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Governor Edwards proclaims May to be Air Quality Awareness month

Gov. John Bel Edwards has declared May Air Quality Awareness Month in Louisiana. Even though the air quality in Louisiana is the best it has been in years, there is still much work to do. May is traditionally the start of ozone season and the proclamation encourages citizens to become familiar with the Air Quality Index, to understand what causes ozone formation and to take voluntary steps to help prevent ozone formation and improve air quality.

When conditions are right, the air pollutant ozone is formed. It is formed by a chemical reaction when pollutants nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react under a bright sun. Ozone formation is most prevalent between May 1 and Sept. 30, but it can occur at other times. When everyone takes necessary steps to limit the release of ozone-causing pollutants into the atmosphere, there is a good chance that ozone formation may decrease.

Good air quality is everybody's responsibility. Industry is regulated to meet stringent standards but there are steps the public can take to improve air quality. Some of those steps include: walking, biking, carpooling, using mass transit and ride sharing, operating gasoline powered engines after 6 p.m. and fueling your car when weather conditions are cooler. When running errands, plan and combine them for less driving, and don't idle your vehicle. Carpool when you can, take your lunch to work in lieu of driving and conserve energy in your home.

Be part of the solution. Know your air quality and what you can do to improve it.

Category	Value	Ozone 2008 8-HR (ppm)	24-HR PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	Suggested Precautions
Good	0 - 50	0.000 - 0.059	0 - 12	None
Moderate	51 - 100	0.060 - 0.075	12.1 - 35.4	Unusually Sensitive People Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 - 150	0.076 - 0.095	35.5 - 55.4	Sensitive People & Children Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion
Unhealthy	151 - 200	0.096 - 0.115	55.5 - 150.4	Everyone Limit Prolonged Outdoor Exertion

Air quality index for ozone and PM_{2.5}

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John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, air quality in Louisiana is continually improving; and
- WHEREAS, EPA continues to strengthen air quality standards for all pollutants; and
- WHEREAS, National Air Quality Awareness Week is May 1 to May 5 and May is National Air Quality Awareness month; and
- WHEREAS, poor air quality can affect the health and quality of life of our citizens; and
- WHEREAS, people with lung disease, children, older adults and people with heart conditions are more affected by poor air quality; and
- WHEREAS, daily awareness of air quality through utilization of the Air Quality Index and subscribing to Enviroflash, a free automatic notification program about air quality can help protect the citizens' health; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana through the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality encourages citizens to use and be familiar with the Air Quality Index to take measures to protect health and improve air quality; and
- WHEREAS, it is each citizen's individual responsibility to be aware of the air quality in their community in order to make informed choices that protect and improve Louisiana's air quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 2017 as

AIR QUALITY AWARENESS MONTH
In the State of Louisiana



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the
State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of
Baton Rouge, on this 24th day of April*
A. D. 2017

Governor of Louisiana



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

April began on a sad note with the news of the passing of Yanfu Zhao, who had worked at the agency for 24 years. He was working as administrator of air permits at the time of his death. Yanfu was a well-liked and respected member of the LDEQ family, and we were all shocked and saddened by his passing. I offer my sincerest condolences to his family, his friends and co-workers here at LDEQ. Yanfu will be missed.

At the end of March, the LDEQ executive staff spent two-days discussing the (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) that each member of the executive staff had been working on in preparation for this planned retreat. The session was very informative for all in attendance and strengthened our communication as we move forward into 2017 and beyond.

Our self-examination and group discussions led to some ideas for doing things differently, so don't be surprised if your assistant secretary floats some positive changes your way. Give them some honest feedback and keep an open mind about doing things in new and innovative ways.

We have launched our new and improved website. The looks of the site will be different and it will be more user-friendly for smart phone users as we strive to provide a more streamlined venue for the general public to receive information about LDEQ and our mission.

I also want to commend all the LDEQ personnel who represented the agency so well at the American Heart Association Heart Walk at LSU on April 8. This was the culminating event in this year's charity drive. All the hard work that went into producing and selling popcorn, healthy snacks, the gift baskets raffle and other fundraising events around the agency raised \$7291 for our charitable beneficiary. I'm proud of our effort and want you each to know that I am personally grateful for what you contributed.

Keep up the good work and keep your spirits up. We are doing some good things and will continue to meet the challenges of protecting Louisiana's environment and the health of its people.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speaking at the Louisiana Clean Fuels Odyssey Day Event.



Dr. Brown speaks about VW Settlement at Louisiana Clean Fuels Odyssey Day Event

I never thought that \$18 million would generate so much energy and conversation,” LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown said. He was referring to the Volkswagen Settlement money that the State of Louisiana will receive. Speaking at the Louisiana Clean Fuels Annual Odyssey Day event, at the new Baton Rouge Community College facility, Brown described the events that led up to the settlement.

“Back in October of 2016, they settled. Volkswagen settled,” Brown said. The company was misrepresenting their emissions from their diesel engines by using a hidden algorithm (computer subroutine referred to as “defeat devices”) that showed lower emissions that were actually occurring, Brown said. “It turned on when the car was being tested.” The Justice Department on behalf of the Federal Trade Commission and EPA sued the German automaker.

“They (VW) settled for about \$4.3 billion,” Brown said. “Based on the number of diesel engines you had in your state at the time, you got a (proportionate) share of the settlement. Louisiana’s share? \$18 million. We did not have a lot of Volkswagens and Audis in this state – compared to California, their share is \$800 million.”

That’s not a huge amount in the overall transportation scheme in a state like Louisiana. But it’s enough to draw attention. “We are getting requests from all over the country for projects, and what are you going to do?”

The settlement terms spell out a strict list of applications for the money, Brown said. It can be used for replacement engines for diesel-powered vehicles or for replacement vehicles that are powered by alternative fuels like compressed natural gas (CNG) or propane. The list of vehicles includes large trucks, buses, freight switchers, ferries and tugs, ocean going vessels shore power, medium trucks, airport ground support equipment, forklifts, light duty zero emission vehicle supply equipment and DERA option vehicle (Diesel Emission Reduction Act).

The settlement monies go to three state agencies: LDEQ, DNR and DOTD. LDEQ is the lead agency, Brown said. DOTD has already committed its portion of the settlement to replacement of diesel engines in its own fleet. The other two agencies will pool their shares to fund worthy applications, he said. The state is considering the replacement of or repowering of publicly owned school buses as provided in the Consent Decree and the replacement of or repowering of aging state-owned heavy equipment fleet vehicles that are eligible under the mitigation trust. The vehicles will be replaced with new cleaner vehicles and or new cleaner burning engines. Those are the guidelines, Brown said, but nothing is final yet, including the percentage of replacement costs the agencies plan to fund. The agencies are soliciting proposals for projects for the settlement monies, he said.

All proposals must be received by the LDEQ no later than 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, 2017. Proposals may be submitted by email at perry.theriot@la.gov; faxed to 225-219-0000; mailed to the Department of Environmental Quality, Attn: Perry Theriot, P.O. Box 4303, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4303; or it may be hand delivered to 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown discusses CNG powered bus at Louisiana Clean Fuels Odyssey Day.

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Another provision of the settlement establishes Electrify America, which will provide funds to build charging stations for zero emissions vehicles (ZEV), mainly electric vehicles. Those stations, Brown said, will be located in 16 metro areas in the U.S. and will feature 296 charging stations, each with 320 kw capacity. “You get 20 miles per one minute charge,” he said. Charging stations in use now are 50 kw capacity where users get three miles per one minute charge. Brown said he hoped one of the metro areas will be in Louisiana. The stations will be “mixed use,” he said. “Drivers can stop, shop, eat while they wait.”

After speaking and fielding questions, Dr. Brown looked over new alternative fuel school buses displayed as well as other alternative fuel vehicles.

Hornbeck dedicates CNG station

Hornbeck Mayor Clarence Beebe was “like a beagle after a rabbit,” Leesville Mayor Rick Allen said.

Allen was referring to Beebe’s quest to install a fast-fill compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station in Vernon Parish. Beebe caught the rabbit on April 19, when the two-pump, automated, credit-card-operated facility was dedicated in Leesville. Allen introduced Beebe at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the facility.

LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett offered words of congratulations at the event. “On behalf of the Secretary of the Department of the Environmental Quality – Dr. Chuck Carr Brown – I offer congratulations to the citizens of Vernon Parish, who will surely reap environmental benefits from this station,” Bennett said.

The station pumps are ready with a price of \$1.55 for the equivalent of one gallon of natural gas, a price set by the Hornbeck Town Council. Slow-fill CNG stations require an 8-hour refill time. Refill times at a fast-fill CNG station are about the same as filling your gasoline tank at a regular station.

The town of Hornbeck has owned and operated its own natural gas distribution system for 50 years, Beebe said. The Hornbeck mayor began researching CNG about five or six years ago and was gradually sold on the idea. He enlisted the support of his town council and local officials. In 2014, Beebe announced plans for the city to locate a CNG fueling station in Vernon Parish.

Beebe and the town council obtained \$1.1 in funding from the state and the town of Hornbeck came up with \$550,000 to fund the \$1.65 million project. Hornbeck has switched to dual-fuel system vehicles for its three vehicle town-owned fleet. These vehicles can use both CNG and diesel or gasoline. Beebe expects the town fleet to make good use of the new station.

“Our point of purchase (for gas) is on the south side of Leesville,” Beebe said. “It was just for the distribution system for the north part of Vernon Parish,” he said. The 601 N. 6th St. location is about 400 feet from the existing main gas line, and central to the parish. “We put it where the most volume of usage would be,” he said.



Hornbeck Mayor Clarence Beebe and Leesville Mayor Rick Allen, sharing scissors, cut the ribbon on the CNG fueling station at 601 N. 6th St. in Leesville. Visiting dignitaries, interested citizens and business people also joined the April 19 event.

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Hornbeck's CNG fueling station looks like a typical gasoline fueling station.

The finished station looks remarkably unremarkable. At first glance, the pumps are no different than any other gas station pumps. The concrete apron and sheltering metal awning look standard for the fuel marketing business. But a closer inspection shows there are some real differences from the typical stop-and-fill gasoline station. For one, there are no underground storage tanks. That's because CNG is lighter than air. Spill it, and it just floats up into the atmosphere. There's no need to bury it, and no need for containment structures because it won't contaminate soils if it is spilled. The nozzles on the end of the hoses are different from those on gasoline pumps too, but not dauntingly so. Most users have reported little if any difficulty with the CNG fueling process. How-to instructions are printed in large type on the side of the pumps.

The horsepower, acceleration, and cruise speed of NGVs are comparable with those of equivalent conventional vehicles, the Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center reports. And compared with conventional diesel and gasoline vehicles, NGVs offer other air-quality benefits. But the driving range of NGVs is generally

less than that of comparable conventional vehicles because of the lower energy density of natural gas. Extra storage tanks can increase range, but the additional weight may displace cargo capacity, DOE warns.

According to Louisiana Clean Fuels' station locator tool (http://louisianacleanfuels.org/Station_Locator), there are currently 15 CNG fueling stations in Louisiana. Add Hornbeck's new facility, and you have 16 CNG stations scattered around Louisiana. Most CNG powered vehicles can go 200-300 miles between fill-ups. One automotive review magazine referred to this range as a "200-mile tether." The magazine's reviewers complained that once the vehicle's fuel gage dropped into the lower half of its indication range, drivers had to start thinking about finding a filling station. The lack of stations was a source of driver anxiety, the reviewers said.

That shouldn't be a problem here. You could go anywhere in Louisiana without overreaching the range of available CNG filling stations, but the more stations that are available to drivers, the more convenient and appealing CNG powered vehicles become. As more people switch to CNG-powered vehicles, the savings in environmental costs, energy costs and economic costs will accrue more quickly.

Beebe pointed out that CNG is an American-produced product.

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown is a believer. While he does not advocate putting all your eggs in one alternative fuel basket, Brown says that the abundance of natural gas and the fact that Louisiana is one of the top producers of natural gas lead to an inescapable conclusion.

"Compressed natural gas has to be part of the energy solution in Louisiana. It may not be the final fix for our energy needs, but it certainly will be a bridge fuel that will allow us to reduce pollution as we continue to seek even cleaner, more efficient energy sources in the future," Brown said.

For more information about CNG in Hornbeck, visit the town's website: <http://www.townofhornbeck.com/cng.html>.



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2017 Envirothon held at the LSU Ag Botanic Gardens



Participants of the 2017 Envirothon

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge won first place in the 2017 Louisiana Envirothon Environmental Competition held at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens in Baton Rouge. Four junior high and high school teams participated in the environmental problem-solving competition that includes testing in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, a current issue on Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship and an oral presentation.

Participating schools were Westdale Middle School, Quitman High School FFA, Keithville Elementary/ Middle School 4-H Club and Episcopal School of Baton Rouge.

During the competition, each team must complete five written field tests, each dealing with a different topic. These tests consist of various question types, including identifications and hands-on assessments. Each team must also prepare an oral presentation on the current issue topic, which the team presents to a panel of judges. An important element of the competition is the understanding

that each topic is interrelated, and understanding human effects on the environment and how human activities connect with ecosystem functions. Each test is scored out of 100 points, with the presentation being scored out of 200 points. The team with the highest cumulative total of points at the end of the scoring is the winning team. Recognition is also given to teams with the highest scoring in each of the five categories.



First place Envirothon Winners - Episcopal School of Baton Rouge



Second place Envirothon Winners - Quitman High School-Future Farmers of America (FFA)



Third place Envirothon Winners - Westdale Middle School

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Quitman High School-Future Farmers of America (FFA) took second place, with Westdale Middle School taking third place. Winning teams received recognition and were awarded plaques, medals and cash prizes.

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge took the high scores on station tests for Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils, and the Oral Competition. Quitman High School- FFA took the high scores for Soils, Forestry and the Current Issue on Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship.

The Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens are the major sponsors for the Louisiana Envirothon. Patron level sponsorship was received from the Louisiana Science Teachers Association and supporter level sponsorship was received from Redfin Realty and Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers.

In hosting the competition, Envirothon partnered with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, LSU School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, LSU's Superfund Research Center and Southern University and A&M College-Urban Forestry Program.

For more information on Envirothon or to enter a team for next year's competition, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon or follow us on Facebook.

Water Quality sampling in West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee Parishes

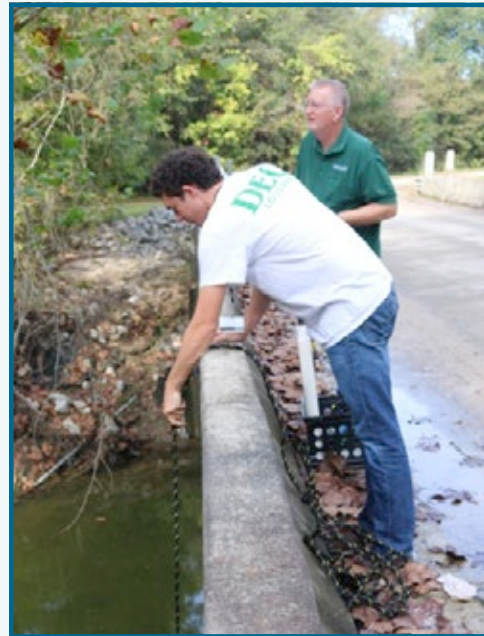
Water quality sampling is an ongoing activity within LDEQ that is geared toward ensuring that everyone can enjoy clean waterways throughout the state. Water bodies that are identified as having an impairment or borderline impairment are placed on an inspection list, and each month, the more critical sites will be sampled by an environmental scientist from that site's nearest LDEQ regional office.

Tunica Bayou and Bayou Sara in West Feliciana Parish and Old River in Pointe Coupee Parish were sampled recently by Don Weinell and Reid Nuss, both environmental scientists based in the Capital Region Office.

Nuss, a new employee to LDEQ, accompanied by 25-year veteran Weinell on the water sampling activity as part of the hands-on field work and supervision that all new environmental scientists initially undergo before being sent out on their own.

Upon arrival at Tunica Bayou, the first of three locations to be sampled that day, Weinell and Nuss noted the water flow, weather conditions and any visible indications of impairment on a Water Quality Field Measurements form. The form is public record and is the official document that records the visit.

Nuss then lowered a canister into the bayou, drawing a water sample. Typically taken from higher ground, such as a bridge, the sample is ideally drawn from the center of the water flow, so that it's less likely to be affected by sediment, algae, weeds or litter that may be accumulating along the banks.



Environmental Scientists Reid Nuss (foreground) and Don Weinell lower a sampling canister into Tunica Bayou.

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Nuss (l) pours a water sample from the waterway into containers held by Weinell that will be sent to a lab for evaluation under various parameters such as fecal coliform, salinity, various chemicals and solids.

Equipped with an array of sensors, a Hydrolab sonde (just smaller than the shape and size of a baseball bat) was then lowered by Weinell into the water to measure the temperature, water flow, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen levels and other parameters. Those readings are recorded real-time into a device and documented for the record.

Next, both environmental scientists donned gloves to avoid corrupting the sample, and the collected water was poured into separate containers, based on their parameters. A specific set of protocols dictate the collection and preservation process. “Among a variety of constituents, it’s important to look for lead and metals in the water as those may dictate the need for closer observation, or potentially, a water advisory if a greater issue needs to be addressed,” Nuss said.

During the collection, an “equipment blank” is often prepared using distilled water. This is a process where purified water is placed in the collection equipment and poured in to sample containers identical to those being used for the actual samples. Both the samples and the blank are sent to the same lab and analyzed using the same equipment and procedures.

“The purpose of the equipment blank is to isolate any potential artificial contamination in the sample that may have been caused by the sampling equipment itself,” Weinell noted. “Doing so allows for a much more accurate picture of what’s actually in the water as opposed to a sample that’s potentially contaminated due to contact with our equipment.”

With regard to the other samples, each bottle will undergo testing for specific constituents. One will be tested for any presence of alkaline, chloride, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids and turbidity in the water. Another bottle will test for magnesium, potassium, sodium, calcium, iron, silicon and manganese; while a third bottle will be looked at for ammonia, nitrates, nitrites and phosphates.

A fourth bottle will collect a sample that will be tested for any indication of fecal coliform. That sample is unique in that it must be transported to a lab within eight hours of sampling in order to obtain a valid reading.

Sampling for volatile organic compounds in the water will be conducted every third month at a given waterbody, and the equipment blank sample is pulled in the interim, whenever sampling for volatile organic compounds isn’t performed. The objective is to get a clearer picture of how the waterway is faring and if any actions need to be taken to address any area that may be compromising the water quality at that location.

While a sample from a river, bayou or tributary can be pulled from a bridge, sampling from a larger waterway, such as a lake, is typically done from a dock.



Environmental Scientist Don Weinell records the water conditions at Old River in Pointe Coupee Parish.

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There, the environmental scientist will often use a Secchi disk, which is a round, wooden Frisbee-like device attached to a cord. Such was the case at Old River in Pointe Coupee Parish, where Weinell lowered the disk into the water to obtain a depth measurement and an indication of turbidity. He then recorded the readings onto the field measurements form. Together with other documentation, anyone will be able to check the form and review the record to view the sampling history of the waterway, along with other documentation submitted by LDEQ.

If sampling results depict a problem or potential problem in a waterbody, LDEQ will confer with the Louisiana Department of Health who may consider posting an advisory at that location in order to reduce pollution or address an issue of concern that may be negatively impacting public health. Community outreach and efforts to eliminate any negative impacts will also be ramped up in order to engage the surrounding community in pollution reduction approaches.

“The goal of the water sampling mission is to ensure all Louisiana waters are pollution-free and are maintaining their designated uses,” Nuss said.

LDEQ to work with newly formed Louisiana Recycling Coalition

Litter and waste in the environment is a huge concern in Louisiana and the newly formed Louisiana Recycling Coalition (LRC), plans to address the problem head on. At the initial meeting in New Orleans, LRC President Sarah LaRock outlined the mission and goals for attending participants.

“As consumers, we all contribute to the problem of waste and pollution in our environment,” LaRock said. “As recyclers, we contribute to the solution.”

The Louisiana Recycling Coalition is a membership-based network of individuals and representatives from government, industry and non-profit entities that support environmental stewardship through materials reduction, reuse and recycling in Louisiana. The organization works to provide advocacy, information, technical support, networking and educational opportunities for and about recycling in partnership with local, state, regional and national organizations.

The LRC is currently focused on four areas of research and development organized into committees which members can join and contribute to. Descriptions of the committees, which include Recycling Infrastructure, State Policy, Industry Development, and Education/Economic Information, can be found on the organization’s webpage at the following address: <http://serdc.org/LouisianaRecyclingCoalition>. This webpage provides basic organizational and membership information as the Coalition works to build a full website scheduled to launch this September.

A newly formed organization, the Louisiana Recycling Coalition (LRC), holds 501(c)3 status under the auspices of its fiscal sponsor, the Southeast Recycling Development Council, which provides administrative, financial and legal services to support the group’s development. The Coalition is currently working to build its membership by hosting meetings that provide information and networking opportunities to the state’s recycling industry.

“We are interested in working with state policy, and want to work with state agencies like LDEQ to help with outreach and reporting programs,” LaRock said. “We need standardized measurements and need to help people learn how to fill out the reports.”

LDEQ is a member and environmental scientist Don Caffery is the contact person for the agency. He has shared some of the work that LDEQ is doing on the issues. Results of an annual study conducted by LDEQ report a recycling rate of 7.4 percent

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for the state of Louisiana in 2015. Louisiana's reported rate, which can be compared to the most recent national average of 34.6 percent (reported by the EPA), instigated the formation of a new, statewide coalition. The coalition is addressing the gap between the state and national recycling rates by working to improve recycling programs, participation, access to end markets and issues of contamination due to miseducation about what is recyclable.

The organization's next meeting will be held at the WasteExpo conference in New Orleans on May 9. Three presenters will discuss issues regarding reporting and measurement in recycling at the national, state and local levels. Don Caffery will be presenting previously unpublished information on the statewide recycling report. For more information on the presentations and to register for the free event, please visit <http://serdc.org/lrcmaymeeting>.

If you are interested in attending, to become a member or sponsor, send an email to: lrc@serdc.org, or go to the website, http://www.serdc.org/louisiana_recyclingcoalition.

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore provides a pro-environmental service

There's a resource in Baton Rouge that works to provide low cost supplies for homeowners, especially as many look for cost-savings needs as they continue to work to get back into their homes after the August floods.

While it bears the markings of a thrift store, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore of Greater Baton Rouge is much more. The ReStore offers materials geared more toward home rebuilding and a great deal of the hardware needed for those efforts. "Construction material for the home is our primary focus," said Kirsten Acosta, manager of ReStore Southeast. "We lost about half of our donor households after the flood, so we are looking to spread the word and increase our donor pool. Supporting flood recovery and home building efforts in general through Habitat for Humanity are a large part of our mission."

Most of the items in the ReStore are donated by the public as well as organizations and businesses, such as hotels or companies that frequently change out furniture, appliances, room accessories and other furnishings. This means that the items on the floor are in continual flux as new shipments come in and existing items are sold.



Kirsten Acosta, manager of ReStore Southeast, sits among containers of remixed and recycled paint.

The Perkins Road location near Bluebonnet Boulevard, opened in February 2016 and is approximately 23,000 square feet with a staff of six supported by several volunteers. Habitat for Humanity's first location, on Airline Highway in north Baton Rouge, opened in 2003 and is nearly double the size of the new store. Both locations are continually in need of volunteer help.

Anyone can donate, and everything that comes in is evaluated for serviceability, and is priced and separated into categories such as home décor, plumbing, electrical, sporting goods, mirrors, rugs, doors, lumber, books and hardware. With regard to pricing, factors including age of the item, brand name, condition and serviceability are taken into account, with brand new items typically priced at 50 percent of the retail value.

The big benefit of the ReStore operation, though, is how its work serves the environment under the "reduce, recycle and reuse" concepts.

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The ReStore specializes in selling construction materials, furniture and furnishings for the home.

Each year, the ReStore participates in the paint swap during household hazardous materials collection days held in Baton Rouge. LDEQ volunteers handle the intake and mixing of used paint at the event then the paint is sent to the ReStore's north Baton Rouge site where store staff blends the paints accordingly. Paint is then separated into containers by color, labeled and resold to the general public.

All items brought into the ReStore will live another day as a welcome addition to a home or business. Donations are eventually reused through a purchase. Reselling these items also reduces the amount of material being added to landfills or tossed along roadsides. With that in mind, the ReStore team strives to see the value in nearly every item that's brought in. Appliances, in particular, may only need a small, inexpensive part to give it a new lease on life, so there are many things have the potential for reuse.

Still, the store cannot accept everything. "We won't sell anything that's not up to standard," Acosta said. "We look for items in sellable condition that may have minor repairs we can fix on site – such as a loose table leg."

Donations are tax deductible, and volunteers are always welcome. To volunteer, donate or learn more contact the Habitat For Humanity ReStore Southeast, 10300 Perkins Road #102, at (225) 408-0021; or the ReStore North, 4301 Airline Highway, at (225) 355-1895.





DEQ On The Move



Rhyshima Parms-Green, Linda Hardy and Marissa Jimenez from LDEQ staff LDEQ's Earth Day/Party for the Planet booth.

Baton Rouge celebrates Earth Day/Party For The Planet 2017

Earth Day/Party for the Planet was celebrated at the Baton Rouge Zoo on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Volunteers from local area organizations and companies were invited to assist with the combined event of the Zoo's Party for the Planet and Louisiana's Earth Day. Some of the areas designated at the Zoo's Party included Wetlands, Earth Walk, Earth for Children and Earth Stage, Bluebonnet Swamp, Southern University's Ag Center, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Chef Varnado, Louisiana Clean Fuels, East Baton Rouge Public Library and Recycling Fair.

LDEQ's EnviroScape demonstration was set up in the Wetlands Area. Even though the forecast was for rain, the event was well attended and attendees continued to pour in through the main entrance until closing.



LDEQ Emergency Responder Karen Price (r) assists at a decontamination point during a drill involving the mock release of hazardous chemicals in an enclosed structure.

LDEQ Emergency Responders attend hazardous materials training

Emergency Responders attended training in various hazardous materials emergency response scenarios during the week of March 20 at the Joint Emergency Services Training Center in the town of Zachary. Classes included a bomb detonation demonstration, how to properly cap a leaking release point during a train derailment, how to work a continuity flow study on trucks containing hazardous materials, public information officer do's and don'ts and oil spill emergency response functions.



DEQ On The Move



LDEQ Geologists Jesse Means (l) and Mary Gentry give a permeability demonstration to show students how water flows through aquifers.

LDEQ participates in Wetland Watchers Celebration in St. Charles Parish

On March 29, staff from LDEQ's Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Unit set up a booth at the annual Wetland Watchers event, held at Wetland Watchers Park in Norco.

The event is an annual showcase of educational activities focusing on Louisiana's wetlands where elementary and junior high students get a rare, hands-on learning opportunity. Rotating through several exhibits, demonstration booths and a nature trail, the students learned about soil science, ecology, water flow and permeability, geology, animal life, water quality and various environmental protection endeavors.

"The Wetland Watchers Celebration gives us an opportunity to engage more than 1,000 students in hands on learning, which is one of the most effective ways to teach scientific concepts," LDEQ Geologist Mary Gentry said.

More than 25 agencies, companies, schools and organizations participated in the event.



India Ambeau, LDEQ environmental Scientist demonstrated the enviroscape to attendees at Bayou Vermilion Earth Day.

LDEQ participates in Vermillion District Earth Day event

Sunday April 23, 2017, Marissa Jimenez, Tomeka Prioleau and India Ambeau, LDEQ environmental scientists, demonstrated the EnviroScape model at the Bayou Vermillion District Earth Day Celebration. The event was held at Vermillionville Historic Village in Lafayette, LA. There were many different activities including fish painting, macroinvertebrate sampling, cooking demonstrations, leaf rubbings, and live music! Exhibitors included the Acadiana Native Plant Project, No Waste Louisiana, Atchafalaya Basin Keepers and so many more!



Who's Who At DEQ?



Destin Hooks – Environmental Scientist 3, Remediation Division

Hooks is a Baton Rouge native and received a bachelor's degree in toxicology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. A returning employee, he previously worked at LDEQ in Air Enforcement from 2011 to 2013.

After spending a few years in San Diego, California, he is excited to be back with LDEQ and is now working in the Remediation Division. Destin will be stationed in the Acadiana Regional Office.

Jordan Sanders – Environmental Project Specialist, Permit Administrative Application Review group

Sanders is from the New Roads area and graduated from Louisiana State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of General Studies degree. Prior to working at DEQ, she was a research assistant for the Arbo-Virus Laboratory at LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. Recently, she was the Agency Licensing Coordinator for MassMutual Louisiana.

Sanders works in the Permit Administrative Application Review group, where she assigns Agency Interest numbers and reviews permit applications for entry into the database and for assignment within permit groups. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, spending time with her children and friends and writing her next novel.



Jaime Morgan – Attorney, Legal Affairs

Morgan, a New Orleans native, graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. She later attended Southern Law Center and obtained her law degree in 2015. Morgan moved to Zachary in 2016 and started working with LDEQ in March 2017 in the Legal Affairs division.

Before joining LDEQ, she worked as an attorney in private practice. While in law school, she had interned for Louisiana Disciplinary Board and Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. In her free time, she enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, spending quality time with her fiancé and playing with their daughter.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2017 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx>

First Quarter 2017 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx>

First Quarter 2017 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

First Quarter 2017 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

First Quarter 2017 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx>

