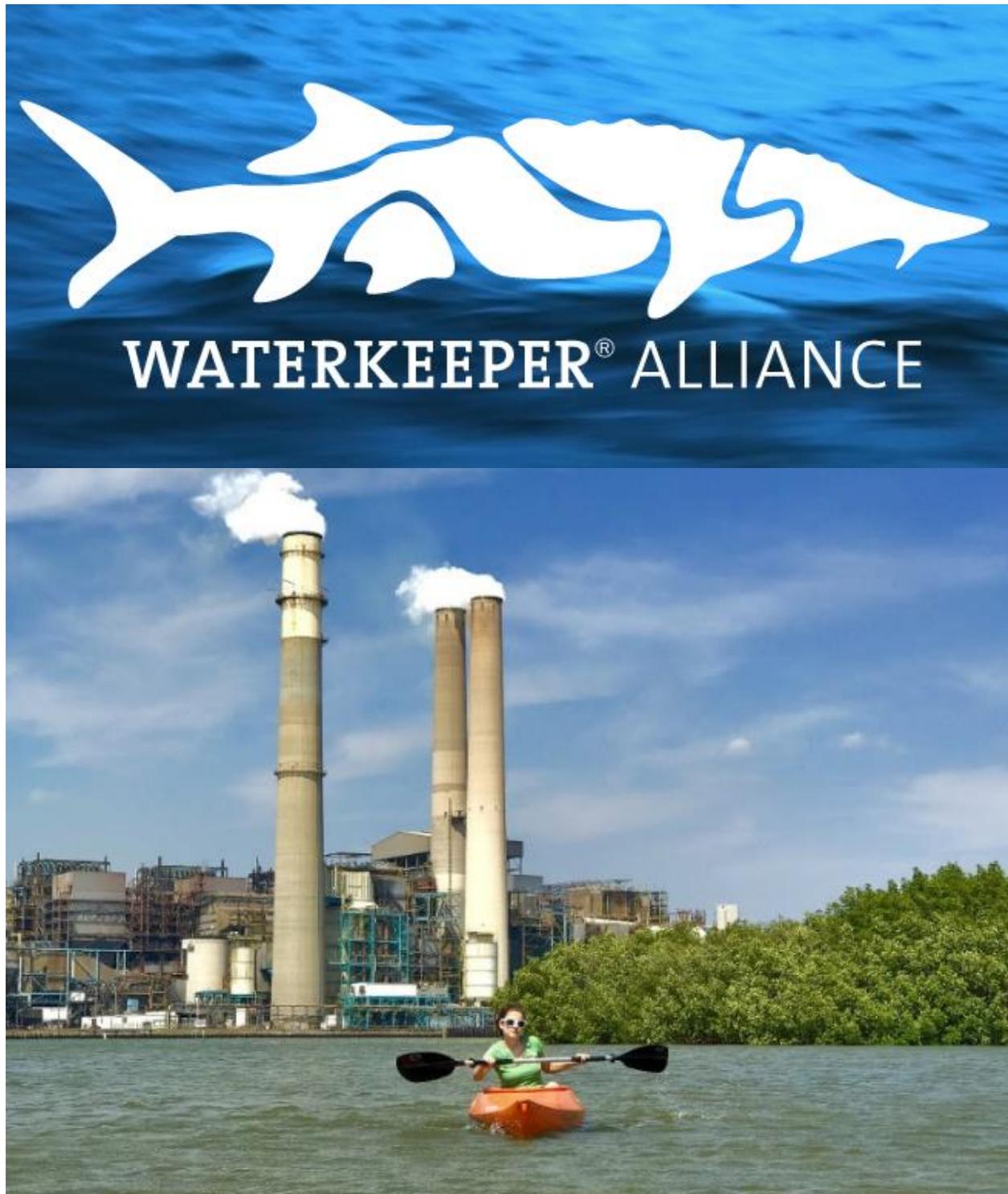


April 17, 2017 | **The Waterkeeper Weekly** (née The Sturgeon) is the weekly internal newsletter of Waterkeeper Alliance, aimed at keeping Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates around the world connected to each other's great work and activities.



Waterkeeper Alliance attorneys and [Suncoast Waterkeeper](#) investigated water pollution around a coal-fired power plant in Florida last week.

Support Updates

April Recess Toolkit

The Congressional recess is in its 2nd week which means Members of Congress (MoCs) have one more week in their home districts! [We have prepared this toolkit](#) for you to use to prepare for town halls and other meetings with your MoCs. In it you'll find best practice guides on organizing your community, clean water facts, a leave-behind on current federal attacks to clean water, and sample questions for you to ask at town halls in your community.

People's Climate March

Waterkeeper Alliance is teaming up with **Waterkeepers Chesapeake** (including local hosts **Potomac Riverkeeper, Anacostia Riverkeeper and Patuxent Riverkeeper**), EcoHermanas, and Spring of Light in Washington, DC for the [People's Climate March](#) on April 29th. If you're planning on joining us, please [fill out this form](#) so we can share information on meet-ups, accommodation options, and more. And if you can't make it to DC, please check out [this site to find a sister march near you](#).

Upcoming Webinars

Funding the Ocean | APRIL 18 at 9am PT/ 12pm ET

Join Foundation Center and Marine Watch International for a webinar presentation of [FundingtheOcean.org](#), a new online knowledge hub designed to track, inform and inspire ocean conservation philanthropy. This site provides public access to the most current and complete interactive funding map of global ocean conservation efforts, as well as a searchable library on ocean conservation, information about how ocean funders are working toward the Sustainable Development Goals, and a private online community for sharing knowledge and building relationships. >>> [Click here to register](#)

RESCHEDULED: GIS Mapping 101: Understanding Mapping Programs to Best Serve Your Organization | APRIL 19, 12 pm PT /3 pm ET

There is an ever-growing variety mapping software, all with different capabilities. This webinar will discuss opportunities with - and the pros and cons of ArcMap, ArcOnline, Google Maps, Google Earth, and other products. We will also discuss sources of publicly available data that can easily be uploaded and shared. Presenter: Catawba Riverkeeper Sam Perkins. >>> [Click here to register](#).

Boost Your Impact: The Ins and Outs of Facebook Ads Manager | APRIL 26, 10 am PT/1 pm ET

Facebook is the top social media site that nonprofits use to amplify their message. But as Facebook becomes more and more of an advertising tool, it's becoming more important to allocate funding to "boost" your posts for maximum reach. This webinar will provide an overview of how Facebook ads manager functions, audience targeting, conversion tracking, and campaign reporting.>>> [Click here to register](#) .

Campaign Updates

Clean and Safe Energy

Waterkeeper Alliance joined **Colorado Riverkeeper**, Center for Biological Diversity, and Sierra Club in filing our [first-ever administrative protest](#) against oil and gas fracking on public lands! The protest challenges a federal decision to offer for leasing in June more than [100,000 acres](#) of federal public land in northern Colorado for oil and gas industry fracking. "BLM's pending decision to open over 100,000 acres of public lands in the headwaters of the Colorado River to oil and gas leasing, and the inevitable impacts that fossil fuel extraction will have on the river, its tributaries and our climate, heads us in exactly the wrong direction. It will only hasten the collapse of this critical and fragile resource," said **Kate Hudson**, Western U.S. Advocacy Coordinator.

In a [personal response](#) to a [request](#) from a syndicate of the country's biggest and richest power companies this week, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt began dismantling a 2015 rule that put the first-ever limits on [toxic water pollution from coal-fired power plants](#) - by far the largest source of toxic water pollution in America, loading over a quarter million pounds of lead, arsenic, and other poisonous substances into public

waterways every hour (2.2 billion pounds per year). Staff Attorney **Pete Harrison** said, “his rollback gives a blank check to the power companies, and it directly threatens drinking water supplies across the country.”

In 2015, Duke pled guilty to nine criminal violations of the Clean Water Act related to its mismanagement of coal ash at its North Carolina power plants. The plea agreements required Duke to pay \$105 million in fines and restitution and sentenced Duke to five years of probation. This week Staff Attorney **Pete Harrison** [sent a letter](#) to the court-appointed monitor overseeing Duke Energy’s compliance with the terms of its probation. Based on a recent series of preventable, unauthorized water pollution incidents—and Duke’s subsequent mischaracterizations of those incidents—we sent the letter to provide more thorough and accurate information and to alert the compliance team that Duke Energy has failed to correct the mismanagement and negligence that led to the 2014 Dan River coal ash spill and numerous violations of the Clean Water Act at all 14 of the company’s North Carolina coal plants. The letter referenced several instances where Waterkeeper Alliance responded to environmental releases from Duke facilities, including our discovery of a coal ash discharge pipe that Duke had overlooked at a power plant near Charlotte and a dam failure and coal ash spills on the Neuse River following Hurricane Matthew. Again and again, Duke Energy mischaracterized the facts and minimized the significance of the events. Waterkeeper Alliance continues to protect the public and the environment from Duke Energy’s pollution, filling gaps in government oversight and the company’s self-monitoring.

Clean Water Defense

Waterkeeper Alliance has incorporated a new “[Free Flowing Rivers](#)” initiative under our [Clean Water Defense campaign](#). The initiative supports clean and free flowing rivers and waterways, including opposing new dams and diversions, mitigating dams where there is no other option, and removing dams wherever possible.

Waterkeepers Around The World

- Michael Helfrich, **Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper**, is [leaving after 12 years](#) to pursue a career in politics. We wish him the best and thank him for his many years of dedicated service!
- **Spokane Riverkeeper** Jerry White [spoke with The Spokesman Review](#) about closures of the river during high waters.
- **West Virginia Headwaters Waterkeeper** Angie Rosser published [an op-ed in the Charleston Gazette-Mail](#) explaining why the coal industry doesn’t want West Virginia to monitor the health of bugs in streams.
- Congratulations to **Milwaukee Riverkeeper** for receiving the [2017 Volunteer Stream Monitoring Award](#) from UW-Extension and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources!
- [Watch Yarra Riverkeeper](#) Andrew Kelly speak at the Yarra River Action Plan Community Forum about the importance of protecting the river.
- **Alabama Waterkeepers** worked together to create [an interactive map of the 1,271 sewage spills](#) reported in 2016 as part of their effort to persuade state regulators that more oversight is needed regarding sewer spills.
- **Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper** Jill Jedlicka was [on WGRZ](#) to discuss her concerns over the Northern Access Pipeline, which the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation just decided to reject permits for.
- **Emerald Coastkeeper** is in the running for a [\\$100,000 grant from A Community Thrives](#) to restore the Carpenter Creek watershed.
- **Tijuana Waterkeeper** reported in their weekly water quality analysis that [three beach sites are contaminated](#) with high levels of fecal contamination and are unsafe for recreation.

- **North Sound Baykeeper** Lee First published a piece in Whatcom Watch Online and the Waterkeeper Alliance website about the [need for industry and the environment to thrive](#) simultaneously.
- [ETV Odia interviewed Mahanadi River Waterkeeper](#) Ranjan Panda about river pollution issues in Odisha, India.
- American Rivers has announced America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2017, with **Mobile Baykeeper's** [Mobile Bay Basin listed #4](#) and **Upper Neuse Riverkeeper, Lower Neuse Riverkeeper,** and **Cape Fear Riverkeeper's** [Neuse-Cape Fear Rivers listed #7](#). The classification of Neuse-Cape Fear as endangered got the attention of the News & Observer's [editorial board](#).
- **Maule Itata Coastkeeper** is celebrating the 2 year [anniversary of their Guardians of the Water Program](#), which educates local students on sustainable communities.
- **Xiang River Waterkeeper** [reported pollution](#) of the first grade water source protection area of Yiyang to local government.