DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

What's Inside?

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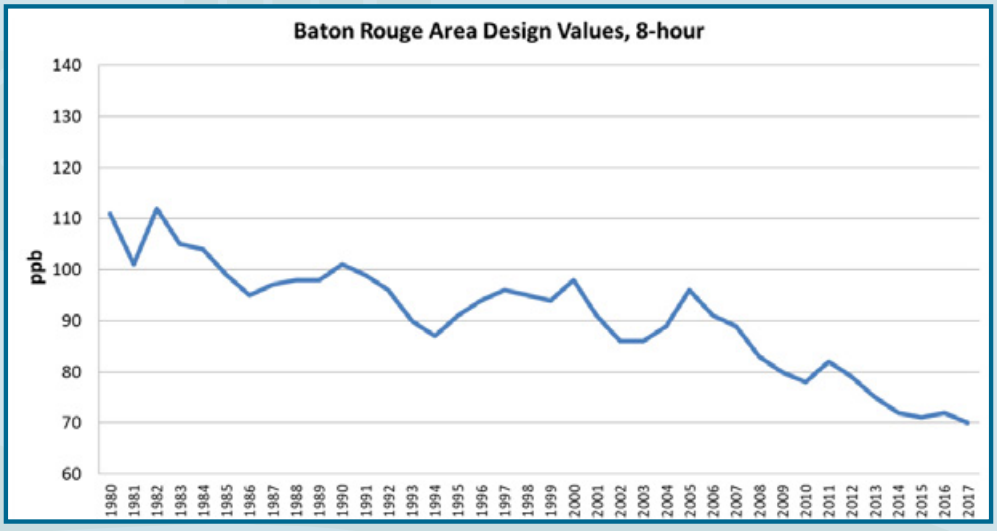
The state of Louisiana's air – Attainment

The Greater Baton Rouge area has struggled to achieve and sustain attainment for the pollutant ozone for years. In the late '80s, when 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) were crafted, the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone was an hourly average concentration of 120 parts per billion (ppb). Back then, the Baton Rouge area experienced approximately 14 days per year when ozone levels exceeded the standard. Some of the more severe ozone episodes presented multi-hour exceedances with ozone concentrations ranging upward to levels considered to be very unhealthful. As a result, the Baton Rouge area was classified as having a "serious" ozone problem following the 1990 CAAA criteria.

In accordance with the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), using the most recent science data available, reviews and revises the NAAQS for ozone. In 1997, the ozone standard was revised from the maximum 1-hour concentration-based standard (120 ppb) to a daily maximum 8-hour average concentration of 80 ppb. In late 2008, the standard was once again revised – this time to an 8-hour average concentration of 75 ppb. On Oct. 1, 2015, the EPA announced a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, setting the new standard at 70 ppb.

Over the two decades since the 1990 CAAA were promulgated, the Baton Rouge area has shown remarkable progress in improving its local air quality and working toward attainment of an increasingly stringent ozone NAAQS. The Baton Rouge area achieved attainment of both the old 1-hour ozone standard and the 1997 8-hour ozone standard. It is also important to note that, during this same period, measured exceedances of Louisiana's air toxic standards for ambient air declined to zero for the Baton Rouge area.



Continued on page 2

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

The Greater Baton Rouge Area, which consists of East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension and Livingston parishes, was designated attainment by the Environmental Protection Agency on March 21. The Baton Rouge area has reached attainment two times before, once for the 1-hour standard and another time for the 1997 8-hour standard. This time, the area met the more stringent 8-hour ozone standard again. On Oct. 1, 2015, the EPA announced a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, setting the new standard at 70 ppb. Based on current information (2013-2015), the historical Baton Rouge Nonattainment Area was the only area in Louisiana that did not meet the standard. However, areas are designated based upon 2014-2016 monitoring data. Designations were not final at that time.

On May 2, 2018, Gov. Edwards announced that the entire state is in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“All of our citizens deserve to have clean air to breathe, and this achievement is evidence of our commitment to make Louisiana an even better place to live,” said Gov. Edwards. “The public benefits from lowered ozone levels which can impact their quality of health. It can also benefit business and the health of our economy. My thanks to Secretary Chuck Carr Brown and his team at LDEQ along with their partners statewide who are making great progress toward improving Louisiana’s environment.”

“We want to thank everyone, especially the environmental groups that have worked with us to reach this goal. And our work does not end here. We will continue working to maintain our attainment status,” said LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown. “Congratulations to all.”

Attainment is the result of cooperation from industry that developed Ozone Action Plans, implemented stricter regulations, responded to early action days and limited their activities to avoid emissions. Additional partners include environmental and governmental groups as well as individual citizens who heeded Ozone Action Days and curtailed their activities.

Clean Air *Corner*

What can the average person do to help improve air quality?

- Working in gardens and recreational activities can cause unintended impacts on our air quality. Did you know that 20-30 percent of fuel used to power carbureted 2-stroke engines (outboard motors, jet skis, chain saws, weed eaters and gas blowers) never gets burned and is released directly into the air or water? If you replace these with newer 4-stroke or direct fuel injection 2-stroke equipment, you can save money and reduce pollution. Driving a motorboat with an outboard engine for one hour may make as much air pollution as driving a late model car for 800 miles.
- Sitting in drive-thru lanes at a fast food restaurant or other business impacts our air. Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine. Restarting a car many times has little impact on engine components such as the battery and starter motor. Idling your vehicle with the air conditioning on can increase emissions by 13 percent. Excessive idling can be hard on your engine and because the engine isn’t working at peak operating temperature, fuel doesn’t undergo complete combustion.
- Reducing energy consumption in your home reduces the burden on the electrical grid, reduces power plant emissions and lowers your utility bill.
- Taking your lunch to work to avoid driving in midday when ozone formation is really cranking up is a good option.
- Flexible work hours, telecommuting, combining errands and carpooling to work helps reduce the emissions that get into the air.
- Waiting until later in the day, preferably after 6 p.m., to mow your lawn or fuel your car helps keep emissions out of the air in the middle of the day when sunlight is strongest.
- When you are grilling, use propane if possible.

For more tips and information, view our Protecting Our Air video at ***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6juH0faTMU&feature=youtu.be***

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

I got a chance to visit with crewmember Master Sgt. Troy Bickham aboard the WC-130J Hurricane Hunter aircraft in early May. The plane was in Baton Rouge as part of the 2018 NOAA Hurricane Awarness Tour.

That little system that boiled up in the Gulf near the coast of Florida didn't turn out to be much of a threat to any place, certainly not Louisiana. It is a reminder, though, that hurricane season is nearly here. When the season begins on June 1, you should already be prepared to weather a storm should one materialize the way that system in Florida did. We won't always get the long-range warning that storms coming from an Atlantic origin allow us.

So Get A Gameplan. That's what Gov. John Bel Edwards is urging. So am I. So are the agency heads at all the state agencies. Be ready. You can get some advice on what that plan should contain by visiting ***http://www.getagameplan.org***, supported by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. The site has tons of information on what to put in your emergency kit and other preparations, such as where to get information about weather, traffic and flooding during storms, how to evacuate and when to evacuate for families and businesses. There is a handy list of important phone numbers. This is a great resource. Not only is it good for you to know about the site, you should spread the word to family and friends. Be ready!

I want to rewind for a minute and talk about Employee Appreciation Week. We had some good events. I know all this was for you, the employees, but I doubt if any one of you had a better time than I did visiting with all of you.

I am sure that you all are aware that Louisiana is now in attainment for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This is a great achievement that has taken a lot of work from everyone. Ironically, we had a string of Ozone Action Days right after the attainment was announced. Those high ozone days show that we can never let our guard down. The last thing we want to do is to take a step backwards. We need to make sure we get the word out to citizens, officials and, industry – that our ozone reduction efforts involve everyone. We need their help. Everyone should be thinking about ways to drive less, avoid idling, using carpools, cutting down on yard work when ozone is high and other measures outlined on the website. Air Quality alerts is not unique to Louisiana. Tennessee and Georgia both had AQ alerts the weekend of May 12-13. The problem is hot, stagnant weather conditions, which we can't do anything about. But we can reduce our own contributions to the ozone problem by taking some simple common sense actions. Go to ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/faq/category/8*** to find some frequently asked questions and answers that will help you understand the effects of ozone and how you can help.

Summer is upon us. No matter what the calendar says, any child in school can tell you when summer begins: when the school year ends. That's also when families take to the road for vacations. It's also when road work ramps up because of obliging weather. Just be aware of all that when you set out. There's going to be a lot of traffic and road work along the way. Be patient, be careful, and be safe.

Speaking of school kids, I had a great time with about a thousand students at the Louisiana STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Expo at LSU May 7. Those kids did some amazing demonstrations of STEM projects at the event. LDEQ had a table in the exhibit hall, and I participated in the awards ceremony. The future is in good hands.

We are still moving people around, floor-to-floor, at LDEQ. I ask again that you be patient and be a team player. Sometime in the fall, the moving should be over. In the meantime, stay safe out there.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

DEQ 2018 Disaster Parish Resource Book available online

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality 2018 Natural and Catastrophic Disaster Parish Resource Book has been added to the LDEQ website. The book contains information pertaining to disaster/emergency recovery assistance as it relates to permitting, debris collection and environmental cleanup resources.

LDEQ compiles the book for the parishes and the book is available to parish emergency response officials and the public online at ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/parish-resource-book***. The book is updated regularly and can be downloaded and printed to have on hand in an emergency.

The manual contains vital information such as

- Emergency Contact Information,
- DEQ Regional office information,
- Re-entry information,
- Emergency debris site requests,
- Lists of pre-approved debris sites and locations,
- Comprehensive plan for disaster clean-up and debris management,
- Air permitting application information and instructions,
- Examples of emergency general permit, short-term general permit and short term emergency discharge permits,
- All publicly-owned treatment works for the parishes

Parishes and the public are encouraged to download and print this information prior to an emergency and to regularly check the website for updates.

Oil and gas site inspections are a key part of LDEQ's regional office mission

Since they must cover a wide array of environmentally-related subject matter in an area covering several parishes, staff from LDEQ's Regional Offices must wear many hats. Environmental scientists in those offices must also be able to switch those hats quickly, as they must cover multiple areas on short notice. These may include addressing citizen calls or conducting inspections concerning air quality, water quality, hazardous waste and solid waste.

Following up on citizen complaint calls received regarding oil or chemical spills (including ones caused by vehicle accidents), open burning, air releases and odors, waste tire dumping, chemical and hazardous material dumping are routine for LDEQ inspectors. Often, they engage in emergency response duties when an accident or incident occurs and an environmental impact occurs or is expected to occur.

While their routine work is tasked with inspections that affect the air, water or soil, staff conduct monitoring that covers facilities in the oil and gas industry, and the goal is to ensure their operations are not negatively impacting the environment.

Natural gas, an inherent component of Louisiana geology, is an ever-changing reality throughout the state. and LDEQ's Regional Offices must continually stay on top of the latest drilling operations that require consistent monitoring for environmental compliance.

Continued on page 4

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

Natural gas line installations are a common activity. The use of horizontal boring requires oversight to safeguard that the operation does not disrupt any protected habitats, groundwater or soil conditions.

Bentonite, a fine, absorbent clay made of aluminum phyllosilicate, is commonly used to facilitate the installation of gas lines in the boring process. The material serves as a lubricant that makes pipe installation much easier and used with drilling mud, it serves as an absorbent to restrict the invasion of drilling fluid; thereby serving as a groundwater barrier.

Environmental Scientist Mandi Paine (right) conducts an inspection of an underground gas line installation in DeSoto Parish. The site contractor (left) provided a tour and a status update.

As the pipelines are installed, they are coated with bentonite, which helps to push the soil away from the pipeline's path. The bentonite is subsequently captured for either disposal or beneficial environmental use. Bentonite, a nutrient-rich material, may be used in agricultural processes such as cattle grazing and other farming uses.

Once the boring is complete and the flow lines, wells and compressor stations have been installed and tested, the disturbed ground and any rights-of-way must be returned to proper, environmentally aesthetic conditions before the project is completed.

Site visits by LDEQ can be a routine inspection, citizen inquiry or a specific environmentally-related issue.

LDEQ's role in the process is to ensure that all parties are conducting their activities in accordance with environmental regulations. This includes ensuring rapid cleanup of any product, chemicals, produced water/saltwater or other hazardous or potentially hazardous materials that run off site. "A notification must be made to LDEQ and measures must be employed by the contractor to perform cleanup," said Paine.

Safety measures need to be in place and the contractor conducting the boring should account for any potential or realized operational issues – including discharges -- that may present an environmental hazard. Proper procedure usually includes keeping a vacuum truck and soil excavation measures on standby. It's also important to have well-written, properly communicated safety measures in place regarding cleanup should a problem arise.

Transportation and disposal procedures with regard to hazardous materials discharging off-site, will also be in place, and contractors are to immediately report any cleanup and/or off-site impacts to LDEQ. LDEQ asks the public to watch out for any improper environmental conduct they may witness in the state.

Citizens with knowledge of any spill, release or chemical hazard should contact their local authorities as well as reporting the incident in to LDEQ's Single Point of Contact line at 1-888-763-5424.

Citizens should also submit an online environmental complaint form at: ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/file-a-complaint-report-an-incident***. In doing so, please provide the exact location, time/date and as much information as possible so that LDEQ may conduct an immediate investigation.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
May 2018 Issue Number: 76

Citizen's environmental concerns prompt action by LDEQ

When LDEQ receives a question, complaint or concern about an environmental issue in Louisiana from a citizen, an investigation begins. The issue can come in by phone, email or the online incident reporting form.

Investigations typically involve a review of the site or incident's history in EDMS(Electronic Data Management System). EDMS is the repository for all public records related to a site or incident (if it is in the system) will be housed. LDEQ can do a site visit and if no areas of concern are found, the incident will generally be filed under a generic parish AI number. For example, any complaints that are found to have no areas of concern for East Baton Rouge Parish will be filed under that parish's number, AI # 83561.

LDEQ Environmental Scientist Don Weinell observes and photographs an abandoned oxidation pond site in East Baton Rouge Parish in response to a citizen inquiry.

If appropriate, a site visit is conducted, along with a face-to-face meeting with the individual that reported the issue, if possible. In some cases, additional information about the event will be needed so that the responding investigator has a complete picture of the situation. Knowing some of the history or "back story" helps the investigator conduct a stronger, more in-depth review of the issue.

Most of the calls and online notifications deal with open burning, illegal dumping, chemical discharges, abandoned sites and areas where an environmental issue may need to be addressed.

Such issues are assigned to the LDEQ headquarters or regional staff that has jurisdiction over the location. For example, a call regarding an illegal dump site in Richland Parish would be answered by the Northeast Regional Office in West Monroe, whereas a call regarding a site in Lafourche Parish would be assigned to the Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans.

If possible, a meeting with the inquiring party will be made during the inspector's visit to the site in question. Doing so provides a real-time update as to the status of the situation, if known. A SPOC, or Single Line of Contact, card will be handed to the party, which details phone numbers and contact information regarding how to get in touch with LDEQ. Should additional environmental concerns need to be addressed, LDEQ will follow up accordingly and a record of the visit will be prepared and filed into EDMS.

For information on how to report environmental concerns, or if you have an inquiry regarding a site, contact LDEQ's SPOC line, toll free in Louisiana, at 1-888-763-5424. To file an inquiry online, go to ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/file-a-complaint-report-an-incident***. LDEQ follows up on all requests and will provide information back to the inquiring party once an investigation is underway.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

"Smoke school" gives attendees a hands-on approach to analyzing air emissions

During the smoke test, LDEQ environmental scientists mark an opacity reading as black smoke emanates from the smoke generator at the LDEQ warehouse in Port Allen.

How do air permit inspectors and emergency responders determine the visual opacity of smoke when it's billowing out of an emissions source at an oil or gas facility?

A lot of training goes into making such calculations, and LDEQ periodically holds what's known informally as "Smoke School," to provide environmental scientists the necessary tools to assist in making an on-the-spot visual reading. "Under a set of criteria called Method 9, the class requires that the attendees be field certified in smoke observation every six months," said Bobby Mayweather, regional manager for LDEQ's Capital Regional Office in Baton Rouge.

While the visual work does not provide a classification of constituents that are in a air release, the smoke training covers the various types of plumes (coning, lofting, looping, fanning and fumigating). It trains participants to check the sky's conditions. Observe various weather conditions such as wind direction and speed, rain and cloud cover. A plume's height also affects opacity by diluting the plume's measure in miles per hour.

A classroom segment, held at LDEQ headquarters in Baton Rouge, covered the legal case history of air pollution standards and a brief background on how air emissions standards were promulgated. That was followed by an overview of the visual inspection criteria. The class then reconvened at LDEQ's warehouse in Port Allen for the field exercise, or visual portion.

The visible observer training involves a specialized smoke generation unit. The unit, consists of a large metal apparatus atop a 4-wheeled trailer that's fitted with a smoke stack and holding tanks for toluene and diesel. The touluene and diesel are burned off in small amounts to create white smoke or black smoke, respectively. The unit connects to a cache' of diagnostic equipment -- including a chart plotting machine, which records the smoke output and bears some resemblance to a lie detector device.

During the smoke test, LDEQ environmental scientists mark an opacity reading as black smoke emanates from the smoke generator at the LDEQ warehouse in Port Allen.

As the technician runs the unit, a plume of smoke billows out for about seven seconds. As this occurrs, a second technician announces whether the plume is above or below a middle standard or above or below the upper or lower standard. Based on their visual observation, attendees record the opacity grade on a sheet of paper. The test concludes after 50 smoke plumes (25 outputs of white smoke, followed by 25 outputs of black smoke) are performed.

After the final plume, attendees turn in their tests and the unit is powered down. Three or more incorrect answers mean that the attendee must retake the test; however, all attendees earned passing marks during this session.

Attendees from this session, as well as new hires and those requiring visible observer training, will return to the class in six months and the session will be repeated.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
May 2018 Issue Number: 76

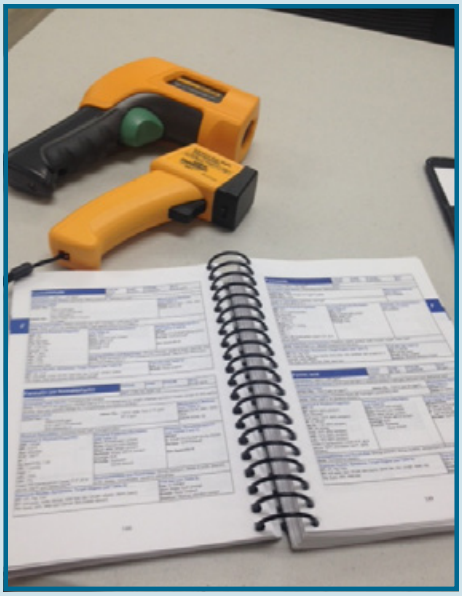
LDEQ personnel complete Hazardous Materials IQ class

The safe handling of incidents involving emergency response and hazardous waste is imperative for the LDEQ responders.

All emergency response personnel are required to have training in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) but there are also several other courses that go into greater detail on how to quickly gather information at a location where an actual or potential chemical release has occurred.

One such course is "HazMat IQ," an 8-hour session that delves further into the chemical identification side of emergency response – and how to do it quickly when there is little to no information.

Hosted by the Louisiana State Police and Department of Public Safety on May 3, the class took place at the HazMat classroom at the Joint Emergency Services Training Center just north of Baton Rouge. Federal Resources, an emergency response company based in Maryland, presented the training.



Temperature guns and the NIOSH pocket guide to chemical hazards are some of the tools that are critical in an emergency responder's chemical response kit

Targeted to first responders and emergency response personnel, attendees were given instruction on how to rapidly cross-reference a chemical's volatility and potential dangers. The course addressed the specific emergency response requirements when a responder's arrival at a scene involving a known or perceived chemical release. Attendees were repeatedly drilled on various scenarios, all culminating in how to determine whether, based on equipment readings and knowledge of existing chemicals, a responder should continue moving forward into a chemical accident scene or not. Information is often scant, and the scene is usually chaotic, so the class focused on the importance of using the measurement tools and written guides to get a better handle on what dangers may exist at an emergency scene as response personnel arrive.

The periodical table of the elements was presented, broken down by elements that are considered acids versus bases, and how a responder can quickly check that element's properties against the information provided in the NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) pocket guide to chemical hazards and the laminated HazMat IQ charts.

Ingress (going in) measures and examples of previous chemical accidents were presented, with particular emphasis on how to use certain tools specific to emergency response. These include hand-held temperature guns, Ph paper, fluoride test paper, a PID (Photo Ionization Detector), an FID (Flame Ionization Detector) and LEL (Lower Explosive Limit) meters. These tools are used both individually and in combination in order to make an initial determination on whether it's safe to proceed, what personal protective equipment should be worn and how overall safety and post-response measures should be addressed.

Theresa LoGuidice, an environmental scientist based in LDEQ's Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans, found the class very informative. "Responding to hazardous material incidents can be overwhelming when unfamiliar chemicals are involved," said LoGuidice. "HazMat IQ is a helpful class no matter if you are a new or seasoned responder. It offers tools to respond quickly without second guessing."

Twenty-five students attended in the course, which consisted of personnel from LDEQ's regional offices, fire department personnel from Lafayette and St. James parishes and other emergency response technicians from various affiliations across the state.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

LDEQ volunteers participate in 19th annual McMains Children's Developmental Center canoe trip at Tickfaw State Park

For the past 19 years, a canoe trip for children attending McMains Children's Developmental Center in Baton Rouge has been held in the spring. Held in Iberville Parish for the first few years, the event has taken place at Tickfaw State Park in Livingston Parish for the last 14 years.

The event kicked off at 10 a.m. May 12, with volunteers arriving early to set up the canoes, organize the food, games and sign-in areas, and participate in a safety and logistics brief at the canoe landing at Gum Bayou, a waterway that meanders through the park.

The outing is organized every year by Al Hindrichs, environmental scientist senior with LDEQ's Water Planning and Assessment Division, with support from his wife, Anne, who serves as executive director at McMains Children's Developmental Center.

Canoers put the new adaptive paddling device to the test on its maiden voyage. The battery-operated unit operates by pushing a button that spins dual 4-paddle wheels in a forward motion, helping to propel the canoe.

McMains Children's Developmental Center provides occupational, physical and speech therapy, along with life skills training and social work services to children in the Baton Rouge region and surrounding parishes who have mild to severe developmental delays or disabilities. Their parents, siblings and caregivers may also receive assistance through the Center.

This year, the hosts extended the invitation to include children and their families from St. Lillian Academy in Baton Rouge. St. Lillian is a school for children with communication and learning challenges.

The annual canoe trip provides the children and their families a unique outdoor experience from the perspective of a canoe. It's a way of giving the children, many of whom use walkers or wheelchairs, a rare opportunity to ride in a canoe and explore the natural beauty of Louisiana.

The experience brings wonderful memories for everyone – and the smiles say it all.

While some adjustments are made to keep the event running smoothly, the Hindrichs take great care to ensure everything goes off without a hitch and the volunteers help to support that process. In addition to a sled that was designed by Hindrichs to facilitate the safe loading and easing of canoes into the water, new elements are added each year that serve to make the experience a fun, safe one for all.

One major addition has been the specialized canvas and metal chairs that have been used over the past few canoe trips. Designed and built by LSU engineering students through the LSU Capstone program, the chair is fitted into the center of the canoe, adding comfort for riders with mobility impairments.

But this year, another invention from a team of recent LSU engineering graduates proved to be quite popular.

Continued on page 9

"This year saw the debut of a new adaptive canoe device designed by a great group of four LSU engineering students," Hindrichs said. The device is a battery powered sidewheel with a 4-paddle wheel on each side of the canoe that's controlled by the child with a small switch. Use of the switch is a form of assistive technology that allows the child to have some control over the canoe's movement, thereby providing a hands-on, enhanced experience.

Making its inaugural run, the paddle wheel device was a success, and certainly enhanced the canoe riding experience for the two children who used it. This paved the way for more children to have an even better experience in the future.

While each new component adds to the ease and comfort of the riders, the joy of the day culminates as the canoe enters the water for its trip along the bayou. Riders take in the tranquility and beautiful scenery and flora, keeping an eye out for any birds, mammals, and reptiles that may appear along the way. The turnaround point is about 15 minutes out, with a total of around 30 minutes on the water per canoe. The last canoe returned to the landing around 1:30 p.m., and the event concluded with a day capped off by great weather and smiling faces.

Jambalaya, burgers, hot dogs, water and soft drinks for everyone were served by volunteers from Atmos Energy, and several other volunteers were on hand to help where needed.

In addition to a few past and current employees of LDEQ, volunteers represented various companies, schools and organizations such as BASF, Kiwanis International, Louisiana State University, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A representative from the Bayou Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) drove in with a truck and trailer carrying eleven brand new canoes for loan along with paddles and personal flotation devices.

"Thanks to more than 60 dedicated volunteers, we were able to provide a fun day of canoeing, games and food for 25 families from the McMains Children's Developmental Center and St. Lillian Academy," Hindrichs said. "Twenty-five families mean that nearly 90 children and family members were able to enjoy a relaxing trip through one of Louisiana's beautiful bottomland hardwood swamps; something many of the families thought impossible for their children. We are already looking forward to 2019 when we will host our 20th annual canoe trip."

Tickfaw State Park waived the entrance fee for the attendees and volunteers, and provided picnic tables, canoes, paddles, personal flotation devices and full access to the canoe landing.

"We'd like to applaud Manager Cody Westmoreland and his staff at Tickfaw, as they continue to support and welcome our event," Hindrichs said.

The event is always in need of canoers, lifeguards and shoreline volunteers, so to be included on the mailing list, contact Al Hindrichs at ***Al.Hindrichs@la.gov***.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

Employee Appreciation Week

Picnic with the Governor

Ice Cream Day

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
May 2018 Issue Number: 76

Employee Appreciation Week Continued

Popcorn Day

Cookie Day

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

DEQ On The Move

Cabinet members, legislators, local officials, students and faculty and other attendees listen closely as Gov. John Bel Edwards speaks at the Earl K. Long Gym on the ULL campus. The governor was speaking in advance of the opening of Special Session of the Louisiana Legislature on May 23.

John Babin, left, Ji Wiley and Mike McMahon of LDEQ's Emergency Response and Radiation section attended the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Conference in Renton, Wash,, April 16 through 19. Babin and McMahon presented to the conference on "Back Calculation using RASCAL and the 'Spreadsheet.'"

LDEQ adds an airboat to its water vessel fleet

Available for statewide use, the airboat is an added component that will support LDEQ's environmental protection and emergency response mission. It is 16 feet long and will carry up to 6 people.

ES Manager Jerry Lang pilots new airboat as responder Nathan Prince rides along.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue Number: 76

Who's Who At DEQ?

**Michael Dussel – Environmental Scientist,
Surveillance Division, Kisatchie Central Regional Office, Office of Environmental Compliance**

A Michigan native, Dussel moved to Louisiana in July 2017 after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Science at Albion College. After volunteering with U.S. Fish and Wildlife for a brief period, he was hired to the LDEQ in Dec. 2017. He is currently a water and solid waste inspector in the Kisatchie Central Office in Pineville.

Dussel enjoys outdoor activities, such as camping, hunting and fishing, as well as watching Albion College football, cooking and traveling.

**Melissa Carley – Environmental Scientist,
Water Permit Division. Office of Environmental Services**

Carley is a Baton Rouge native who was homeschooled from pre-k through high school. She started out volunteering for her local veterinarian until she was old enough for hire and spent her days caring for animals. After graduation in May 2007, she attended LSU where she studied in the College of Agriculture to obtain a Bachelor of Science with a concentration in animal science and a minor in psychology. Upon graduating in 2012, she started working full time at her veterinary job as a veterinary technologist. She is excited to join the Industrial Water Permit division of LDEQ as an environmental scientist.

In her spare time, Melissa enjoys reading, trying to beat her husband's fitbit step count, cooking, tending to her jungle of plants and loving all kinds of creatures including her own beloved pets.

**Mike Miller – Environmental Scientist Staff,
Remediation Division, Office of Environmental Assessment**

Miller earned a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology at McNeese State University. He later earned a Master of Science degree in biology at Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff. He worked for BFI/CECOS (Livingston, LA) for nearly 11 years, environmental consulting for three years, then started with LDEQ in the Land Ban Section of the Hazardous Waste Division in 1994.

Miller has a combined 24 years of experience in site investigation/assessment, remediation and related areas. He was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist Staff in the Remediation Division. He enjoys reading and pursuing family history.

DISCOVER DEQ
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER
May 2018 Issue Number: 76

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