



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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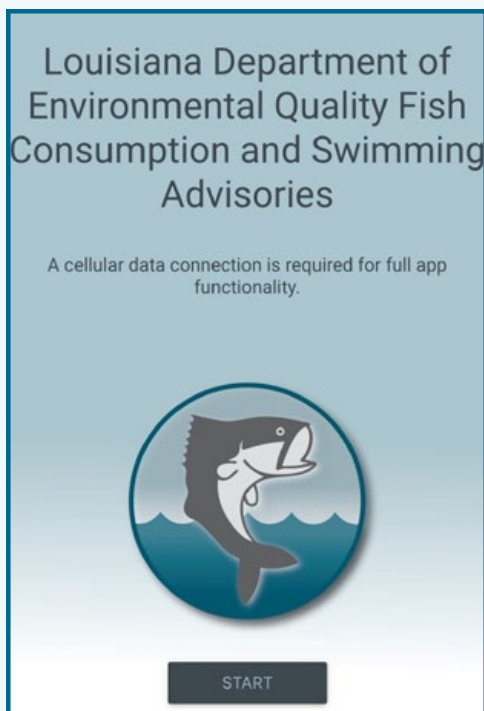
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LDEQ fishing and swimming advisory map now available as an app

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) online fishing and swimming advisory map is now available as an app for smartphones. The new app, released July 11, 2019, is available through Google Play and the Apple Store by entering the search term: LA Fish Advisories.

LDEQ's online Fishing and Swimming Advisory Map was developed by Jaclyn Allen, LDEQ environmental scientist with help from Andy Venuto, DOA GIS analyst. Shanna Mason, LDEQ Drinking Water Protection Team geologist, converted and adapted the map to create the app.

The app mirrors LDEQ's online advisory map released in Dec. 2018. It allows even easier public access to information regarding Louisiana's fish consumption and swimming advisories due to mercury or organic chemical contamination. By using the app, users can determine if their local fishing spot is currently under an advisory. When users click on the fish icons, the map brings up detailed advisory information that provides accurate details on which fish species, and how many meals of each species, can be safely consumed from that specific advisory water body.



Access advisory data more easily with the new app.

To use the app:

- Click any fish icon to view information such as advisory type, meal recommendations and issue date for each area.
- As you zoom into the map, a water body layer will appear showing the larger streams and lakes.
- The legend panel expands using the toggle button (top left corner).
- Use the search tool, (top right corner) to quickly locate an area of interest (e.g., a specific lake or river).
- Note: One meal is considered to be a half-pound of fish.
- Text found below the map provides background information on how the Louisiana Department of Health, Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries work together to test fish, set advisory levels and issue fish consumption advisories.

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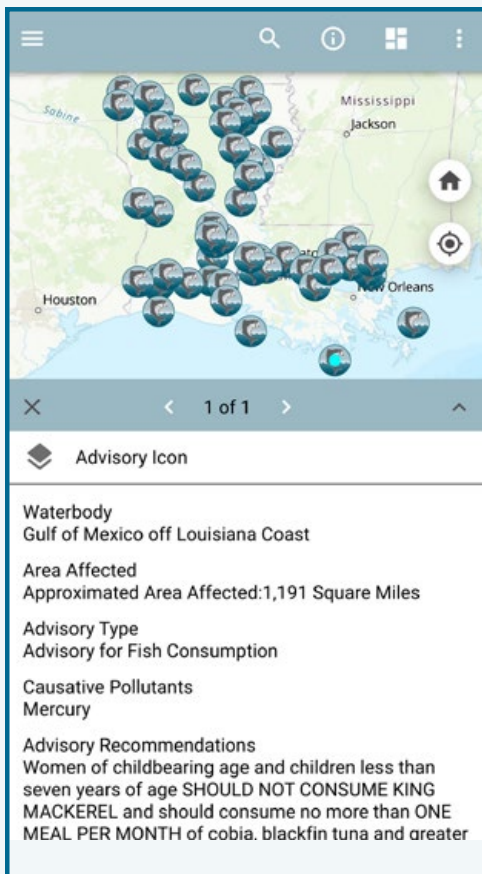


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LDEQ scientists can easily update the map as advisories change, are added or are rescinded. It is important to remember that the date on the advisory does not expire. For example, an advisory may be issued in 2012 and still be in effect.

The app also provides phone numbers and an email address that users can utilize to obtain more information on Louisiana’s fish consumption and swimming advisory process, as well as general water quality information.

“Using information from the app will allow fishers to continue to enjoy nutritious and delicious meals while helping to protect their health and the health of their families,” LDEQ Environmental Scientist Al Hindrichs said. “When it comes to fish consumption advisories, accurate knowledge of the types and quantities of fish that can be safely consumed is key.”

Development of Louisiana’s fish consumption and swimming advisories is a joint effort of LDEQ, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The agencies encourage all recreational fishers to be aware of and heed all advisory recommendations when enjoying Louisiana’s fresh and saltwater fisheries.

For more information on Louisiana’s fish consumption and swimming advisories, call (225) 219-3189 or email the Water Planning and Assessment Division at [_DEQ-WWWWaterQuality@la.gov](mailto:DEQ-WWWWaterQuality@la.gov).

The advisory lists which fish species and how many meals of each species can safely be consumed.



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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

My thanks to all of you who worked extra hours to handle Hurricane Barry's needs. Emergency Response stepped up, the incident command was activated, notices went out and some plants in harm's way were closed. Everything worked as it should have, and Barry's impact, while not what we expected, tested our preparedness. Not that I am complaining, but rains in southeast Louisiana fell short of projections.

We didn't get massive amounts of rainfall that rivaled what fell in August 2016. The potential was there, but some timely dry air kept totals down. There was some flooding, for sure, in isolated spots, and winds kept tugging at trees and roofs until some power outages and leaks occurred. It was about what you'd expect from a tropical storm. That's just luck.

How this agency responded was not luck. Our professional response plan was the result of solid training and dedication by all our responders and support staff. Well done. I am proud of the way we handled this emergency.

Don't take a victory lap yet. There's plenty of hurricane season left, and August is traditionally the month with the most violent storms. Keep your guard up. Be vigilant. Be prepared at work. Know what your role is. Be prepared at home. Get a game plan. Stay informed and watch the weather reports. We will be tested again – if not this year, in years to come.

A progress report: the two new Mobile Air Monitoring Labs (MAMLs) are built and just waiting for the installation of all the technical equipment. Communications is working to help come up with a wrapper (exterior decal) to take advantage of all the display space on the sides of the vehicles. Plans are afoot to unveil the new vehicles in a special observance in a few weeks. Stay tuned for more.

Also, we have now obligated almost \$9 million of the \$18.9 million awarded to Louisiana as part of the Volkswagen Settlement. The money we have obligated will go to fund the purchase of school buses with high-efficiency engines or which run on alternative fuels or are electrically powered. Some of the money will fund some infrastructure for alternative fuels, and some of it will be used to replace DOTD trucks with vehicles equipped with high-efficiency diesel engines. We still have funds to allocate and have opened the third cycle of applications.

The Executive Staff has begun work on 11 Concurrent Resolutions from the Legislature that ask LDEQ and other agencies to conduct studies of everything from a railroad route impact to 5G impact. They are dividing up the work and will be coming to staff to get help on answering these questions. Do your best if you are asked to help out.

We had a fire alarm at the LDEQ Headquarters building in Baton Rouge on July 23. It was not a fire, but when the alarm sounds, we all need to go to our assigned areas outside the building to be accounted for. The evacuation went well, and that's good because the next time it may be a fire or other real emergency.

As always, be careful as you go about your work and your daily routine. Drive defensively. We saw some troubling accidents around the state in the past month, some of which were deadly. Be alert. Be awake. Stay safe.



LDNR Secretary Tom Harris and I visit before things begin at a Unified Command Group meeting for then-Tropical Storm Barry.



LDEQ oversees removal of steel tanks at abandoned chemical site in Vermilion Parish



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Supervisor Alan Karr examines a water and sludge sampling tool used at the site. The tanks in the background were recently removed, as the site undergoes a full site remediation effort.

LDEQ's Remediation Division is nearing the end of its oversight of the removal operation of abandoned steel tanks. This is part of an ongoing remediation project at a series of adjacent abandoned chemical processing and storage sites in Vermilion Parish. The tank removal phase is complete and involved vacuuming, testing and removing nine abandoned chemical storage tanks that were in poor condition and presented an environmental concern. LDEQ is now planning a full site investigation of the property.

The site, formerly a chemical recycling and antifreeze processing business that operated from 1975 through 1978, was found to be operating in violation of environmental regulations. After a series of actions resulted in fines, bankruptcy and jail time for the site owner/operator, extensive soil and groundwater cleanup of the site was required.

Investigations conducted by the EPA and LDEQ revealed the business owner disposed of or released hazardous chemicals into the soil as well as an adjacent bayou. At another property operated by the business owner, containers/drums were buried. The drums were taken out during the removal action.

Early inspections at this site had shown that at least one of the above-ground storage tanks had leaked into a drainage ditch. EPA launched an investigation of the site in March 2000 to determine if the site would meet criteria for inclusion on the Superfund, or National Priorities, List. The site did not meet those criteria.

From September 2013 to April 2014, LDEQ, through a contractor, sampled and removed four above-ground tanks in the front part of the property, along with their contents. The soil around those tanks was sampled, excavated and disposed of.

Several chemical storage tanks – most of which held up to 24,000 gallons of product during their operational heyday – remained on site and presented an environmental hazard and aesthetic blight. An inspection of those tanks, followed by vacuuming out any remaining materials, was the first order of business. Next, the material was tested to determine exactly what constituents remained, as that information assists technicians conducting soil and water sampling in knowing what to look for. Wastes from the bottom of each tank were characterized and approved for solidification as a non-hazardous material, then subsequently transported off-site for disposal.

The remaining above-ground tanks in the back part of the property were examined, cleaned out and removed. During that process, LDEQ provided regulatory, investigatory and removal oversight as a third-party contractor conducted the physical tank removal and site remediation. The tanks were extracted, cut up and disposed of through the use of a hydraulic shearing machine.

Soil and water sampling throughout the site is slated to begin under a separate site investigation contract now that the tanks and associated steel components and rubbish have been removed.

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While the sampling process can take anywhere from a few months to a few years, the results must ultimately verify that the site is free of contaminants. Once “all clear” results are obtained from those samples, the site can be returned to reuse. “That phase can typically take a while, as continued sampling must be conducted to verify that the entire area is free of contamination,” Karr said.

The site is part of LDEQ’s mission to conduct inspections of active sites where contamination of soil and groundwater has or is currently taking place, as well as inactive or abandoned sites, where contamination has been detected but may no longer be occurring. Such sites are uncovered through law enforcement actions, historical records or citizen calls/online incident reports made to LDEQ. Working with a licensed contractor who conducts the sampling and cleanup, LDEQ reviews the sampling reports and conducts additional inspections to ensure that the work is progressing in accordance with the remediation plan and applicable regulations.

Due to the owner’s financial insolvency and subsequent bankruptcy and incarceration, funding for the cleanup came from both the EPA and from the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund, administered by LDEQ. Subsidized in part through grants, donations and penalties gained via environmental litigation, the fund is used for situations such as these where funding is needed to clean up a site.



During the tank removal and cut-up process, special shears were affixed to a hydraulic excavator, which cut and flattened the steel for ease of disposal.



Formerly the Central Fire Station, Central ARTSTATION and “Art the Dalmatian” have created bright from blight

Shreveport Common - an Uncommon Cultural District

What’s new in Shreveport? Shreveport Common, a historic nine-block area that is being revitalized into a creative cultural community, is one of the highlights. Shreveport Common is home to eight Historic National Registry properties and several state listed endangered buildings. With a storied past, the area has been a cultural and entrepreneurial mecca since the 1920s. In fact, in the ’50s, this is where Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley got their start on the KWKH Louisiana Hayride radio program.

By 2010, the population had decreased 75% from 8,000, leaving at least 64% of the remaining historic buildings empty. Most residents lived in transitional housing or high density, low-income housing. What’s Different? Today, more than 30 public/private partners are transforming the area following a yearlong Creative Placemaking

Vision Planning process. To date, stakeholders have invested more than \$50,000,000 of a \$100,000,000 portfolio of projects. The Creative Placemaking transformation is being built on the authenticity, creativity and sustainability for the community. There will be no displacement to the current neighbors -- keeping them integral to the revitalization.

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It all started in 2009 when a devastating fire destroyed the office and rehearsal space of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC). This paved the way for SRAC to move to the empty 1922 Central Fire Station. It is now known as the Central ARTSTATION restored in part with a Brownfields grant from LDEQ.

But this was just the beginning of Shreveport Common. The plan includes artist residential and creative retail development, artist-designed parks and green spaces, alternative transportation, unique entrepreneurial development, public art and arts programming and more. Many of the projects are in the predevelopment and redevelopment stages but this is becoming a vibrant cultural community.

And they are not through yet. The Shreveport Common revitalization effort has brought together the best of government, private and public partners with substantial success. In 2015, Shreveport Common was named the #1 Community Development Project in the Nation by the National Development Council. The Shreveport Common effort has received many other awards and has developed many partners and funding sources to make the vision a reality.

Partner Projects underway include:

- The Common greenspace, which has been abated, excavated and the infrastructure is in
- 60% of Shreveport Common is located in an Opportunity Zone (a new community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017).
- The Parklet is now a place to eat, rest and enjoy watching the progress of The Common.
- Aseana Gardens and Oakland Cemetery improvements and enhancements.
- Southern University Shreveport MS Kitchen Incubator Community Kitchen (KICK); under construction, will feature training and business mentorships, a healthy foods community Café and Culinary Medicine Center.
- Uneeda Lofts: Formerly the Uneeda Biscuit Building, the construction is underway creating artist affordable and market value apartments.
- Every Man a King Distillery in the former Arlington Hotel. construction underway.
- Sanctuary Glass School and Studios start-up and pop-up at Red River Brewery is raising funds to find a home in Shreveport Common.

“What is remarkable about Shreveport Common is the partners and their investment in the area. The stakeholders were involved from the



A bird's eye view of the Shreveport Common area looking toward downtown Shreveport

Milestone Indicators

- \$50 million invested out of the Vision Plan's \$100 million Portfolio of projects with 36 public and private community-changing projects.
- The Restoration of the Central ARTSTATION, Artist in Residence tower, Municipal Auditorium and Oakland Cemetery have motivated the private restoration of 17 privately owned historic properties; three more are under construction.
- 64% of the buildings are occupied – a 50% increase since the beginning of the project.
- 30% increase in property values after a 20 year decline.
- 15 new creative businesses in former empty spaces.
- 24 public art installations and 216 cultural events each year.

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Wendy Bencoter, executive director of Shreveport Common Inc. shows the progress of The Common park in the 800 block of Texas Avenue.

beginning, starting with the Vision Plan process,” Executive Director of Shreveport Common, Inc., Wendy Bencoter said. “Once the plan was approved, developers, artists, neighbors, property owners, entrepreneurs, non-profits and elected officials began, along with the city of Shreveport and the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, to do their part to revitalize the area.”

“When you look at the changes that have been made after decades of blight, you see the power of public/private partnerships in revitalizing challenging urban areas,” Bencoter continued. “One example is how the city Brownfields grants, along with knowledgeable and helpful city staff, private partners, grants and donors have helped advance the development of otherwise hopeless properties. The greatest of these are the long empty 1922 Central Fire Station now the Central ARTSTATION and The Common Park, set to open in the fall of 2019.”

If you are interested in finding out more information about LDEQ’s Brownfields grants or the voluntary remediation program go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields. The Louisiana Brownfields Association can be found at www.labrownfields.org.

Shreveport Common is a 501c3 organization dedicated to the public/private revitalization of Shreveport Common. If you would like to be a part of this effort, or if you would like more information, go to www.shreveportcommon.com.

Camp Challenge

“A bright light in summer until a cure is found.”

For 30 years, the non-profit organization Camp Challenge has dedicated itself to creating the best childhood experiences for children fighting cancer. For the last 17 years, LDEQ employees have gone to the camp in Leesville to volunteer their services and give the 100+ kids an opportunity to have fun during the summer.

The camp serves children 6-18 years old and is open to all children who reside in Louisiana. For a week, the kids have the opportunity to experience camp activities such as swimming, canoeing, crafts and fellowship all for free. LDEQ employees and volunteers contribute to arts and crafts for the campers and have them interact and learn about reducing, reusing and recycle. This year for the camp’s theme, “Rhythm on the Bayou,” the volunteers decided to have the campers use recycled cereal cups as pots and plant air plants in them. The kids were also able to decorate the pots to their liking and learn about air plants. The LDEQ employees who participated in the camp this year were Administrative Assistants Minta Canelas and Deirdre Robinson, Environmental Scientist Manager Mia Towsel, Environmental Scientists Curt Auzenne, Ashley Hurst and SP Davis, and Public Information Officer Lara Harrison. The family who volunteered with the employees was former LDEQ employee Teresa Hardy, with her husband Luke and daughter Rae.

For more information on the camp or to donate to their cause, go to www.campchallenge.org.

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Camp Challenge Campers and Volunteers



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LDEQ attends ECOS STEP meeting



LDEQ Press Secretary Greg Langley (left) answers an audience question during the Tech Solutions for State Government panel at the ECOS STEP meeting.

LDEQ Press Secretary Greg Langley peered into the future July 10 at the Environmental Council of the States STEP (State Environmental Protection) meeting in Washington, D.C. Filling in for Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Langley participated in a panel called “Tech Solutions for State Government.”

The 2019 STEP meeting theme was “From the Flintstones to the Jetsons: How Technology is Transforming Environmental Protection.” Langley gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting LDEQ’s use of unmanned aircraft for a variety of purposes – oil spills, fires, landfill surveillance and more. Jason Smith, LDEQ’s unmanned aircraft pilot, accompanied Langley to the event to answer technical questions.

A video of unmanned aircraft video footage was embedded in Langley’s slide presentation. As the aircraft zoomed up and over a

well blowout and an oil spill near the French Quarter, Langley explained to the group how the drone information was used to track an oil slick on the Mississippi River, reach remote sites to assess incidents and look at sites unreachable by land. During the landfill portion of the video, Langley explained how the unmanned aircraft had pinpointed a seep on one side of the landfill, which was bordered by water on three sides.

“It was overgrown with Rosseau cane and other small brush, so we had to hire a contractor to come out and clear out the cane,” Langley explained. “What they found was nine alligator nests. While they were working, one mama gator took exception and attacked the bulldozer tracks.”

The attendees from non-gator states were suitably impressed.

Langley went on to talk about how the unmanned aircraft will eventually be paired with the agency’s Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) to uplink data and provide almost instantaneous analysis of samples. It’s not a reality yet, still in the Jetson’s realm, but it’s a goal LDEQ is pursuing. The unmanned aircraft will be stationed in every regional office, he said, and each office will have one or two certified pilots.

Other state agencies at the meeting, notably Kentucky, also talked about their unmanned aircraft programs. Kentucky is already conducting water sampling through the use of its aircraft.

Other panels during the day discussed the coming flood of environmental data from satellites, sensors mounted on Google Street View cars, citizen scientists and others. There was a panel on Cutting-Edge Solutions for agencies and one on Emerging Technologies for the field.



LDEQ staff participate in emergency response exercise in Lafourche Parish

“There is no failure today. Everything you do today can be used as a learning experience,” said Cindy Gardner-LeBlanc with the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) during opening remarks at the Larose Civic Center on July 18. That statement kicked off a positive tone for the day, as agencies, organizations and contractors came together to participate in an emergency response exercise.

The exercise was presented by LOOP LLC, a Louisiana-based company whose mission is to provide for the safe offloading of crude oil from tankers and the proper storage and transportation of that oil via pipelines to refineries in the Gulf Coast and Midwest.

As a training tool held each year designed to test the participants’ overall emergency response readiness, the oil-related exercise always varies in classification, location and magnitude. The goal is to bring responding parties together under one roof to establish a Unified Command as they work to address the ever-changing array of actions needed to secure, manage and investigate the incident in question.



Public Information Officers representing participants in the Unified Command discuss key talking points for the media briefing during the exercise.

While many of the previous years’ exercises presented by LOOP have focused on oil leaks or spills through a collision, work accident or malfunction of some type, this year’s scenario was far more serious in scope. It centered on what’s known as an Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program (AMSTEP) model in conjunction with the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP). In short, the exercise scenario revolved around an act of terrorism at the facility, resulting in a fire and damage to a section of piping, along with personnel casualties.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Coast Guard led the response, while LDEQ assisted and advised the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office in their role as the state on-scene coordinator.

The exercise brings together a multitude of resources, as well as contractors, law enforcement agencies, organizations and agencies. These resources lend realism to the response as participants actively put their specific areas of responsibility to the test. Throughout the day, the participants are involved in briefings and operational meetings on logistics, response strategies and public information matters. It’s that exchange of ideas among the participants that fosters communication and coordination so that the decision-making process will be rapid, effective and thorough.

The exercise culminated in the development of an incident action plan that provides for public safety and environmental protection. Spokespersons representing the Unified Command gave a status update to the attendees during the final portion of the exercise.

Each participating section then voiced their positive and negative takeaways from the exercise – all of which can be applied to strengthen the overall response mechanism should an actual situation occur.



SOUL NOLA Teams Up with SELU Students for Reforest New Orleans Project



Southeastern students with one of the yard designs that the class created for Soul NOLA

Southeastern Louisiana University's (SELU) Applied Environmental Sociology class teamed up with SOUL (Sustaining Our Urban Landscape) NOLA to help bridge the communications gap between the organization's efforts and the community.

The organization reported that the city lost 100,000 trees during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. SOUL NOLA wanted to preserve the trees in the city of New Orleans. SOUL NOLA's mission is "to drive toward a resilient and environmentally equitable New Orleans by reforesting our urban landscape." Since 2016, they have planted over 1,800 trees with the help of neighborhood leaders and with input from the SELU students.

Jacob O'Neill, a student participant in the project, explained that the class conducted a survey to gauge the effects of SOUL NOLA in the community. Each week the class then discussed the purpose of sifting through the data that pertained to the company's application. "After the investigative trail went cold, and the most practical information

was extracted, our next step was to devise ways to transfer the information to SOUL NOLA. We were most concerned with providing relevant information that is immediately useful within the unique communities of New Orleans. This includes politics, material and financial resources, as well as past experiences that take a unique shape within NOLA," O'Neill said.

From the research, the class focused on key aspects to aid the formation of this bridge across the communications gap. The class concluded that the application iTree could help SOUL NOLA. iTree would be the opt-out method that bridged heritage narratives and a condensed version of academic research on non-profit/community participation and collaboration for the organization. It is an application that is a USDA Forestry product that is used for measuring trees and benefits in the utilization of satellite imagery with many different applications depending on the user's intention. The Southeastern students found that the iTree software was previously used in organizations such as, "Trees for Cities" in London and for "Million Trees NYC." Through their in-depth research, the students found that it was an effective tool that provided real monetary benefits to trees in the communities that they served.

The students also discovered that heritage narratives are useful for communities because they share experiences of the past, through the present, which then reveal a unique and cultural perspective.

The students found that the recommendations that they reached were the same ones that the organization is already implementing, such as their block captains and their pre/post-tree planting gatherings.

At the end of the school semester, the Applied Environmental Sociology class designed a presentation for SOUL NOLA to help focus their goals: a political one-page flyer that highlighted the efforts of the organization, a yard sign, a tree catalog of the trees that the organization offers, as well as a door hanger.



Bike-Share Hits the Streets of Baton Rouge

It's a wheel deal. Baton Rouge bike share program has officially hit the streets.

After some delay, due to issues with the design of the locks, South Carolina-based Gotcha bikes has officially been docked in the city of Baton Rouge. 500 Gotcha bikes are available in over 50 hubs around the city, including downtown, six BREC parks, Southern University and LSU.

"It's hard to catch a bus on campus at a certain time. Having the bikes accessible to students will make traveling on and around campus effective," said Rashida Peters, a graduate student at LSU studying mass communications.

Gotcha Bikes is an app-based electric bicycle rental company that operates in several locations, including Syracuse, NY, Atlanta, GA, and Norman, Okla. The bike rentals are available through the company's mobile app, "Gotcha-Ride On." People can access the app and find the nearest Gotcha bike dock. Then they will be able to scan the barcode that is located behind the bike's seat using the app and have access to the desired bike. They can use the bike for as long as they need it and can dock the bike in the nearest docking station.

Gotcha offers pricing options that include monthly and annual subscriptions through their app. There is also a pay-as-you-go option where bikers will be charged \$2 to unlock the bike, with an additional ten cents per minute for usage.

Each bike is designed with a basket, a headlight for anyone who desires nighttime riding, as well as an electric motor for pedal assistance with speed and inclines. The bikes are also issued with GPS tracking to deter theft.



CC: Gotcha

"I'm excited to try out the bikes on campus. It's not only good for the environment, but it's also encouraging healthy living to students," said SU junior Courtney Wright, a marketing major. "I think it's a great way for students to have more mobility while also giving them more diverse transportation options," said Wright.

The company is now established in Baton Rouge, where a five-year contract has been inked for \$801,000. According to The Advocate, the city-parish secured a federal grant through the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program that is paying for 80% of the bike-share program's costs. The city-parish will be covering the other 20%.

Following the bike-share program launch, the South Carolina Company plans to add an additional 300 bikes and 30 more hubs in Baton Rouge by next year. They are also looking to expand the program to include scooters and tricycles.

This is a huge win for the city-parish, which has worked to implement a bike-share program since last year when the parish won a grant to determine if a bike-share program would be feasible for the city.



Emily Wood retires after 17 years of service to the state

Emily Wood, a paralegal with LDEQ's Legal Affairs Division, is retiring after 17 years of service with the state. Born and raised in Baton Rouge, Wood worked in the legal field on and off, took time off from work to start a family, then began work at LDEQ in 2002.

Wood's official last day is July 31. The staff at LDEQ congratulate Wood on her service to the state and wish her well in her future endeavors.



LDEQ General Counsel Herman Robinson congratulates Paralegal Emily Wood during her retirement party.

Louisiana Rural Water Association Conference held in Lake Charles

For the 19th year, the Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) held its annual conference in Lake Charles. The conference offers training and continuing education units (CEUs) for participants.

LDEQ employees participate in this conference in a variety of ways. They teach classes and monitor the classes. LDEQ hosted two exhibition booths this year. One was for the Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP), and one was for the Small Business Assistance Section.



Jesse Means, LDEQ geologist, accepts an appreciation award on behalf of LDEQ for our ongoing partnership and assistance with the Louisiana Rural Water Association.



LDEQ employees staff the exhibit booths at the LRWA Conference. (L to R) Marissa Jimenez, Small Business Assistance Program; Jesse Means, DWPP staff; Ella Barbe, Small Business Assistance; and Shanna Mason, DWPP staff.



LDEQ employee recognized

LDEQ Criminal Investigative Section Investigator Keith Bates was recognized for his participation in the inauguration ceremony for officials of the city of St. Gabriel July 1. Bates spoke at the ceremony, delivering the Inaugural Law Enforcement Address.



Keith Bates





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Who's Who At LDEQ?



Heather Girlinghouse – Environmental Scientist, Air Surveillance Division, Office of Environmental Enforcement

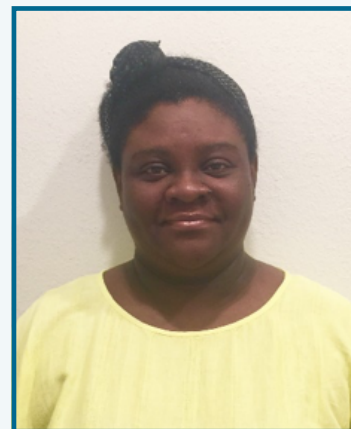
Born in Sulphur, Girlinghouse graduated from Grand Lake High School. She attended McNeese State University and received a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences. Girlinghouse then moved to Baton Rouge to attend LSU and received a master's degree in animal sciences. While at LSU, Girlinghouse worked as a veterinary tech where she conducted research at the horse farm and worked at the Baton Rouge Zoo. She worked as a veterinary tech in Sulphur after graduating LSU in 2015. She started at LDEQ's Southwest Regional Office as an environmental scientist in December 2018.

She enjoys hunting, fishing, crabbing, cooking, water skiing, mud riding and anything outdoors. She has a 3-year-old golden retriever named "Ripli," whom she trained to become certified as a therapy dog. She and Ripli do volunteer work around Southwest Louisiana, visiting hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, schools, and attending special events, spreading joy and providing therapeutic relief to those who are sick, alone, or just need something to brighten their day.

Carolette Y. Wright – Environmental Chemical Specialist, Small Business Assistance Program, Office of the Secretary

A Nashville, Tenn., native, Wright joins the LDEQ from the Fort Polk Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division. She earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Howard University in Washington in 2005. Prior to focusing her work on environmental services, Wright worked in the manufacturing industries for major label food brands.

Wright works in the Small Business Assistance Program as an environmental chemical specialist III in the Southwest Regional Office.



René Guilbeaux – Environmental Scientist, Emergency Response and Radiological Division, Office of Environmental Compliance

A native of Breaux Bridge, Guilbeaux graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental quality and a minor in geology. Guilbeaux worked with the Boy Scouts of America as a kayaking guide through the Atchafalaya swamp for five years.

Guilbeaux will be working in the Emergency Response and Radiological Division as an environmental scientist and an emergency responder with the Southwest Regional Office. He enjoys backpacking, kayaking and fishing.



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Second Quarter 2019 Enforcement Actions:

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

Second Quarter 2019 Settlement Agreements:

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

Second Quarter 2019 Air Permits:

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

Second Quarter 2019 Water Permits:

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

Second Quarter 2019 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

