



What's Inside?

LDEQ celebrates Black History Month

Message from the Secretary

Be air aware!

Sign up for EnviroFlash this month!

EDMS Update

Enviroschool webinar on Sewer System reports and Stormwater Management Plans to be held March 4

Crawfish shells and boil water don't belong in storm drains and waterways

LDEQ attorney Mike Daniels receives Everyday Hero Award from Keep Louisiana Beautiful

Perry Theriot retires from LDEQ's Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigation Section

LDEQ hosts fundraising efforts benefiting American Heart Association

Who's Who At LDEQ?

CONNECT WITH LDEQ



Subscribe to our monthly newsletter

Discover DEQ

LDEQ celebrates Black History Month

February is Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month. The month began as Negro History Week in 1925. The celebration was extended to a month in 1976. Today, Black History Month is an annual celebration of African-Americans' achievements and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) proudly recognizes the significant contributions of people of African or Caribbean heritage. During the month of February, the agency celebrated Black History Month by highlighting stories of African-American professionals who have made an impact at LDEQ. Their accomplishments remind us of how far we've come – and how far we have to go.

Spotlight on Bobby Mayweather

For Bobby Mayweather, it remains his proudest achievement: "organizing the Capital Region Office."



Bobby Mayweather

"We were family, and I was the father of the family. We had a cohesive group," Mayweather said. Now retired from LDEQ, the 68-year-old Mayweather was the first black person to serve as manager of one of the agency's regional offices (there are six around the state). Mayweather, a chemist by training, was working in an agency lab in 2000 when LDEQ decided to realign the way the eight regional offices were organized. Each regional office would be headed by a Regional Manager. Mayweather was picked to head the Capital Regional Office. The Capital Region includes a big swath of southeastern and south-central Louisiana, including Ascension, Assumption, East and West Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. Martin and Tangipahoa parishes.

The newly minted Regional Manager found himself with a lot of ground to cover. "We went to every city in our region – met the mayor and environmental people," Mayweather said. Even if the municipality had only just recently incorporated, it got a visit, he said. "We made a presentation," Mayweather said. And the message of that presentation? "How can we help you?"

As a black man in a high-profile government job, Mayweather said he drew a lot of attention, which led to requests for him to speak.

"There was a lot of interest in me," Mayweather said. He had a consistent message he

Continued on page 2



delivered to groups he addressed. “I just told them that we were there for them and that we would like to have more people in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math),” he said.

Mayweather holds a degree in chemistry from Southern University. He began his studies at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, almost finished there, but then his mother got sick. He came back to his hometown of Baton Rouge and finished his degree at Southern. He spent much of his early career working in labs. Later, he went back to Southern and got a degree in environmental science.

Baton Rouge and Louisiana have always been home for Mayweather, but he did spend time early in his career working in places such as Philadelphia, New Jersey, Salt Lake City and Atlanta. He considered relocating to Pennsylvania, but his wife, Delores, wanted to stay near her parents in Louisiana.

“We wanted to settle back home,” Mayweather said. He has taught chemistry at Southern and Baton Rouge Community College. “I was the first adjunct chemistry teacher at BRCC,” Mayweather said. “I was an adjunct professor at BRCC when I came to LDEQ. I was the night guy,” he said. “About four years ago, it got too much for me. I was too old to do both things.”

These days Mayweather finds plenty to stay busy with since his retirement from LDEQ in 2019. His wife has plenty of things for him to do; there’s church and, oh yes, two grandbabies to spoil. He won’t sit still too long. There’s still ground to break.

Spotlight on Denise Bennett



Denise Bennett

Breaking new ground comes naturally to Denise Bennett, LDEQ’s first black female deputy secretary. She comes from a family of farmers, skilled laborers and engineers who have deep roots in Arnaudville, Louisiana. But Bennett didn’t need a plow for the groundbreaking she had in mind.

She attributes her family up-bringing to “setting her on a conscience path for balance in economic output and environmental protection.” Her paternal great grandfather was the town blacksmith who passed on his trade to his sons.

The oldest of the seven, Harold Taylor, took the opportunity to enroll in the College of Engineering six days after the U.S. District Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in *Constantine v. Southwestern Louisiana Institute of Liberal and Technical Learning (SLI)*, prohibiting SLI from refusing to admit any resident of southwest Louisiana on the basis of race or color. He was one of the first four black students admitted to SLI, now known as the University of Louisiana – Lafayette, in 1954. According to the University of Louisiana – Lafayette, his and his peers’ enrollment marked the first large-scale desegregation of a previously all-white, public institution of higher education in the Deep South

Denise’s uncle (and mentor), Elvord Guidry, also graduated in Chemical Engineering and became one of three Black Americans to obtain a Chemical Engineering degree in the country and the only one in Louisiana. He went on to apply his degree in the booming oil and gas and chemical industry in Louisiana.

Inspired by her uncles, Bennett set out to attend college at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Determined to apply her aptitude in chemistry and math and enjoyment of the outdoors, she followed her knack in science and math and majored in Chemical Engineering. Denise moved back to Louisiana and began her career in the chemical industry in 1992. “I arrived to an initially

Continued on page 3



intimidating production plant equipped only with the confidence in my education and application of theory to process operations cases. this is where ‘the rubber met the road’ in the practical application of engineering to a random real-world process operation; and also learning to work toward a common goal with a variety of people across different production areas, disciplines and personal work objectives.”

In 2003, Denise left the chemical industry to become an air permit writer for LDEQ. “This is where I became much more intimately involved with federal and state air regulations across multiple industries.” She returned to industry three years later and has remained consistent in her pursuit of finding the ideal place for business cost-effectiveness and environmental protection.

LDEQ continues to permit and regulate industry under the authority delegated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and it is her hope that “citizens continue to be actively engaged in their communities and get informed through LDEQ’s various methods of communication and education,” like Enviroschool; and that industry continues to keep environmental sustainability as a success marker, to go above and beyond regulatory requirements.”

In 2014, Bennett became deputy secretary for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. She is proud to serve the citizens of Louisiana in the “productively efficient manner gained in her up-bringing, secondary education, and employment experiences.”

Learn more about Mr. Taylor and his peers here: <https://louisiana.edu/news-events/news/20040901/50-years-later-desegregation-sli>.

Spotlight on Herman Robinson



Herman Robinson

If you called central casting and asked for someone to play a lawyer, you’d probably get someone who looks a lot like Herman Robinson. Tall, with a dignified posture and deep voice, Robinson was perfect for the part of the first black General Counsel at the LDEQ.

But before serving in that capacity, before he was even employed by LDEQ, Robinson was an Army officer. He had been in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) at Southern University, where he earned an undergraduate degree in history. Entering the Army in 1972, Robinson served in various leadership capacities for seven years. He was in the ordinance corps, serving as both a platoon leader and company commander. His military service included a 13 month-stint in Korea and a lot of time at what he fondly calls “Camp Swampy” – Fort Stewart outside Savannah, Ga.

“My next assignment would have been in Germany,” Robinson recalls. “I decided to go ahead and get out and go to law school,” he said. “After sleeping in a tent in the middle of nowhere for two weeks during a training operation at Fort Bragg, N.C., it seemed to me that a nice, clean, air-conditioned courtroom or law office would be a good workplace to aspire to. So, I decided to go to law school.”

“I sometimes regret I didn’t stay in. I enjoyed being in the service. It was a great experience.”

His decision was made, though, and he was honorably discharged from the Army with the rank of captain. He returned to Louisiana to pursue a Juris Doctorate from Southern. In 1984, Robinson began a legal career at LDEQ that would span 35 years.

During his tenure at the LDEQ, Robinson held the positions of Staff Attorney, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), ALJ Administrator, Assistant Secretary, Executive Counsel and, most recently, General Counsel.

Continued on page 4



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



February 2021 Issue Number: 109

"I started off as an attorney/hearing officer. The LDEQ later formed a hearing section. I led that (section) as the ALJ Administrator until I was appointed as the assistant secretary for the Office of Legal Affairs and Enforcement under Secretary Dale Givens. After the department was re-engineering, and all legal activity was put under the Office of the Secretary, Givens appointed me as General Counsel," Robinson said. "I was later appointed executive counsel under Mike McDaniels."

"I had the honor and privilege of serving under all LDEQ secretaries but one – the very first one." Despite having been the first black general counsel, Robinson said he did not feel he faced any particular career challenges because of his race. "Not anything that would stand out. The job itself was challenging. As far as being the first minority in the position, there was nothing in particular that stands out."

"I saw a lot of changes while I was there. The LDEQ was reorganized several times. The size of the department was reduced over the years. In addition, I saw a lot changes and met a lot of good people," he said, "and have a lot of good memories of the department."

Robinson returned to the General Counsel position in 2015 prior to leaving the agency and returning to his native Pointe Coupee Parish. He was one of eight children of a farmer who sharecropped in the northern end of the parish. Robinson went to high school at Batchelor High School in Batchelor, La. Of the eight children in his family, he is the only one to return to the area Pointe Coupee Parish and remain in Louisiana. The rest relocated to Texas.

After a busy life filled with jobs and duties, Robinson is ready to enjoy some time for himself. He's pursuing some hobbies and "taking care of things I have been putting off."

LDEQ values diversity and inclusion. The agency values the diverse thinking and perspective each employee brings to the table. Black History Month shined a spotlight on a few past and present LDEQ employees, but every employee deserves to be highlighted in their own right. Each LDEQ employee is celebrated for their uniqueness, the ideas they generate, the useful feedback they provide, and the overall added value they bring to the agency.

Robinson is proud of his son, Frederick, who is a graduating senior at Louisiana Tech. In March, Frederick, an ROTC student, will be commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army at the same time he graduates.

Spotlight on Courtney Burdette

When Courtney Burdette was appointed the first black female General Counsel at LDEQ in 2020, she knew she had some big shoes to fill. Her predecessor as General Counsel, Herman Robinson, had served the agency 35 years. When Robinson retired, Burdette stepped up to meet the challenge

Burdette, a Baton Rouge native, has a history of attorneys in her family. Both of her parents are attorneys, as well as her father's brother. Her mom was a judge who recently retired in December after being on the bench for approximately 25 years. Her dad was a city prosecutor and worked with the parish attorney's office. Today, he still works in his private practice.

But believe it or not, law school wasn't her first choice. Before law school factored into the equation, Burdette was an English major with plans to become an English professor. She earned a bachelor's degree in English at Howard University in Washington, D.C. However, she found herself becoming homesick. She couldn't deny the call of Louisiana's southern charm and the promise of having her parents present in the lives of her children, Carter and Payton. So she moved back home, and a scholarship to Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center solidified her path to a career in law.

Continued on page 5



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



February 2021 Issue Number: 109

She earned her juris doctorate degree from LSU just as her mother, father and uncle had before her. Following her law school graduation, she served as a law clerk to two federal judges, Hon. Ralph Tyson and Hon. Brian Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Burdette was later employed as an attorney with the Louisiana Board of Ethics. She provided ethics training to elected officials, members of boards and commissions and other public employees throughout the state. Before coming to LDEQ, Burdette also served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice in the Litigation Division, General Liability Section, where she defended the state of Louisiana in a variety of tort cases. Burdette joined the Legal team at LDEQ in January 2014 and brought a wealth of varied experience to the role of chief legal advisor for the department.

“My parents always had high standards for me, and I think that played an important role in my getting to where I am today. They instilled the importance of always being the best that you can. I preach to my attorneys all the time that being a government attorney is no less than a private practice attorney. No matter where you find your office, you are an attorney when you step into the courtroom,” Burdette said.

“There is that saying ‘good enough for government work.’ I don’t believe in that. I believe in good work regardless of where you work or who you work for. I think we should always hold ourselves to the highest standards possible,” she stated. She expects the same from her staff. However, she acknowledges that people do and will make mistakes, and allowances for those mistakes are necessary.

Mistakes allow for growth. Something Burdette realizes is critical in any role. “We have to allow people to grow, and I know this is a role I’m going to have to grow into. I have big shoes to fill. Herman Robinson filled this role for 36 years prior to me. So I know I have growing to do, but I’m committed to the job. I’m committed to doing a good job, and I want to be surrounded by people that feel the say way as me - who take it as seriously as I do,” Burdette said.

When asked if she feels her race has presented obstacles for her in her line of work, Burdette responded, “Do I think racism still exists? Absolutely. Is it as overt as it was for my parent’s generation? No. But I do think it exists in more subtle ways today.” “My parents grew up in the civil rights era,” Burdette recalls. “My mom integrated her high school; she was one of the first African-Americans to attend there. I know it was no easy feat to do that. Or to overcome obstacles put into place to prevent voting as my grandparents experienced. But I am grateful to my parents and their parents’ generation for making the sacrifices and overcoming the challenges they faced to give me the freedoms and opportunities I have today. I realize without them, I wouldn’t be where I am now. I’m definitely standing on their shoulders to say that I am here.”

Regarding obstacles her gender has presented in her law career, she responded, “Certainly, but not just being a woman. Beginning my law career at 25, I also saw challenges my age presented when dealing with people significantly older. Gender, age and race can present difficulties, but I think that you prove yourself day to day with your confidence, professionalism, and knowledge of the subject matter. Respect is earned. Once you earn your respect, man, woman, white or black, it’s yours – no one can take it away from you.”

At the end of the day, Burdette feels we should all strive to be our best and put our best foot forward in all that we do. It is a characteristic instilled in her from a very early age and one she hopes she will always carry with her in the way she relates to others and the way that she performs on the job.



Courtney Burdette



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



February 2021 Issue Number: 109

Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

One of the most popular memes on the Internet during the cold snap featured a caption that read “To all my friends in the North: your weather is down here drunk and acting up in my yard. Come get it.” The icy conditions we experienced the week of Feb. 14-20 seemed like weather from somewhere else, not Louisiana. And while the meme was designed to make you laugh, no one was laughing when the thermometer dropped into the teens in Baton Rouge and to one degree in Shreveport.

That kind of cold is brutal. It’s even harder if you are not expecting it, not used to it and not prepared for it. The intense cold followed a bout of freezing rain in the southern part of the state and snow in the north. Driving was risky for several days. When icy limbs began to snap and fall off trees, electricity blinked off over large areas of the state. Water froze in pipes. It almost froze Mardi Gras – almost.

Through all those obstacles, LDEQ’s emergency responders went out and got it done. If there was a leak or a release at a plant, they rolled out. They bundled up and stepped out into the cold wind to do their work. As always, LDEQ responded to every call. I couldn’t be prouder of our people in Emergency Response and the regional offices. Good work.

Now the thermometer is flirting with 80 degrees again, and another challenge faces us. All those fallen limbs and trees are now debris, and LDEQ will have to oversee the disposal process. We know how to do that, though. We had plenty of practice in 2020 when the state was hit by five named storms during hurricane season. We will get it done. That’s what we do in Louisiana.

We have come to the end of Black History Month. During February, our communications section has been featuring some of the past and current black employees who have helped blaze a path for others here at LDEQ. A short story about each one has been featured each week during February: Bobby Mayweather, Denise Bennett, Herman Robinson and Courtney Burdette. The stories were also posted on the agency’s social media platforms, and all four are reprinted here in this month’s newsletter for your enjoyment. Take a look.

Finally, I want to recognize one of our attorneys, Mike Daniels, who was presented with a Keep Louisiana Beautiful Everyday Hero Award for his efforts to combat litter. Cleaning up litter is one of my lifelong personal concerns. I despise litter, and I have no respect for anyone who throws trash and garbage in our streets, ditches, streams, fields and public spaces. Louisiana is where we all live. Love the boot, don’t pollute!

Until next month, stay warm and be careful out there.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



February 2021 Issue Number: 109

Be air aware! Sign up for EnviroFlash this month!

EnviroFlash is the free air quality notification system that allows you to receive air quality notifications on a daily basis or on-demand delivered to your phone or email. It is easy to subscribe, and you can pick the level of air quality information you need.



EnviroFlash sends an Air Quality Awareness advisory when the air quality in a given area is predicted to be unhealthy for sensitive groups – orange level or above on the Air Quality Index. This advisory is a forecast of possible high ozone or high fine particle (PM2.5) levels. The system can also send you notifications of unusual events, such as fires, that might affect your air quality.

To stay better informed about ozone, particulate pollution and other air quality matters, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality encourages the public to go to the LDEQ website, www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash, and sign up for the EnviroFlash system in their area: Baton Rouge, Shreveport, New Orleans, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Monroe, Thibodaux or Lafayette.

For more information on current air quality, go to the LDEQ website, <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>, and the interactive EPA website, www.airnow.gov.

To access real-time monitoring data or to sign up for real-time notifications of ozone, PM2.5 or Sulphur dioxide, go to <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>.

EDMS Update

In February, the EDMS Redesign project team released a set of features for a core group of LDEQ employees to test. These users have been testing the features on their own schedule, within a certain timeframe, and providing valuable feedback to help the project team ensure the application is working as it should. To date, we have gone through two phases of UAT and plan for more users to help test the system to ensure the features of the new EDMS are put through their paces.

The features tested in February were:

- EDMS Login
- Quick Search
- AI Lookup
- Advanced Search

So far, the testing has been going well. Here are some of the comments we have received from our testers about the new EDMS features:

"My comment is not a 'bug,' but I thought I'd let you know that overall the speed is noticeably faster than production... Navigation is easy and quick. And all this, working remotely! Kudos to all Access Sciences personnel, I like what I see. It's not all roses; I've filed a few bug reports today."

— Mike Sullivan



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



February 2021 Issue Number: 109

“The new tool is definitely an upgrade and I especially appreciate the new features in the Advanced Search engine.”
– Jeff Baker

“Thank you for allowing me to be one of the testers for the EDMS update. I really like the new user interface and added functions. Some of the added functions I find useful are the expanded “Advanced Search” and “Report Bug” functions. It also seems to download documents much faster than the previous version. I think our staff will really like the finished product and it will allow them to be more productive and efficient in their daily activities. Great job by the EDMS Development Team.”

–Durwood Franklin

EDMS activities in March

Since features to be tested are being rolled out in phases, planned for testing in March are:

- MyEDMS (for public users)
- Show Select Agency Interest on map

To ensure we are meeting the public’s needs for the upgrade of EDMS, we plan to expand the testing group to a small number of public users. By doing this, we hope to confirm that the MyEDMS capabilities are fully functional and provide valuable benefits to our public user base.

While UAT continues testing the new features, the project team is making updates to previously tested features based on UAT outcomes, bug fixes and possible enhancement suggestions.

Be sure to check out our next newsletter on how you can get involved.

Enviroschool webinar on Sewer System reports and Stormwater Management Plans to be held March 4

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is hosting an EnviroSchool webinar at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 4.

The webinar will provide an overview of the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Annual Reports and a summary of the commonly requested information of each minimum control measure for Small MS4 Stormwater Management Plans.



Additionally, the webinar will cover commonly requested information for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and LDEQ audits and inspections of medium and large MS4s.

To register for participation in the webinar, send an email to enviroschool@la.gov.



Crawfish shells and boil water don't belong in storm drains and waterways

With crawfish boil season upon us, it's important to remind everyone of the harmful, illegal and environmentally problematic issue of dumping boil water and crawfish shells into storm drains and water bodies.

Dumping any seafood waste such as crawfish shells and boil water into a ditch, bayou, river, lake or other waterway can seriously harm or kill any resident aquatic species living there.

In addition to being damaging to the environment, dumping crawfish boil water and/or crawfish shells and associated boil waste into a storm drain is against the law in Louisiana. Water going into storm drains runs directly into our bayous and other water bodies in our estuaries without being treated.

Adding boil water and shells into a canal, ditch or waterway immediately begins to play a detrimental role to the aquatic species and environmental conditions. Dumping the water and shells creates a harmful nutrient overload situation, stimulates pathogens and creates hypoxic conditions for the aquatic species, where depletion of dissolved oxygen can suffocate those species, causing fish kills.

There are wiser, better alternatives.

Crawfish shells should be double-bagged and placed in a trash can with a secure lid so that raccoons and other critters don't cause a mess. As an alternative, crawfish shells can be buried on a landowner's personal property as an environmentally friendly composting option that adds oxygen and nutrients to the soil. Just ensure that the burial is fully covered and isn't near a ditch or water body. Try to add hay, grass, mulch or topsoil as an added cover so that odors are reduced along with the potential for subsequent disturbance by animals or humans.

Boil water, however, should be deposited down a kitchen sink for residences that are on a public sewage system. Be sure to remove all solids from the boil water before pouring it down the sink drain. Public wastewater treatment systems are equipped to process wastewater and treat the constituents in the boil water.

For those not on a city sewage system, the boil water should not be poured down the sink, as private systems are not equipped to handle the breakdown. Instead, the water may be poured into a grassy or weeded area on your own property away from any bayou, ditch, or body of water.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program provides some additional background on proper disposal. Please visit their website and informational page at <https://btnep.org/2019/03/28/crawfish-dont-belong-in-the-bayou>.



After a seafood boil, the boil water, shells and additional solid waste matter should be properly disposed of to prevent damage to aquatic species and the environment.



Metal markers are affixed to many storm drains, advising citizens of the direct impact to waterways that dumping brings.



LDEQ attorney Mike Daniels receives Everyday Hero Award from Keep Louisiana Beautiful

On Feb. 9, Mike Daniels received the Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) Litter Enforcement Recognition Award at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) headquarters. KLB Executive Director Susan Russell presented the award to Daniels.

This award recognizes law enforcement personnel who are successful at enforcing state, parish or city litter and illegal dumping laws. Daniels served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Aquatic Litter Alliance and co-created the Louisiana Local Government Litter Ordinance Handbook, a resource for all municipalities in Louisiana and a tool for more consistent, comprehensive environment ordinances. Daniels has worked for the last 11 years with the LDEQ as a Criminal Enforcement Counsel. Before that, he worked as an Assistant Attorney General for Louisiana for nine years. His tenure is marked by successes in prosecuting “Green Crimes” and highlighted by his relentless pursuit of law enforcement on litter, emissions, waste tires and illegal dumping.



KLB Executive Director Susan Russell presented the KLB Litter Enforcement Recognition Award to Mike Daniels.

“Keep Louisiana Beautiful and Daniels began working together to support litter enforcement over six years ago,” KLB Executive Director Susan Russell said. “Since that time, he has presented at three KLB conferences and has made himself available to the state office whenever his expertise is needed.”

Daniels led a team of agencies to tour the state to educate, motivate and support the enforcement of environmental enforcement laws.

“He is a champion for a clean and pollutant-free Louisiana,” Russell said.

Other Everyday Heroes Honorees were:

- Alice Foster Award** – Stuart Hodnett, city of Monroe
- Golden Can Award** – Dr. Mark Benfield, LSU, Baton Rouge
- Most Innovative Program Award** – CompostNOW, New Orleans
- Youth Leadership Award** – Tre Bishop, Lafayette
- Outstanding Affiliate Award** – Keep Assumption Beautiful, Assumption Parish
- Outstanding Affiliate Director Award** – Charlene Beckett, Abbeville
- Corporate Leadership Award** – Blue Cross Blue Shield, Baton Rouge

All Everyday Hero Awards were presented in accordance with COVID-19 Precautions.

If you are interested in knowing more about these awards and honorees, please go to the KLB website <http://www.KeepLouisianaBeautiful.org>.



Perry Theriot retires from LDEQ's Legal Affairs and Criminal Investigation Section

Theriot joined LDEQ in 1994 after serving with the 22nd JDC District Attorney's Office in Covington. Upon joining LDEQ, Theriot was assigned to assist the Criminal Investigation and the Waste sections. Throughout his tenure with LDEQ, he served as supervisor of the Permits Section of Legal, the Enforcement Section of Legal, the Remediation Section in Legal and as Ombudsman.

Theriot has represented the Fuels Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Board for 20 years. He has represented Louisiana on the Tanks Subcommittee and as a state representative to the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Officials (ASTSWMO). During that time, he presented the legal updates presentation at four National Tanks Conferences. Theriot found working to clean up contaminated sites rewarding.

LDEQ wishes Theriot the very best in retirement and thanks him for his long and dedicated service to the state of Louisiana.



Perry Theriot

LDEQ hosts fundraising efforts benefiting American Heart Association

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) kicked off its annual American Heart Association (AHA) fundraising efforts on Feb. 10. This year's campaign activities will look a little different in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the need to accommodate the safety restrictions that come with it. However, LDEQ encourages employees to participate when and where they can.

The fundraising campaign will last through April 9. Ways to contribute include:

50/50 Jar for Hearts Drawing

Buy a heart for \$1 and enter your name to win 50% of total amount collected! \$1 per heart = one entry to win! Display your hearts at home or the office, and don't forget to send Terry Thomas pictures!

Two drawings will take place on April 7 – one winner for Headquarters' participants and one for the regional offices' participants. The drawings will be videoed, and the link to view it will be included with the email announcement of winners.

- 50% of Headquarters' donations go to the Headquarters winner
- 50% of donations from the regional offices go to the regional winner
- 50% of the total donations (Headquarters and regions combined) go to the American Heart Association

When can you purchase hearts at Headquarters: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where can you purchase hearts at Headquarters: Monday & Wednesday - 9th floor, Undersecretary lobby
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday locations are "To be announced," so check your email

Continued on page 12



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



February 2021 Issue Number: 109

LDEQ's "Snack Shack"

\$1 snacks for sale! Chips, cookies, crackers, candy and soft drinks

When can you purchase snacks at Headquarters: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where can you purchase snacks at Headquarters: Monday & Wednesday - 9th floor, Undersecretary lobby
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday locations are "To be announced,"
so check your email

Name that Baby

This is a new activity. Five participants from each LDEQ office (i.e., Office of the Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, etc.) will submit a baby picture of themselves. You will get the opportunity to guess the identity of each baby picture submitted. It is \$1 for one guess. Whoever guesses the most pictures/babies correctly wins. More information will be sent when the competition kicks-off on March 10.

Other Monetary Donations

If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please contact Terry Thomas or Emily Barthelemy.

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Who's Who At LDEQ?



Karley Vinson – Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Air Enforcement Division, Office of Environmental Compliance

Originally from Lake Charles, Vinson moved to Baton Rouge in 2010 for undergraduate school at LSU. In 2014, she earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental management systems with a minor in business administration. Vinson was a program specialist for Louisiana Coastal Protection and Recovery Authority (CPRA) before joining the chemical accident prevention program section with LDEQ in 2016. She was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist Supervisor in the Air Enforcement Division in the Office of Environmental Compliance.

She enjoys spending time with family and friends, yoga, tennis, cooking, gardening, traveling and hiking.

Michael Wiley – Environmental Scientist IV, Surveillance Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, Bayou Lafourche Office

Wiley is a Pineville native who moved to Thibodaux in 2001 to attend Nicholls State University. There he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Master of Science degree in marine and environmental biology. Since graduating in 2007, he has taught middle school science and history. He also worked as an environmental consultant before coming to LDEQ in 2013 during the Deepwater Horizon response.

He has a large family and enjoys cooking, reading fantasy and historical fiction, and playing Dungeons & Dragons. He also dabbles in gardening, archery, and woodturning.



Jill Carter – Attorney/Supervisor, Permit Section, Legal Division, Office of the Secretary

Carter started working at LDEQ as an attorney in December 2013, after being in private practice for three years. Prior to going to law school, she worked in a chemical plant as a lab tech for 15 years. At the chemical plant, she was a member of the audit and safety committees and the facilitator for the behavior-based safety program.

She is a graduate of McNeese State University and Southern University Law Center. "I have met many wonderful and interesting people while working at LDEQ, especially my future husband, Russell Clark."



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



February 2021 Issue Number: 109

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

Fourth Quarter 2020 Enforcement Actions:

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

Fourth Quarter 2020 Settlement Agreements:

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

Fourth Quarter 2020 Air Permits:

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

Fourth Quarter 2020 Water Permits:

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

Fourth Quarter 2020 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

