



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

PHOTO CREDIT: JUSTIN HARTLEY | WWW.JHARTLEYPHOTO.COM



A Letter from Your Baykeeper

2018 marked 20 years as your Mobile Baykeeper. I have been incredibly proud to work for this organization committed to the highest ideals of clean water, clean air, and healthy communities locally and across the Watershed. I have been blessed to watch Mobile Baykeeper grow, thrive, and win over the hearts of some of our staunchest skeptics.

The Mobile Baykeeper staff continues to grow—17 team members last year. We reached 32 schools through education programs, solved 15 pollution problems, took more than 50 water quality samples, and added three swimming holes to our testing for Swim Guide.

In addition to citizen concerns, we focused on three major issues: Sewer Spills, Coal Ash, and the Ship Channel. The violations at Daphne Utilities prompted Mobile Baykeeper to file our 8th lawsuit. We strive to be a collaborator for solutions and we remain disappointed that Daphne Utilities has refused to own their problems and work with Mobile Baykeeper to resolve it to the satisfaction of all who love, live, work, and play on Mobile Bay.

After much research and several meetings with Alabama Power officials, we released the “Plant Barry Pollution Report” on Barry Steam Plant’s coal ash pit. The report details the “ticking time bomb” facing Coastal Alabama if the company doesn’t properly close their unlined toxic coal ash pit. Throughout 2018, we hoped Alabama Power would do the right thing for their neighbors, families, and community members—dig up the coal ash and move it away from the river to an upland lined landfill. We recently learned they intend to leave the coal ash on Mobile River leaking into our groundwater. Coal Ash will be Mobile Baykeeper’s focus for 2019.

Efforts on the ship channel were more positive as the Army Corps of Engineers met with Mobile Baykeeper, oyster farmers, area scientists, and community members. It appears significant strides are being made toward a more protective build out of Mobile Bay’s ship channel, and we promise to remain vigilant.

Overall, the members, staff, sponsors, grantors, partners, and friends of Mobile Baykeeper continue to feed my passion for ensuring my son, Coleman Callaway (and his children and your children’s children) can swim, fish, work, and play in Mobile Bay, along our Gulf Coast Beaches, and even in the alligator-laden Mobile-Tensaw Delta. I am truly grateful for the support you give my family and our Baykeeper team.

Sincerely,

Casi (kc) Callaway
Executive Director & Baykeeper

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

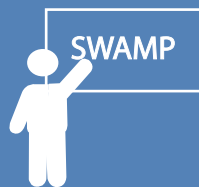
Industrial Pollution

Educate and Engage Citizens

Raising Awareness

Education Programs

Opportunities to Engage



Our Financial Foundation

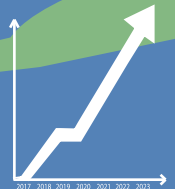
Operate Efficiently



Sustainable Funding Sources



Endow for the Future





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



Sam St. John
Logical Computer Solutions



Kelly Finley
FM Talk 106.5



Benson O'Connor
White-Spinner Investments



Jep Hill
BBB Industries



Ray Mayhall
*SERVPRO
Southwest Mobile*



Jasmine Washington
Stantec



Paul Myrick
The Kullman Firm



Bryan Pape
WBP Management, LLC



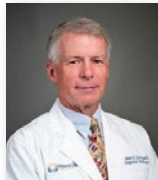
Scott Posey
AM/INS Calvert



Debbie Quinn
Alabama Trails Commission



Lee Webb
Trustmark Bank



Dr. William Dumas
Retired Radiologist



Scott Schneider
CPSI



Jay Perez
*Performance
Contractors, Inc.*



Wayne Keith
Keith Air Conditioning

Special thanks to outgoing Board Member Wayne Keith. We greatly appreciate his years of service and remain grateful for his continued engagement and leadership with Mobile Baykeeper. Congratulations to new Board Members Dr. William Dumas, Scott Schneider, Jay Perez, Brent Keith, and Lyndsey Dixon.

STAFF



Casi (kc) Callaway
Executive Director & Baykeeper



Rebecca Domangue
Operations Manager



Justine Herlihy
Development Director



Cade Kistler
Program Director



Hanlon Walsh
Communications Director



Jamie Bullock
*Education & Outreach
Coordinator*



Ilka Porter
*Education & Outreach
Coordinator*



Chad Chappell
*Membership & Volunteer
Coordinator*



Laura Stone
*Program & Grants
Coordinator*



Elise Barrows
*Communications
Coordinator*

Special thanks to past staff members Hanlon Walsh and Jamie Bullock. We are grateful for their years of dedicated service to Mobile Baykeeper.

OUR LEADERSHIP

YOUNG ADVISORY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT



Jep Hill
BBB Industries

VICE PRESIDENT



Brent Keith
Keith Air Conditioning

SECRETARY



Laura Curtis
Castlen Elementary



Lyndsey Dixon
Wilkins Miller LLC



Reggie Hill
Success 4 The Future



George Oswalt
Lyon Fry Cadden Insurance



Michael Piecuch
Mobile Bay Boatworks



Benton Thompson
Merrill Lynch



Renita Allen
Cunningham Bounds LLC



John Cutts
American Tank & Vessel



Elizabeth Maynard
Spring Hill College



Charles Tisher
Clark Greer Latham & Associates



Breck Pappas
PMT Publishing



Lacie Williams
Energy Technical Services



Sam Wilkes
Ryan & Wilkes, PC

Special thanks to outgoing Young Advisory Council (YAC) Leadership Committee Members Breck Pappas and Lacie Williams for their dedication and commitment to the YAC. We are grateful for their support and wish them the best of luck. Congratulations to new YAC Leadership Committee Member Sam Wilkes.

AMERICORPS MEMBERS



Ryann Wilcoxon
SWAMP
AmeriCorps Member



Kassey Trahanas
SWAMP
AmeriCorps Member



Braxton Orso
SWAMP
AmeriCorps Member



Emilee Foster
Baykeeper AVE
AmeriCorps Member



Boris Kresevljak
Baykeeper AVE
AmeriCorps Member



Ellie Mallon
Patrol & Monitoring
AmeriCorps Member



Jacob Hartley
Patrol & Monitoring
AmeriCorps Member



Jamie Ellis
Patrol & Monitoring
AmeriCorps Member



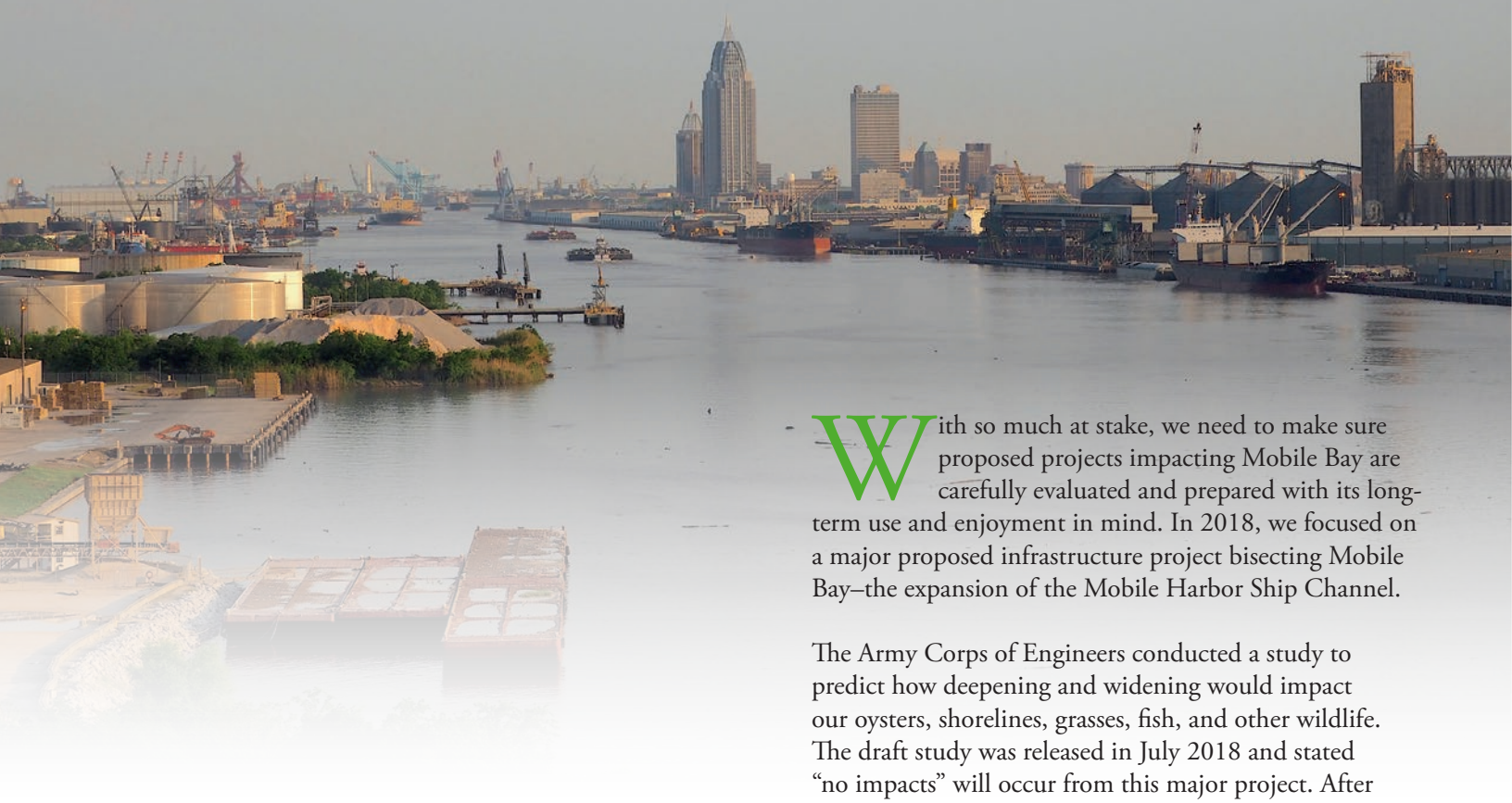
Sarah Asher
Patrol & Monitoring
AmeriCorps Member



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.

SHIP CHANNEL

Mobile Bay is a unique and dynamic system that is considered one of the most biodiverse in North America. It is our home. It supports our way of life—a place to swim, fish, and play. It supports our economy—fueling tourism, coastal development, industrial activities, delicious seafood, and much more.



With so much at stake, we need to make sure proposed projects impacting Mobile Bay are carefully evaluated and prepared with its long-term use and enjoyment in mind. In 2018, we focused on a major proposed infrastructure project bisecting Mobile Bay—the expansion of the Mobile Harbor Ship Channel.

The Army Corps of Engineers conducted a study to predict how deepening and widening would impact our oysters, shorelines, grasses, fish, and other wildlife. The draft study was released in July 2018 and stated “no impacts” will occur from this major project. After reviewing with local experts, community members, and doing our own research, it is clear the study was inadequate and lacked critical information necessary to estimate impact.

Mobile Baykeeper submitted a formal comment letter expressing concerns and listing flaws that must be addressed in the final study. An action alert was created to give community members a streamlined way to submit comments, generating 144 letters to the Corps in just three days.

It is essential for the Corps to address issues with the study so impacts from the expansion can be mitigated. We will continue to push for a quality study so we may grow responsibly and minimize negative impacts to the very natural resources that support our economy and way of life along the coast.

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH BY THE NUMBERS



731 LETTERS SENT
FROM THE COMMUNITY

22

COMMENT
LETTERS
SUBMITTED



RESTORE

The State of Alabama released an excellent progress report this year noting dollars spent on restoration, types of projects moving forward, amount of data being collected, and prospects for the future. The report is full of incredible detail showcasing what is moving forward. The more challenging piece to explain is what it took to get here. Thousands of hours have been dedicated from the Mobile Baykeeper office alone, but we've worked in partnership with the Alabama Renewal Group: Alabama Coastal Foundation, The Audubon Society, Birmingham Audubon, Conservation Alabama, National Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and The Ocean Conservancy among others, to ensure good projects drive the conversation with decision makers. You, as community members, have written letters, made phone

calls, showed up to meetings and so much more. Restoration is moving forward because of the community's incredible, multi-layered, and consistent involvement.

Among the \$711 million funded for 122 projects, there are roads, a few economic projects that may cause environmental impacts, and a few that simply don't move the dial for what we all hope is once-in-a-lifetime funding.

The vast majority of projects, however, are powerful: projects like wetlands restoration, living shorelines additions, watershed management planning, and sewage treatment facility upgrades. These projects will solve real problems for our community, our environment, and our economy.

We're not finished yet!

There is another \$700+ million still available for projects that could create generational change for Alabama's future. We need you to stay active, stay engaged, and stay vigilant to ensure these monies are not squandered, but instead create a future that supports swimming without questioning water quality, fishing without worrying the fish fry is toxic, and hunting where ducks are plentiful.

Let's invest money into once in a lifetime projects that can make us resilient to the next disaster.

"THE BP OIL DISASTER SEEMS FAR AWAY TO MANY, BUT THE MOBILE BAYKEEPER TEAM, AREA SCIENTISTS, AND OTHERS WORKING ON RESTORATION ARE CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF THAT FATEFUL APRIL 20, 2010. WE REMEMBER THE 11 MEN WHO DIED, THE FRAGILITY OF OUR PRECIOUS SUGAR SAND BEACHES, THE NEED TO PROTECT THOSE WETLAND GRASSES THAT SPAWN OUR DINNER, AND ALL THOSE VITAL WATERWAYS THAT SUPPLY OUR JOY. THESE WATERWAYS ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF FUTURE GENERATIONS OF COASTAL ALABAMA FAMILIES AND WE MUST PROTECT THEM."

- CASI (KC) CALLAWAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BAYKEEPER

NOW IS THE TIME

The potential for a catastrophe many times larger than the BP Oil Disaster looms a few miles north of the City of Mobile on the banks of the Mobile River. On a clear day, anyone can spot the stacks of Alabama Power's Barry Steam Plant from the Bayway. In the shadow of those stacks sits a nearly 600-acre unlined pit holding 21 million tons of poisonous coal ash. The unlined ash pit is held back by a dirt dam and surrounded on three sides by the Mobile River.

Mobile Baykeeper spent the better part of 2018 researching this threat from all sides. We retained experts to study it, surveyed it from the air, and sampled it by boat. We learned from multiple catastrophic failures at coal ash ponds across the nation, finally compiling all our data into a comprehensive pollution report.

Before publishing our report, we began meeting with Alabama Power, asking them to protect Mobile Bay and the Alabama Gulf Coast. We asked them to match what their sister company Georgia Power is doing by removing every coastal coal ash pit, or what South Carolina is doing by removing every ash pond in

the state, or follow the initiatives North Carolina and Virginia are taking to remove coal ash in their states.

Rather than being better or even as good as our neighbors, Alabama Power has decided they will bury the toxic coal ash in place. There is a mountain of evidence from their own tests showing the pond is leaking arsenic into our groundwater, resulting in a \$250,000 fine from the State. Serious flooding concerns come with using an earthen dam to protect a pile of poisonous heavy metals in the middle of a vast wetland. We've seen too many examples of catastrophic spills at other coal ash pits. With everything they know, Alabama Power is NOT doing what they KNOW is right for their employees, residents, families, communities, and businesses across Alabama.

Since we are one major storm away from a catastrophe in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and Mobile Bay, now is the time to tell Alabama Power that burying toxic coal ash on the side of the river is absolutely unacceptable. Alabama Power turns the lights on after the storms pass. Now they have a chance to avert a disaster before it happens. Dig up the coal ash and move it away from the Mobile River.

An aerial photograph showing a large industrial facility, the Barry Steam Plant, with several tall smokestacks. In the foreground, a large, unlined coal ash pond is visible, surrounded by a dirt dam. The pond is situated in a delta region with a river and surrounding wetlands. The text 'COAL ASH in the Delta' is overlaid on the bottom of the image.

COAL ASH in the Delta

An aerial photograph showing a wide, muddy-brown river curving through a landscape of trees and fields. To the left of the river, there is a large, bright blue pond. A white text box is overlaid on the top portion of the image, containing a quote and attribution. The background shows a vast expanse of land with scattered buildings and power lines in the distance under a blue sky with light clouds.

“PERMANENTLY CLOSING OUR ASH PONDS IS ABOUT MORE THAN COMPLIANCE FOR GEORGIA POWER, IT’S ABOUT A PERSISTENT FOCUS ON MAKING THE BEST DECISIONS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS, AT EACH INDIVIDUAL SITE, AND FOR OUR NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.”

**- DR. MARK BERRY
ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES
GEORGIA POWER**

STORMWATER ISSUES

Mobile Baykeeper works diligently to stop muddy water from leaving construction sites and flowing into local rivers, creeks, and bays. Mud is pollution because it fills rivers, taking away the ability to swim, boat, and fish; at high levels it clogs fish gills and makes it hard for fish to find food; it stops light from getting to wetland grasses and disrupts the food chain; and it can carry nutrients and other contaminants into waterbodies.

We work hard to track down sources of mud coming from construction sites and ensure issues are resolved quickly. Our patrol team follows citizen concerns, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) reports, and large developments closely. When a construction site has problems, our team goes into the field to document what they see. If we see permit violations, like mud flowing off of a construction site, we attempt to contact the developer first so they can have a chance to fix it. With an unresponsive developer, we work with the city and ADEM to make sure mud is stopped from flowing into the nearby creeks, rivers, or bay. We then continue to follow up to make sure the site stays in compliance.

Unfortunately, many contractors do not understand the importance of stopping muddy stormwater from leaving their site. Building quickly without investing in tools needed to keep our waterways mud-free impacts the beauty people move to Coastal Alabama to enjoy. We continue putting the pressure on contractors to comply with their permits, and local and state government to appropriately address violations when they occur. Keeping our rivers, streams, creeks, and bays mud-free means we can all swim, fish, and play into the future.



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 or call the office at 251-433-4229.

For more information, please contact Program & Grants Coordinator Laura Stone at lstone@mobilebaykeeper.org.



LITTER-FREE MARDI GRAS



DIVERSE COMMUNITY PARTNERS COLLABORATE TO SUPPORT THIS ONGOING PROJECT.

NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM
MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
THOMPSON ENGINEERING
CITY OF MOBILE
GULF COAST CONTAINERS
OSPREY INITIATIVE
ALABAMA PIPE & SUPPLY
UNIVERSAL PRECAST



One Mile Creek, a small tributary of Three Mile Creek, receives a significant amount of litter left on the ground after Mardi Gras parades from stormwater runoff via the storm drains. At the end of 2017, we received a \$56,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program to implement a project to improve One Mile Creek and help Mobile move toward a Litter-Free Mardi Gras.

In 2018, we implemented the Litter-Free Mardi Gras campaign with marine debris removals and kayak litter cleanups to restore One Mile Creek, temporary litter barriers installed over storm drains along parade routes to prevent litter from entering the drains and creek, and a public awareness campaign during Mardi Gras to encourage citizens to celebrate responsibly and reduce litter impacts on our waterways.



BY THE NUMBERS

REMOVED
4,165
POUNDS
OF LITTER
FROM ONE MILE CREEK

CONDUCTED
TWELVE
TRASH ASSESSMENTS

INSTALLED **15** MARINE
DEBRIS
INTERCEPTORS (MARDIS)

 **264** VOLUNTEERS
REMOVED MARINE DEBRIS


450 THOUSAND PEOPLE
REACHED IN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

SEWER ISSUES

2017 was a bad year for sewage overflows: between Mobile and Baldwin Counties 26 million gallons of raw sewage spilled into area waterways. That's the equivalent of about 50 gallons of raw sewage every minute of the year.

The Good News: in 2018 the fruits of years of hard work are showing. Sewage spills dropped significantly to 3.6 million gallons.

What happened? Mobile Baykeeper has been waging a no-holds barred war on sewage spills for most of our 21 years.

WE RESEARCHED AND SHARED HOW MUCH UTILITIES ARE SPENDING ON MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES.

Wastewater infrastructure is extremely expensive to repair and replace, but, as rate payers, we know that's why we pay our bills—to keep sewage INSIDE the sewage line, not in our streets, rivers, or Mobile Bay. Cities and utilities must continuously invest to prevent spills and upgrade sewage treatment facilities. The City of Mobile, MAWSS, Satsuma, Fairhope, and Eastern Shore utilities are taking advantage of RESTORE funding to upgrade their systems. It will take commitments to long-term, system-wide investments to make sure these problems are truly fixed.

WE SHARED MORE INFORMATION.

Through Swim Guide and SWIM Sponsorships, we sent out 85 notifications to 1,512 people throughout Coastal Alabama. Knowing how often it was unsafe to swim raised awareness of the severity of sewage spills. This awareness is resulting in upgrades and a commitment to better solutions.

WE ARE FIGHTING FOR DIRECT NOTIFICATION OF SEWAGE SPILLS.

Several years ago, as we reevaluated our ongoing campaign to stop sewage spills, we determined there was a need for better spill notification. Along with the seven other Waterkeeper organizations across the state, we advocated for better notification requirements so you would know when a sewage spill happens in your area.

WE PATROLLED AND MONITORED.

When it rained we put on ponchos and tracked down overflows to make sure they were reported and sampled to show the severity of the problem in the community.

WE FILED A LAWSUIT.

When we found Daphne Utilities not reporting sewage spills and cutting corners on maintenance and upgrades rather than protecting our waterways and health, we filed suit and put a stop to this quickly and powerfully.

An 86% decrease is amazing progress, but we cannot stop. We'll continue working with partners like MAWSS to ensure investments increase while sewage spills decrease. We'll continue going to Montgomery to make sure you know when sewage spills happen so you can protect your family. We'll keep putting on our rain gear and venturing into storms to track down sewage spills. When utilities attempt to save money while putting your health and waterways at risk, we'll do whatever is needed to hold them accountable and stop pollution. When it comes to sewage it's pretty simple—spend the money to keep the poop in the pipe.

SMART INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

2018
BY THE
NUMBERS

90

SITES TESTED ALONG
LOCAL RIVERS & CREEKS
BY VOLUNTEER MONITORS



281 SSOs
TRACKED

(SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS)

601



BACTERIOLOGICAL
SAMPLES TAKEN
FROM LOCAL WATERWAYS



13

BACTERIOLOGICAL
SAMPLES TAKEN
FOLLOWING ACTIVE SEWAGE SPILLS

SWIM WHERE IT'S MONITORED

Mobile Baykeeper works hard to ensure citizens across Coastal Alabama know when and where it's safe to swim. For years, ADEM has routinely monitored for harmful bacteria at 25 beaches along the Bay and Gulf. However, many bays, rivers, and streams along our coast go untested.

To solve this problem, we created the "Swim Where It's Monitored" (SWIM) Program in 2017 to provide our community with up-to-date water quality information at their favorite swimming hole. SWIM provides anyone an opportunity to sponsor water quality monitoring at a location of their choosing. This monitoring allows citizens to make informed decisions about when to swim, fish, boat, or play.

The SWIM Program's primary focus is to test for bacteria known as Enterococci that can endanger our health. Once we receive the results, we post them on our website and on the Swim Guide App. We also send out weekly emails throughout the summer with the latest results.

In 2018, we monitored three sites through the SWIM Program and took a total of 50 samples.

SWIM SITE	SWIM SITE SPONSOR	SAMPLES TAKEN	PERCENT OF SAMPLES W/ HIGH* BACTERIA LEVELS
Devil's Hole, Magnolia Springs	Town of Magnolia Springs	21	23.8%
Point Clear, Mobile Bay	Families of Fairhope	14	26.7%
Battle's Wharf, Mobile Bay	Families of Fairhope	15	30.8%

*High bacteria levels are defined as any result greater than the EPA threshold of 104 colony forming units (CFU) of Enterococci /100 mL of water.

Our team samples every week throughout the summer—on weekends, in the pouring rain, and on the hottest days—to ensure you have the latest results. Wondering if your favorite spot to swim is tested? Check out Swim Guide to see. If it's not, consider sponsoring a site and let us monitor it for you.

Want to get the latest water quality results? Download the Swim Guide App from the App Store or Google Play. You can also sign up for email updates on our website.

To learn more about sponsoring a site, please contact Justine Herlihy at jherlihy@mobilebaykeeper.org or go to our website at Mobilebaykeeper.org/swim.



WHAT IS AMERICORPS?

AmeriCorps is a national program that engages adults in public service work with a goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community.” Mobile Baykeeper hosts AmeriCorps Members to fill our local needs by working for clean water, clean air, and healthy communities. In return for their dedicated service, they have a small compensation package that includes an education stipend. The Mobile Baykeeper staff and Board work to ensure the Members are well trained to enter the workforce successfully.

BAYKEEPER AMERICORPS VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (AVE)

Baykeeper AVE seeks potential volunteers and cultivates them to become local environmental stewards. This team organizes and provides activities that enhance our local environment and community, such as litter cleanups and invasive species removals. Baykeeper AVE Members coordinate and collaborate with community groups and non-profit organizations to increase participation in environmental stewardship activities.

OUR IMPACT TO DATE:

Volunteers: 2,079
Bags of Trash: 45,771
Apple Snails: 8,210

Baykeeper AVE drives the engagement part of our work that ensures the education sticks. Talking to volunteers and listening to why they choose to help Mobile Baykeeper gives us the motivation and inspiration to reach our goals. The amazing Baykeeper volunteers inspire the team to keep working for clean air, clean water, and healthy communities.

BAYKEEPER AMERICORPS PATROL & MONITORING PROGRAM

The AmeriCorps Baykeeper Patrol Team focuses on solving local pollution problems to improve water quality and reduce impacts from stormwater, sewer, and industrial pollution. Our core activities include conducting site inspections, investigating citizen concerns, collecting water quality samples, documenting environmental pollution, researching incoming projects, and performing trash assessments.

OUR IMPACT TO DATE:

Citizen Concerns Addressed: 95
Inspections Conducted: 130
Samples Taken: 812

The Patrol Team does amazing things for the community: It cleans up litter, assists citizens with local problems, and tests water quality in local waterways. They interact one-on-one with the communities Baykeeper serves and see the impact of our work firsthand. Their passion for what we do means they don't mind getting a little dirty.

STRATEGIC WATERSHED AWARENESS & MONITORING PROGRAM (SWAMP)

SWAMP is a public awareness and citizen-based environmental education and monitoring program. SWAMP AmeriCorps Members spend their time giving educational presentations and training water quality monitors from grade school to gray hair.

OUR IMPACT TO DATE:

People Educated: 5,764
Presentations Given: 176
Educational Surveys Given: 2,187

The SWAMP Team has been spotted all over Mobile and Baldwin Counties teaching students and adults what a watershed is, the importance of water quality, and how we all play a role in keeping Mobile Bay and our waterways clean! Through these engaging educational opportunities, we are creating generations of knowledgeable citizens committed to clean water.



ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER SCHOOL

SWAMP—Strategic Watershed Awareness and Monitoring Program—seeks to educate and engage students and adults about the Mobile Bay Watershed. Through presentations and water quality monitor training, we raise awareness and empower students and citizens in the community to help us protect Mobile Bay and our coastal communities.

SWAMP KEEPS GROWING

A \$75,000 grant from AM/NS Calvert in 2016 kicked off two schools: Citronelle High School and LeFlore High School. In 2017, we added two more schools, Fairhope High School and Alma Bryant High School, with grants from NOAA-B-WET (\$87,000) and the EPA Environmental Education Program (\$91,000), respectively. In 2018, through funding from the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (\$40,000), Vigor High School was added to the SWAMP roster. With generous funding from our grantors, we are training 30 students from each school to be certified water quality monitors through Alabama Water Watch. These students take monthly trips to test water and conduct mini cleanups within their school's watershed.

Through all of Mobile Baykeeper's education efforts in 2018, we educated a total of 5,086 students at 28 schools and trained 211 of these students to become certified water quality monitors.

ENGAGING EDUCATORS

In the spring, Mobile Baykeeper partnered with the Mobile Area Education Foundation to create six modules to enhance SWAMP. These modules were created to provide teachers with lessons to extend watershed education beyond Mobile Baykeeper.

In September 2018, Mobile Baykeeper hosted an educator workshop at Five Rivers Delta Center with Dr. Tina Miller-Way, Chair of Discovery Hall Programs for Education and Outreach at the Dauphin

Island Sea Lab, to provide professional development on the six modules. Each of the five SWAMP schools had representatives in attendance and each of the 20 teachers were given all necessary materials to carry out the modules. Survey results about the workshop were all positive with several teachers reporting they completed several of the modules with their environmental classes. We look forward to more professional development opportunities in 2019.



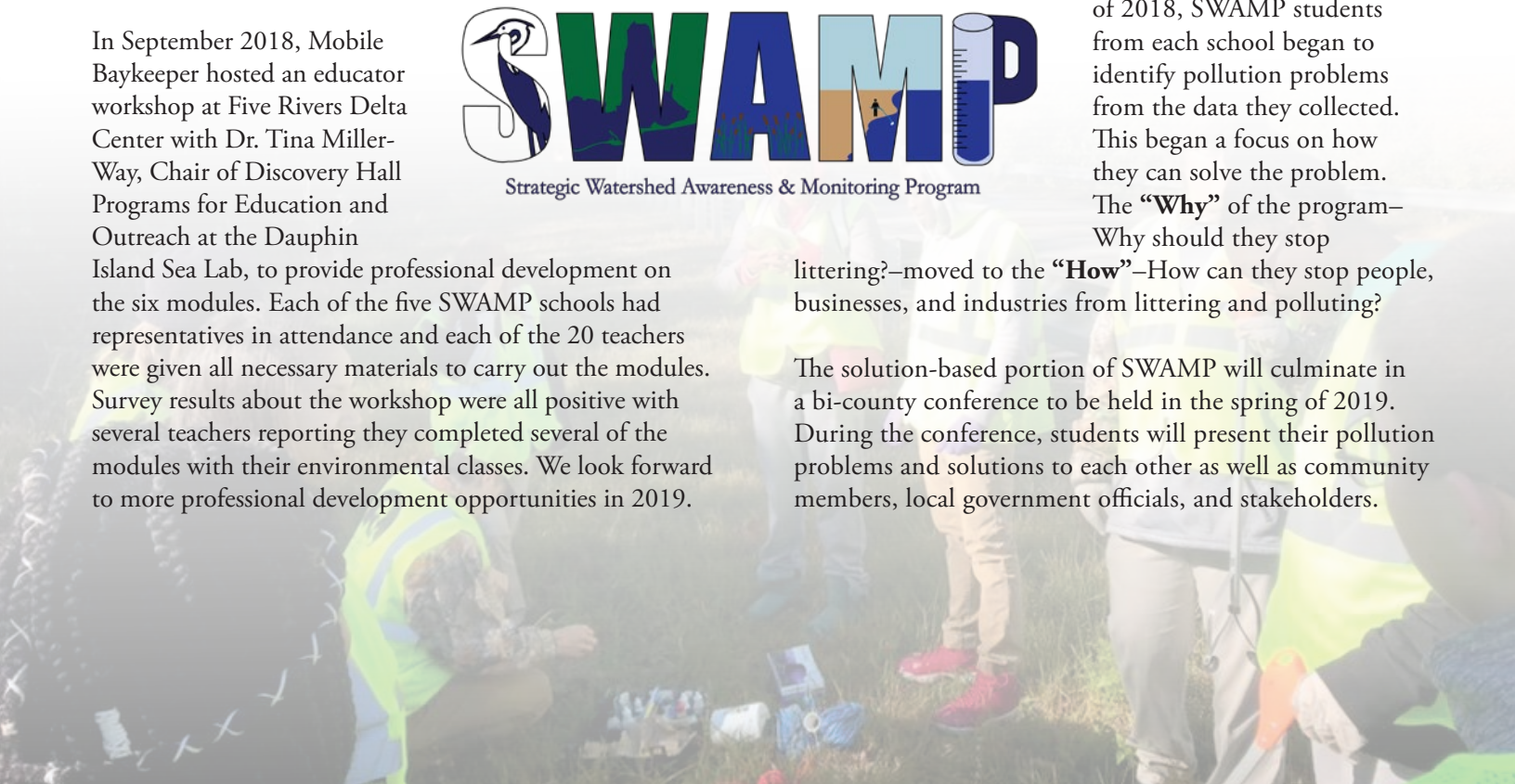
STUDENT SOLUTIONS

The schools participating in SWAMP span from the northern part of Mobile County to the southern tip, from the City of Mobile to the Eastern Shore. Each school's watershed is unique and each area has its own unique

pollution problems. In the fall of 2018, SWAMP students from each school began to identify pollution problems from the data they collected. This began a focus on how they can solve the problem. The **“Why”** of the program—Why should they stop

littering?—moved to the **“How”**—How can they stop people, businesses, and industries from littering and polluting?

The solution-based portion of SWAMP will culminate in a bi-county conference to be held in the spring of 2019. During the conference, students will present their pollution problems and solutions to each other as well as community members, local government officials, and stakeholders.



2018 BY THE NUMBERS

18,230 
PERSONAL INTERACTIONS *at*
TABLING EVENTS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS 2,790
 *at* SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS

1,540 
VOLUNTEERS
at cleanup events

 6,062
WORKSHOP
ATTENDEES



 4,590
FUNDRAISER
Participants 

56,716
DIRECT REACH

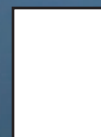


2017



46,364

2018



56,716

(22% increase in reach from 2017)

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY, EMPOWERING OUR CITIZENS

Engaging the community in a variety of fun, impactful activities allows Mobile Baykeeper staff to not only connect with community members, but empower the citizens to make a difference to protect the Mobile Bay Watershed. In 2018, Mobile Baykeeper, along with our dedicated members and volunteers, picked up where we left off in 2017. We kicked off the year with the second annual MLK Day of Service. To honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we partnered with local organizations to host a major cleanup along Three Mile Creek. More than 300 volunteers collected 2,250 pounds of trash.

Immediately outside the Broad Street loop of Downtown Mobile, One Mile Creek, a feeder to Three Mile Creek, bears the brunt of Mardi Gras, collecting beads, toys, and litter from the multiple parades. This year, One Mile Creek became a part the MLK Day of Service cleanup, a post-Mardi Gras cleanup, and was Mobile Baykeeper's site for the Alabama Coastal Cleanup.

Apple Snail Roundups at Langan Park continue to be a huge hit and, unfortunately, very necessary. They are an invasive critter with no known predators, and they strip the

native vegetation along the banks of Three Mile Creek. The goal of the roundups is twofold. The first goal is to remove as many snails as possible to prevent them from spreading beyond the creek into Mobile Bay and the Tensaw Delta. During the 2018 roundups, we collected 2,236 apple snails. The second goal is to educate the community about releasing plants or animals into our environment that don't belong.

In addition to our big cleanups, local citizens were empowered to participate in "DIY Cleanups!" Local churches, businesses, and neighborhoods organize their own events. We provide how-to trainings and all of the necessary equipment. In all, Mobile Baykeeper engaged and empowered over 1,500 people with cleanups and roundups.

Between the major cleanups, Mobile Baykeeper staff were busy speaking to various community clubs, presenting to schools, and tabling at public outreach events, continuing to raise awareness of our local watershed and elevate citizens to be empowered to protect Mobile Bay. These efforts allowed us to reach 27,350 people.



"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS."

-MARGARET MEAD

FUNDRAISING WITH A PURPOSE

Year-after-year our fundraising events grow in size, scope, and scale. That growth enables us to protect the beauty, health, and heritage of the Mobile Bay Watershed and our coastal communities.

Each event was hosted with purpose: raised awareness of our mission, connected with new people in our community, and grew our membership. In 2018, community members and sponsors continued to be our champions enabling us to raise over \$208,000. These funds directly support our work for clean water, clean air, and healthy communities.



APRIL

BAY AWAKENING AT THE BATTLE HOUSE HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN MOBILE

More than 200 business leaders, corporate partners, and community members enjoyed lunch and an engaging panel of local authors and artists telling fascinating stories of what makes our home so special. The stunning and brilliant Cassandra Inge Burks of Renasant Bank moderated John Sledge, Watt Key, and Nall the Artist before a backdrop filled with beautiful Coastal Alabama imagery by Fontaine Radcliff Howard.

JUNE

15TH ANNUAL PUBLIX GRANDMAN TRIATHLON & 5TH JUBILEE KIDS TRIATHLON IN BEAUTIFUL FAIRHOPE, AL

More than 600 racers, 150 volunteers, and hundreds of spectators joined us as swimmers jumped off the pier and swam in Mobile Bay, biked through the rolling countryside of Baldwin County, and ran along the bluff in Fairhope. Connecting racers from nine states directly to our beautiful Mobile Bay area encourages our efforts to protect local waterways and reminds us how fortunate we are to be able to swim, fish, and play in Mobile Bay.



JULY

BAY BITES FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL IN DOWNTOWN MOBILE

Cooper Riverside Park was filled with more than 1,200 people, a variety of food trucks, children playing corn hole, getting faces painted, and riding Segways as adults enjoyed SweetWater beer and wine from BeatBox. Live music by Roadside Glorious echoed across the Mobile River while guests rode the mechanical surfboard and water slide near GulfQuest. The dance of the Crescent Towing tug boats spraying water cannons showed how we connect to our rivers, our community, and our natural resources.

NOVEMBER

BAY BASH AT GULFOQUEST MARITIME MUSEUM

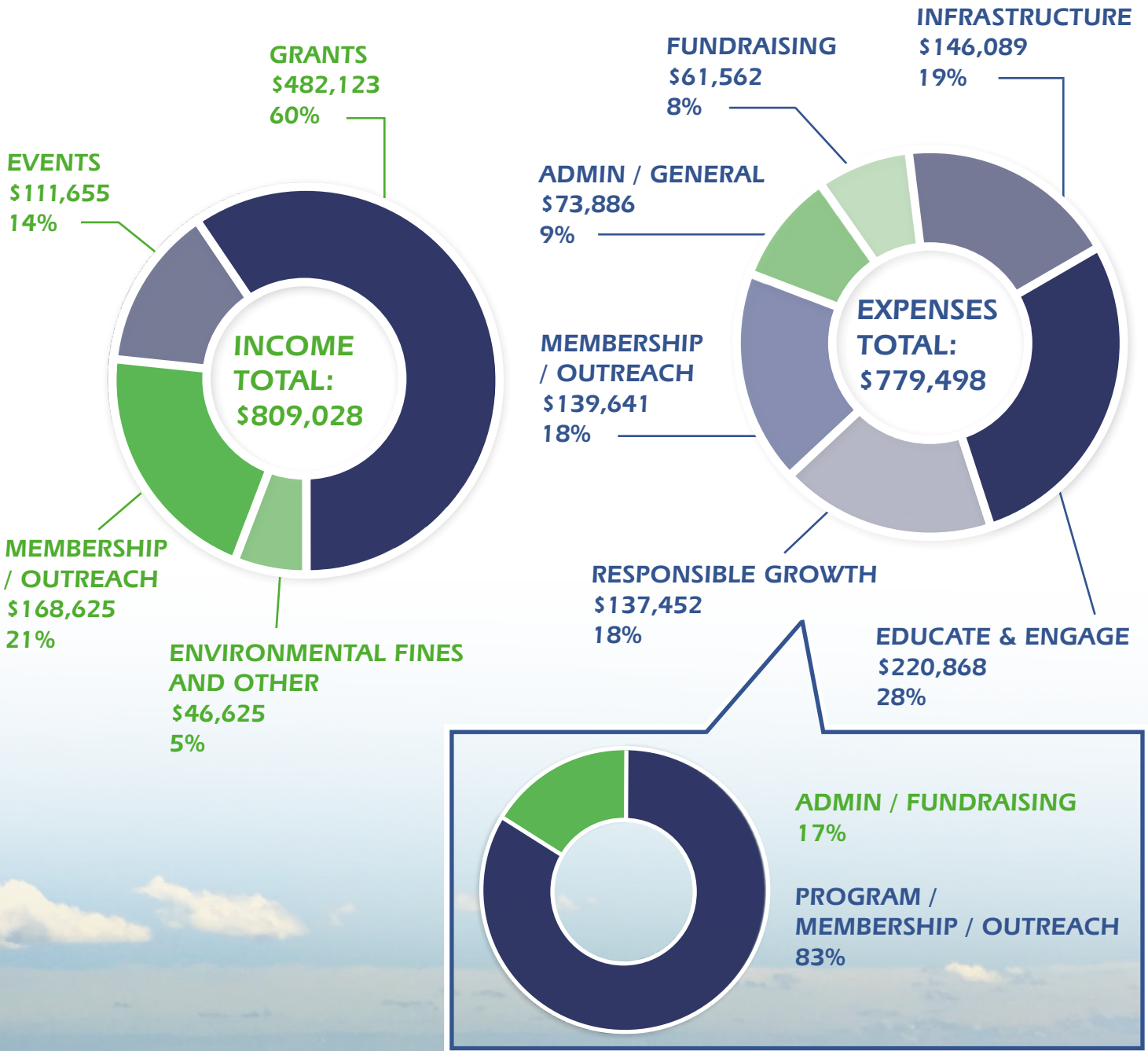
Guests “Celebrated the Bounty of Mobile Bay” with extraordinary dishes from Felix’s Fish Camp, Original Oyster House, Wintzell’s Oyster House, ED’s Seafood Shed, Mobile Oyster Company, Sunset Point, and more. An exquisite aerial yoga performance showcased dancers flying through the air as the sun set on Mobile Bay. The “Singer with Soul”, Yo Jonesy and her band the Crowned Jewelz had guests dancing the night away. The evening concluded with guests taking home big-ticket silent auction items from an incredible silent auction.



“Bay Splash” events were hosted by partners throughout Mobile and Baldwin Counties and ranged from the creation of special beers like the “Hop in the Bay IPA” with the Fairhope Brewing Company to a “Crawl for Clean Water” with local bars and restaurants in downtown Mobile, to events held at local art galleries to use imagery to raise funds for our work. These smaller events helped us meet and engage with community members in their favorite spaces.



FINANCIALS



SPONSORS

Advocare - FitChampions.com
Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo
Alabama Senior Olympics
Altaworx
AM/NS Calvert
Anytime-Fitness (Spanish Fort Location)
Atlanta Bread Company
Austal
Baldwin County Sewer Service, LLC
Baron's by the Bay Inn
BeatBox Beverages
Bender Realty
Blue Rents
Buck's Pizza
Bunker One
Cadence 120 Bicycle Works, Inc.
Callaghan's Irish Social Club
Canoe and Kayak Club
Carpe Diem Coffee & Tea Co.
City of Fairhope
Coastal Chiropractic
Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.
Community Bank
Cooper Marine & Timberlands Corp.
Cooper/T. Smith
Copycats Face Painting
Corona Premier
Cottages of Fairhope
CPC Office Technologies
Crow Shields Bailey PC
Dasani
Dew Drop Inn
Downtown Mobile Alliance
Eastern Shore Cycles
EcoView Windows, Doors & Siding
Fairhope Boat Company
Fairhope Brewing Company
Fairhope Physical Therapy
Families of Fairhope
FitBy Jessica
Fitness Pro
FloraBama Gulf Coast Paddle
Fleet Feet Sports Mobile
FOY
Fusion Sports
Glow-Yoga
Gotta Go Portables
Grand Hotel Marriott Resort
Gulf Distributing, LLC
GulfQuest
Gwin's Commercial Printing
Gyro Space
Hackbarth Delivery Service
Hammer Nutrition
Hampton Inn Fairhope
Hargrove Engineers + Constructors
Heritage Homes
The Hiller Companies
Huntington Learning Center
Ice Plant, Inc.
Integrity Roofing & Contracting, LLC
J. Vestal Photo
Joe Zarzaur Law
Juice Plus
Keith Air Conditioning, Inc.
The Kullman Firm
Logical Computer Solutions
Lyon, Fry, Cadden Insurance
Maids a la Mode
Medical Center Podiatry, P.C.
Mellow Mushroom
Michael and Debbie Quinn
Mobile County Health Department
Mobile Oyster Company
Mobile Segway Tours
Mobtown Merch
Moorer YMCA
Morgan Stanley - Five Rivers
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery J. Hartley
MyTeam Triumph
O'Daly's Irish Pub
Old 27 Grill
OM Personal Training
Orange Theory Fitness - Daphne
The Orthopaedic Group, P.C.
OsteoStrong
Phelps Dunbar, LLP
PHINS T-Shirts
Pilot Catastrophe Services, Inc.
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Pro Cycle & Tri
Publix Supermarkets
Quincy Compressors
Red Beard Outfitters
Regions Bank
Run-N-Tri
Running Wild - Fairhope
Saunders Yachtworks
Seawell Engineering Sciences, LLC
SERVPRO Southwest Mobile
Southshore Insurance Underwriters
SweetWater Brewing Company
Springhill Toyota
Tameron Honda Eastern Shore
TeamWorks
Thompson Engineering
Town of Magnolia Springs
Volkert
Waterkeeper Alliance SPLASH Series
White-Spinner Realty, Inc.
WildNative Delta Safaris
Wilkins Miller, LLC
Williams Financial Group
Wintzell's Oyster House

GRANTORS

Abahac, Inc.
Alabama Coastal Heritage Trust
Alabama Rivers Alliance
AM/NS Calvert
American Canoe Association
ArcelorMittal USA
Captain Planet Foundation
C.D. Helen & Jeff Glaze Foundation
City of Fairhope
Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
Dorothy D. Trabits Stephens
Foundation
EPA Environmental Education
Fiser Giafagleone Charitable Fund
Friends of Dog River Foundation
Fuse Project
Governor's Office of Volunteer Services
Gulf of Mexico Alliance
Hargrove Foundation
Henry Cobb, Jr. Foundation
Lillian C. McGowin Foundation
Mobile Bay National Estuary Program
Network for Good
NOAA B-WET
NOAA Marine Debris
Osprey Initiative
Patagonia Foundation
Restore America's Estuaries/CITGO
Rotary Club of Mobile
Schmidt & Barton Family Fund
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Partners Fund
Walton Family Foundation

VISIONARY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Sumner & Lee Adams
Mr. Terry Aucoin
Mr. & Mrs. John & Angela Bell
Mr. Greg Breedlove
Mr. Tom Burkett
Christ Church Cathedral
Mr. & Mrs. J. Patrick Courtney
Mr. W. Allen Cox
Mr. James Crosby
Mr. William Cutts
Mr. Kendall Dexter
Dr. & Mrs. Bernard & Carolyn Eichold
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Rebecca Fitts
Flea Market Mobile
Great Bear Wax Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Terry & Jennifer Hartley
Alison Baxter Herlihy, P.C.
Mr. J. Tunstall Inge
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Keith
Mr. Rick Kuykendall
Mr. Dennis Langan
Mr. & Mrs. Ted & Katherine Lathan
Mr. & Mrs. Pete & Carol Mackey
Mr. Dominick Matranga
Mr. Charles Mayhall
Mr. Christopher Mayhall
Mr. & Mrs. Ray & Jacque Mayhall
Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Susan McClure
"In Memory of Charles Moorehead"
Mrs. Tiffany Murdock
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Karen Myrick
Mr. Andy Newton
Mr. & Mrs. Stan & Barbara Nolan
Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Sharon Olen
Mr. & Mrs. Norman & Belinda Pittman
Mr. Marion A. Quina, Jr.
Councilwoman & Dr. Debbie & Michael Quinn
Mr. David Rauch
Mr. Rance Reehl
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Katie Ricciardone
Mr. William Rowan
Mr. & Mrs. John Schley Rutherford, Jr.
Mr. John Schley Rutherford, Sr.
Mrs. Jeanne Sanderford
Mr. & Mrs. Scott & Betsy Schneider
Mr. & Mrs. Henry & Kate Seawell
Shumer Consulting, LLC
Mr. & Mrs. James Shumock
Government Street Presbyterian Church
Mr. Riley Boykin Smith
Mr. Steve Springer
Mr. Sands Stimpson
Mr. Cooper Thurber
Mrs. Martha Tissington
Mr. & Mrs. Glen & Libba Vanderbeek
Mr. Todd Vereen
Ms. Elizabeth E. Walmsley
Mr. Melvin Washington
Ms. Kathy Welch-Cobb
Mr. Marc Whitehead
Mr. Blacksher White-Spinner
White-Spinner Construction, Inc.
"In Memory of Peggy White-Spinner"
Mr. & Mrs. Billy & Rebecca Williams

** Visionary Society Members not listed prefer to remain anonymous*

WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS



JOIN US TODAY

YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES US TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

As we reflect on another year of great work, we can't forget YOU—our members. In Alabama, our rivers, the Delta, Mobile Bay, and the Gulf are the heart and the life blood of our natural resources. For Mobile Baykeeper, our members provide the resources that keep us going and growing. You are our heart, the literal life support of our organization. Thank you for helping 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 generous contributions, Mobile Baykeeper can 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 and statewide.

Whether you volunteer your time or give your hard-earned money, Mobile Baykeeper uses your precious resources to ensure everyone has clean water, clean air, and healthy communities. By becoming a member of Mobile Baykeeper and encouraging others to join, we can secure the best possible tomorrow for future generations.

**VISIT [MOBILEBAYKEEPER.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](https://mobilebaykeeper.org/membership) OR
CALL 251-433-4229 TO LEARN MORE AND BECOME A MEMBER.**

It is a good time to be the Board President of Mobile Baykeeper and, at the halfway point of my two-year term, a good time to step back and reflect, and, more importantly, take a look at where we're headed. The good news is that the news is good.

A significant, ongoing accomplishment is the remarkable degree of stability with the current staff. They are dedicated, capable, and hard-working (and fun to be around) and are becoming more efficient and effective every day. Being the Board President of a stable organization affords the luxury of directing my energy where it ought to be directed: helping our Board help Mobile Baykeeper succeed.

A few years ago, Mobile Baykeeper engaged a firm to put together a Strategic Plan for the organization. The Board, Casi, and the staff put a tremendous amount of effort into understanding and refining our role in the community and produced a strategy map that serves as a lens through which decisions at all levels of the organization are considered and evaluated to this day.

Foremost among my tasks this year is to revisit the strategy map and go deeper.

A pillar of the organizational foundation of Mobile Baykeeper is to ensure a diverse board is involved, well trained, and accountable. We are engaging in a year-long board training and assessment in which we will reimagine the role of our Board. The exercise includes board member training to better define the role of a director and inspire individual accountability and buy-in; in addition, we will reassess the structural interaction between the Board and staff to keep up with best practices in order to best position Mobile Baykeeper for success.

We continue to drive the conversation on sewer spills and we continue to lead in sounding the alarm regarding Alabama Power's plan to leave the toxic coal ash on site at Plant Barry in a bend in a river, in a floodplain, in the middle of our precious Mobile-Tensaw Delta.

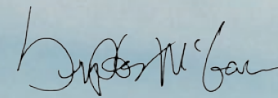
SWAMP continues to give hundreds of school children valuable insight into how their individual and collective actions impact the health of our waterways, establishing a connection to their environment that could be life-changing.

None of this is possible without broad community support through membership. My goal for our Board is to be great ambassadors for Mobile Baykeeper. I want to see our community better recognize and value the important work of this organization.

This group is a force to be reckoned with!

In short, this ship is pointed in the right direction. Our focus for the next year as a Board of Directors is to increase in efficiency and effectiveness. We have a great team doing great work on behalf of our beloved Delta and Bay and Sound and bayous and rivers. My goal is for our Board to do everything we can to help keep the momentum.

Sincerely,



Sumpter McGowin
Board President

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

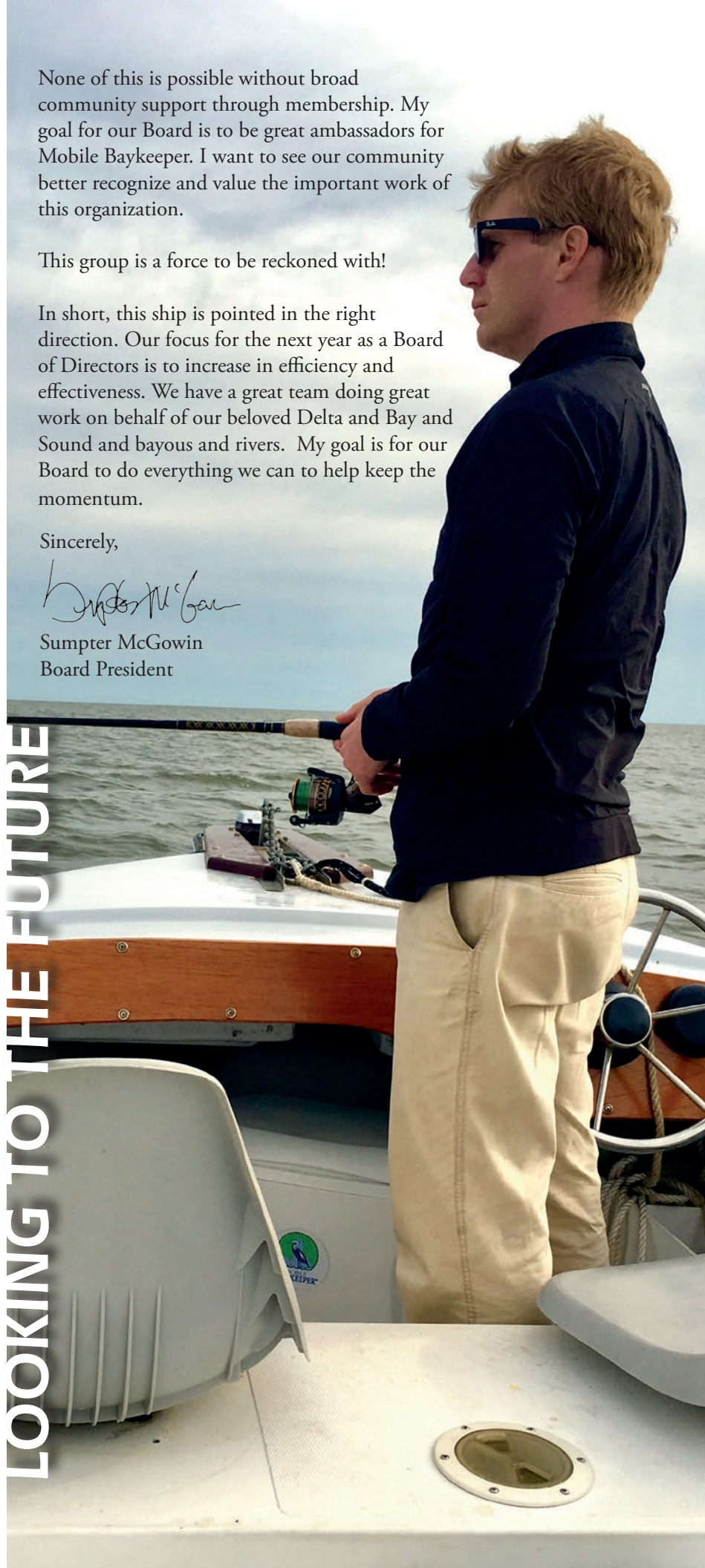




PHOTO CREDIT: JUSTIN HARTLEY | WWW.JHARTLEYPHOTO.COM

GWIN'S
COMMERCIAL PRINTING
SINCE 1913

450C Government St, Mobile, AL 36602
251-433-4229 | info@mobilebaykeeper.org
www.mobilebaykeeper.org

