



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



December 2014 Issue Number: 35

## What's Inside?

DEQ improves response time with Smartphones

Louisiana Trash Free Waters working group meets in Alexandria

Criminal Investigation Division 2014

DEQ's Northeastern Regional Office has a new home

Disappearing water makes good environmental sense

DEQ conducts a watershed survey of the Yellow Water River drainage basin in Tangipahoa Parish

DEQ's Chili Cook-off raises money for United Way

Who's Who At DEQ?



If you would like to subscribe to Discover DEQ, send an email to [sectcommunications@mail.la.gov](mailto:sectcommunications@mail.la.gov)

**Know about your air quality! Sign up for EnviroFlash and receive air quality notifications by email or phone. Go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash).**

## DEQ improves response time with Smartphones

DEQ is always looking for affordable, efficient ways to better serve the state and improve response time to incidents and complaints and they have found 19 ways to do just that.

A total of 19 smartphones were purchased for the agency; eight for emergency responders, eight for regional offices that weekend ER responders cover, one for SPOC, one for the Emergency Response Manager, and one for the Emergency Response Supervisor. The SPOC phone is programmed with a louder notification tone that sounds when it receives an email from the LSP. On the weekends and after hours, LSP will email SPOC with emergency information. SPOC will then triage the call and forward the email to the appropriate responders in the regional offices.

"We have wanted to do this for a few years because we saw the benefits of using smart phones," said Chad Scroggs, Emergency Response Section Supervisor. "Since the legislature mandated it, it has been easier to accomplish this."

In 2014, the legislature passed Senate bill 537, Act 311, which allows for the development of an electronic notification system in response to the release of hazardous materials in the state. The prior law allowed for proper notification of the release of hazardous materials to be done by phone.

The mandate to develop an electronic notification system allowed DEQ to proceed with some much needed upgrades in the emergency notification system. Louisiana State Police (LSP) has developed a system that will allow for notification of releases by email, not necessarily a phone call. Since the LSP notifies the DEQ Single Point of Contact line (SPOC) after hours and on weekends, notification by email of an emergency might have been a problem, but the DEQ Emergency Response Section decided to replace their phones with smart phones.

These smart phones have many benefits. Since the responders are receiving emails, there is no information lost in the translation from one person to another. All of the original information is kept intact as it is passed along. This has streamlined the process and made it more efficient and will allow for quicker, more accurate responses and response time. Each phone is also a hot spot and has text capabilities. The hot spot will allow the responders to use their laptops at a site to do such things as plume modeling, chemical research and a variety of incident response functions. Each phone is also equipped with

*Continued on page 2*



a camera that will allow the responders to take pictures at an incident. The phones will be maintained by the Emergency Response section of the DEQ Assessment Division.

“The phones are an enhanced response tool for our ER responders in the field,” said Bryan Riche, Emergency Response Manager. “They enhance response time and tracking and are excellent tools for our responders.”

Another benefit of using the phones is the cost savings to the department. It is estimated that each phone is saving \$30 per line per month. DEQ was able to give up the older Mifi (similar to today’s WiFi) devices and has no need for digital cameras.

Switching to email notification and smart phones is a good addition the efficiency of the Emergency Response Sections throughout the state. While phone calls can still be used for notifications, email notifications will help streamline information from industry and citizens to the department.



*Kevin Borne, DEQ emergency responder, uses his smartphone to take a call.*

## Louisiana Trash Free Waters working group meets in Alexandria

“It’s heartbreaking,” said Alexandria Mayor Jacques Roy to a diverse group of the litter working group participants from around the state. Mayor Roy was discussing the litter that “creates a hazard to the city by causing flooding” among other things. Mayor Roy said that 70 percent of the stormwater runoff in Alexandria drains into the Chatlin Canal, gets caught and causes back ups and flooding.

This was just one of the many stories and comments aired during the meeting, convened to discuss the program, look for workable solutions and create an ordinance that could be used for litter enforcement. It was a spirited discussion.

Dr. David Cheramie, CEO of the Bayou Vermilion District; Susan Russell, executive director of Keep Louisiana Beautiful; and Byron Cammack, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, discussed the scope of the problem. Cheramie spoke about the economic impact of litter.

“Our district is funded by a millage that brings in about \$1.3 million a year – approximately half of that goes directly to picking up trash in the bayou,” said Cheramie. “We are doing outreach – going into the schools and talking about watersheds and healthy environment. It is all about getting the (litter) ordinances out of the books and onto the streets. Litter takes away the great quality of life we have in Louisiana.”

Russell said that litter costs in Louisiana are 40 million dollars per year – and that covers just direct costs. There are many indirect costs such as tourism losses, loss of quality of life and more. The estimated cost for the whole country is \$11.5 billion a year.



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



December 2014 Issue Number: 35

“It’s about all working together to tackle the problem,” Russell said. “We are all in this together.”

“I hate litter,” said Byron Cammack of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. “I work in Rapides Parish and I write a lot of litter tickets. I know it when I see it and when I do I examine it for clues.”

There are a lot of repeat offenders – “the same people, dumping in the same place until they get caught.”

Cammack said that many times there is loss of land use, such as parks, where access can be denied because of littering.



*Alexandria Major Jaques Roy, left, and David Gill, director of Public Works, speak at the Trash Free Waters meeting.*

The group then got a comprehensive look at the current ordinances in the state from Mike Daniels, attorney in the Criminal Investigation Division of DEQ.

After lunch, the group heard from Jenni Peterman, Justice of the Peace with the Rapides Parish Litter Court; and Rick Moore, Administrator of St. Tammany Parish Litter Court, about how these courts help with litter enforcement.

“This is a hands-on, face-to-face way of confronting litter,” said Peterman. “We require cleanup of the mess and fines.” Peterman said they prosecute under Title 30 of the state law and have to have a good working relationship with the district attorney. The cases they handle are simple and intentional littering but the gross littering cases are handled by the district attorney’s office.

Moore, who is a constable in the St. Tammany Parish and administrator of the Litter Court said, “In our parish alone, there were 632 cases in 2013-14, and we prosecuted 370 and collected \$28,825 in fines. We aggressively attack litter in our parish.”

There are three active justices of the peace and five constables who work for the St. Tammany court. Their focus is to educate, abate and enforce. They adopted the state litter law and made it an enforceable ordinance for St. Tammany Parish. They also visit the local schools to help the students understand about the harm of littering and the benefits of recycling.

The group, which included participants from the Louisiana Municipal Association, the City of Shreveport, Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association, Barataria National Estuary Program, Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District, Lafayette Consolidated Government, City of Baton Rouge, New Orleans City Government and Louisiana Bayoukeeper, was hosted by DEQ and representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The group settled on the “Louisiana Aquatic Litter Alliance” as a name for the working group and discussed the components for an enforceable, workable ordinance on litter. The group will reconvene in January to work continue on the ordinance.





## Criminal Investigation Division 2014

Throughout 2014, DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) investigated more than 90 leads, resulting in the conviction of 11 companies and individuals, with fines totaling up to \$1,162,400.

A total of 162 months of probation was handed down to defendants through the district courts as a result of CID's efforts, with \$375,000 in community service payments and \$1,000 in restitution payments obtained.

The division's community outreach endeavors also produced more than 100 hours of activities as well as more than 35 hours undertaken in criminal/administrative assistance in support of other agencies during 2014.

Under DEQ's charge, the division comprises a team of investigators and an attorney tasked with law enforcement and investigation of environmental crimes in the state. With the aid of local, state and federal law enforcement partners and parish district attorneys, CID investigates a variety of environmental crimes with the goal of stopping the activity and ensuring the safety of the public and the environment.

"Our investigations are varied and cover every corner of the state in all 64 parishes. Cases typically consist of illegal solid waste dumping activity, submission of fraudulent documentation, water permit violations and the illegal burning of solid waste," said Jeffrey Nolan, manager of DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division. "CID works together with our law enforcement and governmental partners to aggressively prosecute those found to be participating in environmental misconduct."

### CID's cases over the past year



*Abandoned cylinders containing compressed gas were discovered inside the Stillwater Consultants warehouse in Roanoke, Louisiana.*

**In June 2014, a New Jersey man and Louisiana man were arrested for the illegal disposal of harmful substances.**

George L. Ryals III, 62, of Newton, New Jersey, president of Stillwater Consultants, LLC was alleged to have abandoned a large number of compressed gas cylinders containing poisonous gases and other wastes at a warehouse leased by Stillwater Consultants located in Jefferson Davis Parish. A second suspect in the case, Michael Anaker, 55, of Sulphur, was also arrested for identical charges.

The owner of the leased warehouse, Crop Production Services (CPS), evicted Stillwater Consultants, Ryals and Anaker in June 2009 for failure to pay rent. In July 2009, representatives of CPS visited the property and found that over 500 compressed gas cylinders and several drums of waste oil had been abandoned inside the warehouse. Under

*Continued on page 5*



December 2014 Issue Number: 35

DEQ regulations, abandonment of wastes is considered disposal.

The cylinders contained chlorine, cyanogen chloride, cyanogen, phosgene, arsenic pentafluoride, sodium cyanide, and hydrogen cyanide. Many of the cylinders were in poor, deteriorating condition and in danger of leaking.

Due to the hazards, DEQ issued a Declaration of Emergency on Aug. 14, 2009, which required CPS to mitigate and remove the substances. CPS cooperated fully with the subsequent cleanup and investigation and the remediation of the warehouse was completed in December 2009, at a cost of over one million dollars to CPS.



*Additional abandoned cylinders containing hazardous materials were confiscated and identified.*

CID, the Louisiana State Police, EPA's Criminal Investigation Division and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office participated in the investigation.

If convicted of the crime of knowingly disposing of a substance that endangers or that could endanger human life or health, Ryals and Anaker face possible imprisonment for not more than 10 years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$100,000, or both. The case is currently being prosecuted by the Jefferson Davis Parish District Attorney's Office and DEQ Criminal Enforcement Counsel Mike Daniels.

### **In April 2014, a Grant Parish man was arrested for illegal disposal of septic tank wastes and sewage.**

CID agents, Grant Parish Sheriff's deputies and troopers from State Police Troop E arrested Whirley Austin Walker, 61, of Pollock, in conjunction with a search warrant executed at his residence.

Walker is alleged to have used his tank truck equipment to transport septic tank wastes and sewage and illegally dispose of the materials on vacant property he owns on La. 8, across from 4-H Camp Grant Walker.

The case is currently being prosecuted by the Grant Parish District Attorney's Office.

### **In March 2014, seven people were arrested by the Louisiana Environmental Crimes Task Force for knowingly filing or maintaining false public records in connection with the vehicle emissions program.**

Investigators from DEQ-CID, EPA and the Department of Public Safety conducted the multi-agency investigation which focused on three businesses: Terry's Exxon, 117 N. Airline Highway, Gonzales; Mudiea's Car Care, 4149 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge; and Franklin's Auto, 2154 Monroe Ave., Baton Rouge.

The seven individuals were all arrested on various counts of filing a false public document. Arrests at Terry's Exxon included Yolande Ledet, 44, on 65 counts, and Chad Ledet, 41, on 29 counts. Arrests at Mudiea's Car Care included Duc "Michael" Nguyen, 24, on 28 counts; Canh Nguyen, 48, on nine counts; Haytham Amous, 48, on five

*Continued on page 6*



counts; and Hoc D. Nguyen, 51, on 69 counts. Arrests at Franklin's Auto included Jerry Franklin, 34, on 38 counts, and Michael Edwards, 38, on 24 counts.

Under state law, owners of vehicles registered in the five-parish ozone non-attainment area of East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension, Iberville, and West Baton Rouge parishes are required to participate in annual vehicle emissions testing during their annual vehicle safety inspection at state-certified testing locations. The vehicle emissions program is designed to identify vehicles with emissions equipment problems. Vehicles with partially or non-functioning emissions equipment contribute to high ozone levels in the five-parish non-attainment area.

The case is currently being prosecuted by the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office.

### **In November 2014, the Washington Parish School Board agreed to a deferred prosecution as a result of violations of the Clean Air Act.**

In 2011, the Washington Parish School Board ordered the demolition of Old Pine High School in Franklinton. The School Board had an asbestos management plan at the high school, which identified more than 31,000 square feet of floor tiles suspected of containing asbestos material. Asbestos material is regulated, and the Board failed to notify or report to DEQ its intention of demolishing the property. A joint investigation conducted by EPA-CID and DEQ-CID, who worked with the U.S. Attorney's Office, found that the demolition and failure to notify was in violation of Title 42 of the U.S. Code (The Clean Air Act) and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The Washington Parish School Board was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office. As a result, the Washington Parish School Board has had the site remediated and began conforming to several compliance requirements in the deferred prosecution agreement, including training and instituting standard operating procedures for the future handling of confirmed and suspected asbestos containing material in the remaining school board facilities, and during construction or demolition of new properties.

All parties agreed to a deferred prosecution time of up to two years and the matter is currently pending before U.S. District Judge Lance M. Africk. Assistant U.S. Attorney Emily K. Greenfield is in charge of the prosecution.

While CID is tasked with investigating a wide array of environmental crimes, most to involve illegal dumping or discharge of pollutants into or nearby state waterways. Phone calls and tips from the public are vital in assisting CID with the investigation as citizens are actually the frontline environmental watchdogs.





*The Northeast Regional Office is currently located at 508 Downing Pines Road in West Monroe.*

## DEQ's Northeastern Regional Office has a new home

Located less than a mile south of Interstate 20 in West Monroe, DEQ's Northeast Regional Office has settled in to a new home.

Formerly situated along a rural stretch of Louisiana Highway 546 in West Monroe, the Northeast Regional Office relocated this past summer, approximately 6 miles to the east on Downing Pines road. The move was made in order to establish a more visible location that better serves the citizens in the region. The new location is closer to the area's major population centers, West Monroe and Monroe.

The new location's proximity to major highways such as I-20, La. Highway 34 and U.S. 165 also offers a more easily accessible logistical base from which to conduct operations in northeastern Louisiana.

With a satellite office in Pineville, the Kisatchie Regional Office, the offices combine to cover a wide, 19-parish area in central and northeastern Louisiana. The region comprises the largest land mass in the state. The office's responsibility includes the parishes of Avoyelles, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, La Salle, Union, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll and Winn.

The office currently maintains a staff of 22 environmental scientists, a geologist and support personnel. Their primary mission is to conduct air, water, waste-related and underground storage tank inspections, remediation activities, and investigate facility and citizen inquiries under DEQ's purview. The staff includes an attorney, underground storage tank advisor and a small business representative that provide technical support.

Its distinct nature as a regional office means that the small staff must be well versed in a variety of tasks. They must have the ability to quickly and effectively respond to any environmentally related questions that may arise. These include emergency response calls such as train derailments, well blowouts, facility fires and spills, illegal dumping and highway accidents involving hazardous chemical spills.

The staff's primary daily responsibilities include conducting inspections and site visits related to air emissions, wastewater, hazardous waste and underground storage tanks. But a large part of their work is devoted to responding to various calls from the general public as well as industry representatives.

"We typically receive approximately 120 calls a month, and most concern sewage overflow questions, reports of waste tire piles and the burning of outdoor trash," said Casey Head, Environmental Scientist Supervisor. "Due to the variety of calls we receive, our staff is cross-trained and experienced in addressing a wide range of waste, air and water issues that may arise in the region."

For more information on DEQ's Northeast Regional Office, call (318) 362-5439 or send an email to: [neroadmin@la.gov](mailto:neroadmin@la.gov).



## Disappearing water makes good environmental sense

At first glance, it looks like any other gray concrete parking lot. On closer examination, however, it's clear that the lot across from the Winn Parish Courthouse in Winnfield is something different, something new. The surface of the lot looks like Rice Krispy Treats. It's an innovative material called "pervious concrete" that allows water to pass through while filtering out nonpoint source pollution.

The lot was constructed using a \$275,000 Clean Water Revolving Fund Loan from DEQ. The lot is about 20,000 square feet and holds around 50 cars.

"By volume, it's about 15 percent voids," said Henry Shuler of Shuler Consulting Company, project engineer for the lot. "It's very uncommon down here. Honestly, Louisiana is probably a little late to the game. It's very popular up in the Pacific Northwest where they get even more rainfall (than Louisiana). The Seattle metro area has got a ton of it."



*Project engineer Henry Shuler pours five gallons of water onto the pervious concrete parking lot adjacent to the Winn Parish Courthouse in Winnfield. The water soaked in almost instantaneously.*

The technique yields two big environmental gains, Shuler said. "Rather than having catch basins, culverts, typical drainage structures that tend to be very costly, the sub-base of the parking lot essentially functions as all of that, and a detention pond. You go to these shopping centers and see a parking lot with a large fountain in it. That's not actually for aesthetic reasons. That's part of their stormwater system. You don't see any of that over there, because it's under the parking lot. There are no pipes, nothing. The water hits the pavement, goes through it, and into the base layer beneath it – anywhere from a foot thick to three feet thick, the water is stored in the (crushed) rock."

"The filtration part is the other benefit. You get some drips, whatever, off an automobile. When it's a point source, you're washing all that straight into a water body whereas when you have this filtration into the dirt below the rock, it tends to get all of that out."

Like any good recipe, the secret to pervious concrete is in the ingredients: smaller rock or aggregate is used and very little sand. Shuler had heard of the technique in class in college years ago. "A professor brought it up," he said. While the material is slightly more expensive to use than regular concrete, it has benefits other than just the environmental ones. "Of the \$275,000, you're looking at about \$215,000 to pave it," he said, about 20 percent more than conventional concrete. Other costs included prep work, legal work, bond commission fees, etc.

"You have those secondary benefits that are non-monetary," Shuler said. "The more conventional stormwater handling – the catchbasins, the curb and gutter, all of that tends to be very expensive. It adds up."

*Continued on page 9*





And despite being 15 percent empty space, pervious concrete is strong. “A sack of Sakrete, like you get in a hardware store, is going to have a compressive breaking strength of about 3,000 pounds per square inch. This concrete tested at 2,800 pounds per square inch,” Shuler said. The material is designed for passenger vehicles only, not for heavy trucks, he said.

Another benefit is a safety and convenience factor. The pervious concrete soaks up water so quickly that rainwater doesn’t pool on it, and drivers don’t have to drive through pools nor parkers get their feet drenched when there is one of those Louisiana downpours. Shuler likes to demonstrate the sponging effect by dumping a five-gallon bucket of water on the lot. The water soaks in almost instantly.

The borders of the lot have been landscaped with Louisiana plants that are water-loving to help soak up the cached water under the lot. Louisiana Iris and palmetto plants are two that have been planted along the edges. The lot is located on the site of an old gas station and a police station, right across Main Street from the courthouse, Shuler said.



*Water-loving plants like palmetto and Louisiana iris were used in landscaping around the borders of the lot.*

## DEQ conducts a watershed survey of the Yellow Water River drainage basin in Tangipahoa Parish

In late October, Don Weinell, Environmental Scientist with DEQ’s Inspection Division, conducted wastewater visits at 10 businesses along U.S. 190 in Tangipahoa Parish. In these areas wastewater ultimately flows into the Yellow Water River drainage basin. The wastewater flows in a south and southeasterly direction into the Yellow Water River and connects to the Tickfaw River which empties into Lake Pontchartrain.

The inspections were unscheduled, courtesy follow up visits undertaken to meet with business owners. Weinell explained the importance of completing and filing their Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) with DEQ. The inspections are commonplace and sites rotate among the DEQ inspectors on both a scheduled and unscheduled basis. Weinell was revisiting permitted facilities, identified last year, whose discharges eventually drain into the Yellow Water River.

“Most of these facilities have a spotty or nonexistent history of submitting the required DMRs,” Weinell said. The DMR is a required document that must be completed and filed with DEQ either once a year or every six months, depending upon the business’ rate of wastewater emission. It must include wastewater discharge flow data and analytical results from the periodic sampling required by the permit.

*Continued on page 10*



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



December 2014 Issue Number: 35



*DEQ Environmental Scientist Don Weinell examines a wastewater treatment system and drainage ditch behind a business in Tangipahoa Parish.*

Businesses visited range from smaller “mom and pop” operations to larger businesses and even a few corporate chain locations. Weinell’s inspection list was varied. He visited a funeral home, a machine rental shop, a janitorial supply business, a dental office, a real estate appraisal office, an apartment complex, a tropical fish store, a plumbing business, a tractor supply company and a roadside saloon.

All of the businesses visited had a Class I General Sanitary Permit, which identifies facilities whose daily discharge of wastewater is 5,000 gallons or less.

All businesses not connected to a community wastewater treatment system are required to have a wastewater discharge permit if they are discharging to waters of the State. A requirement of the permit is that the business must submit a discharge monitoring report to DEQ under the

parameters stated in their permit. Failure to do so may result in penalties or fines issued through enforcement action.

The DMR submittal schedule is based upon the specific rate of wastewater flow that the business has. For example, if the rate of flow is 2,500 to 5,000 gallons per year, the business will be required to submit their DMR every six months. If the rate of flow is 2,500 gallons per year or less, then they must submit the DMR once a year.

Many sites have an underground extended aeration system that works to infuse oxygen into the wastewater, reducing and breaking down contaminants by aerobic digestion. Chlorine tablets are recommended to aid disinfection of the wastewater, so DEQ inspectors will explain the importance of this to permit holders.

“Our primary goal is to identify businesses that are in need of a wastewater treatment permit and meet with those businesses to explain the discharge monitoring report requirement,” said Weinell. “We also make periodic visits to ensure that permit holders understand the documentation and the significance of filing a thorough and timely discharge monitoring report with DEQ.”

Upon arriving at the business, the DEQ inspector checks their wastewater treatment system to verify proper operation and to see if any chlorination is being added to the system’s discharge line. The use of chlorine tablets is not a specific requirement of the permit, but it is often necessary to meet the fecal coliform bacterial limits of the permit. Larger facilities often use ultraviolet lights to meet the same goal, but chlorine tablets are more cost effective on smaller systems.

Next, the discharge point is observed and is usually found as a pipe emptying into a nearby ditch or adjacent field. At the discharge point, the inspector checks the flow of the pipe – looking for blockages or the presence of any sludge, sheen, foam, unusual color or smell. Odors and discoloration would generally indicate the presence of a

*Continued on page 11*



significant problem in the sewage system, so those issues will be noted in the field interview form and they will be relayed to the business owner.

Businesses may have a contractor conduct the tests and fill out their discharge monitoring report. It is ultimately the responsibility of the permit holder – usually the site owner or business owner – to timely and accurately submit the report in compliance with state regulations.

Those who fail to comply with filing a discharge monitoring report are referred to DEQ's Enforcement Division, who will contact with the business owner and seek compliance. Fines or additional penalties may be issued for repeated violations, and the ultimate goal is to ensure that all sites operating a wastewater treatment unit are complying with regulations in the protection of human health and the environment.

## DEQ's Chili Cook-off raises money for United Way

Hot homemade chili was the order of the day as the Chili Cook-off Contest, a popular lunchtime activity hosted each year by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, was held at the agency's headquarters building on Nov. 13.

The event is part of DEQ's yearly fundraising activities for the United Way, and eight DEQ employees donned their aprons for the chance to compete and showcase their unique recipes. An impartial panel of four self-proclaimed "hot chili experts," served as judges who sampled each concoction, took careful notes and tendered their decisions for the top 3 winners.

The judges were Kylie Dixon, WBRZ morning co-anchor; Jay Grymes, WAFB's chief meteorologist; Greg Langley, DEQ Press Secretary; and Kenny Kimball, DEQ's reigning seven-time hot dog eating contest winner.

The top prize went to Alexis Starr of the Enforcement Division, who won a \$50 gift card to Piggly Wiggly. Alexis submitted a smoky "Boilermaker Chili" which was a clear favorite among the judging panel. "The secret to my success is mom. She sends me all sorts of fun ingredients and recipes," said Alexis. "And my chili is still not even close to as good as hers."

Second place went to Melanie Conner of Water Permits, whose "Mexican Chili" creation won Melanie a \$30 gift card to Perfect Choice Catering. Third went to Annette Sharp of the Office of Management and Finance with her



*Alexis Starr, DEQ Environmental Scientist, won a \$50 gift card to Piggly Wiggly*

*Continued on page 12*





# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



December 2014 Issue Number: 35

“Sweet and Spicy Chicken Chili,” which won Annette a \$25 gift card to La Carretta. Annette submitted a second chili concoction which she called “Home on the Range.” All gift cards were donated by the respective businesses in support of the Capital Area United Way.

Other contestants included last year’s winner Sean Darensbourg of the Inspections Division with his “Creole with a Kick” secret recipe; Don Weinell of the Inspections Division, who submitted his own bean-less “Texas Ripoff Chili”; Elizabeth Dequeant of the Office of Management and Finance with her “Deer Chili Made With Love”; Jessie Cannon of the Legal Division, who whipped up a batch of her “Three Bean Bison Chili”; and Mary Beth Bucher of Water Permits who presented a pot of “Traditional Red Chili Con Carne.”

Once judges made their decisions and the winners were announced, patrons filed in to donate \$3 for a single bowl of chili of their choice, or for five taste cups in order to sample from multiple contestants.

The event raised more than \$240 for the Capital Area United Way.





## Who's Who At DEQ?



### Lisa Patterson – Office of the Secretary – Legal Section

Patterson joined DEQ from the private Sector as a Paralegal 2 in collections in the legal section. She has a specialty in commercial/construction litigation. Patterson was a bank officer for 10 years with Fidelity National Bank and has an extensive history in closing real estate loans. She spent many years working for attorneys in the private sector gaining knowledge and experience in family law, successions, corporate/transactional law, some criminal and appellate work with some insurance defense experience.

She is enjoying her new opportunity and hopes to make many new friends while at DEQ.

### Michele Andrieu – Office of the Secretary – Legal Section

Andrieu, a native of New Orleans, recently joined the DEQ Legal Section as a paralegal. Prior to becoming a paralegal, Andrieu worked in the marine cargo industry. After Hurricane Katrina, she was displaced for seven years, living in Marietta, Georgia. Andrieu went to Kennesaw State University for paralegal studies. When she received her Paralegal Certification, she worked for the State Court of Cobb County in the civil division. After a couple of years, she moved into the Criminal Division.

Andrieu moved back to Louisiana and she worked for the State of Louisiana Board of Ethics until she joined the DEQ legal team.



### Jessica Barbe' – Office of Environmental Services – Waste Permit Division

Barbe' attended St. Mary's Dominican High School in New Orleans. She then attended Louisiana State University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in geology In 2011. After only a few months working in the restaurant industry following college, Barbe' worked with Core Laboratories as a Core Analyst. She joined the DEQ staff as a geologist in the Waste Permits Division in August 2014.



# **DISCOVER** DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



December 2014 Issue Number: 35

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

### 3rd Quarter 2014 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/EnforcementActions.aspx>

### 3rd Quarter 2014 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/Enforcement/SettlementAgreements.aspx>

### 3rd Quarter 2014 Air Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2922/Default.aspx>

### 3rd Quarter 2014 Water Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2899/Default.aspx>

### 3rd Quarter 2014 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/divisions/wastepermits.aspx>

