

# DISCOVERDEQ

OUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER.

October 2018

**Issue Number: 81** 



Mobile Air Monitoring Lab responds to odor issues in Jefferson Parish

**Message from the Secretary** 

Keep Louisiana Beautiful holds their state conference in Baton Rouge

"CWSRF" spells cleaner water for Louisiana

LDEQ wants to hear about your environmental programs

Genesis Energy, L.P., holds tabletop exercise for emergency preparedness

LDEQ is proud to support the Louisiana State Combined Charitable Campaign

LDEQ staff present enforcement seminar

West Monroe Recycling Center is now open for business

Washed Ashore exhibit highlights detrimental impact of plastic debris in water bodies

Ouachita Water Sweep removes 1,800 lbs. of trash from waterway

**LDEQ On The Move** 

Who's Who At LDEQ?

#### **CONNECT WITH LDEQ**







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## Mobile Air Monitoring Lab responds to odor issues in Jefferson Parish

major asset of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) air monitoring mission is the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab (MAML). The lab, a specialized Winnebago outfitted with a caché of state-of-the-art equipment and instrumentation, is used to gather air samples for analysis. Because of its mobility and highly technical functionality, the MAML is a valued component in the department's mission to protect human health and the environment.

Capable of monitoring more than 50 different airborne constituents for analysis, the MAML was recently deployed to Jefferson Parish to determine the concentration and type of constituents that were present in the air. The mission was prompted by ongoing odor concerns in the western portion of the parish. Information gathered by the MAML will be used to help locate the source of the nuisance odors.



The MAML can be deployed across the state to conduct air monitoring for a wide array of constituents.

For more information about MAML's current mission, go to <a href="https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/river-ridge-harahan-odor-issue.">https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/river-ridge-harahan-odor-issue.</a>



Jason Meyers (I) and David Wagenecht with LDEQ review the MAML's position on a map during an air monitoring run.



**Issue Number: 81** 

### **Message from the Secretary**

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

On Oct. 16, I joined EPA and state officials on a tour of the Davis Pond Diversion Project in St. Charles Parish. The project siphons off a little sediment-bearing freshwater from the Mississippi River and diverts it southward into a marsh and swamp area that has been damaged by wetlands loss and saltwater intrusion. The project is a joint effort of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was begun in 2002.

To say the project is working is an understatement. Riding in an airboat, I saw where new land has formed, and marsh grass and even cypress trees were springing up where open water had threatened to take over a few years ago. It was heartening to see a success story like that first-hand. It was doubly enjoyable because LDEQ had just produced a success story of its own.

On May 2, Gov. John Bel 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). The last part of the state to meet the 2015 ozone standard was the five-parish area around Baton Rouge.



EPA Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn, LDEQ Secretary Dr.
Chuck Carr Brown, EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler;
EPA Region 6 Administrator Anne Idsall, Louisiana CPRA
Chairman Johnny Bradberry and EPA Senior Advisor Ken
Wagner, arrive back at the launch site after an airboat tour of
the Davis Pond Diversion Project.

When an area is out of compliance with the ozone standard, a maintenance plan is imposed. At one point, there were 16 parishes that were required to use lower volatility gas blends in the summer to reduce fugitive emissions that might impact ozone levels. LDEQ and our industry and environmental partners keep slugging along, working to reach that ozone attainment goal.

On Dec. 15, 2017, EPA issued a final rule to relax the federal volatility (RVP) standard for 11 Louisiana Parishes. This allowed summertime gasoline to go to 9.0 RVP. Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, St Bernard, St. Charles, St. James and St. Mary parishes were able to sell 9.0 gasoline beginning June 1, 2018.

Once the Baton Rouge area came into attainment in May, EPA Region 6 formally approved the revision to the State Implementation Plan (Baton Rouge Maintenance Plan) to allow for the sale of 9.0 RVP gasoline in the Baton Rouge 5-Parish area (Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston and West Baton Rouge parishes) during the summer.

On June 14, 2018, EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) proposed a rule, based upon the SIP approval above, and the comment period closed on July 16, 2018. Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed the RVP waiver for the Baton Rouge area on Oct. 15. What this means is that LDEQ's hard work and perseverance over the past few years has paid off. It will mean savings at the gas pump for consumers, and it will mean gas marketers won't have to take a geography class to figure out where to deliver boutique blends in summer.

For everyone at LDEQ who helped make this happen, thank you, and thanks to all our stakeholders too. Now we have to get back to work on the next challenge.

Don't forget to vote! Nov. 6 is Election Day. State workers will get a holiday. Everyone should have plenty of time to get out and vote, so please do so.

Veteran's Day observance: We will all have a day off on Nov. 11 in honor of Veteran's Day. To all at LDEQ who served their country, thank you. If you know a veteran, don't miss the opportunity to tell them that their contribution matters.

Heads up: Until next time, stay safe. Keep your eyes open and your mind focused at work, that's the best safety equipment of all.



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## Keep Louisiana Beautiful holds their state conference in Baton Rouge



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown speaks to the KLB Conference concerning the problem of waste tires in the state of Louisiana.

ore than 125 people attended the Keep Louisiana Beautiful state conference at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center in September. The conference featured a variety of exhibitors, presentations on a wide variety of topics and group discussions. LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown addressed the conference attendees on Sept. 26, speaking primarily about waste tires and the disposal issues they present in Louisiana.

Other presentations dealt with new technology, the economics of litter recycling resources, protecting the wetlands, educating business on recycling, establishing a litter court and more.

Dr. Brown, spoke about Understanding the Challenge of Waste Tires. Approximately 49,500 illegally dumped waste tires are cleaned up every year. Louisiana has 3,392 registered waste tire generators and five operating waste tire processors.

The Everyday Hero Awards were presented at the Everyday Hero Awards Banquet. The Youth Leadership Award recognizes creative problem solving by a student/ students to reduce waste. The award went to Charlotte Henagen from Gonzales for expanding the recycling effort to her school, raising funds and purchasing paper recycle bins for her school. The Litter Enforcement Award that recognizes law enforcement personnel who are successful in enforcing state litter laws was presented to Eddie Derma, a Quality of Life/Community Liaison Officer for New Orleans East. The most Innovative Program award, presented by Dr. Brown, went to the Shreveport Green Household Hazardous Waste Program. The Outstanding Affiliate Award went to Keep Covington Beautiful, and the Outstanding Affiliate Director Award was presented to Holli Guilbeau of Keep St. Martin Beautiful.

The Corporate Leadership Award was presented to Cox Communications, who set a corporate goal of zero waste to landfills by 2024. The Golden Can Award, presented to a public servant who goes above and beyond for litter abatement, went to Cynthia Sylvan-Lear, director of Sanitation for the city of New Orleans, who has worked tirelessly to prevent littering and to encourage and manage waste. Finally, the Alice Foster Award, given to an individual volunteer for exceptional leadership in litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling and beatification, went to Coleen Perilloux-Landry of Jefferson Parish who, among other accomplishments brought full-time recycling to Lafreniere Park in Metairie.

For more information about Keep Louisiana Beautiful and to see the Conference presentations visit *keeplouisianabeautiful.org*.



Keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Benfield, a biological oceanographer and professor at the College of the Coast and Environment at LSU, talked about Microplastics: An Invisible Problem in Louisiana Waters. To see his presentation got to keeplouisianabeautiful.org/presentations/.



**Issue Number: 81** 

### "CWSRF" spells cleaner water for Louisiana

DEQ's latest YouTube video provides an overview of the department's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund.

Created through Title 6 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) program is administered by LDEQ as a means of assisting towns and municipalities with their wastewater infrastructure needs.

A reimbursement loan program, the CWSRF provides financial assistance in the form of below market interest loans to finance eligible projects. Eligible projects include new construction, rehabilitation and upgrades to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), which include the entire wastewater collection system (gravity lines, manholes, pump stations and force mains). Other eligible projects include nonpoint source endeavors involving stormwater management and estuary management.

The process is technical in nature and requires a great deal of oversight throughout pre-application, application, approval, project commencement and completion phases.



LDEQ engineer William Barlett examines a POTW for CWSRF requirements.

The CWSRF program requires that applicants submit a municipal bond. The application can't be approved until the bond has been approved by the State Bond Commission.

To have a project considered for funding, the applicant must submit a pre-application and a resolution to LDEQ, and upon review, the project will be added to LDEQ's priority list. The applicant will then receive notification from the CWSRF program that funding is in place. At that stage, the applicant must submit the full application with the applicable attachment documentation. For all costs incurred, a formal reimbursement request must be submitted to LDEQ.

In addition to the full application, the applicant must also submit the planning and environmental requirements along with the design plans and specifications for the project. If the CWSRF program is reimbursing engineering fees, the engineering contract must be submitted for review.

Projects must undergo a full review under the EPA's National Environmental Policy Act which requires a Preliminary Engineering Report and an Environmental Information Document. In some cases, given certain criteria, those requirements may be waived if the project qualifies for a categorical exclusion (whereby the project is deemed not to have a significant effect on the human environment).

Once the environmental determination is completed, the next step is to review the design plans and specifications. The average timeframe from project submission to close of the loan varies from six to 18 months, depending on the nature of the project.

After the loan is closed, the project plans and specifications still must undergo approval. When approved, the contract can be advertised for public bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law. After the bid opens, the bidding documents are submitted for review and concurrence to award the bid. Once bids are approved, the recipient can issue a Notice to Proceed and commence work on the project.

Continued on page 5



# DISCOVER DE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT DE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



October 2018

**Issue Number: 81** 

When construction is approved, the CWSRF project engineer must conduct periodic construction inspections, which include a site visit, a review of the payroll and employee interview documentation, American Iron and Steel certifications, and any change orders and payment requests.

During construction, oversight by LDEQ takes place and includes periodic inspections and a document review of payroll, American Iron and Steel Certifications, any change orders and any payment requests. All construction payment requests are submitted to the CWSRF program on a required form for review and reimbursement approval.

In order to close out a project, construction must be complete, and the CWSRF project engineer must conduct a final inspection. It is imperative that a clear lien certificate is submitted to ensure there are no claims or encumbrances that would call the project into a legal question. The final acceptance of the loan certificate by the applicant and a final inspection by the CWSRF project engineer will be the final steps in the process.

For more information about the CWSRF program, please visit *deq.louisiana.gov/page/clean-water-state-revolving-fund*.

### LDEQ wants to hear about your environmental programs

re you committed to improving the environment, your community and the quality of life in Louisiana? Do you have some voluntary environmental programs within your business, school or community that have been successful, innovative and have decreased emissions, pollution and damage to the environment? Then you might win an award!

Now is the time to join the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) in the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) and consider submitting your project for the ELP annual leadership awards. Projects must conclude within the 2018 calendar year or have benefits realized in 2018 to be eligible.

The awards are for outstanding achievement in Pollution Prevention, Community Environmental Outreach, Outstanding Environmental Ordinance & Enforcement and Environmental Management Systems. Awardees in these categories are recognized annually by the LDEQ secretary at a highly publicized ceremony, included in the



2017 Award Recipient: City of West Monroe -Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Farm

DiscoverDEQ newsletter and the LDEQ Annual Report. The ceremony will take place in the spring of 2019.

There are many benefits to membership in the ELP. The most important is that you will be contributing to the betterment of our environment. By joining the program, you are recognized by your community as an organization committed to maintaining and improving the quality of Louisiana's environment. Any organization committed to improving the quality of Louisiana's environment through pollution prevention, waste reduction and other environmental improvements is eligible to join the program as a participating member. This includes small, medium and large businesses, federal facilities, non-governmental organizations, schools and universities.

Continued on page 6



# DISCOVER

October 2018

**Issue Number: 81** 



2017 Award Recipient: Louisiana State University Campus Sustainability - Spring Greening Day

ELP members participate in periodic meetings, conferences and seminars/workshops sponsored by the Environmental Leadership Program. Members can obtain information and resources on various pollution prevention opportunities and other environmental management and conservation topics. They can network with other leaders around the state that are implementing projects and share their knowledge.

For more information about ELP or to join, please go to deq. louisiana.gov/page/the-louisiana-environmental-leadershipprogram.

## Genesis Energy, L.P., holds tabletop exercise for emergency preparedness

nsuring that your facility is prepared for an emergency situation is an important aspect of the safety of employees and the public. Genesis Energy, L.P., which operates midstream infrastructure in the Baton Rouge area hosted a preparation drill Oct. 3. The drill tested the facility response plan for the Baton Rouge Terminal located in Port Allen. According to guidance for the drill, "A successful drill demonstrates the Incident Management Teams' ability to organize, communicate and make strategic decisions regarding personnel and population safety and environmental protection during an emergency event."

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the U.S. Coast Guard, the West Baton Rouge Fire Department, Oil Mop Environmental Services, and Governor's Office of Homeland Security



Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Witt O'Brien's, and Genesis' Baton Rouge Terminal discuss strategies and logistics for the tabletop drill.

and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) participated in the drill. The scenario involved an oil spill in the Mississippi River that occurred as a result of damage to one of Genesis' pipelines. LDEQ and GOHSEP worked with Jennifer Stewart, the Public Information Officer for Genesis, in the Joint Information Center under the Unified Command. The drill successfully tested how the agencies and the company would work together during an emergency response.



**Issue Number: 81** 

# LDEQ is proud to support the Louisiana State Combined Charitable Campaign

t's that time again! It's time to Give HOPE to Louisiana! 2018 marks the fifth year Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has participated in the Louisiana State Combined Charitable Campaign (LA SCCC). The LA SCCC is the only state-approved charitable activity that enables payroll-deducted gifts from employees of state agencies. This amazing program allows LDEQ employees to designate an ongoing or one-time contribution to their choice of up to four health and human service charities participating in the LA SCCC. There are 60 charities participating in 2018; all of which provide much-needed health and human services throughout the state.

Annually, all health and human service non-profit agencies registered in good standing with the state are eligible to apply to be a part of this campaign. If a charity of your choice was not included, please note that it is to the discretion of the charity to apply annually or they may not meet all requirements.

The campaign started Sept. 5, 2018, and will run through Dec. 3, 2018. All pledges are due by Oct. 31, 2018, and all other special event/fundraiser revenue is due by Dec. 3, 2018.

In an effort to raise funds at LDEQ, employees were offered the one-time donation opportunity, the ongoing pledge opportunity, casual dress days for purchase, "Give Hope Louisiana" donation jars, popcorn and soda for sale, and the purchase of a 'guess the total in the donation jars' for a chance to win a \$100 gift card.



The winner of the gift card was Jerry Lang from the LDEQ Emergency Response group. The jar had \$82.72 and Jerry had the closest guess with \$83.75. Guesses ranged from \$22.30 to \$412.16.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and participated in LDEQ's fundraising efforts to date. Please continue to show your support for Give HOPE Louisiana and help LDEQ reach our goal of \$5,000, surpassing last year's donated amount of \$4,500.





**Issue Number: 81** 

#### LDEQ staff present enforcement seminar

DEQ staff from the Office of Environmental Compliance (OEC) participated in an environmental training seminar in Alexandria organized by the Concrete and Aggregate Association of Louisiana (CAAL). Presenters included Wayne Slater and Roselle Foote of the OEC Enforcement Division, Shane Miller and Ray Robinson of the OEC Surveillance Division and Daniel Lambert and Christian Flucke of the OEC Emergency Response Division.

Topics covered included an overview of the water discharge permits for sand and gravel and ready mix facilities, storm water and spill plans, emergency response procedures, stationary engine and universal waste regulations, and DEQ enforcement process and procedures.

Concrete and aggregate operators from all across the state were in attendance. John Hopper, environmental manager for Martin Marietta Aggregates and co-organizer of the event, reported positive feedback and that the information from the presentations should enable industry attendees to achieve a higher level of compliance at their facilities.



Wayne Slater of the OEC Enforcement Division gives an overview of the DEQ enforcement process at the CAAL Environmental Training Seminar in Alexandria.



Roselle Foote of the OEC Enforcement Division answers a question about universal wastes



**Issue Number: 81** 

### West Monroe Recycling Center is now open for business

est Monroe has a new recycling center. The idea was conceived by West Monroe Mayor Staci Albritton-Mitchell. During her campaign for mayor, she noted the citizens' concern and desire for a recycling center in West Monroe. The city partnered with Keep West Monroe Beautiful and Ouachita Green to bring the recycling center to fruition.

After Mayor Albritton-Mitchell officially took office on July 1, work began on the project. The city of West Monroe soon partnered with Marck Recycling and entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement. The city leases a baler from Marck Recycling, and the staff was trained on how to receive, collect, sort and bale recyclable items. Once bales are made, they are transported and sold by Marck Recycling.

The West Monroe Recycling Center officially opened its doors Wednesday, Sept. 6, with the ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening following Sept. 19.



The West Monroe Recycling Center is located at 409 Lincoln St. (directly behind the West Monroe Police Department).
The Center is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and select Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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# Washed Ashore exhibit highlights detrimental impact of plastic debris in water bodies

ashed Ashore, an exhibit at the Aquarium of the Americas, is a unique and colorful way to educate the public about the impact of plastic and marine debris on our environment and waters. The exhibit's motto is "We create art to save the sea!"



Shark made entirely of debris from the ocean, made by artists to illustrate plastic pollution.



Octopus constructed of marine debris, large and small, from bottle cups to tube and larger items, demonstrates the problem.

The Washed Ashore Project is based in Bandon, Ore., and is a part of the Artula Institute for Art and Environmental Education.

According to their website, "Washed Ashore is a non-profit organization whose mission is to use the arts to educate a global audience about plastic pollution in oceans and waterways and to spark positive changes in consumer habits." Under the direction of Angela Haseltine Pozzi, founder and director of Washed Ashore, a small dedicated staff supported by thousands of volunteers has removed tons of marine debris from Oregon beaches than 60 sculptures were created from the debris. They travel the country to raise awareness about this global issue.

The objective is to produce art from marine debris that tells the story of the plastic pollution in the oceans -- pollution which threatens marine life of all kinds. Each year, seabirds, whales, seals, sea turtles and other marine life ingest plastic or get caught up in it and die, as they mistakes the plastic for food. Marine habitats and the food chain have been invaded by plastic pollution. It is estimated that 80 percent of the marine debris comes from the land – moving from the streets to the oceans via streams and rivers.

The Washed Ashore project enlists staff, volunteers, donors and the public to be a part of educating the public on recycling plastic instead of littering. The primary outreach is beautiful art made of troubling materials that people have thrown away – only to have it make its way into the ocean.

The project also provides an Integrated Arts Marine Debris Curriculum, including a webinar. To help others create the art and help with the mission. It can be accessed at *http://www.washedashore.org*.

You can see some of the Marine Debris Sculptures at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas through April 30, 2019. For more information about this exhibit, go to *https://audubonnatureinstitute.org/washed-ashore*.



**Issue Number: 81** 

#### Ouachita Water Sweep removes 1,800 lbs. of trash from waterway

he Ouachita River is free of nearly two thousand pounds of trash today thanks to the water sweep event that took place during the morning of Oct. 20.

Kicking off at several points along the Ouachita basin, the annual event seeks to make a positive impact by ridding the waterway of debris and trash while beautifying the area and encouraging citizens to take pride in the scenic Ouachita.

At least 114 volunteers set out on Ouachita River tributaries, including Bayou Desiard at Highway 165 and at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Cheniere Lake Area 3, Black Bayou in West Monroe, Bayou Desiard at Lakeshore Drive in Monroe, Youngs Bayou, Bayou Darbonne at Hollands Bluff, and a portion of the Ouachita River in West Monroe behind the levee wall on Trenton Street.



Volunteers pick up trash along a waterway in Ouachita Parish during the Water Sweep

Plastic foam was the predominant find, along with an abandoned shopping cart, a discarded picnic table and the more common forms of rubbish such as aluminum cans, plastic bottles, cardboard and glass.

Any trash removal from the waters of the state is a benefit to the aquatic life and wildlife that inhabit the area, and the cleanup promotes area aesthetics as well. Ouachita Green strives to preserve those habitats and maintain the natural beauty of northeastern Louisiana.

To get involved in the group's events, or find out more information, please contact: www.ouachitagreen.org or visit: www. watersweep.org.



# DISCOVERDE

October 2018

**Issue Number: 81** 

## LDEQ On The Move



LDEQ doubled its presence at the Saints and Pelicans STEM Fest at the Superdome Oct. 20. LDEQ staff presented interactive presentations on Envirothon and Enviroscape to thousands of students, teachers and chaperones in attendance.



LDEQ staff demonstrate Walnut Bayou River meandering and other related water displays to students at Ocean Commotion at the Maravich Assembly Center.





**Issue Number: 81** 

## Who's Who At LDEQ?



Matthew Meyer – Environmental Scientist, Water Survey Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

Meyer is a native of New Orleans but has been living in Baton Rouge for the past decade. He holds bachelor's degrees from both Louisiana State University and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He worked in the oil industry for several years before starting at LDEQ in February 2018. He is working in water surveys on the mercury project.

Donna McCollough – Environmental Scientist, Public Participation and Permit Support Division, Office of Environmental Services

McCollough grew up in Zachary and worked as a pharmacy technician while completing her college education. She graduated from Louisiana State University in 2013 with bachelor's degree in biological sciences. McCollough loves the great outdoors and nature (waterfalls, oceans, the sun and mountains). She enjoys running, hiking, dancing tango, kayaking, biking, camping and traveling.





Thomas Aepelbacher – Environmental Scientist, Office of Environmental Compliance

Aepelbacher is a native of northern Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Michigan and began working at LSU in 2011 as a research associate. At LSU, he was involved in research related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and its impacts on Louisiana's coastline.

He enjoys hiking, camping, traveling to national parks and Michigan football.

#### Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

#### **Third Quarter 2018 Enforcement Actions:**

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

#### **Third Quarter 2018 Settlement Agreements:**

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

#### **Third Quarter 2018 Air Permits:**

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

#### **Third Quarter 2018 Water Permits:**

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

#### Third Quarter 2018 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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