



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



October 2015 Issue Number: 45

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DEQ Secretary Hatch, long-time employees recognized during service award ceremony

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, DEQ held an employee service award ceremony in Baton Rouge, honoring Secretary Peggy Hatch with a certificate in recognition of 30 years of dedicated service and leadership to the state of Louisiana by Gov. Bobby Jindal. She was also recognized by DEQ for her past five years of service as DEQ Secretary.

Since accepting the secretarial appointment in January 2010, Secretary Hatch led the agency through a variety of environmental challenges, including the 2010 BP Oil Spill, the 2011 Pearl River Fish Kill, the Mississippi River flood of 2011 and Hurricane Isaac in 2012. During those events, DEQ staff in the Baton Rouge headquarters and the eight regional offices across the state, quickly marshaled resources and personnel to efficiently respond to the health and environmental concerns. Under Secretary Hatch's watch, the impact to fish and wildlife propagation was mitigated and an array of environmental remediation projects were undertaken as the state worked with its local, state and federal partners in the response.



DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch, center, displays a certificate in recognition of her 30 years of service to the state. Mary Beth Bucher, environmental program analyst in water permits, left; and Tom Killeen, administrator of the Inspections Division, right; were recognized for their 35 years of service with DEQ.

Secretary Hatch, a graduate of LSU, began her career with the state at Earl K. Long Medical Center in 1985, before moving on to DEQ as an environmental quality specialist in 1990. Several promotions and special duty assignments followed, with her advancing to become the administrator of the Enforcement Division in 2005. In 2008, Gov. Jindal appointed her to assistant secretary of the Office of Environmental Compliance, then to DEQ Secretary.

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank was selected as the recipient for this year's DEQ fundraising effort. Secretary Hatch welcomed Chief Financial Officer of the Food Bank Jenna Schexnayder, to the ceremony. Schexnayder spoke to the group and explained "Trevor's Wish" and the nonprofit's upcoming activities and food drives, noting that all donations from DEQ will be made in honor of "Trevor's Wish 2015." To further support the Food Bank, now and into the holiday season, non-perishable food donation barrels will be available in the 1st floor lobby of the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge through Dec. 16.

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At the awards ceremony, 85 DEQ employees earned service pins and certificates in recognition of their years of classified service to the state of Louisiana. The ceremony acknowledged employees whose milestone anniversaries occurred between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

Honorees

35 years of service

Mary Beth Bucher
Thomas Killeen

30 years of service

Adele Allen
Wayne Desselle
Peggy Hatch
Mona Miller

25 years of service

Edwin Akujobi
Darlene Bernard
Toni Booker
Stephanie Braden
Gregory Cooper
Debbie Cormier
James Courcier
Lewis "Dutch" Donlon
Bruce Fielding

James Fontenot

Suzanne Gardner

Mary Gentry

Scott Guilliams

Kelli Hamilton

Albert Hindrichs

Lourdes Iturralde

Verretta Johnson

Bennett Juneau

Evita Lagard

Bridget Lions

Marian Mergist

Zoila Osteicochea

Laurie Peacock

Karen Price

William Schramm

Manuel Silva

Tammy Jo Street

Heather Toney

20 years of service

Melanie Bauder

Charles Bennett

Celena Cage

Minta Canelas

Kimberly Corts

Mary David

William Kemp

Jianzhong Liu

Keri Meyers

Tara Nixon

Jana Orillion

Judith Schuerman

John Sheehan

Marcia Wittenburg

15 years of service

Ted Broyles

Ananthakrishnan Gunasekaran

Joel Harris

Glen Jenkins

Robert Kingham

Phillip Marsala

Sunshine McManus

Cy Morin

Kathy Noto

Carla Pitcher

Suzanne Rohli

Carl Schwartzburg

Cuihong Tao

Terry Thomas

Tegan Treadaway

Andrew Venuto

Kimberly Winters

10 years of service

Jennifer Bounds

Dan Chapman

Jason Fontenot

Laverne Foster

Dorian Heroman

Marcie Kimball

Hsing Liu

Shannon Pusateri

Anthony Randall

Drukell Trahan

Lacey Vitteri

April Wallace

Alicia Walsh

Jinghua Wei

5 years of service

Willard Bates

Todd Compton

Douglas McCurry

Lorna Putnam-Duhon

Faith Stephens

Brandon Williams

Ouachita River undergoes annual cleanup

Taking pride in our Sportsman's Paradise is alive and well not only in words but action every year along the Ouachita River. For the 11th year, volunteers cleaned up the Ouachita River and its banks during the annual "Ouachita River Water Sweep."

The water sweep organization, comprised of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ouachita Green (Keep Monroe Beautiful, Keep Ouachita Parish Beautiful and Keep West Monroe Beautiful), puts out a call for volunteers for a cleanup of various areas along the Ouachita River. Known as the "Water Sweep," the event encourages groups and individuals to make a difference by beautifying the scenic Ouachita River and shoreline through removal of trash and debris. Ouachita Green and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsored the event.

Lazarre Park, Forsythe Park, Moon Lake Recreation Area, Bawcomville Recreation Area, Black Bayou National Wildlife Refuge and Sterlington Recreation Area were event staging sites along the Ouachita.

Boat teams of volunteers identified and picked up debris from the waterway, while others served in shoreline trash pickup crews or worked in debris staging areas. Other volunteers provided trucks for transport of the debris to dumpsters.

"We had 230 volunteers and collected eight tons of trash. That's a little less trash than last year, which is a good thing," said Courtney Hornsby, president of the West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce.

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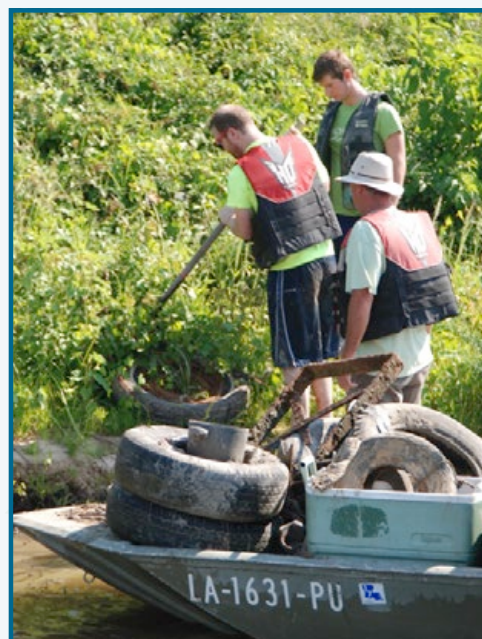


Photo by Ouachita Green

Volunteers extract a waste tire along the Ouachita River, as they retrieve discarded coolers, rusted metal and other hazardous debris



Photo Ouachita Green

A volunteer picks up discarded plastic, aluminum, metal and paper along the shoreline

Items collected along the river included waste tires, Styrofoam, plastic debris and assorted sharp metal pieces – all of which are dangerous to human health, aquatic life and the environment.

“We continue to have a great relationship with the University of Louisiana at Monroe, specifically the ULM Fishing Team and Ski Team,” Hornsby said. “Both groups recognize the importance of clean water and have served as great spokespeople and volunteers.”

Hornsby said the Tensas Basin Levee District Police Department was new to the event this year. “Police Chief Brandon Waggoner was there with a boat and volunteers and has pledged his support to have additional boats on the water, even challenging other law enforcement agencies to get involved,” she said.

The West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce will lend support to those wishing to organize a cleanup of another body of water in Ouachita Parish.

For more information on next year’s Water Sweep, or for information on how to conduct your own trash pickup event, contact: <http://www.watersweep.org>.

DEQ geologists tour Inner Harbor Navigation Canal - Lake Borgne Surge Barrier

Last August marked the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina’s landfall in New Orleans. Geologists from DEQ’s Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section visited the eastern part of the city Sept. 21 to take a look at storm surge improvements made since that time.

The group toured the newly constructed Inner Harbor Navigation Canal – Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, a 1.8-mile segment of the overall flood protection system. The project began in the years after Katrina made landfall in 2005. Since then extensive flood protection walls and storm surge gates have been built up throughout Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes.

At a cost of an estimated \$1.1 billion, the barrier consists of a bypass barge gate and a flood control sector gate, each 150 feet wide and situated at the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. In addition, the structure has a 56-foot wide vertical lift gate situated at Bayou Bienvenue just north of the now-closed Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO).



The storm surge barrier along the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal in eastern New Orleans is comprised of a 1.8 mile wall with three gating systems.

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Running south from that gate is a floodwall tie-in, which connects to the St. Bernard Risk Reduction System – a stormwall that stretches down along the south bank of the MRGO into St. Bernard Parish. The entire structure varies between 25 and 26 feet above sea level.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had control over the storm surge barrier system until December 2013, when they handed the reins over to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority.



The fully closed front side of the sector gate of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in eastern New Orleans.

The surge barrier is just one component of a larger \$14.5-billion project that has been taking shape since 2006. Known as the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), approximately 350 total miles of levees and floodwalls, four gated outlets, three canal closures with pumps and 73 pump stations have been constructed and/or reinforced to meet proper construction standards under the relative soil conditions. In recognition of the fact that the soil was a major cause of levee and storm wall failures, approximately 93 million cubic yards of clay has been added to levees.

The Inner Harbor Navigation Canal – Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, combined with the St. Bernard Risk Reduction System is the largest design-build civil works project in the history of the Corps of Engineers. The entire project is slated for completion by 2017.



DEQ Geologist John Jennings examines the gate's hydraulic systems, which run on shore power through a 4-horsepower engine that typically applies between 900 to 1,000 PSI of pressure.

On the environmental side, a great deal of research and data gathering on the storm and post-storm activities were conducted by DEQ, as it related to the storm's environmental impacts and how those impacts affect the long-term outlook. Mary Gentry, professional geologist with DEQ's Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section, provided a presentation to DEQ staff as well as several organizations about the geological causes of the levee failures after Hurricane Katrina, along with an overview of the features of the new storm protection system.

In her presentation, Gentry noted that 169 miles of levee and floodwall in New Orleans were damaged in Katrina, while pumping stations failed to operate and effectively pump out the incoming water. Coupled with the instability of the floodwalls, the heavy push of incoming water created a storm surge that overtopped some levees, which also compromised the steel sheet piles below the levee walls. The soil and clay was unable to support this event, and gaps formed between the soil and levees, with under-seepage erosion adding to the failure.

While many studies and investigations ensued, today the levee system has been reinforced to a standard that is expected to withstand future storms of similar magnitude. In addition, as the surge barriers were undergoing construction, the MRGO closed in 2009 to reduce a direct storm surge pathway that could potentially negatively impact the barrier system.

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“For the city of New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina was not a natural disaster, but a catastrophic engineering failure,” said Gentry. “As a result, the city now has a hurricane protection system that is more robust than ever before, substantially reducing the potential of repeating the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina ... but it requires an understanding of risk. It is imperative to understand the system is designed to reduce risk, not eliminate it.”

Gentry, along with fellow geologists Jesse Means, John Jennings and Tiffani Barth, are the staff of DEQ’s Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section. They frequently conducts source water assessments, as well as public education and outreach efforts in their work to protect the drinking water sources of the state. In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the section surveyed damage to water wells and significant potential sources of contamination (SPSOCs) identified in source water assessments.

The staff also undertook a post-Katrina cooperative sampling effort with the Louisiana Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey in order to determine the effect, if any, of inundation of water wells along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Wells that were overtopped by storm surge were sampled for water quality, dissolved metals, nutrients, volatile organic compounds and bacteria. In their mission to protect the aquifers and groundwater within the impacted areas, the staff’s field work garnered a great deal of important data that was vital for the recovery phase. The information gathered will be helpful in future storm assessment events, and can be used as a template on how the ground water and water well evaluation process works.

For information on their post-hurricane work involving ground water and water well assessments, visit: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2522>.

For more information on what the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section, visit: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=108>.

DEQ’s Drinking Water Protection Team assists with Sparta Waterfest

Fifth graders are just the right age to actively learn about the world around them and their environment.

“They are old enough to learn and young enough to be interested,” said Jesse Means, geologist with the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team.

Each year, members of the team participate in the Sparta Waterfest for fifth graders from Lincoln, Union, Bienville and Webster parishes. The Waterfest is sponsored by the Sparta Groundwater Commission.

The goal of the Waterfest is to teach about water conservation particularly to preserve the Sparta Aquifer. The Waterfest stretches over three weeks, two days each week, in order to accommodate all the 5th graders. The first two weeks of this year’s event were held in Ruston, and then they moved to Minden the third week.

The Waterfest is held outdoors, and there are six learning stations for each group of students. This year, John Jennings, Tiffani Barth and Jesse Means from the DWP Team each manned a station.



Jesse Means, DEQ geologist, talks to fifth grade students about critters in their water at the Sparta Waterfest at Lincoln Parish Park in Ruston.

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Jesse Means, member of the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team, shows students examples of macro invertebrates in their water at the Sparta Waterfest.

Barth manned a station called "The Long Haul." This activity is structured to help students learn what our great grandparents may have had to do getting water from a stream or well and carrying it to the house. Students participate in a relay race where they must use a surface water source to fill a large trash bag to a designated point.

Jennings manned a station called "Pass the Jug." The goal of this activity is to teach students some elements of water law – right of capture, first come, first served and how to be sure there is enough water to go around.

Means' station, titled "It's Alive," focused on his instruction to the students on macro invertebrates that live in our waters. These are small animals you can see without a microscope.

The remaining stations were titled, "Amazing Water," "How Much Do We Use?" and "Ground Water Model."

Throughout the Waterfest, fifth grade students were able to participate in a full day of interactive hydrology lessons and learn about conserving their water for future generations. Over the last four years, the Sparta Groundwater Commission has coordinated 12 events reaching over 6,000 students.

Earthcon and Isotec present seminars on groundwater testing

"Lunch and Learn" participants dipped into groundwater testing techniques on Oct. 8. Two seminars were held in the first floor conference rooms at DEQ headquarters in Baton Rouge. More than 20 DEQ employees attended each seminar, which provided insight into various groundwater analysis techniques – useful concepts for the remediation and water survey specialists who made up the majority of the audience. Both seminars were part of the "Lunch and Learn" program hosted by DEQ's Office of Environmental Compliance.

Joe Ricker, professional engineer with Earthcon in Memphis, Tenn., gave a presentation on the patented Ricker Method, which can be used as a foundation for an initial analysis of a groundwater plume, along with other diagnostic tools that allow the environmental scientist in the field to further evaluate and communicate a plume's dynamics.

Ricker explained how his Method has been used successfully for risk management strategies that help stakeholders analyze and evaluate unique groundwater plume characteristics. This includes average concentration, area, mass indicator and a description of the plume's behavior (as decreasing, increasing or stable). "This is a desktop analysis, purely empirical," noted Ricker.



Joe Ricker of Earthcon gives a presentation on groundwater plume stability analysis

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Using Ricker's model, scientists in the field can evaluate the relative stability of a groundwater plume, seeing shifts or trends that can provide an explanation (droughts, hurricanes, climate conditions, etc.) why the plume underwent a change.

In an adjacent conference room, Stan Haskins, professional geologist with Isotec, a Colorado-based groundwater analysis company, gave an overview of how groundwater remediation projects fail and what field workers can do to avoid pitfalls. Haskins emphasized that communication between the client and contractor is pivotal, as false expectations can arise based on perceived data.

His presentation also covered groundwater analysis trends and how companies can strategically sample and gather more accurate results by avoiding many common problems and misperceptions that may arise in field work. This includes relying too much on bench studies that may give the sampling team or client a false sense of security.

DEQ hosts EnviroSchool workshops on air quality policy

Education and outreach are cornerstones of DEQ's mission. Keeping the public informed about new and existing environmental policies and regulations is a continuous endeavor. The EnviroSchool program, administered by DEQ's Small Business/Small Community Program, fulfills that mission.

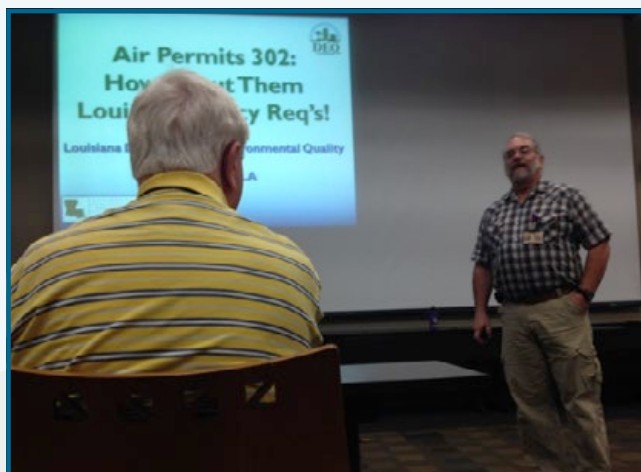
EnviroSchool is a series of free workshops hosted by DEQ that pertain to various regulatory topics. During September, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality hosted an EnviroSchool on the topic of DEQ Air Policies for communities, businesses and other organizations.

Periodically, DEQ adds air policy requirements to address situations not covered by the written regulations. These policies help provide clear monitoring for demonstrating compliance. These policies are used for control devices such as dust filters, wet scrubbers, cyclone collectors and non-NSPS (New Source Performance Standards) flares and portable air curtain incinerators.

Kermit Wittenburg, environmental chemical specialist staff with DEQ's Air Permits Division presented the workshop. Wittenburg began with an overview of the Title V, Part 70, monitoring requirements from the Clean Air Act, which defines the permitting authority.

Next, he explained the regulatory basis that allows DEQ to add the air policy requirements, and he discussed the intent of the requirement. He emphasized that the regulations allow for air permit writers to adjust the standard air policy specific conditions for a given facility based on that facility's operational function and capabilities. As examples, Wittenburg used incinerators, such as medical waste incinerators, refuse incinerators and large portable rotary kilns – and the technical requirements and regulatory parameters inherent in their permits.

A synopsis of air emissions, stack testing policies as well as toxic air pollutant limits and the inspection requirements were discussed. Units at the facilities are inspected carefully and "by the book" by DEQ to verify proper functionality and compliance with regulations. Overall functionality is the guidelines.



DEQ Environmental Scientist Kermit Wittenburg provides instruction to the attendees on air permit policies.

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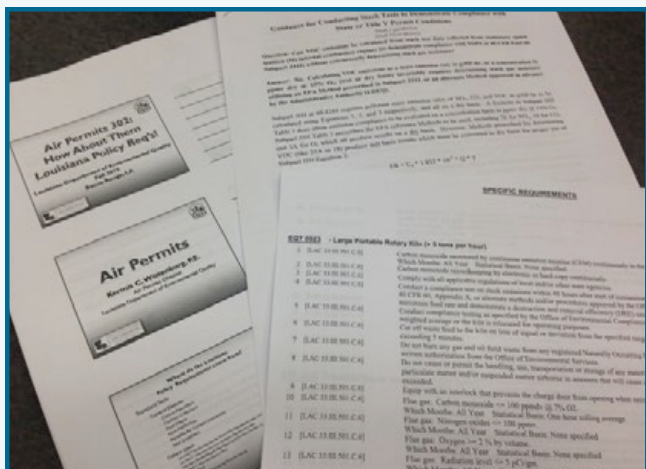


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Handouts on the presentation and technical information are provided to the attendees.

“The integrity of the unit is checked to ensure that it is being maintained properly,” said Wittenburg.

Last year, Wittenburg presented a class discussing the difference between permitted emissions and actual emissions. This can be found in the EnviroSchool archive under the title of Air Permits 301.

Much of the workshop material is technical and applies to operators and inspectors who deal with emissions control devices. A list of acronyms is provided and a question-and-answer period is always included to clarify the material. The workshops are open forum format and attendees may keep the class materials and ask questions of the presenter during the session. Laypersons who are interested in gaining information about this subject would find the workshops valuable.

In September, Air Policy sessions were held in Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Metairie and Pineville.

EnviroSchool workshops are free and open to the public. Topics vary during the course of the year. Those wishing to see upcoming sessions or to attend a session may do so by registering online at www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroschool. For more information, please call (225) 219-3954 or visit the EnviroSchool website: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx>.

DEQ rescues paint at the East Baton Rouge Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day

DEQ staff volunteered and once again aproned and suited up to rescue paint from landfills at the EBR Fall Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day at Memorial Stadium.

The collection day is a bi-annual event to help East Baton Rouge Parish residents properly dispose of unwanted hazardous materials. In spite of an unexpected LSU home game, DEQ and other volunteers processed 655 cars that came through the donation line acquiring paint, tires, chemicals and more.

The 15 DEQ volunteers toled, opened, stirred and mixed 83 five-gallon buckets of multi-colored paint. It went to the Habitat ReStore for resale at a reasonable price. The front line volunteers opened and stirred the paint, which was then carried back to the five-gallon buckets and mixed by the DEQ staff with similar colors. The result is usually brilliant and amazing.

The team, led by DEQ organizer, Donelson Caffery, engineer 6, arrived early in the morning for a safety meeting and set up and worked through noon to accomplish their goal. It is always hard, messy work, but also lots of fun and a chance to work in a different way with coworkers.



DEQ volunteers stir paint to prepare it to be mixed in the five-gallon containers on the back row.

East Baton Rouge Parish will hold the next Household Hazardous Collection Day in the spring and you can bet DEQ will be there!



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DEQ attends the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference in Lafayette

DEQ employees interacted with participants and championed the litter free theme at the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference held at the Lafayette Science Museum in early October. Organized by Linda Brown, DEQ senior scientist, they set up and manned a booth.

The Conference brought together state agencies, parish government, volunteer groups, KLB affiliates and private business to discuss the problems and possible solutions to litter in Louisiana.

Seventeen speakers presented different views and option to participants. They included special guest, Tom Ethans of Take Pride Winnipeg; Marcus Erickson, founder of 5Gyres Institute; and Jon Soul of Bayou to Bay. Erickson also spoke at the awards banquet.

Award winners were Keep Morehouse Beautiful for Innovative Program; Taylor Wagner, Youth Leadership; Keep Slidell Beautiful, Outstanding Affiliate; Greg Guidroz, Golden Can; Franklin Foundation Hospital, Corporate Leadership; and Dr. Alice Pecoraro, Alice Foster Award.



Left to right – KLB State Conference Chair David Yarbrough, Keep St. Mary Parish Beautiful Director, Rodney Grogan; KLB Board Member, Deborah Juneau; Keep St. Mary Parish Beautiful volunteer, Didi Battle; The 2015 Alice Foster Award recipient, Dr. Alice Pecoraro; KLB Board Member, Susan Strain; and KLB Board Chair, Andy Johnson, at the KLB Annual State Conference in Lafayette.



Left to right – Sarah Kelley, KLB Affiliate Director; Jon Soul, Bayou to Bay Director; Carla Buchholz, KLB Board Member; Darryl Campbell, KLB Advisory Board Member; Susan Strain, KLB Board Member; and Marcus Ericksen, 5Gyres Institute President and keynote speaker



Charlene Turner, Galvez Building security guard, recognized for her service to DEQ

In our daily lives, we come across people who provide a service to us, yet many of us don't take a moment to think about it. Some of these service providers actually go beyond what is asked of them – but they go unrecognized. For most of those hard workers, a slight nod of acknowledgement or a greeting is probably the norm, while the actual “thank you” may be scarce or even nonexistent at times.

Charlie Bennett wanted to do something about that.

Bennett, who uses a wheelchair, is an environmental scientist in DEQ's Office of Environmental Services. Noting the devotion to duty and attention to detail shown by Charlene Turner, building security guard, Bennett wanted to her to be recognized. “I nominated her to the DEQ Safety Oversight Committee because of her commitment to search each person, make sure they use the metal detector and generally assisting the deputies in keeping the building and the DEQ employees safe,” said Bennett.

Turner also goes the extra mile to ensure employees and guests – particularly those with disabilities – can gain entry with ease. During the course of his daily duties, Bennett uses the handicapped entrance door and the automatic doors on the way to and from his workspace. Recently, when the building's handicapped entrance door malfunctioned due to continuous overuse – predominantly by those who aren't mobility-impaired – Charlene Turner stepped in to assist people like Bennett who must bear the physical and emotional hardship of a failing automatic door. “She makes it a point to be prepared, and is very thorough and conscientious in her duties,” said Bennett.

Vivian Aucoin, an environmental scientist in DEQ's air permits division and a member of the department's Safety Oversight Committee, also lauded Turner's professionalism. “Charlene's attitude toward her job is reassuring, especially in today's world. She provides the employees who work in this building a sense of security.”

Turner has worked as a security guard with Gallagher Security in the Galvez Building, which houses DEQ's headquarters in Baton Rouge, since 2009. Since that time, she has assisted the guard staff in building security duties as well as providing personal assistance for those carrying boxes, pushing carts or who are otherwise in need of an extra hand. Whether it's providing for unobstructed access through exit routes during fire drills, ensuring that security alarms, elevator and door issues are reported to appropriate staff to be addressed, or responding to daily operational calls, Turner has always gone above and beyond the call of duty. In recognition, Bennett and the Safety Oversight Committee presented Turner with a signed and framed certificate in honor of her service.

The certificate reads: “Charlene Turner is hereby recognized for her outstanding and consistent level of dedication and professionalism displayed in carrying out her security duties to protect all people and property in the Galvez Building. Presented on September 23, 2015 by the LDEQ Safety Oversight Committee.”

DEQ extends its gratitude to Turner, as well as her co-workers at Gallagher Security and the duty officers from the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office, who work in the building Monday through Friday on a 24/7 schedule. Each day, the team assists visitors and workers at the Galvez Building and makes them feel safe and welcome – and for that, we are appreciative and applaud the team for their service.



DEQ Environmental Scientist Charlie Bennett presents the signed and framed certificate to security guard Charlene Turner.



Vivian Aucoin elected secretary for AAPCA



Vivian Aucoin is the new secretary/treasurer for AAPCA.

DEQ's Vivian Aucoin was elected secretary/treasurer for the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA) at the group's annual meeting in September in Raleigh, N.C. AAPCA is a national, non-profit, consensus-driven organization focused on assisting state and local air quality agencies and personnel with implementation and technical issues associated with the federal Clean Air Act. Eighteen state environmental agencies currently sit on AAPCA's Board of Directors. AAPCA is housed in Lexington, Ky., as a policy program with the Council of State Governments.

"AAPCA allows our staff members to network with other state and local agencies that are facing the same issues with the new and established air quality standards and regulations," Aucoin said. She is a senior scientist at DEQ in the air permits division.

More than 100 people attended the AAPCA annual meeting, including air quality directors and personnel from 17 states and many local environmental agencies, as well as two dozen senior staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation.

"This meeting reflects AAPCA's growth into a premier forum for state and local agencies to share best practices and discuss pressing Clean Air Act issues," said 2016 President Sheila Holman. "AAPCA Board members are responsible for tremendous air quality progress in recent years, and currently represent roughly 40 percent of the U.S. population and Gross Domestic Product."

The meeting included presentations and panels on topics ranging from EPA's Clean Power Plan and forthcoming ground-level ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards to modeling accuracy and the role of scientific advice under the Clean Air Act. Over the course of three days, AAPCA members discussed critical air quality issues with keynote speaker Secretary Donald van der Vaart of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality; EPA Acting Assistant Administrator Janet McCabe; recent Chair of the EPA Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Christopher Frey; and experts from state agencies, academic institutions, and the EPA.

All presentations can be viewed on AAPCA's website, www.csg.org/aapca_site/.

Jason Hanchey is DEQ's new business analytics specialist

Jason Hanchey, DEQ's business analytic specialist, has hit the ground running in his new capacity.

"I'm actually the first business analytics specialist in the state," Hanchey said.

He will do some of the things Dina Heidar, environmental scientist senior, did before she left the agency. "I'm still going to be the facilitator. I'm going to be the direct line to OTS (Office of Technical Services) – or rather our OTS representation," Hanchey said.

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The Florida native has been a state employee for 17 years, starting at DEQ but making a big loop through several agencies before coming back here. "I started off with DEQ until we had what we call a test consolidation with Wildlife and Fisheries, DNR and DEQ. I was part of that and I moved over to the (the Department of Natural Resources) LaSalle Building," Hanchey said. "And then after that test consolidation, we all got absorbed into OTS."

He had wanted to be at DEQ since starting here as a student worker in the days when he was at ITI Technical College. "I started off as a student worker (in college) and they decided to keep me on. Even then I loved it, and I liked the people here, and as soon as they offered to bring me on, I ran with it. DEQ is great people," he said.

Hanchey sees himself as a problem solver. "I've been a computer geek all my life. I was fixing TVs in high school," he said. "Electronics has always fascinated me. In fact, when I moved here to go to school, it was either that or I was going to be a chef. I chose electronics because they make a little bit more money."



Jason Hanchey is DEQ's new business analytics specialist.

His new position is a natural fit. "I get to work more with the business processes," Hanchey said. "I don't do any programming. My background is in networking, server management and data bases."

Hanchey and his wife are parents to two grown daughters and a 13-year-old son. They have one grandchild. They live on a mini-farm in Slaughter, about 2.5 acres big. "I've got a pretty sizable garden, pretty big – probably a quarter acre or so. Back in Florida, I raised livestock, pigs and cows. I haven't started that yet here just because my wife won't let me slaughter something I raised."

That's a problem, and you can bet Hanchey is working on a solution.

Jason Hanchey is in room 926 and his phone number is 225-219-4070. His email is jason.hanchey@la.gov.

DEQ outreach visits Dutchtown High School

When environmental science teacher Lindsay Seely approached DEQ about showing her Dutchtown High School students a working response site, DEQ officials offered a counterproposal: Rather than trying to manage the logistics and safety issues that kind of field trip would entail, why not let DEQ bring its Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) and its mobile command center to the school for an outreach event? Seely was sold.

On Sept. 30, DEQ personnel came to the school and set up four learning stations. The environmental science students were divided into eight groups that were given 15 minutes at each station in an event that lasted more than half a day.

The learning stations were manned by DEQ personnel who demonstrated air quality sampling equipment, gave short lectures on air regulations and the science behind them, answered student questions and showed off the agency's MAML and Mobile Command.

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The students attending the outreach event were focused, engaged and quick with questions -- much to the delight of the DEQ staff representing the agency.

"The students were attentive, curious about the environment and wanted to know how we can all keep it clean and safe," said Yasoob Zia, DEQ environmental senior scientist. "They asked several good questions and were a joy to talk to. It's good to know that young people are educated and interested in keeping the air, soil, and water clean and safe for us and future generations."

Seely has about 170 junior and senior students in her environmental science classes at Dutchtown High School. Last summer, Seely did a workshop on geographic information systems (GIS) for her students and enlisted the help of former DEQ employee Fran Harvey, who is now with Global Geospatial Solutions. Harvey had some connections at DEQ and helped Seely make contact and set up the outreach visit.

"We were more than happy to facilitate the visit and help out any way we can," said Harvey, who helped man some of the learning stations as did a Global Geospatial Solutions employee Morgan Landry. "We were pleased with the success of it," Harvey said.



DEQ Air Services Manager Bob Bailey explains the workings of a semivolatile sampler to Dutchtown High School Environmental Science Teacher Lindsay Seely.



DEQ Environmental Scientist Kevin Borne gives a group of Dutchtown High School students a tour of the DEQ Mobile Command Center.



The DEQ Mobile Command Center was on display during an agency outreach event at Dutchtown High School on Sept. 30.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Fourth Quarter Summaries

4th Quarter 2015 Enforcement Actions:

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

4th Quarter 2015 Settlement Agreements:

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

4th Quarter 2015 Air Permits:

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

4th Quarter 2015 Water Permits:

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

4th Quarter 2015 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

