



For Immediate Release
April 24, 2007

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Black Warrior Riverkeeper Opposes the Use of Cypress Mulch

Alabama watchdog organization joins fellow Waterkeeper Alliance groups in national campaign

Birmingham – Today, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is asking its 1,000+ members, 11,000+ supporters on MySpace.com and Facebook.com, and the general public to refrain from buying cypress mulch. The lower part of the Black Warrior River watershed is known for its beautiful and ecologically vital cypress wetlands.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper hopes that gardeners will choose to save our cypress swamps by purchasing mulch made from sustainable resources. The public can help by asking Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe's, and other local stores and businesses that sell, buy, or use cypress mulch to boycott this product.

In this time of drought conditions, mulch will play a vital role in people's gardens and yards. Cypress mulch is being harvested from cypress wetlands which have taken hundreds to thousands of years to grow. There are sustainable alternatives that you can use such as pine bark, pine straw, lawn clippings, and recycled tire chips.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper is spreading this message with fellow members of Waterkeeper Alliance: Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper & Atchafalaya Basinkeeper. *The New York Times* ran Waterkeeper Alliance's fliers opposing the use of cypress mulch.

More information about cypress mulch is available at: <http://saveourcypress.org/>.

Founded in 2001 by David Whiteside, Black Warrior Riverkeeper is a citizen-based, non-profit organization working to protect and restore the Black Warrior River and its tributaries in order to ensure clean water, a healthy aquatic environment, and the recreational and aesthetic values of the river. Riverkeeper works to protect our water resources by monitoring the watershed, educating the public, and holding major polluters accountable for their violations. Black Warrior Riverkeeper is a proud member of Waterkeeper Alliance (www.waterkeeper.org).

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please call Nelson Brooke at (205) 458-0095 or email him at nbrooke@blackwarriorriver.org.

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