



# CLEAN WATER ALABAMA

## *Starts At Home*



### **Eastern Shore Residents and Officials Launch Water Preservation Group**

Fairhope, Ala. — Eastern Shore residents and officials have launched efforts to raise awareness on the importance of protecting Alabama's abundant water resources. The non-profit organization, "Clean Water Alabama," was formed earlier this year by local citizens and State Rep. Joe Faust, R-Fairhope, initially due to concerns over Weeks Bay but has broadened its purpose to address the issue statewide.

"Alabama the Beautiful often describes where we call home. Encompassing that description are our many lakes, rivers, bays and miles of oceanfront," Faust said. "As Alabamians, our abundant water resources contribute greatly to the quality of life that we enjoy, so making sure that water is clean and healthy is an issue that I believe will resonate with all of our citizens."

Faust said improving the waters of Mobile Bay will require cleaning the rivers, which will involve much of the state.

Members of the group along with Rep. Faust recently met with Gov. Ivey and her chief of staff, former Congressman Jo Bonner, as well as Alabama Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon, to discuss ideas and opportunities to help improve water quality and usage issues across the state. Additionally, in May of this year, the Governor signed House Joint Resolution 196 "recognizing the importance of clean water access in the State of Alabama and endorsing the mission of Clean Water Alabama."

John Manelos, President of Clean Water Alabama and a key organizer of the group, said he hopes to get as many people as possible involved in the project. One initial effort to enlist support includes distribution of a water quality survey to Baldwin County residents to inform on citizen utilization of waterways, concerns regarding water quality, and who citizens hold accountable for related problems and ultimate solutions.

"We're trying to bring everyone in this tent to say what's missing from what's being done now to where we can put a little more effort behind not only keeping our waters clean but preserving it for generations to come."

For more information on Clean Water Alabama, visit [CleanWaterAlabama.com](http://CleanWaterAlabama.com).

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[CleanWaterAlabama.com](http://CleanWaterAlabama.com)





# CLEAN WATER ALABAMA

## OUR MISSION



The mission of Clean Water Alabama is to engage and encourage the citizens of Alabama to take the necessary actions to ensure that our water resources (rivers, streams, lakes, bays and coast) are protected from those items that make them unsafe to its citizens, their communities and the plant and animal life that live within and around.

Clean Water Alabama will strive to:

- *Educate citizens, elected officials and government and conservancy groups on the current threats to our water resources.*
- *Organize representatives from citizens groups, businesses and conservancy groups to identify the primary threats to our water resources and what actions each can take to mitigate those threats.*
- *Propose policies and promote best practices to address this within local communities and at the state level.*
- *Remain a non-partisan organization that seeks to bring all stakeholders together and bridge divides where they exist. We all want clean water.*

So much of Alabama the Beautiful centers around our water resources. The rapid growth and development in Alabama, in particular its southern counties, threatens our waterways like no other time in our history and has already begun to make many of our waterways and bodies of water unsafe. We each share in the responsibility of doing something about this. Collectively we can make a difference in making our waterways cleaner and in ensuring their preservation for generations to come.

### CONTACT:

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[CleanWaterAlabama.com](http://CleanWaterAlabama.com)





# CWA BOARD



**John Manelos, President**

John Manelos retired from BP as Vice President of Security and Crisis Management for their Gulf Coast Restoration Organization. Since moving to Fairhope, Alabama in 2012 he has been active with environmental concerns in his community. In 2020 he ran for Mayor of Fairhope, in large part due to these concerns and the continued pollution of Mobile Bay and its tributaries. John has a masters degree in Conflict Management and an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice.



**Lucinda Nunnally, Secretary**

Having sold real estate on the Eastern Shore for over 25 years, I've learned our beautiful bay, beaches, and rivers is one of most sought after and valuable resources. I want to preserve that for my children, grandchildren, and the generations to come.



**Mike Dudley, Treasurer**

Mike Dudley is a retired CPA whose career took him across the globe working for The Cornelius Company, a worldwide manufacturer of soft drink and beer dispensing equipment, as well as Worthington Tractor Parts, a chain of salvage yards for self-propelled farm machinery. He and his wife, Kathleen, moved to Fairhope from Missouri in 2008, where he was a volunteer at his church, the Missouri Botanical Gardens and the Missouri Historical Society, and also involved in local politics. Mike's concern for the issues involving Mobile Bay and the adjoining rivers, streams, and bays is what led him to join CWA.



**John Woods**

John Woods has been writing screenplays, television shows and books since attending University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts in the early 1990's. As a child of the sixties, he believes strongly in preserving the environment, with specific emphasis on the water he grew up in learning to surf. John lives in Fairhope, Alabama with his wife Judy and their dog Jazzy.



**Gary Finch**

Gary Finch is a professional outdoorsman and conservationist from Fairhope, Alabama. He has been the host of the syndicated outdoor program "Gary Finch Outdoors," for over 32 years and can be seen weekly on WKRK TV 5, in Mobile, AL and Pensacola, FL and WSFA TV 12, in Montgomery, AL, as well as regional cable stations. He is a founding producer of the Outdoor Channel. Finch's background as an Eagle Scout and a Veteran pilot instilled, at an early age, the importance of long term planning to ensure that we continue to preserve our natural resources. He was honored to get to fly with the Navy's Blue Angels and has appeared on NBC's Today Show, educating the public on the Gulf of Mexico.



# CWA TIMELINE

- Formation of Clean Water Alabama as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, April 1st, 2021.
- Development and distribution of survey on water quality issued to citizens of Baldwin County to inform on citizens utilization of our waterways, their concerns regarding water quality, and who they hold accountable for related problems and ultimate solutions.
- Gov. Kay Ivey signs House Joint Resolution 196 “recognizing the importance of clean water access in the State of Alabama and endorsing the mission of Clean Water Alabama” on May 5, 2021.
- Acquisition of copies of “Saving America’s Amazon,” a recent book authored by conservationist Ben Raines, highlighting the importance of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and the threats to its waterways and ecosystem. Subsequent meeting with Ben Raines enlisting his support of Clean Water Alabama.
- Meeting with Casi Calloway, Director, Mobile Baykeeper, to inform on our activities and solicit support.
- CWA creates a children’s coloring and activity book to educate children on the importance of protecting our waterways, which will be provided free to restaurants and select retail establishments in Baldwin County. CWA sought the assistance of a student intern from Coastal Alabama College, Grace Roberts, to create illustrations. She was awarded a modest scholarship from CWA in appreciation for her contribution.
- CWA is currently supporting an effort by Baldwin County regarding a Magnolia River restoration project. This project proposes to rehabilitate and restore habitat at three dirt pits causing pollution and silting problems on this waterway.
- CWA is currently promoting a storm water management best practice being advanced by Richard Peterson PE, a water management expert. This best practice is a design for “recharging” water tables at existing retention/collection ponds, thus reducing runoff and resulting pollution. This is currently being considered for application by the City of Magnolia Springs.
- CWA is currently helping to draft proposed legislation for (1) a proposed statewide septic tank replacement program. This proposed legislation would establish a fund to replace failing septic systems which pose a risk to our waterways; (2) to assist homeowners to convert to public wastewater systems, where available.



State of Alabama  
House of Representatives



MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Resolution

HJR196

By Representative Joe Faust

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN WATER ACCESS IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND ENDORSING THE MISSION OF CLEAN WATER ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, as residents of Alabama rely on water access to support their economies, the state is committed to ensuring that access to water is available for all; and

WHEREAS, within Alabama are more than 132,000 miles of river and stream channels, and the state is thus entrusted with stewardship over 14 percent of all freshwater in the continental United States; the Mobile-Tensaw Delta at the head of Mobile Bay is one of the most biodiverse areas in the North American continent, and its watershed covers 65 percent of the state; as such, the preservation of this area is a responsibility held by the entire state; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is also home to the 9th largest deep-water port by total tonnage, located in Mobile; this economic driver spreads wealth through the entire state and attracts industry and jobs to the state; across the bay in Baldwin County, Alabama's fastest-growing county, access to beautiful white sand beaches has helped drive Alabama's tourism economy for decades and has made Alabama a national, and international, destination; and

WHEREAS, since the days of the original Alabama settlers, access to rivers and streams - America's original "highways of commerce" - was of the utmost importance; the current sites of many of our cities and towns are due to their access to these waterways, and continued access to clean water remains critical to the health and vibrancy of Alabama's communities; and

WHEREAS, the article, "Water Access Issues in Alabama", published on the Alabama Cooperative Extension System website, summarizes the importance of water access to all Alabamians: "Transportation, sport fishing, seafood processing, and canoeing are among the many uses of Alabama's waterways. In the cities and towns along Alabama's many miles of waterfront, the way of life depends on waterfront access, and the economic web spun here stretches wide across the state. Entire economies of some small towns depend on access to waterways for traditional business uses, and water-related activities make a large impact on the state's economy"; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the people of Alabama to continue to work together to make sure that there is sufficient access to clean water in the state; this is the mission of Clean Water Alabama, and we recognize the vital importance of that mission to all Alabamians; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING,** That this body recognizes the importance of water access in Alabama and declares that it is imperative that all Alabamians continue to work together to ensure that access to clean water remains available, and therefore endorses Clean Water Alabama and its paramount mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the GREAT SEAL of the State of Alabama to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this the 29th day of April, 2021.



Kay Ivey

GOVERNOR

J. N. Merrill

Secretary of State