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LDEQ acquires a Mobile Source Trailer for radiation education

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) recently received a donation in the form of a Mobile Source Trailer by the Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratory. The \$96,049 Mobile Source Trailer is a resource for LDEQ to practice radiation safety. It will also serve as an official command center for the agency while on the road. LDEQ hopes to use the trailer to teach the public about harmful radiation and ways in which the agency can help combat it.

LDEQ employees first saw the trailer at a joint demonstration with Louisiana first responders on Jan. 11. "This trailer will be a huge resource for us to train and educate both the general public and responding agencies about radiation effects, safety and applications," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said after touring the Mobile Source Trailer at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHSEP).

Jerry Lang, LDEQ Administrator for Emergency Response and Radiation, said the trailer will be used for radiation outreach to inform the general public and responding agencies about basic radiation, effects of radiation, safety and even jobs that involve radioactive material. "The trailer will also be used to train radiation inspectors and license writers. New LDEQ radiation employees will be able to have hands-on training outside of normal inspections," Lang said. "Trainings using the mobile trailer will provide participatory experience on how radiation is used in the field. Having these assets will allow the radiation section to conduct mock inspections and incidents to benefit all inspectors, new and old. The industrial radiography camera will be extremely useful in re-enactments of certain incidents to see how and why certain exposures or failures happened."



Environmental Scientist Senior Daniel Lambert, LDEQ Administrator for Emergency Response and Radiation Jerry Lang, and LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown admire new radiation equipment for the Mobile Source Trailer.

The trailer comes with plenty of useful radiation technological gadgets. It is equipped with a mock QSA industrial radiography camera with crank-out and tubing,

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mock Instrotek soil moisture density gauge, mock Cs-137 source, mock Co-60 pencil source, mock pigtail sources, mock encapsulated sources, mock personnel radiation detector (PRD) kit, simulated source detection kit, two large monitors, laptop, digital projector and enough tables and chairs to support a 20-person class.



The Mobile Source Trailer

All of the equipment simulates devices with sealed radiation sources that are routinely deployed in construction, industrial and medical applications. Soil moisture density gauges are used in soil density and compaction studies for road or building construction, industrial radiography cameras are used for X-raying the integrity of welds on pipe and are widely used in the oil and gas industry and in chemical and refining plants. All the different types of sealed sources are used in medical therapy procedures, portable and fixed gauges, industrial cameras and well logging activities.

“Louisiana is the first U.S. state to acquire a Mobile Sources Trailer. Usually the trailers are reserved for first responders,” LDEQ Radiation Supervisor Paula Lang said. An identical trailer was also donated to GOHSEP.

The first use of the Mobile Source Trailer by LDEQ personnel will be Feb. 1 in Woodworth. LDEQ radiation staff are excited to get to use our new trailer and it will soon don the LDEQ logo on its side.

Louisiana Environmental Conference and Trade Fair being held in March

The Louisiana Solid Waste Association and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) are pleased to announce the upcoming Louisiana Environmental Conference and Trade Fair scheduled March 15-17, 2023, at the Cajun Dome Convention Center in Lafayette.

The conference will feature a varied agenda and classes including environmental justice tools, certified operators training, emergency debris management, landfill closures and regulatory updates and much more. CEUs will be available for Solid Waste Operators, Engineers and Geologists. Mandatory Ethics Training will be available for public employees.

There will be a golf tournament sponsored by K&L Environmental Solutions Wednesday afternoon, reception Wednesday night co-sponsored by LSWA and, of course, Thursday night vendor-sponsored hospitality night. To register, be an exhibitor and for any additional conference-related information, go to the LSWA website at www.LSWA.us.



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

With the up and down weather we have in Louisiana in winter, it's always a risk to hold an outdoor event this time of year. Arbor Day, Jan. 20, was definitely one of the down days temperature-wise. That didn't stop a shivering contingent of federal, state and local officials from convening under an open awning in the middle of Kisatchie National Forest in Vernon Parish. The group was there to celebrate a corporate gift (\$25 million over five years from natural gas producer Tellurian) to help reforest longleaf pine habitats with re-plantings of 300,000 longleaf pine seedlings at Kisatchie National Forest. The area was devastated by Hurricane Laura in 2020.

And while he was speaking to the gathered officials, Tellurian Chairman Charif Souki committed to contributing another \$100 million to fund reforestation efforts. Souki's company is headquartered in Houston. He noted that his company is an emitter of greenhouse gases. But, he said, one way of the best ways to remove GHGs from the environment is by establishing healthy stands of trees that can absorb the gas.

The donation will go directly to the National Forest Foundation (NFF). According to NFF Executive Vice President Ray A. Foote, it's the largest single donation to the foundation in its history and will enable the foundation to "plant 13 million trees, expand tree nursery capacity, and improve forests' ability to hold carbon which is a critical natural climate solution." Foote said he hopes the action will help pave the way toward recognized carbon credits from public lands.

Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Mike Strain, Louisiana Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries Jack Montoucet and I were there to participate in the tree-planting and ceremony. We listened to speeches by Ken Arney, regional forester for the United States Department of Agriculture Forestry Service, and Lisa Lewis, forest supervisor of Kisatchie National Forest, as well as Souki. According to NFF, National Forests include 193 million acres nationwide, providing extensive ecosystem services including drinking water, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat and more. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service, these public lands are threatened by unnaturally severe wildfire, blight and pests. The NFF and its partners work to counter these threats to ensure more resilient, productive and beautiful forests. With the major growth in interest in tree planting, Forest Service nurseries have struggled to produce enough seedlings to meet demand.

The Tellurian donations will help NFF meet the demand for seedlings. Eventually those seedlings will grow into mature trees. We don't live in National Forests, at least most of us don't, but tree plantings can bring the same environmental benefits in urban and suburban settings in more modest plantings. Trees not only provide the benefits touted by NFF, they help shrink urban heat islands, keeping us cooler in summer and lowering our energy use for cooling. And you can help. All you need is a convenient spot – in your yard or garden – and a shovel. Now is a great time to plant a tree. Pick a native species for the most environmental benefit.

Be safe

We had several holidays during the past month, and now we're headed into February. We have another big Louisiana holiday this month, Mardi Gras on Feb. 21. State offices will be closed that day. There will be parades and parties between now and then. Enjoy the season, but be careful and stay safe.



Uprooted felled trees are scattered across the forest floor in Kisatchie National Forest near Fort Polk. Splintered shafts of hurricane damaged longleaf pines offer evidence of the power of Hurricane Laura in 2020.



Grassroots effort yields success in lake restoration effort



Sediment erosion from fields impacted water quality at Lake Providence.

In northeast Louisiana, the Mississippi River is a presence in many forms, most of them benign. Through the eons, the big river's floods left behind alluvial soil deposits that make the region's delta area some of the richest farmland on earth. The flat topography is a crazy quilt of lush, green fields of soybeans, corn and cotton – cash crops for generations.

Sometimes the river leaves more. Sometimes it changes course and leaves behind a little piece of the old river channel that becomes an oxbow lake. That's what happened at East Carroll Parish's Lake Providence, a village nestled up to its namesake, a 1,400-acre comma-shaped oxbow lake with the town at the south end. For local people, lake living presented an ideal situation. Top notch fishing and water recreation was right on their doorsteps. But in the second decade of this century, the water quality showed a decline. Those fields so vital to the local economy were contributing runoff that was affecting water quality in the lake. The lake's watershed drains 14,000 acres.

"Landowners around the lake who were unhappy with what was happening with the fish approached the legislature," said Aimee Preau, LDEQ's manager for Water Quality Monitoring in Lake Providence. The grassroots push for cleaner water resulted in a classic success story.

The Lake Providence Watershed Council (LPWC) was formed as a result of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 115 of 2015. The LPWC comprises 15 appointees tasked with facilitating the goal of improving the aquatic habitat of Lake Providence and providing recommendations to: 1) Minimize impacts to water quality, 2) Reduce excess nutrient and sediment run-off, 3) Enhance shoreline modifications, and 4) Restore aquatic habitats.

The LPWC named the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a federal partner for agricultural best management practice (BMP) implementation. LDEQ also was named a partner and, through its Nonpoint Source Pollution Program and Water Surveys, monitored Lake Providence and analyzed water quality at sites around the lake to help target conservation practices.

"NRCS reached out to farmers to get them involved doing the BMPs," Preau said. "We were partners, but it sprang up from local effort."

Data collected in 2013–2014 at the LDEQ ambient monitoring site at the Tensas Bayou bridge indicated that total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations exceeded the state's water quality standard for fish and wildlife propagation (FWP) at Lake Providence. As a result, in 2016 LDEQ added the Lake Providence TDS impairment to its Integrated Report. LDEQ began the Water Quality Monitoring in Lake Providence project. LDEQ Water Surveys staff conducted 80 monitoring events sampling for nutrients, sediment, and other parameters at 11 sites in the lake. Analytical results were presented to stakeholders during the project to illustrate water quality changes.

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“The impaired use was fish propagation,” Preau said. “We use a formula to consider TDS (from sampling) to determine fish and wildlife propagation.” The years long joint effort paid off and the impairment was removed from the 2020 Integrated Report.

On Dec. 5, 2022, LDEQ sent a letter to EPA Region 6 Water Division advising the federal agency that “In support of partnership efforts to reduce runoff through conservation practices and restore water quality, the goals of this project were to characterize water quality conditions throughout the lake and to track water quality changes over time. Project objectives were to 1) Establish water quality conditions for each site for the parameters of interest; 2) Identify the site(s) with the highest concentrations of sediment and nutrients; 3) Determine if there is a geographical or temporal component to the impairment; and 4) Quantify water quality changes over time. All objectives were achieved during the project period.”



Homes and fields border many sections of the lakeshore.

“One of most impactful things was monitoring and presenting the data. LDEQ went up there to show them which sites showed the highest concentrations of runoff,” Preau said. “I like to think that that education effort was useful in getting more of producers onboard.”

“More” is an understatement. One hundred percent of the producers signed on to the conservation practice implementation, according to the NRCS.

EPA touts the “Nonpoint Success Story” in a two-page brochure on its website, www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/documents/la_lake_providence_1907_508.pdf.

Love the Boot Week Cleanup Registration is open

Love the Boot Week registration opened Monday, Jan. 23. This is your opportunity to work with others to #LovetheBoot and clean up Louisiana.

Keep Louisiana Beautiful has scheduled the 2nd annual Love the Boot Week, April 17-23. Registration is open at www.lovetheboot.org, so mark your calendars and start planning your cleanup and beautification events. Be a part of helping to make Louisiana the best it can be.

The first 250 groups (schools, businesses, local governments, etc.) to register an event will receive a cleanup kit with shirts, bags, and gloves. The first 100 households (individuals and families) to register an event will receive a day pass from Louisiana State Parks. For those wishing to learn more about Love the Boot Week, visit the Keep Louisiana Beautiful website at www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org.



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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LDEQ's mission to protect Louisiana's environment continues in 2023

It's a new year at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), and the agency's standing commitment to protect the environment of Louisiana continues to inform its agenda. Protecting the environment has many moving parts, from the Governor's Task Force for Litter to emergency response to many incidents, to protecting the water and air, to issuing permits, to overseeing compliance, to holding public meetings and to serving the public -- all to improve the environment and quality of life for Louisiana citizens.

LDEQ has regional offices scattered around the state: in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Monroe, Shreveport, Lafayette and Lake Charles as well as the Kisatchie satellite office in Pineville and the Bayou Lafourche office. These multiple locations allow LDEQ to respond to incidents, inspect facilities and be available to the public around the state. For more information about these offices, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/directory/office/regional-offices.

Air Quality is an important quality of life component in Louisiana. While the air quality is the best it has been since the 1970 enactment of the Clean Air Act, there is still room for more improvement. LDEQ provides the public with several ways to keep up with air quality on a real time basis and to be warned when the air quality is poor. Anyone can go to airquality.deq.louisiana.gov to get real-time data on Louisiana's air quality. There you can find current air quality data, AQ forecast by region or site, regional 8-hour and regional hourly ozone data, site data, including real-time data from the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab (MAML), and sign up for notification on ozone, PM 2.5 and/or Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) data.

Air quality affects how we live and breathe. Like the weather, it can change day-to-day and hour-to-hour. Up-to-date information allows you to make decisions based on air quality forecasts. It is free and easy to obtain those forecasts.

EnviroFlash is a free electronic information system designed to communicate environmental issues to the public. EnviroFlash is a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. It provides air quality information that citizens can customize for their own needs, allowing them to take steps that can protect the health of their family. It provides this information via e-mail or text. This tool is available free to the public, and it is easy to subscribe.

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 (PM_{2.5}) levels. The system can also send 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 to receive these air quality notifications in their area: Baton Rouge, Shreveport, New Orleans, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Monroe, Thibodaux or Lafayette. Be air aware in 2023.

Commuter Krewe offers solutions for your trip to work

Is traffic to and from work getting you down? Are you spending too much time in traffic? If it is a problem now, it will be more difficult once the lanes are closed due to work on improving the interstate system.

There is a solution to this dilemma. Commuter Krewe, a service of the Capital Region Planning Commission Rideshare Program, offers help and solutions to your commute. You can find carpool riders going your way. You can save time, money, aggravation and help reduce traffic congestion and air pollution when you become a member of a carpool. For more information you can visit their website at www.commuterkrewe.la or call 225-344-ride (7433). Commuter Krewe can help with carpool matching, Emergency Ride Home, materials and website resources.



The New Year presents new opportunities for learning at LUMCON

The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) is a unique resource for Louisiana and the world.

The LUMCON DeFelice Marine Center's location is situated to promote research and learning about coastal and marine environments in the Gulf of Mexico. Its location is on the upper end of Terrebonne Bay, and its proximity to the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River deltas, coastal wetlands and estuaries and coastal waters to the deep water Gulf makes it an ideal place for experimental and field research based on marine science.

"LUMCON's scientific mission is to promote, facilitate and conduct research in marine and coastal sciences relevant to the sustainability of coastal and marine environments in the Gulf of Mexico," according to the LUMCON website.

There are many learning opportunities presented throughout the year for undergraduate students. This year LUMCON has three summer opportunities, which include stays at LUMCON, varying with the opportunity.

They are:

LUMCON REU Program in Interdisciplinary Research Experiences in Louisiana's Changing Coastal Environments: Any students attending university in the fall semester are eligible to spend 10 weeks at LUMCON during the summer conducting research and learning about careers in the sciences. All experiences are customized based on the applicant and the mentor that they are paired with. For example, past REU students have had projects focusing on shrimp respiration, deep-sea community composition and coastal nitrogen cycling. Visit the **REU webpage** or contact the REU Director for more information about the REU program.

LUMCON STEM Preparedness Program: LUMCON's STEM Prep program is a six-week residential summer program to help freshmen or sophomore level undergraduate students, especially those from populations that are underserved and underrepresented in the marine sciences, who are seeking an opportunity to gain work experience and learn skills to advance their academic and career goals in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields within marine and/or environmental science. Find more program information and application details on the **program webpage**. **Applicants must be a student currently enrolled at a Louisiana institution.*

Caribbean Marine Ecology (May 22 – June 2, 2023): This is an intensive 10-day, field-oriented course for Louisiana students focused on understanding the ecosystem services provided by terrestrial and aquatic environments endemic to the Caribbean region. Specifically, students will explore the cultural, health, economic and ecological importance of Bahamian ecosystems, and learn about the role that humans play in influencing these environments. Students will explore course content through daily field activities, lab analyses, guest lectures, tours and self-reflection. Find more course information and details by visiting **our website**. The deadline to apply is Feb. 17, 2023. **Applicants must be a student currently enrolled at a Louisiana institution.*

Source: LUMCON website

If you are interested in any of these programs, go to the LUMCON website **LUMCON.edu/reu**. Check this page for applications, deadlines and more information. Applicant must be a student currently enrolled in a Louisiana University.

There are many opportunities to access and learn from LUMCON – a resource with unique access to the marine world, its variety and issues.



Who's Who At LDEQ?



Ka'Thaidra Robertson – Environmental Scientist III, Water Planning and Assessment Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

Robertson, a Port Allen native, graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana with a Bachelor of Science in biology/pre/med and a minor in chemistry. Prior to joining LDEQ, Robertson worked as a quality control chemist and laboratory analyst/technician in Louisiana chemical plants.

In her spare time, “Thai” as she prefers to be called, enjoys spending time with family, home renovation projects and watching interesting documentaries.

Samuel Stutes – Geologist III, Remediation Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

Stutes is a native of Morse and graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in geology. Before joining LDEQ, Stutes worked in environmental consulting for seven years.

In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking and spending time with his wife.



Olivia Wall – Environmental Scientist, Water Enforcement, Office of Environmental Compliance

Wall has a Bachelor of Science from LSU in natural resource management with a concentration in Wildlife Ecology. Before joining LDEQ, she worked for two years in environmental consulting which consisted of, but was not limited to, two years of environmental consulting on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES), offshore oil and gas exploration and development compliance assistance and client specific field research. Wall has more than 10 years of client relations and customer service experience and more than five years in handling and trapping wildlife and domestic animals. Wall is certified in CPR and licensed to operate ATVs and outboard/inboard motorboats.



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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

Fourth Quarter 2022 Enforcement Actions:

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

Fourth Quarter 2022 Settlement Agreements:

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

Fourth Quarter 2022 Air Permits:

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

Fourth Quarter 2022 Water Permits:

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

Fourth Quarter 2022 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

