



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75

What's Inside?

[Responding to emergencies](#)

[Message from the Secretary](#)

[LDEQ raises \\$3,375 for the American Heart Association](#)

[Environmental Leadership Awards presented at LDEQ](#)

[Latest video by LDEQ promotes Air Quality Awareness month](#)

[Wetland Watchers hosts 20th annual event](#)

[LDEQ On The Move](#)

[Who's Who At LDEQ?](#)

Responding to emergencies

About 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 12, a Singapore-flagged vessel, the Pac Antares, tagged a piling at the Nashville Avenue Wharf A at Mississippi River mile marker 100. The ship began leaking high sulfur fuel oil into the river which quickly formed dark, sticky plumes. The wharf is about a mile downstream from the Crescent City Connection bridge in New Orleans.

Gallagher Marine Systems, owner of the vessel, contacted the National Reporting Center and the U.S. Coast Guard by 11:44 a.m. Responders from the Coast Guard, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) sprang into action.

The Coast Guard closed the river to traffic. A vacuum truck deployed to the vessel began offloading the remaining fuel at 6:10 p.m. Local water systems took precautionary measures of booming off intakes. More absorbent boom was laid down the river, along both banks, and LDEQ personnel used hand-held monitors and began walking the shorelines to monitor the air quality. The leak at the Pac Antares was secured at 9 p.m.



Absorbent boom was placed around the spill for containment purposes.

While the flow of oil out of the vessel was stopped, pools of oil were collecting downstream of the Nashville Avenue Wharf. By the morning of Friday, April 13, rocks along the Jackson Square riverfront were oiled, and pockets of oil collected in turns of the river. Environmental cleanup crews worked with boom, pom poms (swabs) and pressure washers under the watchful eyes of the emergency responders, now banded together into an incident command structure. LDEQ responders continued to monitor, logging non-detects for volatile organic compounds and sulfur compounds.

Meanwhile, the busy weekend arrived and the French Quarter swelled with crowds of people coming to the French Quarter Festival, a typical Louisiana festival with music, food and drink. Throngs of people walked the Moon Walk pier adjacent to the river as strands of boom floated at the edge of the levee, literally beneath their feet.

Continued on page 2

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DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75



LDEQ personnel worked alongside the Coast Guard and responding parties to ensure for proper, efficient cleanup.



LDEQ deployed a boat to monitor for any oil impacts along the river.

LDEQ continued to monitor the air quality in the area and deployed its unmanned aircraft to collect footage of any product still in the river. Saturday, rough weather moved in and forced closure of the French Quarter Festival and suspension of cleanup activities. Everyone was back and work – and play – Sunday as the Festival resumed and so did cleanup and monitoring work.

Estimates of the amount of fuel oil spilled are around 2,300 gallons. Because the volume and flow rate of the river are substantial, some of the fuel oil dissipated or simply washed on down the river. By the close of business on Wednesday, April 18, 248 cubic yards of solid waste material and 6,650 gallons of liquid waste had been contained via cleanup operations. One oiled mallard duck and two ducklings were rescued from the river. Pockets of fuel oil persisted in spots and cleanup operations are still underway.

“The spill cleanup is ongoing. LDEQ is working with LOSCO as the state’s lead technical advisor on oil spills,” said LDEQ Emergency and Radiological Services Division Administrator Jeff Dauzat. “We are also working with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Responsible Party (RP) to ensure the spill is cleaned up and the people of Louisiana are protected.”



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75

Message from the Secretary *Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

It was a busy April with oil spills on the Mississippi River, the Legislature in session, the launch of the VW Settlement page, the closing push for the American Heart Association funds drive and the usual slate of hearings, meetings and other events.

We are turning the corner into May. As you will see in a story in this newsletter, Gov. John Bel Edwards has declared May Air Quality Awareness Month. LDEQ and its sister agencies, other governmental and environmental groups, have all worked hard to improve the quality of air we breathe in Louisiana. We have achieved great success, but there are plenty of improvements we can still achieve. We can do that in the same way: working as a team. That includes the general public. Read the story and you will find a list of things everyone can do to help improve Louisiana's air quality. We also produced a YouTube video on the subject that will be posted shortly.

I want to give a nod to all the people who responded to the oil spills on the Mississippi River. You did a good job, and I was pleased to see us deploy some of our new technology as part of our response. The video footage from the unmanned aircraft was excellent. This is going to be an important response tool for us going forward.

Outreach is always important to us. One of the best things we do is participate in Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days (HHWCD) at parishes around the state. One is coming up soon in Ascension Parish (June 2), and, as is always true, LDEQ volunteers will be on hand to help collect and sort the household chemicals, waste tires, paint, gasoline and other hazardous materials that residents bring in for safe disposal. This is a win-win for all involved. HHWCDs help us keep these threats out of the environment and allow a convenient, legal way for residents to get rid of problematic hazardous waste.

Just a reminder: when you interact with the public, always be polite and informative. Most of the complaints and questions we get can be routed to the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) line. Keep a few SPOC cards in your vehicle and readily hand them out to anyone you interact with. The card answers a lot of questions and is a great outreach tool that provides the public with important numbers and information about how they can report an environmental incident or submit a complaint. Please be familiar with it and pass them out frequently. If you don't know where to send a complaint, make sure you know the SPOC number: 225-219-3640. The toll free (in Louisiana) number is 1-888-763-5424.

As always, stay safe while you are working, playing or traveling. Watch out for the other person! Keep up the good work and know that your efforts are appreciated.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speaks at the ELP Awards Ceremony.



LDEQ raises \$3,375 for the American Heart Association

LDEQ's participation in the annual campaign in support of the American Heart Association was a success, with donations totaling \$3,375 for the cause.

Throughout the winter and early spring, donations came in as a result of various activities hosted by LDEQ's Office of Management and Finance. Employees donated to purchase AHA T-shirts and participate in casual dress days. Additional donations were accumulated from a series of weekly popcorn, soda and healthy snack sales that were held at LDEQ headquarters.

The campaign also included a raffle, where, for a dollar donation, employees entered to win one of five fun-themed prize packs that were donated for the cause.

Drawings for the prize packs were held April 5 at the Galvez Conference Center break room in Baton Rouge. Rebecca Fontenot with the AHA was on hand to assist with the random selection of five lucky winners.

Winners of the raffle were:

Keri Cason Meyers, an environmental scientist in the Emergency and Radiological Services Division, won the "It's Five o'clock... Somewhere" prize pack, which consisted of a three-piece counter-height bar set, five-piece beer growler set, beer, wine, wine glasses and a coaster set -- courtesy of the Office of Environmental Assessment.

Shawntel Robertson, an environmental project specialist in Finance, took home the "Time for Backyard Camping" prize pack, consisting of a fire pit, blanket, coffee mugs, s'mores ingredients and skewers, wine and beer, wine glasses, peanuts and chips -- courtesy of the Office of Environmental Compliance.

Traci Soileau, a friend of Environmental Project Specialist Keiley Well, picked up the "Dinner and a Movie Out and In" prize pack, which consisted of \$115 in restaurant gift cards and a movie card, plus a table setting, pizza ingredients, wine, dessert and a copy of the movie, Date Night -- courtesy of the Office of Environmental Services.

Emily Barlett, graphic designer in the Communications Section, won the "Death by Chocolate" prize pack, consisting of gift certificates to Baum's, Cupcake Allie and the Melting Pot, a Ghirardelli cookbook and brownie mix, chocolate items, wine, mudslide mix and glasses -- courtesy of the Office of Management and Finance.



LDEQ wore red during a special casual dress day April 12 in support of the AHA campaign.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown randomly selects a winner from the raffle box.

Continued on page 5



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75

Andrea Payton with the Office of Technology Services in the Division of Administration, was the winner of the “Appley Ever After” prize pack, consisting of an Apple watch, three sport bands and a screen protector -- courtesy of the Office of the Secretary.

“I would like to thank everyone for participating,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. “We all probably know someone with a heart issue, so this is a particularly important endeavor that’s close to many of us. The money collected goes to research and to the folks dealing with these issues, so thank you for what you do in making this campaign a success.”

Several employees also participated in the AHA Heart Walk on the LSU campus Saturday, April 7. The walk capped off the department’s annual participation in support of the AHA in their ongoing efforts to raise awareness in living healthier lifestyles and to encourage everyone to get an annual medical screening.

Environmental Leadership Awards presented at LDEQ

Members of the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) at LDEQ want to be good environmental stewards and neighbors. The program is designed to help them do just that and to reward their efforts when they reach that goal. Members submit projects to be considered for Environmental Leadership Awards, and the submissions are judged by panels consisting of representatives from business, industry, agencies and other organizations and entities.

This year, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown presented 11 awards to commend ELP members for their voluntary pollution prevention efforts and community environmental outreach initiatives that went above and beyond regulatory compliance to improve the environment and serve their communities.

LDEQ hosted the ELP Awards at the LDEQ headquarters in the Galvez building in downtown Baton Rouge. Dr. Brown presented ELP Awards to large and small businesses, municipalities, universities and non-governmental organizations. New ELP members, who joined in 2017-2018, were also recognized.

Award winners for 2018 are:

Achievement Awards:

- Fort Polk Environmental Division
- Diamond Green Diesel, LLC, with Plaquemines Processing & Recovery, LLC
- LafargeHolcim
- Jefferson Parish
- Louisiana State University-Campus Sustainability
- Compost NOW (New Orleans Waste)-Achievement

Recognition Awards:

- Alliance Compressors
- Composting Network
- City of West Monroe
- Port of New Orleans
- Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown presented the Recognition Award to the City of West Monroe.

Continued on page 6



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75

“The Environmental Leadership Awards highlight the efforts of schools, industry and communities to take ownership of their environment,” Dr. Brown said. “These ELP projects go a long way toward improving our environment, setting a good example and raising awareness of how to protect the environment.”

The ELP began in 1995 as a cooperative effort between LDEQ and participating companies in the state. Today, any company, federal entity, municipality, non-governmental organization, school or university committed to improving the quality of the state’s environment is eligible to join the program.

For more information about the ELP, call 225-219-0877, email at elp@la.gov or visit the LDEQ website at www.deq.louisiana.gov/elp.

ELP Award Recipient Project Descriptions

Recognition Awards

Alliance Compressors: Natchitoches, LA Scroll TTP Hydraulic Oil Coolers

Alliance Compressors is being awarded the ELP Large Business Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention. Alliance Compressors implemented this project with the goal of energy conservation and efficiency that would ultimately help reduce the plant’s carbon footprint. Alliance Compressors upgraded the standard “S” mills utilizing the fan cooled hydraulic coolers with low pressure heat exchangers before being utilized by the machine. This allows the existing machine coolant that is flowing in the trough to be used to circulate through the TTP heat exchangers thusly cooling the hydraulic oil that is in the machines. The project was a win for the plant and a win for the environment. The removal of the 83 electric fan motors produced \$11,318 per year in electrical cost savings for the plant and eliminated 154 tons of CO2 emissions.

The Composting Network: New Orleans, LA Reducing Pre and Post Consumed Food Resources from Urban Landfills by Encouraging Composting (Residential And Commercial)

The Composting Network of New Orleans is being awarded the ELP Small Business Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention. The mission of the Composting Network is to build a compost awareness movement to reduce unnecessary dumping of food resources into urban landfills that harm our environment. The Composting Network LLC is developing Compost Network Partners throughout the New Orleans Metro area all the way to Walker, LA who will become environmental leaders who foster transformational change inside and beyond the kitchen regarding food resource disposal. The Composting Network serves as a critical source of ambassadors who provide clients with standard compost education, service, and compost garden materials. The Composting Network also builds a pipeline of compost partners for education and environmental reform thereby influencing system-wide restaurants, hotels, and schools through various meetings and workshops that showcase composting and encourage commitment. Last year in New Orleans—where 75% of waste is food waste—one-third of area hotel and tourism businesses were given a presentation about the value and need for food composting by someone within the network. Some of the compost partners to date are: Whole Foods, Hyatt Regency, Liberty’s Kitchen, Sheraton Hotel, Convention Center, Peche, Cochon, Crocker Elementary School, Tulane, Loyola, and Riley Foods among others.

City of West Monroe: West Monroe, LA Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Farm

The City of West Monroe is being awarded the ELP Municipality Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention. The West Monroe Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Farm consists of 880 solar panels located on 1.5-acres at the City’s sewer plant. It supplies as much as 300 KW of electricity to the Wastewater Reuse Facility. This international-award-winning facility recycles wastewater and sends it to a nearby paper mill. This process replaces nearly 5 million gallons of water daily that was previously drawn from the Sparta Aquifer, north Louisiana’s primary source of drinking water. Producing over 550 megawatt-hours of electricity per year, the solar farm will reduce the facility’s electrical consumption by over 20%, thereby reducing CO2 emissions by over 400 metric tons per year. It is currently the largest municipal solar facility in the State. This project was made possible by a grant from LDEQ’s Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

Port of New Orleans: New Orleans, LA Port NOLA Clean TRIP (Truck Replacement Incentive Program)

The Port of New Orleans is being awarded the ELP Municipality Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention. The Port of New Orleans’ Clean Truck Replacement Incentive Program (Clean TRIP) used federal and state clean diesel grants to voluntarily improve air quality by replacing old diesel cargo trucks with new, cleaner-burning models. Eligible truck owners were able to receive up to \$35,000, or half the cost of a new truck (whichever was less) towards the replacement. Forty trucks were replaced with cleaner burning engines in newer model trucks, resulting in significant air quality improvements of 93% reduction in nitrogen oxides and 96% reduction in particulate emissions. These reductions are greater than the total estimated annual truck emissions on the Port’s Clarence Henry Truckway. Clean TRIP has also supported local small businesses - over 90% of the participants in the program were single owner-operators and minority-owned businesses. The success of the program is also measured by the total investment – the cost-sharing by truck owners, leveraged resources, and Port administration of the program combine to over \$2.4 million invested in local air quality. The demand continues to grow – there is currently a waitlist of truck owners interested in converting to cleaner trucks. Port NOLA is seeking grant funding to continue this program to support the local trucking industry and further improve local air quality.



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75

ELP Award Recipient Project Descriptions Continued

Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans: New Orleans, LA Enforcement Through Partnerships Program & Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Program

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is being awarded the ELP Municipality Recognition Award in Pollution Prevention & Environmental Ordinance. The Enforcement through Partnerships Program and the Fats, Oils, and Grease (F.O.G.) Program are just two of the many ways that the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans is working to better serve customers and protect the environment. The Enforcement through Partnerships Program brings together an array of government agencies including LDEQ, DHH and the City of New Orleans, leading to more inclusive, robust, and ultimately more effective enforcement of water quality regulations at the state, regional, and local levels. The F.O.G. Program also works to increase the effectiveness of regulations by applying a proactive approach and by focusing on the largest sources of sewer-clogging grease: food service establishments. Through a combination of education, permitting, and enforcement, food service establishments are tracked and brought into greater compliance with the Sewerage & Water Board Plumbing Code. Both programs, via different approaches, are successful in decreasing illicit discharges and sanitary sewer overflows. In doing so, these two programs uphold local public health and ensure the effectiveness of New Orleans' crucial wastewater and drainage infrastructure.

Achievement Awards

Fort Polk Environmental Division: Fort Polk, LA Net Zero Waste Program

The Fort Polk Environmental Division is being awarded the ELP Federal Facility Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention. The Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, located in Vernon Parish, provides state-of-the-art training facilities for Soldiers and has an annual economic impact of over \$1.4 billion dollars. The Fort Polk Net Zero Waste (NZW) program has made tremendous strides in pollution prevention and waste reduction, setting the direction as one of the US Army's six pilot Net Zero facilities. NZW aims to reduce waste through reduction of consumables, reuse, recycling, and energy recovery. The goal is to minimize the amount of material that goes to the landfill and other waste management facilities. Examples of Fort Polk achievements include a 94% decrease in the amount of hazardous waste generated over the last 15 years. Fort Polk currently diverts 50% of non-hazardous solid waste, meaning 50% of all waste generated is reused, recycled, or used for energy recovery purposes. Key components to the success of Fort Polk's NZW program have been its facilities and support staff. Various facilities are in operation across the installation to ready materials for recycle commodities and reuse supplies. A team is in place to ensure everything runs smoothly. This team works to provide education, outreach and support to the approximately 31,000 people who work on the installation. The team works to ensure processes are in place and that those processes are utilized and constantly improved.

Diamond Green Diesel, LLC, with Plaquemines Processing & Recovery, LLC: Norco, LA Recycling of Gums Waste

Diamond Green Diesel is being awarded the ELP Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention. Diamond Green Diesel, LLC (Diamond) converts waste grease, animal fats, used cooking oils, and other plant and vegetable oils to produce green diesel, light ends gas, and LPG/naphtha. Gums waste is generated when raw materials are pretreated to remove contaminants that could foul the catalysts used to convert the raw materials to products. Diamond implemented a Pollution Prevention Program to decrease the amount of gums waste disposed of in landfills/landfills. In 2017, 46% of the gums waste produced at the Green Diesel Plant (13,832 tons) were sent to Plaquemines Processing and Recovery (PPR) for recycling. Via a 3-phase centrifuge process, PPR was able to recover approximately 90% of the gums waste they received from the Green Diesel Plant as recycled biofuel oil or clean water. The remaining 10% of the gums waste was sent by PPR to landfill in solid cake form. Together, we reduced the amount of waste sent to landfarm or landfill by 12,444 tons in 2017. PPR is expanding the capacity of their upstream centrifuge process and wastewater treatment facility so that they can handle more gums waste from the Green Diesel Plant. Waste reduction quantities are expected to increase as both facilities expand. Furthermore, there is an added environmental benefit from reduced truck travel (larger trucks/fewer trips, and shorter distances per trip).

LafargeHolcim: Hammond, LA Carbon Dioxide Water Treatment

LafargeHolcim is being awarded the ELP Large Business Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention. It is typical of concrete production plants for process water to contain high levels of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and high pH due to the presence of cement powder. In 2016 LafargeHolcim discovered a new, safer water treatment system which injected carbon dioxide instead of sulfuric acid to not only lower pH, but also weigh solids down and allow them to drop out of suspension. LafargeHolcim reports that all water samples have exceeded discharge monitoring requirements, and have done so without using dangerous sulfuric acid. By using carbon dioxide instead of sulfuric acid, LafargeHolcim has reduced risk by eliminating the potential for spills to the environment and safety risks to employees who handle the acid. The carbon dioxide is filled by NuCO₂ using a telemetric system which allows them to know exactly how much carbon dioxide is left in the system and when they need to refill the tank. Unlike the sulfuric acid tote which needs to be disposed of frequently to ensure integrity, the carbon dioxide tank is reused which helps keep material out of landfills.

The effectiveness of the project is measured through analytical analysis of total suspended solids and pH. A typical range of Total Suspended Solids in process water contained onsite would be greater than 100 mg/L and would have a pH near 11. No process water is allowed to discharge from the site unless the pH is between 6 and 9 standard units and the TSS is under 45 mg/L. By utilizing the Fortrans Carbon Dioxide water treatment system, LafargeHolcim has not exceeded any regulatory limits.



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75

ELP Award Recipient Project Descriptions Continued

Jefferson Parish: Elmwood, LA

Sewer Science Educational Program

Jefferson Parish is being awarded the ELP Municipality Achievement Award in Community Environmental Outreach. The goal of the Educational Sewer Science Workshops Program is to educate area high school students about the water treatment process using an inter-disciplinary microbiology, chemistry, physics, and environmental curriculum designed to stress the importance of pollution prevention in high school students. Over the 5-7 days of the lab, students make wastewater, clean it through a series of physical, chemical, and biological treatment processes, and test it for various parameters. The success of the project is measured by an increased public awareness of the environmental consequences related to specific activities that contribute to storm water pollution. The project provides a fundamental understanding of critical water infrastructure to young people on the cusp on adulthood. The knowledge students gain through the program will stay with them when they enter college, begin voting, and start businesses. Given the identified need for more STEM programs in schools and an ongoing national dialogue about infrastructure, the High School Sewer Science program is particularly relevant for students in this region. Last year Jefferson Parish worked with four high schools including approximately 100 students and 5 science educators. The great part though is that we managed to get enough funding through a grant to produce both teacher and student manuals to last at least the next 15 years including outreach educational material for the entire community.

Louisiana State University Campus Sustainability: Baton Rouge, LA

LSU Bike Month, LSU Electronics Waste Recycling Event, and Spring Greening Day & Sustainability Expo

LSU Campus Sustainability is being awarded the ELP University Achievement Award in Pollution Prevention for three projects. LSU held its first-ever Bike Month in November 2017 to encourage alternative transportation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. LSU Bike Month included a month-long competition for students who won prizes based on the total number of miles biked. Each student reported their biked miles on social media using the hashtag #LSUBikeMonth, and the Campus Sustainability office created a database of each student and all biked miles. Bike Month also included a photo scavenger hunt with prizes for students who biked to various locations; two bicycle safety/maintenance classes sponsored by the LSU Police Department and Bike Baton Rouge; a bike sale and auction in partnership with Student Government and LSU Parking and Transportation; and promotion of the annual Bike Baton Rouge “Cranksgiving” day ride, which challenges bikers to collect and deliver groceries to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. LSU Bike Month was a great success with more than 100 students actively participating, resulting in over 2,000 biked miles in/around the University in the month of November. This resulted in the avoidance of 101,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, or 51 tons. This is the equivalent of taking 11 passenger vehicles off the road for 1 year, and the equivalent of burning 5,700 gallons of gasoline.

LSU partnered with CACRC and LSU Property Management in February 2017 to divert 4.2 tons of electronic waste from the landfill. Examples of items collected included old computers, printers, fax machines, CDs, phones, servers, etc. LSU plans to hold one of these events each semester for the

surrounding community to be able to conveniently recycle used electronics and to ensure they do not end up in the landfill. The 4.2 tons of materials collected in total for this event has a greenhouse gas emissions equivalent of removing nearly 17 passenger vehicles from the road for one year, and powering 25 homes for one year with electricity.

LSU held a Spring Greening Day & Sustainability Expo in April 2017. Students, staff and faculty volunteers planted more than 50,000 individual plants in various areas around campus. Plants, mulch and supplies were made possible by sponsors including BASF, LSU Student Government, and Landscape Services. This day provided students the unique opportunity to serve alongside staff and administrators and learn sound environmental practices, while allowing the university to maximize landscaping resources in a creative way. The Sustainability Expo featured organizations such as BREC Conservation, BASF, Bike Baton Rouge, Entergy, Republic Services, CACRC, Louisiana Green Schools, TULIPA, and various LSU student groups, all of whom shared information related to their programs as well as tips on how to live and work more sustainably.

Compost NOW (New Orleans Waste): New Orleans, LA

Compost NOW Food Waste Collection Program

Compost NOW is being awarded the ELP Non-Governmental Organization Achievement Award in Community Environmental Outreach. Compost NOW offers local residents a free and easy way to keep their food waste out of the landfills and turned into nutrient-rich compost used by local farmers to grow fresh, healthy food. Compost NOW partners with the New Orleans Public Library and several local farms. Compost NOW piloted the weekly project in January 2017 at just two libraries sites. By the end of the first year, Compost NOW was at five sites and had collected over 35,000 pounds of food waste from local residents. In their second year, Compost NOW has already expanded to seven library sites and added a partnering farm which has farm animals to feed. Compost NOW collects over three tons each month and their goal is to divert 100,000 pounds of food waste from the landfill this year.

New Members

Compost NOW (New Orleans Waste)

Diamond Green Diesel, LLC

LafargeHolcim

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation



Latest video by LDEQ promotes Air Quality Awareness month



Ann Vail (left) with Louisiana Clean Fuels, narrates a portion of the video as LDEQ Graphic Designer and Videographer Emily Barlett (right) films.

The latest video in LDEQ's YouTube video series highlights air quality awareness tips and information in support of Louisiana's Air Quality Awareness Month, celebrated each year in May. In addition to information from LDEQ, the video includes segments by Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the Capital Regional Planning Commission and Louisiana Clean Fuels.

Posted on LDEQ's YouTube channel, the video is the latest in a series of videos posted where citizens can get information on a variety of environmentally-related topics.

Vivian Aucoin, environmental scientist manager with LDEQ, opened the video with an overview of the department's work toward reducing air emissions across the state and some ideas on what we can all do in our daily activities to reduce pollution. She also provided information on how to stay on top of current air quality readings by signing up for EnviroFlash -- a free platform that provides real time air quality data on your computer or smart phone.

Ann Vail, executive director of Louisiana Clean Fuels, then narrated a segment that touched on vehicle emissions reduction measures. She also reiterated how we can all take personal responsibility in reducing harmful emissions into the environment. Jamie Setze, executive director of the Capital Regional Planning Commission, then spoke about the Commission's relationship with LDEQ in making strides to improve air quality.

Paul Miller, director of the Technology Assessment Division with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, then relayed information on a variety of cost-savings and energy-savings approaches. These include water conservation in the home, using compact fluorescent light bulbs, buying energy efficient appliances, setting thermostats properly, changing air filters regularly, maintaining your vehicle's engines and tires, and thinking about fuel economy while driving.

Aucoin closed the video with a call to action for everyone to make a conscious effort in reducing air pollution. "Together, we can all be a part of the solution to stop pollution."

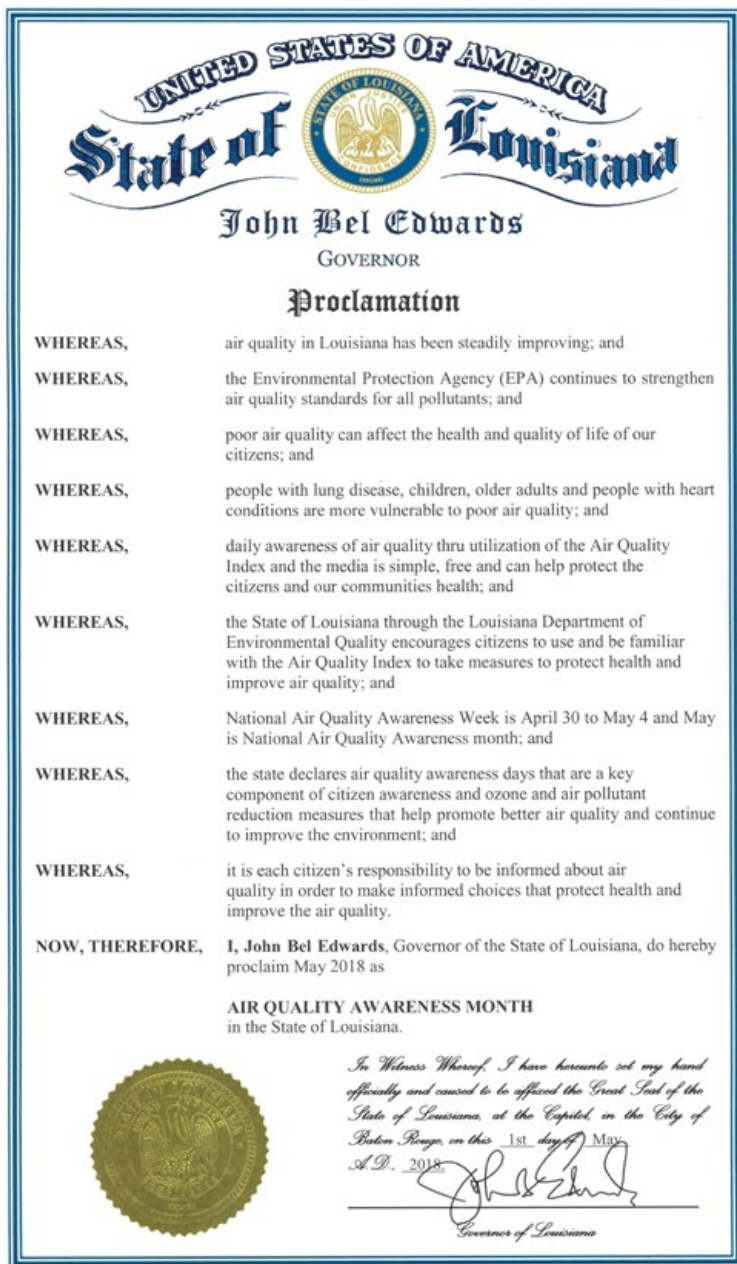
To watch the video, please visit: <https://youtu.be/M6juH0faTMU>.

For more information on LDEQ's air monitoring data, programs, resources and latest news, please visit: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/subhome/air>.

To sign up for EnviroFlash, please visit: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash>.



Clean Air Corner



Gov. John Bel Edwards has proclaimed May 2018 as Air Quality Awareness Month for the state of Louisiana and April 30 through May 4 is National Air Quality Awareness week. Air Quality in Louisiana has steadily improved and continues to do so.

It is important to be aware of the air quality. Especially if you are in a sensitive group – young children, older adults and people with respiratory illnesses. Poor air quality can affect these groups, so being conscious of the forecast for the air can assist you as you plan your daily activities and weekly schedules.



Wetland Watchers hosts 20th annual event

This was the 20th year for the Hurst Wetland Watchers to hold their annual event and despite complications, a change of venues and other issues, the celebration went on as scheduled. Since the prospect of flooding caused the Bonnet Carré Spillway to be opened to alleviate the threat, the event (which is generally held at the Wetland Watchers Park near the Bonnet Carré Spillway had to be moved. The St. Charles Parish Government allowed the use of the Edward Dufrense Community Center parking lot in Luling to hold the event.

The celebration is the culmination of the efforts of the Wetland Watchers and many sponsors and exhibitors. This year, the United Way of St. Charles sponsored the celebration. “United Way of St Charles’ sponsorship of the Wetland Watchers Celebration is another example of us taking action to promote Education in St. Charles Parish,” Executive Director John Dias said.



Hurst Wetland Watcher’s present different kinds of animals and reptiles for the students to see.

“When you look at the list of partner organizations and meet the people that represent them, you will see that we have an incredible group of Louisiana Environmental Educator All-Stars that have helped to make the Wetland Watchers what it is today,” said Barry Guillot, founder of Wetland Watchers and teacher for the service learning project.



Jesse Means, LDEQ Drinking Water Protection Program Team member, shows the students how groundwater can be contaminated.

LDEQ has been an exhibitor and supporter of the Wetland Watchers.

This year, even with the complications, more than 800 fourth graders had an unforgettable day. “It was so exciting to see the enthusiasm of the presenters and the huge smiles of the students,” Guillot said. “Thank goodness for wonderful weather and all the fantastic people involved. I know how excited the 4th graders get about this day and wanted to do everything possible to make the event happen, even though we could not have it at Wetland Watchers Park due to the spillway opening.”

Wetland Watcher students have presented to nearly 2.5 million people over the last 20 years through facilitating field experiences for visiting groups and outreach opportunities throughout southeast Louisiana. The Hurst Middle LaBranche Wetland Watchers Service-Learning Project has been recognized for many different aspects including wetland education, wildlife education, forestry efforts, trash cleanup initiatives and much more. They were honored in 2006 with the American Association of School Administrators’ (AASA) National Civic Star Award based on model community partnerships, but many others have also referred to the Wetland Watchers Project as a national model of how schools, government, business and community organizations can successfully work together.

Continued on page 12



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75



"I cannot begin to describe how much of an impact you all have on these kids," Guillot said of the exhibitors and sponsors. "The majority of the 8th graders that are working the celebration this year were visitors as 4th graders themselves and they remember it like it was yesterday! These are memories that cannot happen without you!"

This year's Wetland Watchers annual Milton L. Cambre Spirit of the Wetlands Award honoree is Miss Amanda Shaw. Amanda has partnered with the Wetland Watchers since she was 12 years old and has missed only one Wetland Watchers Celebration while she was touring in Switzerland. Her award winning Imax movie, Hurricane on the Bayou, is used as a teaching tool throughout the United States to show students what happened during Katrina and why Louisiana wetland areas are so important. Representing Louisiana, Amanda talks about the Wetland Watchers Program during interviews all over the world.

Amanda Shaw receives her award. Wetland Watchers Founder Barry Guillot, and (L to R) Ronnie Falgout, guitarist, Mike Bartras, drummer, Brint Anderson, guitarist, Milton Cambre and Craig Howat watch.





DEQ On The Move



Students turn the Blue Goose during Earth day at Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge in Ouachita Parish.

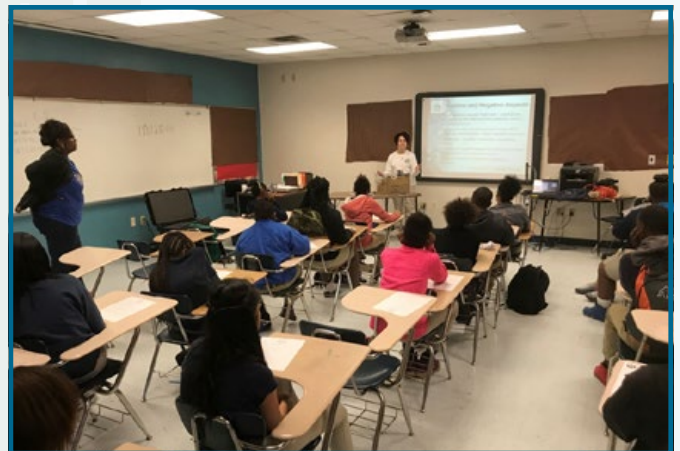
The Blue Goose is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuges across the U.S. At Black Bayou, the big blue goose metal sculpture not only is a symbol of the refuge system, but it also represents the direction of migration. The turning of the blue goose is something they do twice a year: in the fall it is turned south; in the spring around Earth Day, it is turned north.



Tiffany Hundshamer, Mallory Milner and Matt Henry (l to r), staff from the LDEQ Northeast Regional Office attend an Earth Day event at the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Monroe. The event was held on April 21, and was open to the public. It was a joint effort of the Refuge and Ouachita Green, a nonprofit made up of three Keep Louisiana Beautiful affiliates – Keep Ouachita Parish Beautiful, Keep Monroe Beautiful and Keep West Monroe Beautiful.



Don Caffery, recycling coordinator, holds Newcomer Award presented to LDEQ at the Measurement Matters Summit in Chattanooga. At the Summit, Caffery learned about how other states measure the effectiveness of their recycling programs and how to improve them.



LDEQ Geologist, Mary Gentry, talks to Lowery Middle School Students about career opportunities at LDEQ. Lowery Middle School is in Donaldsonville.



Who's Who At DEQ?



Gail C. Holland -- Attorney, Legal Affairs

Holland has 20-plus years of experience as a private and government attorney. Before joining the legal staff at LDEQ, she worked as an attorney for the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. After graduating from Southern University Law Center, she established the Holland Law Firm, LLC, and served as a state prosecutor for the 23rd Judicial District Court. She has also served as an assistant Attorney General for the Louisiana Department of Justice and as a staff attorney for the Louisiana State Senate. She is a proven trial attorney who has tried cases in both state and federal courts.

Holland earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Oral Roberts University and a Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center. She has been a member of the Louisiana State Bar since 1995.

Jason Meyers – Administrator, Air Planning and Assessment Division

Meyers, a resident of Denham Springs, earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from LSU. Since joining LDEQ in 1997, he has worked in the engineering section of the Waste Permits Division. He was recently promoted to Administrator of the Air Planning and Assessment Division.



Lauren Salvador – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division

Salvador is from Lake Charles. She is a recent graduate of Louisiana Tech University with a B.S. in biology and a minor in environmental science. Salvador is new to the LDEQ as an environmental scientist in the Surveillance Division of the Office of Environmental Compliance



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2018 Issue Number: 75

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2018 Enforcement Actions:

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

First Quarter 2018 Settlement Agreements:

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

First Quarter 2018 Air Permits:

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

First Quarter 2018 Water Permits:

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

First Quarter 2018 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

