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Water quality monitors gather information on oxygen levels in designated waterways

Every October, a new list of waterbodies is sent to LDEQ's Surveillance Division, based on information gathered from the water quality integrated report prepared by LDEQ's Water Planning and Assessment Division. Surveillance uses a long-standing four-year monitoring rotation to establish a monitoring schedule of waterbodies that are showing some degree of impairment.

One of the more common impairments is low levels of dissolved oxygen, which is defined as the amount of gaseous oxygen that's dissolved in the water. Oxygen enters the water through direct absorption from the atmosphere, by the rapid movement of water, or as a result of aquatic plant photosynthesis. Oxygen levels can be impacted by moving water, water temperature and/or sudden changes in water composition.



Dark, or "root beer" colored, water churned up by the boat's engine will provide a cursory indicator that oxygen levels in the water might be under stress. Clearer water typically indicates that more favorable oxygen levels are present.

Generally, aquatic life in a waterbody is put under stress if the dissolved oxygen level drops. To put this into context, dissolved oxygen in water can range from 0.0 mg/L to more than 20.0 mg/L. In saltwater, levels of dissolved oxygen are generally less. Freshwater fish kills may occur when levels drop below 2.0 mg/L although some species are more tolerant than others of low oxygen conditions.

Whenever there's a concern regarding low dissolved oxygen levels in a state waterbody, LDEQ will launch an investigation. The goal is to identify why the levels are low and the factor(s) that may be at play. Causes may range from man-made actions such as the illegal dumping of oil, chemicals or untreated wastewater into the water body, agricultural runoff or a host of other naturally occurring conditions such as consistent rains that may have washed soil and nutrients from the shoreline into the waterway, thereby impacting oxygen levels.

In an attempt to pinpoint the cause or causes, Surveillance will start with a comprehensive review of those possible influences, including a look at historical and

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current trends relative to the specific waterbody in question. This review may prompt the need to install continuous monitors at various locations within the waterbody to help to give LDEQ's environmental scientists a clearer insight into the factors which may be causing dissolved oxygen numbers to rise or fall.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Don Weinell retrieves a Hydrolab sonde from a fixed measurement point in Dutch Bayou. The sonde records dissolved oxygen readings over a 72-hour period.

Don Weinell and Reid Nuss, environmental scientists specializing in water inspections in LDEQ's Surveillance Division, are members of the team that's tasked with gathering that information. In response to a recent dissolved oxygen drop in an area of Lake Maurepas, the team recently set out by boat to install two monitors there to extract readings.

Secured into the water at static locations, the monitors (Hydrolab sondes) are programmed to read the dissolved oxygen levels and other parameters in the water every 15 minutes for a total of 72 hours. Upon completion, the devices will be retrieved, and data from the sondes will be uploaded into a computer for analysis. Results from that data will be used to help identify the possible causal factors or influences.

"With dissolved oxygen, numbers we see in the summer typically vary from what we observe in the winter," said Weinell. Those numbers tend to be lower in the summer as warmer water holds less dissolved oxygen.

When a waterbody falls below a dissolved oxygen reading of four, vulnerable fish populations tend to migrate out of the area, and the observation of murkier water will be an indicator.

Another means of identifying potential contributors to a water body's conditions are the periodic watershed surveys conducted by the Surveillance Division. The surveys provide a comprehensive review of the residences and businesses in the area which employ a water discharge point either directly or indirectly into the waterway. Since all wastewater discharges must be authorized by an LDEQ permit and treated before entering a state waterway, any facilities found to be discharging without a permit are identified and visited by Surveillance. Such surveys are a proactive method to assess the possible location(s) and cause(s) of the impairment.

Watershed surveys, community outreach and education concerning the dangers of illegal dumping and the installation of water quality monitors all work to protect the water quality in Louisiana's bayous, lakes and rivers. Fishing, boating and swimming opportunities, together with aquatic and wildlife propagation are vital to the state's reputation as a Sportsman's Paradise, and frequent inspections are key to ensuring the waterways are environmentally safe for all.

For more information on the Surveillance Division's mission, go to: deq.louisiana.gov/page/surveillance

LDEQ encourages everyone to be a watchdog for any illegal dumping or unpermitted discharges by contacting the SPOC line at 1-888-763-5424 or by filing an incident report online at: deq.louisiana.gov/page/file-a-complaint-report-an-incident.



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday and enjoyed lots of good food and family time. We are now approaching on Christmas, another time to celebrate family and enjoy good food and fellowship. Just now, when we are between the holidays, we need to turn our thoughts to those in our community who are less fortunate.

Specifically, we need to remember those people who don't have enough to eat this holiday season. LDEQ has been working to support the Baton Rouge Food Bank with fundraisers like the popcorn sales and cookie sales and other special events. For more than 30 years, the Food Bank has been an essential resource for families who, for one reason or another, can't afford a nutritional meal. We want to fight hunger year-round, and it is the very essence of the holiday spirit to give to those who are in need. I am proud of what the LDEQ staff has done to support the Food Bank this year, but our job isn't finished.

Demands from across the country (wildfires, storms and more) are stressing giving to charitable agencies. The Baton Rouge Food Bank has seen its stocks dwindle down to a dangerously low level. LDEQ still has fundraisers set for Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 at the Galvez Building. Get some popcorn and a drink. There are food collection boxes at the Galvez Building on the first, third, seventh, eighth and ninth floors. You can bring canned goods to contribute to those boxes through Dec. 17. The Food Bank also welcomes cash donations, check or credit card. You can get more information or donate online at <https://brfoodbank.org>. Let's pull together and feed the hungry.

We are still moving people around between floors as we redistribute staff within the Galvez Building. Please bear with us. Some employees have been given a day of administrative leave as we do major work on the floor where they are stationed. I am sorry for the inconvenience and the break in your schedule. I appreciate the professional way everyone has handled all this relocation. Thank you all.

You may have noticed that scissor lifts have been working along the colonnades. A much needed leak repair is going on. The crews will be at it for a while. Evan Bordes says they haven't even reached the roof yet. So be alert as you walk into and out of the Galvez Building. Navigate around the yellow tape carefully and don't position yourself beneath workers on scaffolds. Use your head to stay safe and avoid getting a bump on it.

As always, be careful as you go about your work. Remember to be polite and helpful when you interact with the public. They are the reason we are here.



From left, Assistant Secretary for Assessment Roger Gingles; Caddo Lake Institute Board Member Rick Michaels; Special Advisor to the Secretary Bijan Sharafkhani; Caddo Lake Institute Board Chairman Don Henley; LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown; and Caddo Lake Institute Executive Director Laura Ashley-Overdyke. This team met to discuss Caddo Lake initiatives and environmental protection measures in and around the lake.



“Tis the season to recycle” – Holiday Recycling tips from LDEQ

“Tis the season to be jolly,” but Louisiana, like the rest of the nation, produces more waste in December than any other month. Planning ahead of time can reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfills, and if you reuse, you can even generate useful items. You can “Be the Solution” and have a more waste-free holiday season by following a few simple tips from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

When you prepare for the coming holidays, think green: reduce, reuse and recycle. Wrapping gifts can be a challenge since wrapping paper is frequently not recyclable. Be creative! Wrap a gift in a gift -- such as a scarf, bandana, dishtowel or cloth shopping bag. The comic pages from the Sunday paper and most colorful flyers reuse paper and are still recyclable. Last year’s Christmas and holiday cards can be used in crafts and as ornaments.

Out with the old, so you have room for the new! Before the holidays is a perfect time to clean out your clutter and unused items. If you have outgrown toys and clothing, consider donating them to charitable organizations. Discarded electronics (computers, copiers, fax machines, printers and monitors) may be donated to a local nonprofit agency or the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC). CACRC provides computers to schools, families and nonprofits. Visit the council’s website at www.cacrc.com for details.

When decorating your home, there are ways to consider the environment. An artificial tree doesn’t have to be discarded, and a live tree can be replanted. If you purchase a cut tree, remember that it cannot be flocked or have tinsel or decorations on it if it is to be recycled. Cut trees are usually collected in early January and are ground up into compost or mulch. You can find information about seasonal pickups and recycling at the East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling website: <http://www.brgov.com/recycle>.

LED Christmas lights last longer, save energy and money and they can be recycled. Go to <http://www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx> for recycling instructions.

Recycling packaging materials such as cardboard and plastic foam peanuts really helps. For information on recycling plastic foam peanuts, or if you are a retailer interested in foam peanut recycling, go to http://www.epspackaging.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=36.

Buy rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 800-8-BATTERY, or go to their website at <https://www.call2recycle.org> for information on the nearest battery recycling drop off location.

Have a safe holiday season and remember to never burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in the fireplace. For more recycling ideas, go to: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/recycling>.





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The deadline for registering for the 2019 Louisiana Envirothon is fast approaching! Don't miss out!

DEQ has proudly helped to host the Louisiana Envirothon for more than 10 years and hopes you will join us in making the 2019 competition the best yet. This year's competition is on April 13, 2019, at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. However, the team registration deadline is December 12, 2018.

The Louisiana Envirothon is an environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6-12. Teams train and compete by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management with the hope of going on to represent Louisiana at the North American Envirothon Competition. The competition focuses on five natural resource areas: soils and land use, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue. The current environmental issue for 2019 is Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.

You can get involved by organizing a team of five students from the same school or that are associated with an organized group (i.e. FFA, 4-H, science clubs). Test preparation is on your own. However, Louisiana Envirothon will hold training sessions where team members and advisors can meet with station masters. Teams will listen to presentations and participate in hands-on demonstrations in the six subject areas as well as practice for the oral presentation. Additionally, station masters and other subject experts are available on an ongoing basis to assist teams in preparing for the competition.

Louisiana Envirothon is a success because of an ongoing partnership with academia leadership willing to provide students with the opportunity to experience environmentally oriented activities, enabling them to become environmentally aware citizens. We hope you'll consider leading a team or sharing this with someone who will!

Visit <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/envirothon> to register now!!!



2017 Envirothon Winners



2016 Envirothon Winners



2015 Envirothon Winners



Bennett completes leadership program

LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett was among 47 graduates of the 30th annual Leadership Louisiana Program Nov. 16 at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles. The course is offered by the Council for A Better Louisiana (CABL), and the program's goal is to enhance the capacity of leaders from across Louisiana through information, innovative thinking and connecting to address key state issues.

Throughout the year, civic, business, professional, government, education, cultural and nonprofit leaders traveled to different regions of the state to gain a better understanding of the complex issues that drive Louisiana. These experience-based training sessions were conducted by recognized leaders whose decisions affect the state in the areas of economic development, business, workforce development, human services, education, government, coastal restoration and infrastructure. CABL developed the highly respected Leadership Louisiana program to give participants a better understanding of the challenges facing Louisiana and the solutions that can help move us forward.

Leadership Louisiana has trained more than 1,200 statewide leaders since 1989.

For more information on the Council for A Better Louisiana or to apply for the 2019 Leadership Louisiana class, visit www.cabl.org.



Denise Bennett

LDEQ holds fundraising contests and activities in support of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank



(Left to right) Sarah Pierce, Human Resource Specialist; Kevin Foy, Environmental Specialist; and Charlie Lato, Environmental Program Analyst compete in the hot dog eating contest.

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank announced that they were in dire need of more donations, and LDEQ heard the call. In order to help re-stock the Baton Rouge Food Bank, LDEQ held fundraising events. LDEQ has held donation drives for the past five years to honor 11-year-old Trevor Sims who died of cancer in 2013.

LDEQ has an ongoing collection of non-perishable food donations in the food barrels located in the first floor lobby and the other floors and has hosted a series of events to further the cause.

The fundraising kicked off Oct. 5 with a casual dress day fundraiser, where employees could donate \$10 for 10 days of casual dress through Dec. 15. A pizza sale followed, with slices selling for \$2 each, courtesy of Domino's.

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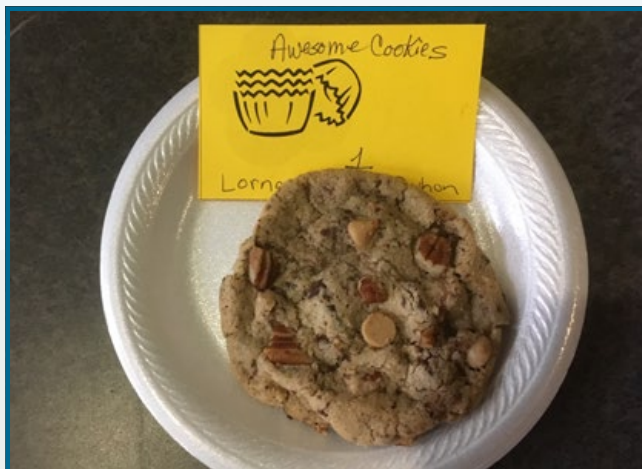
But the festivities didn't stop there, with hot dogs, nachos, popcorn treats, soft drinks and snacks being sold on special days. The hot dog-eating contest was just one of the events. Employees were challenged to eat as many hot dogs as they could in five minutes. The winner was Charlie Lato with a total of 9.5 hot dogs in five minutes. Human Resource Specialist Sarah Pierce won 2nd place eating 7 hot dogs, while Environmental Specialist Kevin Foy ate 2, placing in 3rd. On Halloween there was a Halloween costume contest and a cake silent auction with all of the proceeds and entry fees going to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

For the Halloween Costume Contest, LDEQ employees got in the spirit. Some of the employees dressed up in their Halloween best. The "Golden Girls" won the costume contest, with Accountant Sierra Trabeau dressed as the character Sophia, Environmental Project Specialist Ashley Broom dressed up as Dorothy, Environmental Project Specialist Katie Thames dressed as Rose, and Environmental Project Specialist Shawntel Robertson dressed as Blanche. The women donated their winnings to the Food Bank in the spirit of giving back. Environmental scientist Donna McCollough and Environment Project Specialist Keiley Well teamed up as "Robin Hoodette" and the Bunny, placing them in 2nd place. Sarah Pierce won 3rd place as the Zombie Bride.



Winners of the LDEQ Halloween Costume Contest strut their stuff.

The cake auction continued the Halloween theme and employees placed bids on their favorite cakes, some with their own Halloween theme. Cakes were donated by other LDEQ staff. Some of the cakes were Halloween themed or were homemade. Other items were LSU wine glasses and gift cards to various bakeries around Baton Rouge. The auction generated \$510 for the Baton Rouge Food Bank.



Awesome Cookie bake by Laura-Putnam-Duhon won the cookie baking contest.

The next competition was the Cookie Bake-Off, held in November. Again LDEQ employees showed off their baking skills with their unique and creative cookie recipes. Environmental Scientist Lorna Putnam-Duhon won first place with her "Awesome Cookies." Following behind her in second place was Environmental Project Specialist Keiley Well with her white chocolate cranberry cookies. The third place winner was Ashley Broom with her version of pecan bars. After the winners were announced, the other employees were able to purchase some of the cookies that had entered the Bake-Off for \$2 a bag. The event generated \$176 total for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

Fundraising events are ongoing through December and non-perishable food donations are still welcome. As the campaign wraps up next month, donations will be tallied, culminating in a check presentation to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank – just in time for the holiday season.

For more information about Trevor's Wish and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, please go to: <http://brfoodbank.org/trevors-wish-2016>.



ChemFriends Returns in Gonzales

After the Gonzales Civic Center flooded in the 2016 Baton Rouge flood and was closed for repairs and damages, ChemFriends organizers were excited to be back in the host site to teach middle school students about science. On Nov. 7-8, middle school students from Central, Gonzales, Lowry, Galvez, St. Amant, Prairieville, Lake and Dutchtown Middle went to the Gonzales Civic Center to do hands-on experiments and to learn more about physical science.

LDEQ was present at the event, and agency staff was excited to see eager students who were ready to learn. LDEQ has participated in ChemFriends since its inception in 1997. More than 2,500 middle school students divide into their respective school groups and rotate from station to station every 15 minutes, visiting organizations that are there to showcase their chemical activities. It is a chance for the kids to learn something new about science, as well as exposing them to various STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers.

The LDEQ volunteers did a presentation for the middle schoolers called “kitchen chemistry” where the students experienced hands-on chemistry first hand and learned about acids and bases. The students were split up into two teams and had to determine whether the pH of common kitchen items such as dishwashing detergent, baking soda and sprite was a base, an acid or neutral. Using a piece of cabbage in boiling hot water, Environmental Scientist Marissa Jimenez added the solutions of the kitchen items to the cabbage. Each would make the solution change color: if it was an acid, it would turn pink, if it was a base, the solution would turn green. The middle school students had to guess what color the substance would turn. The team who got the most correct answers won.

Jimenez says that she enjoys seeing the kids’ faces light up when they win the friendly competition or when they see the solutions change color. She said, “It’s nice to see them learn something new. Kids listen more and take these sort of activities and games to heart. They love the outreach activities!”



From left to right: Former LDEQ employee and volunteer Theresa Hardy; Administrative Assistant Deidre Robinson; Administrative Assistant Minta Canelas; Environmental Scientist Jillian Gautreaux; Environmental Scientist David Hotz; Environmental Scientist Marissa Jimenez; and Environmental Manager Linda Brown Piper.



Environmental Scientist Marissa Jimenez demonstrates the “kitchen lab” to Central Middle School students, as Environmental Scientist Jillian Gautreaux (far left), and Environmental Manager Linda Brown Piper (in blue) talk with the students.



Carpooling vs Driving Alone

The average cost of owning and operating a sedan is \$0.58 per mile, based on 15,000 miles of driving per year.*

When you join a carpool and split the cost of gas with your driver at the average statewide cost of \$2.67 per gallon, your cost per mile drops to \$0.06! Even if your daily commute is just a 20 mile round trip, you could be saving more than \$2,000 per year!

*American Automobile Association's 2015 Edition of Your Driving Costs
** Cost estimate based on costs shared with one person and includes savings from not paying maintenance fees.



Find extra money for the holidays in the Commuter Krewe program

The holidays are upon us, and we don't want you to become another traffic statistic. Holidays are meant to be joyful and relaxing, but not necessarily while commuting. The holidays are known to bring a record number of travelers to the roads. Our state is no exception. The number of vehicles utilizing our transportation infrastructure drastically increases between Thanksgiving and New Year's. You can help reduce the traffic congestion by joining Commuter Krewe.

Not only is ride-sharing, or carpooling, a great way to reduce traffic congestion, it also allows you to save money for the holidays. Sharing a ride with just one other person can reduce your commuting costs by 50 percent. While we encourage you to carpool every day, the holidays are especially a time to consider joining the Commuter Krewe program. The biggest initial challenge is getting over the stigma of carpooling.

Misconception #1: You are stuck at work if there is an emergency. In the event of an emergency, there is an emergency ride home service available to Commuter Krewe members. You simply take advantage of the service and get to where you need to be without issue.

Misconception #2: You lose schedule flexibility. You do not have to carpool every day. If your schedule requires that you leave early on Fridays, you can choose not to carpool on Fridays.

Misconception #3: You may be paired with someone you have nothing in common with. You get to choose whom you'd like to carpool with. The program gives you the option to set preferences such as rider only versus driver only. It also allows for notes such as "I prefer to ride in a non-smoking vehicle and strongly dislike country music." It allows you to find your perfect commuting match!

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LDEQ challenges everyone to do a “trial ride” this holiday season. This is merely committing to giving carpooling and the Commuter Krewe program a try for a day. You may find that you wish you had signed up sooner!

Take the first step today, sign in or join:

If you are already a Commuter Krewe member, sign in at www.CommuterKrewe.la to check your “Profile” to make sure you’ve included your organization’s name, so your department receives credit for the trips you make.

If you are not a Commuter Krewe member, sign up by going to www.CommuterKrewe.la and click the join button at the center of the page. Again, be sure to include LDEQ in your profile.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up, logged rides or even considered joining our efforts to “ReBoot the Commute!” Be sure to share your greener trips by posting your photos and comments on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using #LDEQ, #LoveTheBootDontPollute, #ReBootTheCommute and #CommuterKrewe.

LDEQ bids a fond farewell to Bill Mollere

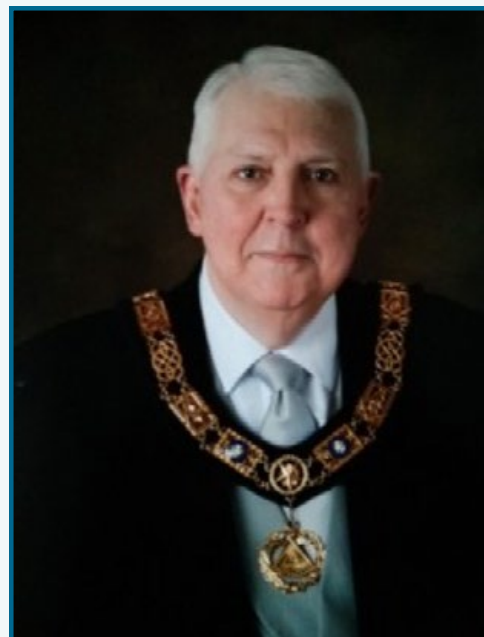
William Jules “Bill” Mollere spent almost 20 years at LDEQ and was part of the group that helped form LDEQ in 1984. Bill worked with environmental issues for a great part of his life. He was a graduate of Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University, where he earned a B.A. degree in political science, with minors in history, speech and philosophy. He was a student worker at LSU and for state government while at LSU, earning two years of service credit. Upon graduating, he joined Gulf South Research Institute (GSRI), later becoming a program director.

In 1973, he joined the Governor’s Office of Environmental Policy, which in 1984 became the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. He served five different administrations, and advanced to become the Administrator for the Solid Waste Division of LDEQ. Bill retired from the state in 2003 and consulted for several environmental engineering firms until 2011.

He was elected President of the Louisiana Solid Waste Association (LSWA), a state-wide trade group which provides seminars and certification training for its membership.

Bill’s fraternal work began as a teenager and continued throughout his life. With the Order of DeMolay, he rose throughout the years to Grand Master, among many other honors.

Bill wrote the history of LDEQ that is on the www.deq.louisiana.gov and had been a valued employee of the department and the state. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.



William Jules “Bill” Mollere



*Photo courtesy of Red River Cleanup
At least 126 illegally dumped waste tires were pulled
from the Red River this year.*

Ninth Annual Red River Cleanup removes trash in Shreveport/Bossier

For the ninth year in a row, the Red River Cleanup kicked off from Stoner Park and boat launch in Shreveport Nov. 3. The purpose of the event is to eliminate trash from the busy waterway while helping to educate and inform the citizens in the area about dangers of litter and how everyone can be proactive in preserving the environment. It is held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Local residents Adam and Lisa Willard started the event in 2010. Since then, more than 124,026 pounds of trash have been removed from the Red River. This year's contribution to that number amounted to 21,920 pounds of trash collected by 426 volunteers. While high water conditions somewhat negatively impacted the volunteer boat turnout, shoreline volunteers rose to the task and were able to extract 126 waste tires from the waterway.

The event has become highly organized over the last few years. As volunteers arrive, they are directed to a table where they sign a waiver, receive a t-shirt, trash grabber stick, gloves, trash bags and a bottle of water. Reflecting the community, volunteers represented churches, scouting organizations, civic organizations and groups, businesses, local schools, U.S. Air Force service members based at Barksdale Air Force Base, as well as walk-ups.

While picking up litter is important, it's the community engagement aspect of the cleanup that's vital. To that end, the Red River Cleanup promotes watershed education on their website and through displays at the event that explain the array of litter questions – along with actions everyone can take to prevent the littering of our state's precious lakes, rivers and bayous. Placing empty aluminum cans and plastic bottles in the bed of your pickup truck creates a situation where they're blown out onto the water or shoreline by wind as the truck drives down the highway. Tossing cigarette butts out of your vehicle's window is blatant littering and presents a potential fire hazard. Anyone doing so should be reported to the state's litter hotline at 1-888-548-7284 or 1-888-LITR-BUG.

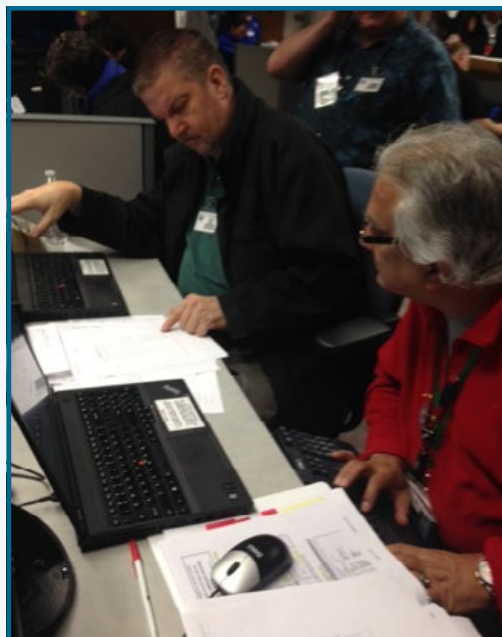
Much as in years past, debris retrieved from the Red River this year included a discarded boat, glass beer bottles, aluminum cans, waste tires, Styrofoam, paper and plastic waste, glass, used oil containers and other hazardous materials. Each year, several unusual pieces are found as well. And with the finding of those unusual items, the organizers added the "crazy trash find" contest that's designed to compel volunteers to seek out the unusual and the bizarre. Those who turn in strange discoveries are entered into a competition where they can win a prize based on a vote by a panel of volunteer judges.

But the big event in the day is the search – and hopeful discovery – of the "hidden idol," a unique talisman of sorts that is hidden along the cleanup route. Clues to its location are posted on the event's Facebook page leading up to the event, and the lucky one to find it (and turn in two bags of trash) wins a kayak. Lunch was provided to the volunteers, and several event sponsors and contributors were on hand to ensure the day was a success.

"If you want to get involved with the Red River Cleanup and keep your community clean, come on out. The Red River Cleanup is held the first Saturday of November every year at Stoner Boat Launch, and we'd love to have you out there," said Lisa Willard, co-organizer of the event. For more information on how to be a part of the event next year, please visit: <http://www.redrivercleanup.com> and check out their Facebook page at the Red River Cleanup.



LDEQ On The Move



Radiation response drills are a frequent part of LDEQ's public and environmental protection mission

LDEQ Engineer Doug Wafer (l) and Environmental Scientist Ziad Fahd input and analyze radiation exposure levels and air sampling data from the responding field teams as part of the radiation dose assessment function during a radiation response drill at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson, Miss., Nov. 14. Information collected by the dose assessment team is communicated with and compared to the utility's results and consist of projections based on plant conditions or monitored release rates. Data collected, along with other information, will assist the emergency operations team in devising a protective action recommendation that may be implemented during the emergency response phase.

Drills are held periodically by Grand Gulf, as well as Louisiana's two nuclear stations (Riverbend and Waterford 3), to test the response capability of the participants. Doing so identifies any strengths and shortcomings that can be noted for future drills. The exercises involve scenarios where accident sequences have occurred at a nuclear power plant. Participating agencies work side-by-side with the facility's operations personnel throughout the response. The drills are in preparation for a graded drill conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency at the conclusion of the drill cycle.

The Scott Cub Scouts help protect the environment

The Scott local Cub Scout Pack 451 undertook a service project to mark storm drains in the Judice Oaks and Emerald Lakes neighborhoods in Scott. They marked 100 drains on March 17.

This included removing/replacing faded or unreadable markers. This Best Management Practice is sponsored by the City under its Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer Systems (MS4) storm water management program. The markers were supplied by LDEQ and equipment/supplies were provided by city of Scott.





Who's Who At LDEQ?



Ashley Viator – Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Air Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

Viator is a native of Maringouin. She attended Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts (LSMSA) in Natchitoches for her junior and senior years of high school, and went on to attend Louisiana State University. She graduated in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in biological science. Viator's career with LDEQ began in October 2008 in the Water Enforcement Permit Compliance Unit. She later transferred to Air Permits/Manufacturing Section and was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist Supervisor.

Viator is a LDEQ Liaison with the Air and Waste Management Association -- Louisiana Section (A&WMA) and is a member of the Annual Conference Planning Committee. She resides in Watson and enjoys spending time her husband and children, their three dogs and family and friends.

Cory Parent – Environmental Scientist, Office of Environmental Compliance

Parent has a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife and fisheries from LSU. He worked for two and half years as an environmental scientist/consultant with METCO Environmental before beginning his career at LDEQ in 2004. Cory worked as a site operator/environmental scientist in the air monitoring network for the last 14 years.

He currently operates the NCORE site in Baton Rouge and manages the meteorological equipment throughout the state.



John Grosch - Environmental Scientist, Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section, Office of Environmental Assessment

Grosch is originally from Wisconsin, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in fisheries management and biology at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point in 2013. Following this, he decided to move south to Louisiana and earned a Master of Science degree in marine and environmental biology at Nicholls State University in 2015. Grosch recently joined the Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section of LDEQ after working in the state of Washington for the Department of Fish and Wildlife since 2015.

In his free time, he enjoys the great outdoors; kayaking, fishing, camping, hiking and photography.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2018 Enforcement Actions:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions>

Third Quarter 2018 Settlement Agreements:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division>

Third Quarter 2018 Air Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter>

Third Quarter 2018 Water Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes>

Third Quarter 2018 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits>

