



TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER®

December 2017

2017 was the greatest year for Tennessee Riverkeeper thus far. Riverkeeper relies on donations from our members. Members like you provide strength and resolve for our mission, and we cannot thank you enough. We are proud to have you in Riverkeeper's corner as we fight for cleaner water. Your support now is more important than ever.

Please follow us on our social media accounts below for current updates about pollution threats and our work throughout the year. Here are a few highlights from Tennessee Riverkeeper's work in 2017:

- Analyzed EPA Toxics Release Inventory data, which shows that the Tennessee River is Alabama's most polluted river.
- Doubled the size of the staff adding: Billy Shugart (*East Tennessee Investigator*) and Adam Barnes (*Event Coordinator*).
- Successfully pushed Alabama to implement better public notifications of sewage spills while reducing E. Coli discharge limits at sewage treatment facilities by 40%.
- Maintained Gold Star Charity Status from GuideStar, which uses IRS data to rate nonprofits nationwide.
- Continued to prosecute and add PFC Polluters to our lawsuit with the goal of cleaning up PFCs in the Wheeler Reservoir.
- Addressed over 900 Clean Water Act violations in 2017 through legal actions. We have addressed more than 41,000 pollution violations since 2009.
- Initiated environmental enforcement actions at nine facilities in Tennessee and Alabama.
- Expanded our outreach, education, and pollution investigations in the Nashville and Huntsville areas.
- Held our most successful event to date in Nashville; special thanks to Janine and Ronnie Dunn, Cheryl Hines, and R.F.K.
- Investigated over 300 pollution permits in our patrol jurisdiction; continued to monitor illegal pollution.
- Continued to improve our new website: www.TennesseeRiver.org.
- Press coverage continues to increase, raising awareness of pollution issues across our area.
- Participated in educational outreach events in Nashville, Manchester, Chattanooga, Decatur, Huntsville, Madison, Athens, and The Shoals.
- Continued our work advocating against weak pollution permits and for common sense environmental policies on issues including: coal ash, PFC pollution, defending the EPA, factory farm pollution, endangered species, environmental impact statements, hydropower, logging, environmental deregulation, and new pollution permit applications and renewals.
- Engaged volunteers of all ages in our work, currently Riverkeeper has more than 120 active volunteers.
- Developed new maps of the Cumberland of the Tennessee River and their tributaries as part of our education program. We also developed new "subwatershed" maps of the Ocoee, Harpeth River, Richland Creek, and Greater Nashville.
- Continued to increase our online community: Facebook now has 14,800+ supporters, Twitter has 6,250+ followers, and Instagram has 2,700+ followers. That's a combined total of over 23,750 patriotic supporters!

Thank you for making Tennessee Riverkeeper a strong defender of clean water as we look forward to 2018. With so many political attacks on the environment recently, Riverkeeper's pollution monitoring and enforcement is more important than ever. Your support during this critical time will go a long way to bring stronger pollution monitoring and environmental enforcement. Please send a tax-deductible donation using the form on the back of this letter.

Together will defeat toxic pollution and improve water quality,

For your water,

David Whiteside, *Tennessee Riverkeeper*



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