffett Rd next to Three Mile Creek.

**How We Addressed It:** Our program staff investigated the site to confirm the location and document the extent of litter. Next, we alerted the City of Mobile, which resulted in public works removing more than 330 gallons of trash. Moving forward, the City has alerted police to more tightly enforce litter ordinances in this problem area.



## 3. Herbicides Spraying Near Eslava Creek

**Issue:** A community member expressed concern with spraying of herbicides in close proximity to Eslava Creek.

**How We Addressed It:** Our program staff inspected the site and spoke with the contractors spraying the herbicides. We then contacted the City of Mobile to discuss how existing protective measures can be more effectively enforced in the field.

## 4. Hydraulic Spill in Daphne

**Issue:** Citizen contacted Mobile Baykeeper about a sheen on the streets entering storm drains and ultimately impacting D'Olive Creek. Baykeeper staff inspected the site and discovered a spill of hydraulic fluid.

**How We Addressed It:** Staff contacted the City of Daphne and the contractor to ensure the spill was properly cleaned up and the community was quickly notified.



## How to Report a Citizen Concern

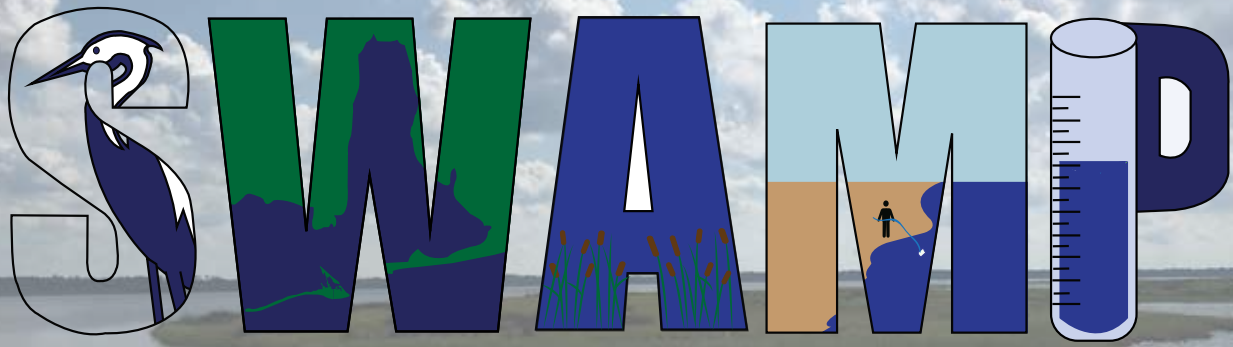
If you see an environmental issue that concerns you, please do not hesitate to contact us. Remember to take photos of anything you see! You can report your concern on our website through the Water Rangers web tool at [mobilebaykeeper.org/report](http://mobilebaykeeper.org/report) or call the office at 251-433-4229. For more information, please contact Program & Grants Coordinator Laura Jackson at [ljackson@mobilebaykeeper.org](mailto:ljackson@mobilebaykeeper.org).

# EDUCATING AND ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY



**SWAMP - Community Cleanups - Apple Snail Roundups  
Marine Debris Removals - General Outreach Events**

**W**e educate and engage the community to create an active citizen base committed to clean water, clean air, and healthy communities. We raise awareness about our major issues and urge community members to take action. We conduct educational programs to foster environmental advocates and provide stewardship opportunities to become more engaged with our work.



Strategic Watershed Awareness & Monitoring Program

# SWAMP CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Program receives more funding to expand into additional schools and watersheds throughout the area

**S**WAMP is an education action program that teaches the importance of connections within watersheds and provides tools to monitor the health of waterways and solve pollution problems. In just its second full year of implementation, SWAMP continued to grow significantly in 2017 thanks to additional grant funding and the ongoing support from our diverse membership base.

Two large federal grants allowed us to partner with new schools and cover additional watersheds: 1) \$87,000 through the NOAA B-WET Program to launch SWAMP at Fairhope High School in Baldwin County, and 2) \$91,000 through the EPA Environmental Education Program to introduce SWAMP at Alma Bryant High School in South Mobile County. Both of these areas are home to our most precious natural resources in Coastal Alabama, but they are also facing rapid growth and infrastructure challenges. These grants allow us to teach more students about the

importance of healthy waterways and the challenges they face, while giving students the tools to make a difference. Through the addition of the AmeriCorps Program, we hired two part-time AmeriCorps Members to focus exclusively on enhancing SWAMP and help grow the program.

While we expanded into new schools and watersheds, we also built on successful partnerships at Citronelle High School and LeFlore High School. We were awarded a \$75,000 grant from AM/NS Calvert, the first organization to fund the program when it began in 2016, to continue the program at both schools and begin implementing the educational portion of the program at local elementary and middle schools in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Collectively, these efforts helped us educate a total of **1,986** students at **27** different schools and train **120** of these students to become certified water quality monitors.

## How It Works



### 1. Education

We educate students on watersheds, water quality, and how their actions can make a difference in their local watershed.



### 2. Monitoring

We train students to become certified water quality monitors and test various locations within their watershed on a consistent basis.



### 3. Solutions

We work with students to develop solutions to report their findings from the field into an electronic web portal where we can quickly address issues.

# SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Students understand the bigger picture by focusing on solutions



One of the most important aspects of SWAMP is creating solutions to the issues students discover in the field. They first gain the knowledge and experience of testing local waterways by becoming certified water quality monitors through Alabama Water Watch. Once students are certified, they test sites within their watershed on a regular basis and are equipped to identify potential issues threatening local waterways. If pollution issues are found, students can report them electronically through the Water Rangers web tool and work with program staff to quickly resolve problems discovered.

Through this program, students have a unique opportunity to learn how to make a direct impact in their own community. Experienced-based learning is an effective way to teach these concepts because once a student sees the practical benefits of water quality monitoring, then the “why” starts to sink in. It is our goal to create student-led projects based on their findings from the field that allows this “why” to become resolved.

- **Why** should they care about their local environment?
- **Why** should they stop littering and ask those around them to do the same?
- **Why** should they refrain from putting grease down the sink?
- **Why** should they want to leave our natural resources better for future generations?

If they don't know the impacts of their actions, how are they expected to make a change? This is where the solutions focus comes into play. As SWAMP continues to grow in 2018 and beyond, the solutions component of the program is essential to ensure the students are using knowledge and skills gained through SWAMP to make a difference in their watershed and surrounding community. Mobile Baykeeper's SWAMP team is working to create environmental stewards in Coastal Alabama for generations to come.

[#getSWAMPed](#)

*Are you interested in getting more involved with SWAMP? Please contact Jamie Bullock at [jbullock@mobilebaykeeper.org](mailto:jbullock@mobilebaykeeper.org) or call 251-433-4229. To learn more, visit [mobilebaykeeper.org/swamp](http://mobilebaykeeper.org/swamp). #getSWAMPed*

On the *importance* of connecting students to their local watershed...



**From the Student**

*“It is important for students to be involved in a program like SWAMP because it helps us better understand why we need to protect our waterways and keep our environment safe for the future.”*

- Jaden Thomas  
LeFlore High School Student



**From the Supporter**

*“Mobile Baykeeper is committed to ensuring the health of our ecosystems for generations to come. Fuse Project is thrilled to support Baykeeper’s efforts to connect students to local waterways and give them the tools to make a difference.”*

- Grant Zarzour, Fuse Project  
Chairman of the Board and Co-Founder



**From the Teacher**

*“Hands-on experiences in the field are essential to help students bridge concepts learned in the classroom. We are excited to partner with Mobile Baykeeper as we educate our students on the importance of protecting our natural resources.”*

- Jennifer Jaynes  
Fairhope High School Science Teacher

Special Thanks to SWAMP Supporters





# ENGAGING OUR CITIZENS...

Days of Service - Community Litter Cleanups - Invasive Species Removals - DIY Cleanups

**E**ngaging our citizens through a variety of different activities is essential to connect with diverse communities and raise awareness of our work to protect the Mobile Bay Watershed. In 2017, we began the year by collaborating with several partner organizations to host the first MLK Day of Service, a community-wide cleanup along Three Mile Creek to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. With more than 300 volunteers in attendance, including Mayor Sandy Stimpson, the event was a huge success and was the first of many to come.

Throughout the year, we hosted apple snail roundups to remove the island apple snail, a rapidly growing invasive species that strips the native vegetation along the banks of Three Mile Creek. Our main goal is to control this species and prevent it from spreading beyond the creek into the Mobile River and Tensaw Delta. As a result, we successfully organized the largest apple snail roundup in Baykeeper history - with over 300 participants who helped remove approximately 4,423 apple snails from Langan Lake. In 2017, we also began to focus on issues





# ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

Marine Debris Removals - Career Fairs - Community Presentations - Tabling Events & Workshops

surrounding One Mile Creek, a small tributary of Three Mile Creek plagued with litter, stormwater runoff, sewage spills, and other problems. Located near the downtown area, it receives a significant amount of litter from Mardi Gras parades. To combat this problem, we were awarded a \$56,000 grant from the NOAA Marine Debris Program to restore One Mile Creek and educate the community on the impacts of Mardi Gras litter to our local waterways. We began this two-year project with a series of kayak cleanups and debris removals along the creek, while also raising awareness of its connection to Mardi Gras.

In addition to larger events, we worked on a smaller scale to engage the community by organizing “DIY Cleanups” with local neighborhoods and businesses, participating in career fairs at local high schools and universities, setting up membership and informational tables at public outreach events, and speaking to various community clubs and organizations about our current issues.



# 46,364

## Direct Reach in 2017

**2,987** Community members  
at Speaking Engagements



**16,773** Personal Interactions  
at Tabling Events



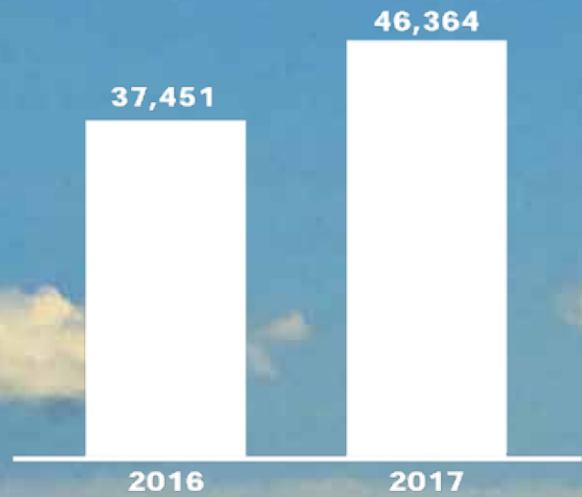
**1,148** Volunteers  
at Cleanups



**830** Workshop Attendees



**3,645** Fundraiser Participants



(23.8% increase in reach from 2016)

### Social Media Following



11,585



4,311



2,625



300



175



19



# In 2017, your membership enabled us to:

## Ensure Responsible Growth

**57** meetings with stakeholders on upcoming projects

**223** letters sent from the community on coal ash

**27** comment letters submitted

**18** supported BP restoration projects moved to evaluation stage

**1** sewage line NOT under Fish River

## Drive Smart Investments in Infrastructure

**2,165** pounds of debris removed from One Mile Creek

**23** sites along local rivers and creeks tested by volunteer monitors

**10** bacteriological samples taken following active sewage spills

**7** industrial site inspections

**22** construction stormwater sites inspected

**237** bacteriological samples taken from local waterways

**200** citizen concerns reported

## Educate and Engage the Community

**1,348** total volunteers

**1,986** students educated

**25** litter cleanups hosted

**120** trained water quality monitors

**8** water quality training workshops conducted

**12** litter issues resolved from citizen concerns

**27** educational presentations given on watersheds and water quality



# PROTECTING FOR 20 YEARS

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A look back at 2017's best moments celebrating 20 years of protecting the Mobile Bay Watershed and our coastal communities.

# BACK TO THE BEGINNING

We kicked off 2017 with a party at the home of founding member Jack Greer, the place where Mobile Baykeeper's story began 20 years ago

**T**wenty years ago, we were founded as West Bay Watch by a group of concerned residents who joined together to fight the construction of a chemical plant along the western shore of Mobile Bay. Many of our founding members were waterfront property owners and worried about the plant's impact on their health and their families' ability to swim, fish, and play in the Bay for the future. They were also concerned about the health of their seafood, property values, and overall quality of life. Because of their tireless efforts, Mobile Baykeeper has since evolved from one staff member and only 300 members to a staff of 14, supported by more than 4,500 members today.

Twenty years later, we reunited with many of these founding members (including Jack Greer, Logan Gewin, Skeeter Morris, and Bob Evans) to kick off our 20th anniversary celebration at the home of Jack and Janice Greer – where Mobile Baykeeper's story began back in 1997. We relived stories from the early days of West Bay Watch, listened to impassioned speeches from Mr. Greer and Executive Director Casi (kc) Callaway, and talked about where Mobile Baykeeper is headed for the next 20 years. It set the tone for an unforgettable 20th anniversary celebration throughout 2017.



**Above:** Founding Members Skeeter Morris, Jack Greer, and Logan Gewin reunite at the 20th Anniversary kickoff party.

**Below Left:** Executive Director Casi (kc) Callaway shares a laugh with Jack Greer.

**Below Right:** Development Director Justine Herlihy catches up with founding member Bob Evans and his wife Jan.



**Above:** Founding members, staff members, current board members, and family members mingle and reminisce about Baykeeper stories over the years.

“None of us were really environmentalists. We were just ordinary people who cared about the Bay, our seafood, our property value, and our quality of life.”

- Jack V. Greer, Founding Member of Mobile Baykeeper



# FUNDRAISING WITH A PURPOSE

## Publix Grandman Triathlon - Bay Bites Food Truck Festival - 20th Anniversary Bay Bash

Hosting fundraising events each year enables us to do the work we do – test the water quality from local rivers and creeks, educate students on the importance of watersheds, or monitor industrial projects to advocate for responsible growth. Each event is designed to raise awareness of our mission, connect to new audiences, and ultimately increase membership. 2017 was a year packed with events of all types as we celebrated 20 years of protecting the Mobile Bay Watershed and our coastal communities.

With 725 racers, 150 volunteers, and several hundred spectators, the 13th Annual Publix Grandman Triathlon was another successful event despite water quality threats and the potential for severe weather leading up to the race. The Grandman is so unique because racers begin by jumping off Fairhope Pier straight into Mobile Bay and swimming to the shore – serving as a constant reminder of the importance to keep our waterways safe to swim, fish, and play. In late July, we hosted another record-setting sellout crowd at Bay Bites Food Truck Festival in downtown





Art of the Bay - Poker Paddle - Whole Foods 5% Day - Beautiful Planet Film Screening

Baykeeper Birthdays - Scout Guide Launch Party - Carpe Diem Baykeeper Blend - SweetWater Tap Takeover

Flora-Bama Gulf Coast Paddleboard Championships - Mobtown Merch "Defend the Delta"

Mobile's Cooper Riverside Park. With a great variety of food trucks, live music by Roadside Glorious, a dunking booth with local celebrity guests, craft beer, and plenty of games to play, Bay Bites continues to get better each year and offers something for people of all ages. Its prime location overlooking the Mobile River helps connect more citizens to one of the many waterways we work to protect every day.

In addition to the Grandman and Bay Bites, we participated in several smaller events throughout the year. Many of our board members joined together to host a series of "Baykeeper Birthdays", a variety of different parties and get-togethers to introduce more people to our work and re-engage existing members. We also partnered with local organizations to host various "Bay Splash" events ranging from art exhibits and film screenings to paddling tournaments and beer tap takeovers. Regardless of the size or scope of our events, each of them plays a vital role in advancing our work for clean water, clean air, and healthy communities.





## LIGHTING UP THE BAY

We concluded 2017 by celebrating our 20th Anniversary Bay Bash with fireworks on the Mobile River


We wrapped up our 20th anniversary celebration with Bay Bash, the annual celebration of Mobile Bay and our coastal communities. It was our first fundraising event hosted in Baykeeper history back in 1998 and officially serves as Mobile Baykeeper's annual meeting. The theme for this year's event was "Light up the Bay" and we concluded the night with a special fireworks show on the Mobile River. We were also treated to a surprise snowfall once the fireworks began – making it a chilly 20th anniversary and a Bay Bash celebration

to remember. The featured guest speaker was Marc Yaggi, Executive Director of Waterkeeper Alliance (our parent organization), who talked about the beauty of our natural resources in Coastal Alabama and the need to protect them for the future. Popular local musician "Gulf Coast Blues Boy" Jamell Richardson kept the crowd entertained all night while guests enjoyed delicious food, bid on items at the silent auction, and danced the night away. It was a fitting and enjoyable way to celebrate 20 years of protecting the Mobile Bay Watershed and our coastal communities.





**20th Anniversary  
BAY BASH**



**20**  
PROTECTING FOR 20 YEARS  
MOBILE  
BAYKEEPER®

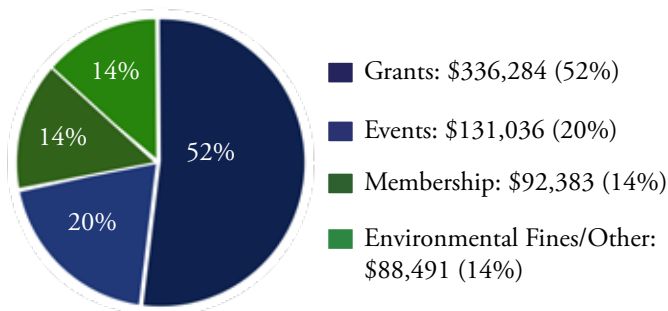
**"LIGHT UP THE BAY"**

Friday, December 8  
GulfQuest Maritime Museum  
6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

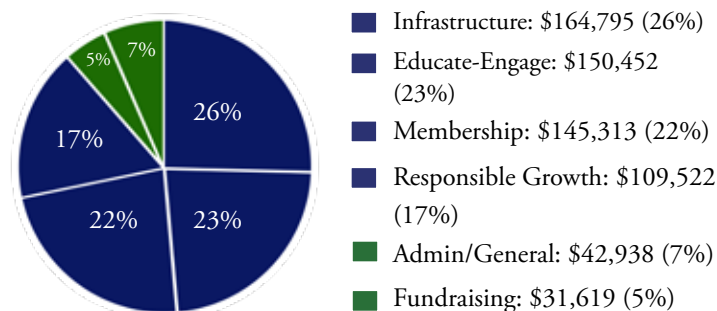


# FINANCIALS

## 2017 Income: \$648,194



## 2017 Expenses: \$644,639



■ Program/Membership: 88% ■ Admin/Fundraising: 12%

## 2017 Sponsors

17 Turtles Outfitters  
Adams and Reese LLP  
Advocare - FitChampions.com  
Alabama Coastal Radiology  
Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo  
Alabama Public Radio  
Altaworx  
AM/NS Calvert  
Atlanta Bread Company  
Austal  
Baldwin County Sewer Service, LLC  
Baron's by the Bay Inn  
Blue Rents  
Buck's Pizza  
Cadence 120 Bicycle Works, Inc.  
Carpe Diem Coffee & Tea Co.  
Coastal Bank and Trust  
Coastal Chiropractic  
Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.  
Cottages of Fairhope  
Cooper/T. Smith  
Crow Shields Bailey PC  
Dex Imaging  
Dew Drop Inn  
Dixie Trucks, Inc.  
Eastern Shore Cycles

Fairhope Boat Company  
Fairhope Brewing Company  
Fairhope Physical Therapy  
FloraBama Gulf Coast Paddle  
Fleet Feet Sports Mobile  
Fleming Rehab  
Fresh Seafood Distributors  
Gotta Go Portables  
Grand Hotel Marriott  
Greer's  
Gulf Coast Ducks  
Gulf Distributing, LLC  
Gwin's Commercial Printing  
Hackbarth Delivery Service  
Half Shell Oyster House  
Hammer Nutrition  
Hampton Inn Fairhope  
Hancock Bank  
Hargrove Engineers + Constructors  
Heritage Homes  
Infinity Bicycles  
Integrity Roofing & Contracting, LLC  
J. Vestal Photo  
Keith Air Conditioning, Inc.  
Kimbrell Chiropractic  
Logical Computer Solutions

Lyon Fry Cadden Insurance  
Maids a la Mode  
Medical Center Podiatry, P.C.  
Mellow Mushroom  
Mobile Arts Council  
Mobile Bay Reporting  
Mobile Bay Canoe & Kayak Club  
Mobile Oyster Company  
Mobtown Merch  
Moorer YMCA  
Mott MacDonald  
Naman's Catering  
Naturally Strong  
Oakworth Capital Bank  
Orange Theory Fitness  
The Orthopaedic Group, P.C.  
Phelps Dunbar, LLP  
PHINS T-Shirts  
Pilot Catastrophe Services, Inc.  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
Pro Cycle & Tri  
Publix Supermarkets  
Red Beard Outfitters  
Regions Bank  
Roberts Brothers, Inc.  
Rogers & Willard, Inc.

Russell Thompson Butler & Houston, LLP  
Run-N-Tri  
Running Wild  
Saunders Yachtworks  
South Alabama Outdoor Adventure  
SERVPRO Southwest Alabama  
Southern Light  
Starbucks Coffee  
Stone Crosby, P.C.  
StorageMax Midtown  
Sunshine Canoes  
SweetWater Brewing Company  
tasc Performance  
TeamWorks Community  
Thames Batre Insurance  
Thompson Engineering  
TOYOTA  
Waterkeeper Alliance Splash Series  
White-Spinner Realty, Inc.  
Whole Foods Market  
WildNative Delta Safaris  
Wilkins Miller, LLC  
Williams Financial Group  
Wintzell's Oyster House

## 2017 Grantors

Abahac, Inc.  
Alabama Rivers Alliance  
Alice and Vernon White Foundation  
AM/NS Calvert  
Ben May Charitable Trust  
Captain Planet

Clark Foundation  
EPA Environmental Education  
Fiser Giafagione Charitable  
Fuse Project  
C.D. Helen & Jeff Glaze Foundation  
Hargrove Foundation

Lillian McGowin Foundation  
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program  
Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation  
NOAA Marine Debris  
NOAA B-WET  
Norquist Charitable Foundation

Patagonia Foundation  
Schmidt & Barton Family Fund  
Sybil & White Smith Foundation  
Walton Family Foundation  
Wells Fargo  
White-Spinner Foundation

## Visionary Society Members

Mr. & Mrs. Sumner and Lee Adams  
Mr. Terry Aucoin  
Mr. Greg Breedlove  
Mr. Tom Burkett  
Christ Church Cathedral  
Dr. Jim Connors  
Dr. & Mr. Kathy & William Cunningham  
Mr. W. Allen Cox  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Patrick Courtney  
Mr. James Crosby  
Mr. William Cutts  
Dr. & Mrs. Bernard & Carolyn Eichold  
Flea Market Mobile  
Great Bear Wax Co.

Hiller Companies  
Alison Baxter Herlihy, P.C.  
Mr. J. Tunstall Inge  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Keith  
Mr. Dennis Langan  
Mrs. Katherine Lathan  
Lyon Fry Cadden  
Mr. Christopher Mayhall  
Mr. Ray Mayhall  
Mr. Steve & Mrs. Susan McClure  
"In Memory of Charles Moorehead"  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Karen Myrick  
Mr. Andy Newton  
Mr. & Mrs. Stan & Barbara Nolan  
Mrs. Sharon Olen

Mr. & Mrs. Norman & Belinda Pittman  
Mr. David Rauch  
Mr. Rance Reehl  
Mr. William Rowan  
Mr. J. Schley Rutherford, Sr.  
Mr. John Schley Rutherford, Jr.  
Mrs. Jeanne Sanderford  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Seawell  
Shumer Consulting, LLC  
Mr. & Mrs. James Shumock  
Mr. Riley Boykin Smith  
Mr. Steve Springer  
Mr. Sands Stimpson  
Mr. Cooper Thurber  
Mrs. Martha Tissington

Councilwoman Debbie Quinn  
Mr. Marion A. Quina, Jr.  
Mr. Glen and Mrs. Libba Vanderbeek  
Mr. Todd Vereen  
Ms. Elizabeth E. Walmsley  
Ms. Kathy Welch-Cobb  
Mr. Melvin Washington  
Mr. Marc Whitehead  
Mr. Blacksher White-Spinner  
Mr. John White-Spinner  
White-Spinner Construction, Inc.  
"In Memory of Peggy White-Spinner"  
Mr. Billy and Mrs. Rebecca Williams

\* Visionary Society Members not listed prefer to remain anonymous



# Members Matter 2017 Report

New  
\$16,575

Renewal  
\$42,638

End of Year  
\$5,825

Sustaining &  
Visionary  
\$48,271

Gift &  
Honorary  
\$6,100

Crawfish/Student  
starting - \$10  
40 Members



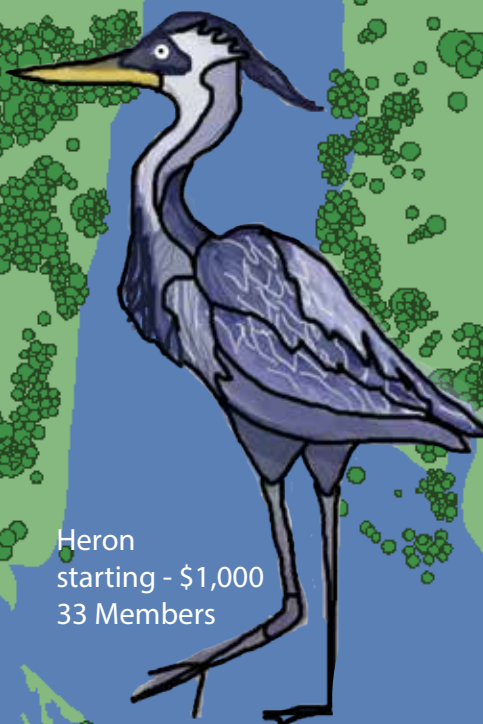
Sand Crab  
starting - \$20  
186 Members



Blue Crab  
starting - \$50  
163 Members



Flounder  
starting - \$75  
134 Members



Heron  
starting - \$1,000  
33 Members



Pelican  
starting - \$500  
23 Members



Manatee  
starting - \$250  
38 Members



Mullet  
starting - \$150  
68 Members

# MOBILE BAYKEEPER Strategic Plan 2017-2020

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide citizens a means to protect the beauty, health, and heritage of the Mobile Bay Watershed and our coastal communities.

### Who We Are

Environmental watchdog



Informed voice of reason



Collaborator for solutions



### Enabling Our Success

Capable, stable staff



Involved board



Broad community support



### Our Key Focus Areas

Ensure Responsible Growth

Engaging early in regional and economic plans



Monitoring key issues

Developing internal response plans

Drive Smart Infrastructure Investments



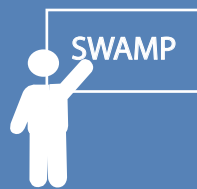
Stormwater

Wastewater

Industrial Pollution

Educate and Engage Citizens

Raising Awareness



Education Programs

Opportunities to Engage

### Our Financial Foundation

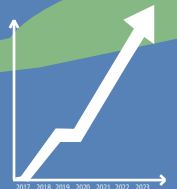
Operate efficiently



Sustainable funding sources



Endow for the future



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



Significant among the accomplishments of Mobile Baykeeper under Wayne Keith's leadership over the past two years was the development of the organization's Strategic Plan, a document that outlines Baykeeper's mission and role in the community and will guide us for the next three years. Another great achievement is the wonderful stability of the organization – Casi has assembled a capable, dedicated, and hardworking (also fun and good natured) staff who each work tirelessly for clean water, clean air, and healthy communities. All this is to say that when Wayne turned over the Board Presidency to me in November 2017, he handed me the keys to a stable organization well positioned to direct its abundant energy toward implementing the Strategic Plan:

**We are an Environmental Watchdog.** Mobile Baykeeper is driving the conversation on sewer issues in Mobile and Baldwin Counties - applying pressure to local utilities to take necessary steps to prevent sewage from spilling into our waterways and holding bad actors accountable when necessary.

**We are an Informed Voice of Reason.** Mobile Baykeeper is the voice of Mobile Bay – educating the community on the dangers of coal ash and the implications of Alabama Power's preliminary decision to leave 21 million tons of this poisonous coal ash sitting in the heart of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.

**We are a Collaborator for Solutions.** Mobile Baykeeper proudly collaborates with diverse partners – working with the Alabama Corps of Engineers and Alabama State Port Authority to ensure the health of Mobile Bay is given adequate weight as The Corps considers the expansion of the Mobile Ship Channel.

In addition, SWAMP continues to rapidly grow and give hundreds of students in our community valuable insight into how their individual and collective actions impact the health of our waterways. We plan to expand our water quality monitoring efforts through sponsored monitoring sites (the SWIM program) and by installing an on-site laboratory to conduct testing.

Of course, none of this is possible without broad community support from our membership. My goal is to see our citizens become ambassadors for Mobile Baykeeper and invest in our work for clean water, clean air, and healthy communities by sustaining us for the future. We have an outstanding team working to protect our beloved Mobile Bay, Mobile-Tensaw Delta, coastal beaches, and surrounding rivers, creeks, and bayous – but we need your support to keep it going. I look forward to serving as your Board President for the next two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sumpter McGowin".

Sumpter McGowin  
Board President

## Why I'm Involved with Mobile Baykeeper



**Above:** My wife, Alinda Guynes, and our three children - Margaret Allen (4), Lucy Capps (2), and Beeland (6) enjoy spending time at the beach and out on the water as much as we can.



# SWIM WHERE IT'S MONITORED

Expanding water quality testing efforts in 2018 to ensure you can safely swim, fish, and play

Citizens along our beautiful Mobile Bay and Coastal Alabama should know where and when it's safe to swim. In 2017, more than 27 million gallons of sewage spills were reported in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. ADEM routinely monitors 25 sites from Perdido Bay to Dauphin Island from April to October, but fails to test many bays, rivers, and streams along our coast commonly used for swimming, fishing, and boating. Additionally, the sites tested are not posted in a publicly accessible manner that protects the health of our community.

To solve this problem, we created the "Swim Where It's Monitored" (SWIM) Program to provide our families, paddlers, and anglers with up-to-date water quality information at beaches most important to you. SWIM is designed to provide concerned citizens, including

civic groups, businesses, and even local governments, an opportunity to sponsor water quality monitoring at the location(s) most important to them and on a consistent schedule that works best for them. Test results allow sponsors and other community members to make informed decisions about whether it is safe to swim, fish, boat, or play near the tested location.

The SWIM Program's primary focus is to test for bacteria known as enterococci (and other pollutants as needed) that can endanger our health. Once we receive the results, we post the data widely to ensure the public has the most accurate, up-to-date information about local water quality. Your support allows us to expand this program and set up an official lab to test bacteria samples from local waterways.

## How It Works

### 1. Pick Your Site

Choose your favorite beach or swimming hole to be tested regularly and ensure you will always know when it is safe to swim, fish, and play.

### 2. Choose a Schedule

Pick a testing schedule and frequency based on your budget that is convenient for you. We will be flexible to meet your needs.

### 3. Stay Alert

We will remain in constant contact with you throughout the testing process to ensure you have the most up-to-date testing results.

*To become a sponsor of the SWIM program, please contact Justine Herlihy at [jherlihy@mobilebaykeeper.org](mailto:jherlihy@mobilebaykeeper.org). For more information, visit [mobilebaykeeper.org/swim](http://mobilebaykeeper.org/swim).*

# BECOME A MEMBER



## JOIN US TODAY

Your support enables us to continue working for clean water, clean air, and healthy communities for generations to come

**A**s we celebrated our 20th anniversary, your generous contributions through membership helped us continue advancing our mission – to provide citizens a means to protect the beauty, health, and heritage of the Mobile Bay Watershed and our coastal communities. With your help, Mobile Baykeeper will continue to be the environmental watchdog, informed voice of reason, and collaborator for solutions working to ensure responsible growth, drive smart investments in infrastructure, and educate and engage our communities in Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

Our members give us the resources needed to work for clean water, clean air and healthy communities. Your dedication has an impact on our home, our quality of life across Coastal Alabama and **we need you!** By becoming a member of Mobile Baykeeper and encouraging others to join us, we can work together to ensure the best possible tomorrow for generations to come.

[Learn More](#)

Visit [mobilebaykeeper.org/membership](http://mobilebaykeeper.org/membership) or call 251-433-4229 to learn more and become a member.



*photo by Chris Dailey*

*"I am sure to raise my children near her. We will swim in her waters, we will play on her shores, we will cherish her majestic sunsets, and to protect her, will be one of our life's chores."*

- Dennis Goff, "Missing Mobile Bay"





Clean Water. Clean Air. Healthy Communities.

**GWIN'S**  
COMMERCIAL PRINTING  
SINCE 1913

photo by Kim Kelly

450-C Government St  
Mobile, AL 36602  
251.433.4229  
[info@mobilebaykeeper.org](mailto:info@mobilebaykeeper.org)  
[www.mobilebaykeeper.org](http://www.mobilebaykeeper.org)

