



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Issue Number: 6

## DENHAM SPRINGS EXPLOSION

**O**n Tuesday, March 30, a large chemical fire at a facility in Denham Springs led to evacuations of nearby residents and businesses. The fire started a little after 2 p.m. and DEQ emergency responders were on the scene shortly afterward.

After seeing the smoke plume from her home, one responder used equipment from her house to assess the situation. Another was sent to the area after several employees in DEQ's downtown office building noticed the smoke. Livingston Parish officials called in the

emergency to DEQ within minutes of the explosion at Coco Industries.

Coco Industries stores barrels of oil and other chemicals that the facility uses to make soaps to clean large ships.

"In a situation like that, when there is a large fire or an emergency where DEQ is called in, our first responsibility is to conduct air monitoring," said DEQ Emergency Response Manager Peter Ricca. "We had two emergency responders on the scene conducting air monitoring and we also called in our Mobile Air Monitoring Lab (MAML). It was down there by 4:30. The good thing about the MAML is it can give you real-time readings and tell us exactly what chemicals are in the air."

None of the air monitoring showed any chemical exposure that would be harmful to human health and the environment. For a short time, the MAML did pick up some increased levels of particulate matter, ash, as the plume of smoke came to the ground.

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MAML at the site of the fire in Denham Springs



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Because of the size of the site and the volume of chemicals involved, DEQ brought in its Mobile Command Post to use as a headquarters on site.

“With the command post on site, we had a centralized place to meet,” Ricca said. “We could calibrate our monitors, work with local officials and organize and implement plans to address the situation.”

An example would be using clay to dam the network of drainage ditches that runs throughout the area. The fire department was using large amounts of water to control the fire. Firefighters were also forced to use foam. The runoff from the water and the foam posed potential environmental hazards, so local officials were asked to dam the drainage system with clay to keep the water situated along the perimeter of the emergency area.

After the water situation was under control, DEQ took water samples and contractors were brought in to vacuum the water out of the ditches. More than 1.7 million gallons were stored in tanks to be disposed of properly.

The cleanup will continue as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DEQ and other local, state and federal agencies investigate the site to determine the best methods to remediate the area.

“A lot of people from various local, state and federal agencies did their jobs well to minimize any environmental impacts,” DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch said. “As the remediation of the site and the ditches off-site continues, I know that all parties involved will make sound decisions based on science. I applaud the numerous DEQ staff who arrived early to conduct monitoring and those who stayed around the clock to provide a 24-hour presence.”

## DEQ PARTICIPATES IN BOY SCOUT CENTENNIAL EVENT

On Saturday, Feb. 20, staff environmental scientists from DEQ were on hand in Butte La Rose to participate in this year’s Boy Scout Centennial event, an event marking the 100th anniversary of Scouting in the United States.

With over a thousand attendees during the course of the day, the event focused on various environmental and ecological activities such as planting cypress trees and taking part in demonstrations regarding environmental preservation and restoration. Scouts from the Evangeline Area Boy Scout Council planted over 4,400 bald cypress seedlings across 300 acres of land in the Atchafalaya Basin near the I-10 welcome center in Butte La Rose. The planting event will ultimately result in promotion and preservation of the area for future generations.

Other activities included a tour of law enforcement boats from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, an exhibit from the Army Corps of Engineers



DEQ Environmental Scientist Al Hindrichs gives a demonstration of the “Walnut Bayou” model



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which focused on their Basin Recreational Areas, a “Friends of the Atchafalaya” wildlife exhibit, and exhibits from the LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources’ Atchafalaya Basin Program.

DEQ environmental staff members spoke with interested scouts, adult leaders and the public regarding nonpoint source water pollution control measures, river and coastal dynamics, as well as wetlands preservation and conservation. Attendees received a hands-on interactive experience with DEQ’s “Walnut Bayou” demonstration, which was staffed by DEQ Environmental Scientist Al Hindrichs. “Walnut Bayou was designed as a learning tool to educate and entertain the public on watersheds and how they work and affect the environment. The model is a small-scale example on the physical mechanics of water flow and river dynamics,” said Hindrichs. “It is a great tool for educating the attendees on how streams work and how our actions upstream can have a direct impact on the environment downstream.”

Tree planting was the focus of the event, as the scouts worked to repair the Atchafalaya Basin’s loss of hundreds of cypress trees which have since been harvested for garden mulch and lumber. Invasive, or “trash” trees, grew in their place. With assistance from several state and federal agencies, the Evangeline Area Council of the Boy Scouts converged upon the area to partake in a replanting effort in order that future visitors to the Atchafalaya Basin can enjoy the beauty and benefits of a cypress forest. In honor of the Boy Scouts of America’s 100th anniversary, the new forest is being called the “Centennial Forest.”

The planting marks the first “good turn” or good deed the scouts have undertaken as part of their centennial celebration. Additional events may include work on the development of primitive campsites, a “trash bash” cleanup and the creation of hiking and canoeing trails in the area. The work will have a tremendous impact on the basin, as the Atchafalaya River is a major tributary of the Mississippi River, which drains over 40 percent of the United States, from New York to the Dakotas.

Participating agencies in the event included the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the St. Martin Parish government and the St. Martin Parish Sheriff’s Office.



Volunteers work along the banks of Bayou DeSiard to collect trash

## BAYOU DESIARD CLEANUP MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN MONROE

**O**n Saturday, March 27, students and faculty members from the University of Louisiana at Monroe gathered to clean up a mile stretch of Bayou DeSiard at the ULM’s campus.

Led by ULM professor Kevin Baer and a team of students from ULM’s toxicology program and biology club, approximately 50 students and university personnel participated in the cleanup. Mike Adcock, Watershed Coordinator with the Northeast Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council, was on hand



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to provide a boat and supplies, and Donna Remedies from the Northeast Delta RC&D, sponsored the event.

As the sponsor, Northeast Delta RC&D provided gloves and trash bags for the volunteers, a boat and all food and refreshments.

The bayou cleanup began around 8 a.m. on both banks of Bayou DeSiard, which meanders through the ULM campus, extending out approximately a half-mile downstream off campus. As a popular public fishing area, the off-campus stretch of the bayou will see an immediate impact as a result of the cleanup, as several fishing groups were present during the morning of the cleanup.

The cleanup collected approximately one ton of trash, 10 vehicle tires, an ice chest, a gas cylinder, a 55 gallon barrel, numerous scrap metals, sign boards and a variety of trash and debris. A needle and drugs were also found. A majority of the trash and debris were collected at the off-campus fishing spot of the bayou.

This was the first of the two scheduled campus cleanup activities led by ULM's Tri-Beta chapter. The group plans to communicate their campus-wide "green and

clean" awareness campaign. Students and faculty from ULM's toxicology program are also working on various community outreach endeavors that will benefit the bayou. One project currently underway is the formation of a Web site where business owners, community organizations, governmental groups, local citizens and educators can gain information on non-point source education, storm drain marking, bayou conservation and other proactive environmental projects.

As a 30-mile long bayou that winds through Monroe, Bayou DeSiard is the primary source of drinking water for the city, which pulls more than 15 million gallons from it on a daily basis. While the southern portion of the bayou is predominantly open, it is used extensively for recreation and is the focal point for many neighborhoods, as well as ULM.

For more information on how to get involved in future cleanup events, please contact Dr. Kevin Baer, at (318) 342-1698.

## DEQ'S EMERGENCY AND RADIOLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION WEARS MANY HATS

**T**aking on the important responsibility of radiological and chemical spill emergency response, DEQ's Emergency and Radiological Services Division is on the job 24 hours a day.

One vital component of the division, the Radiological Emergency Planning and Response Section, is responsible for maintaining the Louisiana Peacetime Radiological Response Plan and operating procedures. In conjunction with that plan, the division actively participates in nuclear power plant drills and graded exercises for three nuclear power plants. Chemical accident prevention and radiological emergency planning and response also fall under the division's supervision. The Single Point of Contact line, which serves as a public hotline for citizens or facilities to report environmental emergencies or notifications, is a key component of the division's logistical response mechanism.



Some of the trash collected included waste tires as well as plastic and metal debris



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The group is entirely self-sufficient and does not receive funding from the state's general fund.

“Emergency response personnel, available around the clock, and radiation scientists are located in all six regional offices throughout the state. These individuals are specially trained and equipped to provide rapid coverage in response to potential radiation incidents, investigations and complaints,” said Peter Ricca, Manager of the Chemical Emergency Response, Chemical Accident Prevention & Radiological Emergency Planning & Response Section. “In just this past year we have responded to environmental accidents with issues that closed stretches of Interstates 10, 12, 20 and 55. These included several gas production well fires and a business that imported – and abandoned – dangerous and toxic gases.”

Under the Radiation Licensing, Surveillance and Enforcement Section, inspections are conducted, under the Food and Drug Administration's Mammography Quality Standards Act, to ensure that mammography instruments are properly functioning in order to provide early detection for breast cancer. The section conducts these and numerous other inspections annually. The objectives of this section include the inspection of approximately 550 radioactive materials (RAM) licensees and 900 x-ray facilities annually. Included in these facilities are hospitals, doctors, chiropractors, dentists, and veterinarians. The industrial radiographer tests administered by this section produce the certified individuals necessary for industrial safety and infrastructure growth. By employing a dedicated radiation enforcement writer, compliance efforts have been enhanced throughout the state.

The Radiation Section recently hosted the annual national meeting of the Organization of Agreement States. It was attended by representatives from 35 of 37 United States Agreement States and several representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

## WATER DISCHARGE GENERAL PERMITS

Permitting and regulating Louisiana's businesses to protect human health and the environment is a central part of DEQ's mission. The Office of Environmental Services, which handles permitting, has been working to streamline the application process, which can often be time consuming and cumbersome.

General permits are an integral part of the plan to save the state time and money. General permits allow facilities and the department to shorten the application process, provided the applicant meets all necessary requirements. General permits are written to cover one or more categories or subcategories of discharges within a geographic area, which can range from a specific watershed to a broad area such as the entire state.

A general water permit has the same stringent regulations, public participation, price and requirements as a regular permit. However, because it applies to a general class of businesses it takes less time, manpower and funding to process. Each application for a general water permit is reviewed to verify eligibility. These permits have a faster turnaround because the public participation and the comment period is done up front. The permit is public noticed and the public is given at least 30 days to comment. All comments from the public are addressed in the basis of decision.

Most car washes and automobile dealerships have similar activities and discharges so they may qualify to apply for a general permit. Once it is determined that the business meets the qualification for the permit, they can be given the permit that has been written and already public noticed. This shortens the process and saves time and money – for the business and for DEQ – and is protective of human health and the environment.

The Water Permits Division has 20 different categories of Louisiana Discharge Monitoring System general permits for discharges from varied business such as



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oil and gas exploration, dewatering petroleum storage tanks, sand and gravel extraction, sanitary discharges and storm water permits. The water general permits are listed on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=245>.

The Water Permits Division issues permits that help protect the waters of the state for recreation, fishing and other uses and the Office of Environmental Services is finding innovative ways to save the state time and money.

## ENVIROTHON 2010

Ten high school and junior high school teams from across Louisiana participated in the Louisiana Envirothon, held March 27 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Cade Farm. The teams competed for a chance to go to the North American Envirothon competition at California State University in Fresno in August.

The Canon Envirothon is a multidisciplinary and environmental problem-solving competition.

The Louisiana competition is centered on testing categories; soils, forestry, current issues, wildlife and aquatics. The teams also participate in an oral presentation on an environmental problem. The teams compete for scholarships at the North American level.

The schools that participated this year are Audubon , Teams A and B, Baker Middle School, Comeaux High School, Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts, Northside High School, Parkview Baptist High, Zachary Homeschool, Teams A and B and Zachary High School.

First Place in the competition went to Zachary Homeschool, Team A, Comeaux High won second place and third place went to Audubon Team A.

If you would be interested in competing in/or sponsoring next year's competition, call 225-219-3265 or visit the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon>.

## ENVIROTHON WINNERS



First Place Winners, Zachary Homeschool Team A



Second Place Winners, Comeaux High



Third Place Winners, Audubon Team A



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DEQ ON THE MOVE



Tomeka Prioleau, Rhyshima Parm-Green and Carla Richard man the DEQ exhibit at Baton Rouge's Earth Day, April 18



DEQ volunteers, Larry Lashley and Ashley Belle from DEQ's Northwest Regional Office helped with the Great American Cleanup in Shreveport sponsored by Shreveport Green. DEQ had a booth and assisted with the cleanup



DEQ Southwest Regional Office manned an Earth Fest booth, March 20 & 21. The staff created a game for the kids to play that involves three buckets labeled "garbage," "compost" and "recycle"



Al Hindrich demonstrates Walnut Bayou at the Environmental Educational Symposium



Lafayette Middle students educating the public about our programs



Lafayette Middle - 6th Grade Recycling Roundup - School Wide Program



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## DEQ'S WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT DIVISION KEEPS AN EYE ON MERCURY

In 2004, DEQ's Water Quality Assessment Division prepared a Mercury Risk Reduction Plan, which was created to give the public a better understanding of how mercury in the environment impacts the residents of the state.

Currently, 49 mercury advisories are in place at various water bodies throughout the state. The advisories note a higher than acceptable amount of mercury present in some fish living in those waters.

Mercury is a naturally occurring element that is used in many household products, dental fillings and industrial processes. While it can exist in many forms, the greatest anthropogenic source of mercury in water appears to come from emissions from coal-fired power plants. Natural sources of mercury contamination include volcanic activity. Mercury released into the air can travel long distances and then be deposited into streams and lakes through atmospheric deposition (rainfall), making it nearly impossible to pinpoint sources of contamination. Mercury is also released into water and air by some industrial processes, waste incineration and improper disposal of mercury-containing products. All sources of mercury emissions are being evaluated and reduced or eliminated where possible.

Soil, sludge and other solid waste contaminated with mercury can be removed and disposed of elsewhere, such as in an approved hazardous waste landfill, but it will never degrade or disappear. In order to reduce the risk of further mercury contamination, mercury use is being phased out of certain products, such as batteries, thermostats and children's light-up shoes. Industrial permit limits are becoming more stringent and better control technology is being developed. As a result, mercury discharges into streams and lakes have been greatly reduced in the past few decades.



DEQ scientists conduct fish sampling tests in a bayou

Human activities have increased the availability of mercury to aquatic life and the fish we catch and eat. This threatens an aspect of Louisiana's culture and is an issue that is continually addressed by DEQ.

As part of the current streamlining measures among state agencies, DEQ and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are partnering to work on fish sampling excursions, rather than working individually and exerting an unnecessary cost, time, and personnel effort for a single activity.

"To assess water bodies for mercury contamination, DEQ samples fish tissue from areas likely to be fished by the public," said Chris Piehler, Administrator of the Water Quality Assessment Division. "When data indicate mercury levels are high, the DEQ, DWF, DAF, and DHH jointly issue advisories to the public so they can make informed choices on their fish consumption." An advisory is a conservative estimate on how much fish a person can consume without any adverse health effects.

Louisiana's fish consumption advisories are developed using a risk-based public health assessment method





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Fish advisories are posted in certain water bodies as a cautionary measure to the public

which establishes consumption levels designed to prevent adverse health effects. This approach is used to determine safe consumption levels for different segments of the population. In most cases, fish are sampled by DEQ in areas of suspected chemical contamination; such as near facilities that have experienced spills or wastewater management issues.

When problems are found, DEQ actively resamples and remediates those contaminated areas, where appropriate, while correcting the actions that caused the contamination to occur.

Procedures developed by DEQ and its partners are then implemented to determine if a risk to human health exists. If it is determined there is a need for a health advisory, press releases are prepared for public dissemination of the information. Advisories are also published in DWF's annual fishing regulations.

Swimming advisories are generally established due to the presence of fecal coliform or chemical contamination of a water body or sediments. Efforts are being made to correct these problems statewide, such as in the Tangipahoa River basin, where DEQ's Nonpoint Source Program has assisted local citizens

in their efforts to restore the river's water quality for canoeing and tubing.

Mercury advisories on a water body should not affect your desire to enjoy a day of fishing. The fish are largely unaffected by the mercury in their tissues and will continue to give you the challenge and fun of trying to catch them. In areas where mercury concentrations are a concern for eating, you can always practice catch and release, but most people can safely eat at least some if not all of the fish they catch. Advisories vary and it is important to read each one carefully, as many include only certain species of fish. Pregnant and nursing women and children under the age of 7 are most sensitive to the effects of mercury. Some advisories apply ONLY to sensitive groups, while others apply to the general population.

For more information regarding mercury and other water advisories, contact the DHH hotline at 1-888-293-7020, or call the DEQ at (225) 219-5337.

## OPEN BURNING PROHIBITED

Recently, Ned Richard and Archie McKeiver of DEQ's Southwest Regional office held a meeting with fire department officials from around Calcasieu Parish to discuss the Do's and Don'ts of Outdoor Burning. They discussed the major issues concerning residents and what is acceptable to burn.

DEQ is planning to do more outreach on open burning to educate local governments and the public about the state's regulations.

Open burning can produce air pollution and that is one reason open burning is prohibited in Louisiana. If you have a trash pile and burn household waste, construction debris or anything other than vegetative matter, you could pay a fine. Some materials that should NEVER be burned are:

- Plastic and other synthetic materials
- Tires and other rubber products
- Paints, household and agricultural chemicals



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- Asphalt shingles, heavy oils, wire
- Newspaper, cardboard and other paper products
- Buildings and mobile homes

Outdoor fires pollute the air and can make it difficult to breathe. Citizens can call DEQ to report illegal open burning at 225-219-3640 or call the DEQ regional office that serves your parish. You may call the regional office for any environmental issue or complaint.

Contact Information for regional offices:

#### **Northwest Regional Office in Shreveport**

Otis Randle – Regional Manager  
318-676-7476

#### **Northeast Regional Office in Monroe**

Larry Baldwin – Regional Manager  
318-362-5439 - Monroe  
318-487-5656 – Pineville

#### **Southwest Regional Office in Lake Charles**

Billy Eakin – Regional Manager  
337-491-2667

#### **Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans**

Mike Algero – Regional Manager  
504-736-7701

#### **Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette**

Will Tucker – Regional Manager  
337-262-5584

#### **Capital Region in Baton Rouge**

Bobby Mayweather – Regional Manager  
225-219-3600

## **SIGN UP FOR ENVIROFLASH AND KNOW THE COLOR OF YOUR AIR**

**A**s you leave your house today, ask yourself the question, “Do I know what color my air is today?” The air we breathe is a mixture of gases and microscopic particles. Some of these gases and particles are air pollutants, and they are unhealthy to breathe. Most of the time pollution levels do not impact our daily lives. At other times, certain pollutants reach

unhealthy levels and put many at risk. That’s why EnviroFlash is so important.

Knowing your air quality level is important if you have respiratory or heart issues, if you are an older adult, if you have children or if you are active outdoors. Elevated levels of pollutants, like ozone and particle pollution, can have serious short- and long-term impact on your health.

EnviroFlash ([www.enviroflash.info](http://www.enviroflash.info)) is an e-mail alert system that delivers air quality information straight to your inbox. Subscribers sign up, fill in their e-mail address and ZIP code and receive color-coded alerts about their local air quality. They can select to receive messages on a daily basis or only when the Air Quality Index reaches unhealthy levels.

EnviroFlash helps communities stay better informed about air quality and helps individuals prepare for days when the air quality is unhealthy. After signing up for the system, users will receive alerts color-coded to corresponding health levels. Green days, for example, are healthy days with good air quality. Red days are unhealthy and everyone - especially those with certain health issues - should modify their outdoor activities and take it easy. Subscribers will also receive manually generated emails to inform them about significant air quality events, such as fires, and how they affect the air.

The system also provides useful information on steps to take to reduce your exposure to unhealthy air days. Changing the time of day for activities, limiting exertion or duration or moving your exercise indoors, are a few ways we can better cope with unhealthy air quality.

We can all be more proactive in trying to care for our air. We can drive less and carpool more, conserve electricity and avoid idling in our cars. We can also be more aware of the air and its impact on us individually by being informed and flexible.

In Louisiana, sign up for EnviroFlash as follows:  
[www.enviroflash.info](http://www.enviroflash.info) – click on the map the city or area for which you want notification and sign up.



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Governor  
**Bobby Jindal**

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, air quality in Louisiana has steadily improved, and currently meets all applicable EPA standards; and

WHEREAS, EPA continues to strengthen air quality standards for all pollutants; and

WHEREAS, poor air quality can threaten the health of our citizens and our environment; and

WHEREAS, people with lung disease, children, older adults and people with heart conditions are more vulnerable to poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, it is each person's responsibility to make informed personal choices that support air quality programs intended to help protect and improve the air quality of the state; and

WHEREAS, awareness of air quality and utilization of the Air Quality Index is simple and free and can help protect our communities' health; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the state of Louisiana encourage citizens to utilize the Air Quality Index, to understand causes of poor air quality and to take measures to be the solution to improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, awareness of Air Quality Action Days and implementation of ozone reduction measures will help promote better air quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 2010 as

**AIR QUALITY AWARENESS MONTH**  
in the State of Louisiana.



Attest By  
The Governor

*[Signature]*  
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand official'y and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this*  
the 1st day of May  
A. D., 2010

*[Signature]*  
Governor of Louisiana



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## LAFAYETTE MIDDLE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ACADEMY

The Lafayette Middle Environmental Sciences Academy (LMESA) was formed five years ago as part of the schools of choice program in Lafayette parish. The academy includes 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from throughout the parish that have an interest in the environmental sciences. The Academy incorporates environmental education into core subject areas such as math, science, English and social studies. The object is to teach environmental issues that are relevant to the students' lives. They have developed outdoor learning areas including an interactive math classroom and a science pavilion. This encourages the teachers to get their students outdoors.

In order to integrate environmental studies into all subjects, LMESA has developed grade level themes. In sixth grade the students focus on renewable and non-renewable resources and recycling. They are in charge of the recycling efforts on campus which focus on paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminum. Field trips, like one to a recycling facility in Baton Rouge, help them learn about the waste stream and the importance of recycling, reducing and reusing to protect both our precious renewable and nonrenewable resources.

In seventh grade, the students study both the simple and the complex connections found within the natural world and how humans can impact these connections. They are involved in service projects involving conservation and restoration efforts here in Louisiana. The students learn about the Louisiana Black Bear and its status as a threatened species due to habitat loss. Since cypress trees are part of the bear's natural habitat, for the fourth year, the students will plant approximately 200 cypress seedlings at Avery Island. So far, they have planted 600 seedlings to help restore the island and the black bear's habitat.

The seventh grade students have been studying the threats to Louisiana's coastal wetlands and this year is the fifth year of planting Black Mangrove seedlings at Grand Isle. The students have planted 1200 seedlings to help fight coastal land loss and to create habitat for thousands of migrating birds. LMESA relies on their partnership with the LSU Coastal Roots Program for help on these service learning projects.

In the eighth grade, the focus is on global environmental issues and sustainability. They learn about sustainable farming and fishing methods. They have a worm farm to produce a very rich and organic natural fertilizer known as worm castings. Students study water quality and wise use.

To complete the program, the school offers a variety of afterschool environmental clubs, such as an environmental photo-journalism club, an activist club, a gardening club, a recycling club, animal care, worm farming, eco-art and a Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots club.

Lafayette Middle School Environmental Science Academy applied for and received the 46th Annual State Conservation Achievement Award last February.



Lafayette Middle - 7th Grade Coastal Restoration Project in Grand Isle



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## SEWAGE SLUDGE HAULING SEMINARS

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Small Business Assistance Group in collaboration with water permits, the Criminal Investigation Division and regional offices presented free programs called Sewage Sludge Hauling: Rules & Regulations-How they apply to you. The seminars explained new regulations for sewage sludge haulers and others involved in the sewage sludge hauling and disposal industries. Facility owners, operators, drivers, and the owners of any wastewater treatment facility that accepts sewage sludge were encouraged to attend. More than 190 people participated.

The purpose of the seminars was to discuss the regulations regarding how to register as sewage sludge haulers, how to properly fill out the registration form and monitoring and reporting requirements for both the haulers and the designated receiving facilities. Registration, monitoring and reporting are necessary to ensure that the hauled sewage sludge is properly disposed of and/or handled correctly for the protection of human health and the environment.

It is important to understand the new rules and regulations, because if a hauler who is presently actively hauling sewage sludge is not registered or approved by DEQ, the hauler is in violation of the biosolids regulations and can face fines and penalties. If a receiving facility is not permitted or has not applied and been approved by DEQ, the facility is in violation of the biosolids regulations and/or the Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System regulations and could receive fines and penalties.

Topics included: Small Business/Community Assistance Program Overview, Rules for Sewage Sludge Hauling, Rules for Sewage Sludge Disposal/Treatment Facilities, How to Avoid Criminal Enforcement Actions and a vehicle inspection demonstration. Participants received 6 DHH operator continuing education credits and a certificate of completion for attending.

These seminars were presented as a part of the ongoing DEQ EnviroSchool. For more information, please call 225-219-0877.

## DEQ RESPONDING TO OIL SPILL IN GULF

DEQ is currently working as part of a unified response team to address an oil leak in the gulf. On April 20, the rig exploded and its estimated that as much as 5,000 bbls a day have been leaking from the site.



Booms in place near Chandeleur Islands



Free-floating oil slick in Gulf



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## LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY'S FIRST QUARTER SUMMARIES

### 1st Quarter 2010 Enforcement Actions:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/225/Default.aspx>

### 1st Quarter 2010 Settlement Agreements:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2838/Default.aspx>

### 1st Quarter 2010 Air Permits:

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

### 1st Quarter 2010 Water Permits:

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

### 1st Quarter 2010 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2586/Default.aspx>

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