



Cahaba River Society works to protect & restore the Cahaba River watershed and its rich diversity of life.

2017 SPRING UPDATES

Cahaba River Society is an educator, expert resource, and collaborative partner for science-based and practical solutions.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE CAHABA:

The Shane Hulsey CLEAN Program

Known for its environmental science field trips with students in the Cahaba watershed, this spring the CLEAN team has expanded to serve other groups in the community as well. For example, in March, the Green Resource Center of Alabama's 2017 EMERGE Sustainability Leadership class of professionals and community leaders got its feet wet chasing fish on a CLEAN field trip. In April, the CLEAN team took a group of the scientists on the executive committee of the Birmingham March for Science out on the River to see one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in North America.



Birmingham March for Science Executive Committee Members on the Cahaba

To date, CLEAN has served more than 34,000 students & teachers with its innovative, hands-on curriculum. This unique program is tailored to encourage critical thinking among students to help them make informed decisions about water resource issues. To schedule a field trip, please contact La'Tanya Scott or Gordon Black at 205-322-5326.

The Cahaba Blueway

CRS is part of the Cahaba Blueway partners, planning a water trail of river access sites from Trussville down to Old Cahawba. We are helping raise funds towards the official launch of the system with 18 initial sites and a website in 2018. Kudos to project coordinator Brian Rushing of the UA Center for Economic Development.



In the last year CRS has advised/assisted access improvements at Moon River (Leeds), Grants Mill (Irondale), Living River/Cahaba Environmental Center (Bibb/Shelby Co.), Centreville, and other locations.

River Restoration Projects

Our volunteer river restoration program is growing! CRS is supporting Amerex Corporation's new initiative to create an outdoor classroom at Hewitt-Trussville High School, the "River School," located on the Cahaba. The facility will support student learning about the River and how better environmental and stormwater design can help protect its special values.



Invasive Taro choking Cahaba Lily habitat

Last fall Amerex employees pulled invasive privet at the future Moon River access site in Leeds. This spring, CRS and our river restoration partners are planning for invasive plant removal in the National Wildlife Refuge, where exotics like Taro, or Elephant Ear, are threatening Cahaba lily habitat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAHABA LILY FESTIVAL

May 20, 2017, 8:00am – 4:00pm



Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge, West Blocton, AL

This celebration is held on the third Saturday each year in West Blocton, Alabama. Visit www.CahabaLily.com for more info.

CAHABA RIVER RAMBLE



June 10, 2017

Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge, West Blocton AL

Registration: 6:30, race begins: 7:30am
This trail race, presented by ALABAMA OUTDOORS, includes a youth run and spectacular 5k and 10-mile trail races along the "biological heart" of Alabama's longest remaining free-flowing river and is the primary annual fundraiser for our Shane Hulsey CLEAN Environmental Education Program. Located where the treasured Cahaba Lilies are in bloom, the race is one of the most unique running experiences in Alabama.

Register at cahabariversociety.org.

CAHABA CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

August 4 & 5



CAHABA CONNECTIONS

Cahaba Environmental Center

CRS and partners are planning the 2nd day-long conference bringing together people from all sectors to share info and increase collaboration on the Cahaba's biggest challenges and opportunities.

Register at cahabariversociety.org.

2717 7th Avenue South, Suite 205 ~ Birmingham, AL 35233 ~ tel. 205-322-5326

Join or donate at www.cahabariversociety.org

GROWING OUR STRENGTH, PARTNERS, AND IMPACT:

Standing up for Clean Water

This spring, the Cahaba River Society has participated in several actions to protect clean water.

On Rivers of Alabama Day, April 11, CRS Executive Director Beth Stewart traveled to Montgomery with a coalition of other river protection advocates from across the state to attend the Alabama Rivers Alliance Lobby Day and persuade our legislators to create an Alabama Water Plan.

Later in April, the Cahaba River Society participated in the Birmingham March for Science at Linn Park in Birmingham. CRS Field Director Dr. Randy Haddock spoke to the crowd of science advocates about the necessity of using sound science in creating policy to protect our most precious resource, water.

In May, Executive Director Beth Stewart was one of only 50 individuals selected to speak on a national EPA listening call where she had the opportunity to call upon our government to protect clean water safeguards.



Growing our future impact through strategic planning

We are finalizing planning for our strategic priorities over the next 5 years. CRS and Clarus Consulting Group engaged over 170 people through interviews, community conversations, a survey, and board-staff workshops.

Policy impact, river science, equity/inclusion, and hands-on restoration of riverside forests have been elevated among our priorities. Our commitment to education, Cahaba Blueway, and advocating for water-smart growth that restores water quality and habitat are reaffirmed. We look forward to sharing our plans with you soon.

PROMOTING WATER-SMART COMMUNITIES:

New partners for the Cahaba at ADEM

To restore Cahaba water quality and habitat overall, the actions of governments, nonprofit groups like CRS, and educational institutions need to be coordinated. CRS is exploring, with potential partners, a model process as a 1st step towards retrofitting developed areas with green infrastructure and monitoring whether actions are effective for the River's recovery. ADEM's staff that focuses on those kinds of projects is interested in helping, and hosted CRS to speak to 60 area leaders at 2 days of workshops on strategies to restore the Cahaba and Black Warrior rivers.

Low Impact Development stormwater design

CRS awarded Crowne at Cahaba Apartments at our Annual Meeting in January for using Low Impact Development stormwater design to protect the nearby Cahaba River. CRS' Field Director Dr. Randy Haddock had worked with the Crowne developers on innovative stormwater design. We've also been working with developers of several other major projects, such as the Mercedes dealership under construction in Irondale, which has enhanced stormwater design.



River planning in Irondale

Over the past 2 years CRS has been active in Irondale's community planning process. The Irondale On the Move plan, adopted last year, proposes more greenspace and River access for recreation and improved development practices to protect the River and drinking water sources. CRS's Beth Stewart recently spoke at a citizens' forum on parks and greenspace and at the Irondale Chamber of Commerce to encourage leaders towards those goals.

Protecting drinking water in Lake Purdy

The Birmingham Water Works Board has requested that up to 6 million gallons per day of treated sewage be diverted into Lake Purdy to boost drinking water supply. CRS raised concerns about this in permit comments to ADEM. All water utilities need to have proactive programs to encourage greater water efficiency and manage water demand, before compromising water quality to increase supply.



Please help to support our work! Learn more, join or donate at www.cahabariversociety.org