DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

August 2017 Issue Number: 67

What's Inside?

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Governor, Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, LDEQ and other state employees volunteer for RESTORE

A year is a long time. Too long, Gov. John Bel Edwards knows. He and members of his cabinet fanned out Aug. 12, leading an effort by scores of state employees who volunteered to paint, hang Sheetrock, install insulation, mow grass and finish gutting three of the houses in Baton Rouge that still stand flood-damaged from the Flood of 2016.

The governor and first lady grabbed paint brushes and went to work at the home of Lucille Huggins. The crew of cabinet members and staff, including LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, painted the entire house. As the secretaries worked at the Huggins home, volunteers from their agencies, including 23 people from LDEQ, reported to two other neighborhoods in the city.

"It was a great day. It's an honor to help out someone who is in need," Brown said. "I think we should do this again soon."

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, right, joins in painting preparations at the home of Lucille Huggins Aug. 12.

Lorenzo and Janice Angel's home is typical of the Merrydale community. It's small, one story, six rooms, and is brick with white trim like many of the other homes in this minority neighborhood on the northern edge of Baton Rouge bordering Central. The Comite River flows nearby.

A year ago, the Angels awoke to the surreal sound of airboats outside their door. Water was rushing into the house. "We had someone that was in the water – actually walking in the water – come to the house to tell us," Angel said. They had to evacuate. The Angels' house was completely flooded and had to be gutted. All the Sheetrock inside was torn out, leaving bare studs inside like the bones of a beached whale. The Angels had no money for repairs. They had no flood insurance. The St. Bernard Project (SBP) came to help them.

The renovation efforts were facilitated by SBP, a non-profit organization that helps victims of disasters. Hope Baker, volunteer coordinator with SBP, gave the volunteers gathered at the Angels' house a short and precise explanation. "Our program is

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designed to help people get back into their homes that don't have any other way." The organization's roots go back to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in St. Bernard Parish. It has since grown to a national service organization.

The volunteers at the Angel's house got a short tutorial on what they would be doing: light removal of old framing around windows and hanging Sheetrock. How much Sheetrock? A 6,000-pound pile of it squatted in the gutted-out living room of the home, donated by SBP. Before long, the volunteers were hard at it, cutting and carrying, drilling in screws and measuring like they had done drywall work all their lives. Living spaces began to take shape.

Baker said that it will take a few more weeks to get the house ready for occupancy. "We hope to finish by Sept. 1." The pace of progress is often dictated by funding, Baker said. In most cases, appliances are donated to residents, but it can take a while to find donors. SBP has eight home renovations currently in progress, she said.

"And we have a few pending," she added. Those projects will be completed as donations become available.

No one can give back all that the floodwaters took. It will take time and work for the flood victims to become whole again. Much remains to be done. Fortunately, there are a lot of volunteers like the state workers who came up with their sleeves rolled up Aug. 12. It's a few houses at a time for SBP, but that adds up.

Since 2006, SBP has directly rebuilt homes for more than 1,200 families with the help of more than 150,000 volunteers in New Orleans; Joplin, Mo.; Staten Island, N.Y.; Rockaway, N.Y.; Monmouth/Ocean Counties, N.J.; San Marcos, Texas; Columbia, S.C.; White Sulphur Springs, W.V.; and Baton Rouge.

To contact SBP to donate, volunteer or get more information, call Hope Baker at (225) 478-1499 or email ***hbaker@sbpusa.org***. SBP's website is ***www.SBPUSA.org***.

LDEQ's Bob Bailey, center, helps install Sheetrock on the ceiling of the home of Lorenzo and Janice Angel.

LDEQ's Minta Canelas, Jason Fontenot and Judy Schuerman volunteered at a flood damaged home in Monticello subdivision. The entire group at this location was treated to lunch by LDEQ Assistant Secretary Lourdes Iturralde and her husband Jay Pecot.

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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown; Oklahoma DEQ Secretary Scott Thompson; Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chairman Dr. Bryan Shaw; Arkansas DEQ Director Becky Keogh; EPA senior adviser for regional and state affairs Ken Waggoner; EPA Region 6 Acting Administrator Sam Coleman; and New Mexico Environmental Department Secretary Butch Tongate.

I began the month with a trip to Dallas Aug. 8 where I met with acting EPA Region 6 Administrator Sam Coleman and the environmental directors from all the Region 6 states. Our daylong discussions centered on cooperative federalism but also touched on problems and observations from each of the states. It was a fruitful meeting. We continue to feel our way with the new EPA director and his vision for his agency. EPA is and will continue to be our most important federal partner.

The next weekend, here in Baton Rouge, I joined Gov. Edwards and First Lady Donna Edwards in a day of service. I and other cabinet members, along with governor's staff, volunteered at the home of Ms. Lucille Huggins, whose house was severely damaged in the Great Flood of August 2016. We painted. We did yard work. We cleaned. We enjoyed the good feeling that comes from helping someone in need. About 33 people from this agency volunteered that day, painting, installing insulation and hanging sheetrock in three flood damaged homes in East Baton Rouge Parish. Well done.

As we move into the fall months, please remember to stay vigilant with your hurricane preparation plans – both at home and at work. Keep your emergency kit stocked and up-to-date, stay posted on the current and projected weather conditions and have an evacuation plan in place should the need arise.

In keeping with our goal of informing the public about what we do and how we do it, another video has been posted on our YouTube channel. This one is on the topic of landfills – how they work, why they are necessary and what new technologies and practices are being used to improve their performance. The videos, along with our social media platforms, are designed to provide some insight into our work processes, while enhancing our public outreach effort.

Also, just a reminder to everyone that we have SPOC cards that have been distributed throughout the department. It's a wallet-size business card that contains contact information for use by the general public should they have a question about how to report an incident, find information or simply get in touch with LDEQ. Please get familiar with the card and be sure to hand them out while you're out and about. Keep a few cards in your pocket and in your vehicle. If you do not have any, please see your supervisor and pick up a few.

As this month closes, it's good to remember that we begin September with the Labor Day Holiday college football begins the first weekend and fall arrives the third week. So Go Tigers!, Go Jags! and, yes, Go Golden Eagles!

Work smart, work safe and be careful as you enjoy the long weekend, especially if you are traveling.

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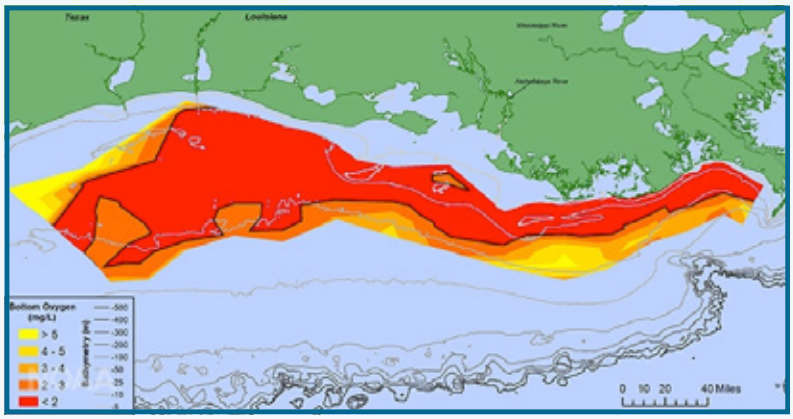
Hypoxic Zone in the Gulf mapped and growing

In late July, Dr. Nancy Rabalais, senior research professor at Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and her team boarded the RV Pelican Oceanographic Research Vessel. They were headed out for a seven day trip to map the hypoxic zone, commonly known as the "Dead Zone" in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Pelican is "an excellent resource – the best I can do for oceanographic research," Rabalais said. "We predicted the zone would be large this year, and it was."

The 2017 Dead Zone measured 22,720 square kilometers (8,776 square miles), close to the forecast made in June. The team was mapping for 7 days, and if they had a longer, the zone would have been mapped even larger.

LUMCON was unable to map the zone for 2016, but the 2017 dead zone size is above the five-year average (15,032 square kilometers). This year, the area of the Gulf that was measured was as large as the state of New Jersey.



The 2017 hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico

Hypoxia is primarily a problem for estuaries and coastal waters due to low oxygen. Hypoxic waters have dissolved oxygen concentrations of less than 2-3 parts per million. The causes of hypoxia vary and include excess nutrients, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus and waterbody stratification (layering) due to saline or temperature gradients. This excessive richness of nutrients or eutrophication, promotes algal growth. As dead algae decompose, oxygen is consumed in the process, resulting in low levels of oxygen in the water.

Fish kills are a direct effect of hypoxia and that depletes valuable fisheries and disrupts ecosystems. Adult fish and mobile animals can typically survive a hypoxic event by moving to waters with more oxygen. Bottom fish and less mobile or immobile animals, such as mussels or crabs, cannot move to waters with more oxygen and are often killed during hypoxic events.

Hypoxia can cause severe decreases in the amount of life in hypoxia zones. With a hypoxic event, young fish or shellfish find it hard to find the food and habitat necessary to become adults. Hypoxia can also affect species that rely on fish for food. Such species might have to leave an area to find the necessary food to survive.

The hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico is seasonal. It forms every summer and is a result of excess nutrients from the Mississippi River and seasonal stratification (layering) of waters in the Gulf. Nutrient-laden freshwater from the Mississippi, which is less dense and remains above the more dense saline, flows into the Gulf of Mexico. These nutrients can come from many sources, including any of the following:

- Fertilizers from agriculture, golf courses and suburban lawns
- Erosion of soil full of nutrients
- Discharges from sewage treatment plants
- Deposition of atmospheric nitrogen
- Point and nonpoint sources

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The Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force was formed in 1997 to combat the growing problem. The Task Force studies the causes and effects of eutrophication in the Gulf of Mexico and coordinates activities to reduce the size, severity, and duration of the effects of hypoxia. Activities include coordinating and supporting nutrient management activities from all sources, restoring habitats to trap and assimilate nutrients, and supporting other hypoxia related activities in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico watersheds.

Since the problem originates along the entire river, the task force consists of states, up and down the Mississippi, federal and tribal members. Each state has its own strategy or Best Management Practices (BMP) to address the nutrients that flow into the Mississippi and eventually into the Gulf. Louisiana has been a working member of the task force since its inception. Amanda Vincent, Ph.D., is the LDEQ representative to the task force and works on the Louisiana Management Strategy.

“LDEQ is actively involved with the Task Force and recognizes that nutrient management within states in the basin is needed to address hypoxia in the Gulf,” Vincent said.

“The Louisiana Nutrient Management Strategy” (Strategy) was released May 2014. The Strategy presents a framework of ten strategic components and recommends underlying actions that guide implementation of nutrient management activities across the state. The Strategy Interagency Team comprises representatives from the Louisiana state agencies of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA). They are the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR).

The Pelican – LUMCON’s Oceanographic Research Vessel. The main deck runs the length of the vessel and covers approximately 1,056 square feet of open aft deck and about 1000 square feet. of interior deck space forward. The ship’s 3 main labs: bottle lab, wet lab, and dry lab are located on the main deck, along with the galley and mess areas, electronics lab, and cold non-scientific cold storage facilities.

LDEQ partners with other agencies and groups including the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter); the U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development (U.S. BCSD), Louisiana Water Synergy Project; the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 6. This collection of agencies forms a well-rounded team to achieve these nutrient management efforts outlined in the Strategy for Louisiana. For more information on the strategy, go to http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/nutrient-management-strategy.

For more information on federal involvement, information on hypoxia and research, go to https://www.epa.gov/ms-htf.

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LDEQ films video about landfills

The topic of the latest video on LDEQ's YouTube channel is landfills.

Hosted by Jason Meyers, an engineer manager with LDEQ's Waste Permits division, the video is an overview on how landfills function and LDEQ's regulatory oversight. LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown introduces the video, discussing the necessity of landfills in our daily lives and how odor reduction, leachate collection and gas capturing technology can improve landfill functionality overall.

"Every man, woman and child in this country generates 4 to 6 pounds of garbage a day. So as you start looking at the curve of landfill to gas generation, we're almost at the top of that curve," Brown said. "I brought in all the operators recently – we're looking at ways to make sure that they are continuing to be good neighbors and that their business does not infringe upon the folks that live near them."

LDEQ Graphic Designer/Videographer Emily Barlett (l) films the video as LDEQ Engineer Manager Jason Meyers narrates.

On location at the St. Landry Parish landfill, Meyers explains the inner workings of landfill operation, focusing on the functionality of waste cells, the adjacent water retention ponds and their critical job of capturing wastewater that it ultimately treated and discharged. He highlights the benefits of having gas collection wells in place as a multi-purpose, environmentally sound way of reducing offsite emissions. The video then explores St. Landry's unique operation with regard to their re-use of natural gas that's been captured from the landfill, cleaned and compressed.

Jason Meyers describes the process of collecting gas from the landfill for reuse.

The gas is stored and ultimately re-used to fuel vehicles on-site at an adjacent fueling station, keeping gas from simply emitting into the atmosphere. Its repurpose as an alternative fuel source is groundbreaking and makes use of a valuable resource that would otherwise be discarded.

On the administrative side, Meyers mentions that landfill operators must have a permit with LDEQ, along with financial assurance in place to cover the cost of opening and closing the landfill. "The permit process is pretty labor and time intensive – it takes a lot to permit a landfill. We look at all aspects of the site, all aspects of the operation, all the way until closure of the site," Meyers said. "Even after the landfill closes, there's a requirement that they maintain this for 30 years. So they would have to maintain this final cover, they have to continue pumping leachate, they have to continuously monitor groundwater and continuously keep up with the site to make sure that everything stays stable."

Should an owner suddenly discontinue operating and fail to close a landfill, LDEQ collects the financial assurance set aside and uses this funding to properly close the landfill.

The video can be found at: **https://youtu.be/0mSxrzsWNZs**. More information about landfills and solid waste is on LDEQ's solid waste page at: www.**deq.louisiana.gov/page/solid-waste**.

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Why is the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab (MAML) in your neighborhood?

The MAML is a state of the art air monitoring vehicle that LDEQ deploys throughout the state whenever the need for air monitoring arises. Reasons for deployment vary but are typically monitoring air emissions from a facility, checking the constituents in the air at the request of a citizen, government official or LDEQ staff, qualifying or supplementing data from a local air monitoring station or routinely, as a part of LDEQ's air monitoring mission.

To alleviate concerns and answer questions for the public, LDEQ has updated a flyer that's designed to give the public a snapshot of the MAML's capabilities and answer why it is parked in your neighborhood.

MAML Flyer

The MAML's presence on your street does not necessarily mean the air is bad. Its presence means that LDEQ is taking measures to ensure that the air meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Louisiana Ambient Air Standards and is protective of human health and the environment. If readings indicate this is not the case, LDEQ follows up to pinpoint the source(s) and potential source(s) in order to reduce any emissions found to be causing elevated readings.

The goal is to gather real time data over an extended period, and the mobility of the MAML provides an advantage over the numerous statewide fixed location monitoring sites. Once the MAML arrives at a location, a meteorological mast is raised to gather the current weather conditions. This information aids in determining what is in the air and what potential impact it could have. Recording wind direction plays a part in positioning and/or relocating the MAML in order to obtain quality readings. Wind direction can also help identify or eliminate sources of pollution.

Ambient air samples are drawn in through a sampling portal and delivered to a variety of instruments inside the MAML. Most instruments inside the MAML can continuously monitor the stream of air providing for constant real time data.

The caché of onboard equipment monitors for ozone, particulate matter, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide and total hydrocarbons. A mercury analyzer is also onboard for the detection of mercury vapor in the air at very low levels.

Most of these instruments have a specialized lighting device which is used to detect pollutants as the air passes through. A gas chromatograph mass spectrometer is also employed to positively identify an array of volatile organic compounds and samples are collected using special cans, known as Summa Canisters, which are then connected to the instrumentation for analysis.

Readings can be viewed by technicians within about an hour, and those results will give LDEQ technicians a breakdown of the types and amounts of volatile constituents that may be in the air. Like the air monitoring stations and hand-held devices, the MAML helps LDEQ gather and analyze what's in the air in order to better protect the public and the environment from any potential harm.

More information is available on the LDEQ website: ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/mobile-air-monitoring-lab***

For more information, please contact Bob Bailey at (225) 219-3991, or email: ***bob.bailey@la.gov***

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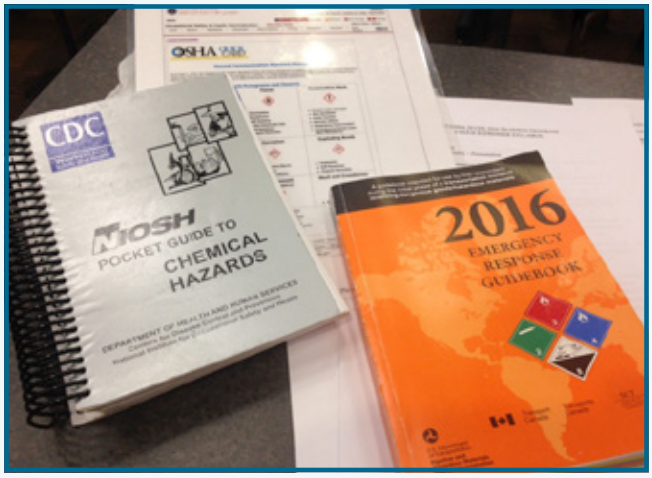
Safety of responders is the focus of HAZWOPER refresher course

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) certification is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as a safety standard that certifies and protects those who work at hazardous sites. Many LDEQ employees hold this certification including emergency responders. The refresher course is required to be taken by all HAZWOPER holders once a year in order to maintain their credential.



A key facet of the training is the ability to quickly cross-reference data in the NIOSH Chemical Hazards book with the latest Emergency Response Guidebook in order to determine a particular chemical's safety protocol.

Current training is the key to maintaining the certification, and the refresher provides an overview of how to identify chemicals on a placard through a process of cross-checking the technical manuals. Through this process the emergency responder will be able to find the chemical's description, potential hazards associated with the chemical and general safety measures in the event of a fire or spill. In addition, safety videos on trip and fall hazards in the workplace and awareness regarding toxic air releases in confined spaces, instruction on safety data sheets, workplace safety rules under OSHA and the proper use of personal protective equipment were reviewed.

Certification is required by LDEQ for any personnel who operate at a site where a chemical or hazardous waste situation has occurred or is expected to occur. Common situations include a chemical spill or fire resulting from a train derailment, a truck accident involving the release of hazardous materials, a facility release or a release from an unknown source. Other situations involve the employment of preventative measures due to an expected release of diesel fuel or oil, as typically seen in the aftermath of a diesel truck accident.

Employees holding the HAZWOPER, or Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, certification participated in an 8-hour refresher course Aug. 2. Jim Pate, LDEQ Environmental Scientist, provided the instruction.

"Knowing about hazardous material pictograms is important, and attendees learn how to identify a material by its signage – placards that are commonly seen on commercial vehicles that haul hazardous materials," Pate said. This instruction is useful for the portion of the course where attendees are evaluated on how to accurately cross-reference the latest Emergency Response Guidebook against the NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) Chemical Hazards.

A few chemical names and scenarios are provided to students, who then pair up to look up and provide appropriate answers to recommended protective actions, Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (ILDH) recommendations and the permissible exposure limits are specific to a chemical release. This involves a practical application on how to check a chemical, along with the situational danger (such as a fire or spill) in the Emergency Response Guidebook. In order to get the chemical's permissible exposure limits and additional protective actions, participants refer to the NIOSH pocket guide to chemical hazards.

A quiz and a test cap off the instruction, with laminated cards awarded to those passing the course. Certification is valid for the year, upon which employees will need to complete another 8-hour refresher course.

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(L to R) Father Tony ("Snoop Dog"), Teresa Hardy ("Tinkle Bell") and Suzy Potter ("Ms. Keeto") from the Blood Center explain the pillowcase craft to the participants at Camp Challenge.

Campers use paint pens and stencils to decorate their recycled pillowcases.

"From the heart" – it's what Camp Challenge is about

For 15 years, LDEQ volunteers have helped campers make crafts out of recycled materials at Camp Challenge, the Lion's camp in Leesville. Volunteers make the four-hour drive to Leesville and the camp to spend a morning of craft-making an encouragement to the more than 100 children and young adults who participate. Those volunteers aren't the only ones from LDEQ who help the kids at Camp Challenge. LDEQ employees help fund Camp Challenge when they check the "From the Heart" box when they donate blood. When employees mark that box, the Blood Center donates money to help Camp Challenge provide services. For 2017, Blood Center donated $5,000 to Camp Challenge.

Camp Challenge is dedicated to giving a summer camp experience to children who have a form of cancer or chronic hematological disorders, such as sickle cell anemia. It serves children 6-18 years old and their siblings. Camp Challenge is open to all children who reside in Louisiana and is free for all campers. It offers them an opportunity to experience camp activities such as swimming, canoeing, crafts and fellowship. Lunch is always a big event with good food and much dancing, followed by FOB – which means flat on your back or nap time. Many of the volunteer counselors were campers themselves, and many others come back every year.

The weeklong event is headed by the Rev. Father Tony Richard of New Orleans, affectionately known as "Snoop Dog" to the campers. This year was the 15th year that a group of volunteers from LDEQ, other agencies and the Blood Center traveled to Leesville to assist with the arts and crafts for the campers. LDEQ personnel organize the trip, pick an environmentally friendly craft, work, dance and eat with the campers. This year, the craft was decorating recycled pillowcases with paint pens, stencils and interesting add-ons. Many LDEQ volunteers return year after year to see the children and their progress. Each volunteer, as well as each camper, has a camp name such as "Little Tree," "Secret Squirrel," "Mis' Behavin," "Faolan," "Ebay" and "Tinkle Bell." Suzy Potter, whose camp name is "Ms. Keeto," represents the Blood Center and organizes the event for the campers.

"The Blood Center must rely on volunteer blood donors and Camp Challenge must rely on volunteers for both counselors and camp directors," Potter said. "It has been a privilege to interact, help bring joy and assist kids battling blood disorders such as cancer, sickle cell anemia, lymphoma and aplastic anemia. Camp Challenge will always be, and has been, an endeavor fully funded by financial donations and volunteers. And, with your help, it will always be 'free' for the patient and their siblings."
Camp Challenge is funded by donations from individuals and companies. It also receives money from various organizations that put on fundraisers for the sole purpose of funding the camp. Camp Challenge is a grassroots nonprofit organization. If you would like to donate to Camp Challenge and help these kids have a camp experience, go to the website at ***www.campchallenge.org***. Or if you donate blood, just mark the box "From the Heart."

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Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference to be held at LDEQ in September

This 14th Annual Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference is scheduled to be held at the LDEQ Galvez Conference Center Sept. 20 and 21. This event will provide resources and education for those interested in establishing zero-waste practices, recycling programs, beautification projects and environmental education initiatives. The two day conference will offer an opportunity to hear speakers from all facets of recycling and to network with others who are interested in zero waste.

Highlights this year include keynote speaker Helen Lowman, President of Keep America Beautiful, and a presentation on Mississippi's wildflower highway trails initiative. Industry experts, environmental experts, civic officials and anti-litter advocates from across the state will gather to present and share best practices that encourage environmental stewardship in practical ways that attendees can bring back to their own communities.

KLB encourages teachers, partners, volunteers, community leaders, state agency representatives, like-minded non-profit organizations and parish and city officials to register now to secure their spot for the 2017 state conference at a rate of $125.

Conference topics to include:

- The Vision and Future of Keep America Beautiful by Helen Lowman, President, Keep America Beautiful
- Wildflower Trails of Mississippi by Sarah Kountouris, Executive Director, Keep Mississippi Beautiful
- Overcoming Nature Deficit Disorder by Jon Soul, founder of Bayou to Bay
- Operating a Zero-Waste Business by Emily Gaddis
- A Glimpse Into a Zero Waste Family by Amanda Waddle, No Waste Louisiana
- An Introduction to the Louisiana Recycling Coalition, by Sarah LaRock, Jefferson Environmental Affairs
- Increasing Litter Law Enforcement in Your Community, by Cecile Carson, Keep America Beautiful
- Engaging Millennials in Our Work by Emily Arbour, Community Coffee
- Recruiting Volunteers, Cultivating Ambassadors by Llewellyn Everage, The Audubon Nature Institute
- Influencing Public Policy and Securing Municipal Support by John Gallager, Executive Director, Louisiana Municipal Association
- Environmental Education by Alma Robichaux, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Each year, Keep Louisiana Beautiful recognizes Everyday Heroes, which are individuals who go the extra mile to keep our communities clean, beautiful and litter-free. An Everyday Hero might be the young person who introduced recycling to your local festival, the law enforcement officer who tracks down illegal dumping in your community or a group of students that has taken it upon themselves to reduce waste in their school cafeteria. These are the people that, one by one, work to change the landscape of Louisiana with just a little extra effort and a tremendous level of commitment. To nominate someone in any one of eight categories, go to ***www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org***.

To be a part of this conference, register and view conference details at ***www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org***.

Opportunities to exhibit are also available.

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DEQ On The Move

(L to R) Sierra Trabeau, LDEQ management and finance; Scott Templet, LDEQ environmental assessment; and Shanna Mason, LDEQ Drinking Water Protection Team, man the LDEQ booth at the Louisiana Municipal Association Conference in Shreveport.

LDEQ employee Acacia Shriner Dorian Heroman presents a certificate of appreciation to LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown in recognition of LDEQ's support for the Shriners' fundraising effort in July 2017. The fundraising drive at the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge raised nearly $1,000 for Shriners' Hospital for Children in Shreveport.

LDEQ employees check out the total solar eclipse Aug. 21, 2017.

LDEQ was well represented at the Joint Hazardous Waste & Materials Management Training Conference hosted by the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, Inc., (ASTSWMO) in Oklahoma City Aug. 15-17. Jill Carter, left, Jody Kimball, Estuardo Silva, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown and Phyllis Luke attended the event.

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Who's Who At DEQ?

Greg Keller – Geologist II, Waste Permits Division

Keller grew up in the town of Montz, in St. Charles Parish, and graduated from Destrehan High School. While attending LSU, he discovered that studying geology harnessed his interest in the Louisiana landscape.

He started as an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Sam Bentley's lab, and began working toward an M.S. in geology in 2013, graduating two years later. For his thesis work, he investigated submarine landslides on the Mississippi River Delta.

Kristen Latiolais – Environmental Scientist, Permit Support Division

Kristen is from Prairieville. She is currently an environmental scientist in the Permit Support Group for Asbestos in the Office of Environmental Science. Kristen is an avid outdoors person who loves to hunt and fish.

She is also the president of Ascension Parish Delta Waterfowl, and co-chairman for Pass the Torch. She spends a lot of time outdoors and is a proud Southern University alum.

Sheldran Stewart - Administrative Assistant 5, Legal Division

Originally from Kentwood, Sheldran is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University. Prior to joining LDEQ, she worked with the state Department of Children and Family Services in Support Enforcement. She also has 20 years of service as an educator with Tangipahoa Parish School System, where she earned "Teacher of the Year" in 2012.

Sheldran enjoys reading, live music, learning new things and spending time with family and friends. "The best thing about working in Legal is the ability to work independently, yet in a team environment where honest, hard work and integrity are always respected and appreciated."

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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Second Quarter Summaries

Second Quarter 2017 Enforcement Actions:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions

Second Quarter 2017 Settlement Agreements:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division

Second Quarter 2017 Air Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter

Second Quarter 2017 Water Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes

Second Quarter 2017 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits