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Prescribed burning and illegal open burning – know the difference

Fall is here with cooler weather, shorter days, impending holidays and harvesting crops. Late fall also brings the burning of the sugar cane fields, an operation known as prescribed burning. It is legal.

Prescribed burning is an agricultural management practice in Louisiana row crop production used primarily during sugarcane harvest. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) manages the prescribed burning of cane fields.

There can be a number of environmental concerns associated with this practice, so the state has instituted a voluntary smoke and ash management training program to assist growers in addressing these concerns and help prevent smoke and ash from affecting public areas. "Prescribed burning can be defined as the controlled application of fire to agricultural fields under weather conditions that allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area, in a manner that will produce the desired result of reducing leaves in the harvested cane or reduction of crop residue," LDAF said.



*Prescribed sugar cane burning in Louisiana
Photo courtesy of LSU Ag Center*

This program encourages growers to have a responsible attitude toward environmental and public issues in their efforts to be as efficient as possible in the production of sugarcane.

The following are some of the important objectives which growers should strive to achieve:

- Minimize the adverse effects caused by open-field burning of sugarcane.
- Prevent smoke from being blown across public highways and airports.
- Prevent smoke from affecting public areas, especially public health facilities such as hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and doctors' offices.
- Prevent smoke from impacting schools during times when students and teachers are present.

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- Prevent smoke from affecting subdivisions, individual homes and other housing facilities.
- Minimize ash fallout that may result from burning sugarcane.

The LDAF administers the Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Program. LDAF and the LSU AgCenter developed the Louisiana Smoke Management Guidelines for Agriculture. They are found at <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/EC7D865A-9BA3-4C5A-9BCC-F800DF664A71/90040/pup3246louisianasmokemanagementguidelinesforagricu.pdf>.

Growers provide education and training to their employees who conduct prescribed burning operations. A thorough explanation of the goals and recommendations helps employees understand the importance of smoke and ash management. In addition, appropriate personnel should always attend and supervise prescribed agricultural burns. Proper equipment for controlling and confining fires, including a water tank, should be available at all burns.

The ability of growers to conduct controlled agricultural burning is a significant economic factor for many industries, especially the sugar industry. It is critical for growers to do the best job possible regarding smoke and ash management.

Louisiana is not the only state facing this challenge. Every industry that uses prescribed burning recognizes that reducing or eliminating open field burning is one of the most important research topics facing it. Researchers are working to identify the most effective techniques for handling agricultural plant material.

To see the revised statutes for prescribed burning, go to <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/RevisedStatuteprescribedburning.pdf>. For more information on prescribed burning and classes, go to <https://vimeo.com/638770358>.

Illegal burning is a different story. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) handles the environmental aspects of illegal open burning. However, LDAF and LDEQ work together when the disposal of large amounts of vegetative debris, such as hurricane debris, is required. LDEQ has a debris plan that outlines the guidelines that parishes need to follow to have pre-approved debris sites for such events.

The debris management plan requires that any vegetative debris must be reduced by 50% before it goes to a landfill. There are a few ways to do that, and the debris sites must opt-in. Chipping, composting, burning and burning with an air curtain destructor may reduce the debris. Non-pre-approved sites must request a BMP – Best Management Plan – from LDAF before they can burn. The same restriction applies to any large burns conducted.



Illegal burning of tires

While agricultural and vegetative waste burning can be legal, LDEQ reminds residents that any open burning of household waste, solid waste and chemicals is illegal in the state of Louisiana.

Open burning is harmful to those conducting the open burn as well as their families, neighbors, pets and livestock. The ash generated from an open burn can contain toxic materials which can contaminate air, soil and groundwater. When burned, household trash releases toxic pollutants into the air such as hydrogen chloride, hydrogen cyanide, phosgene, sulfur dioxide,

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dioxin, carbon monoxide and heavy metals. These pollutants can cause health problems for anyone nearby. Health impacts include damage to the lungs, nervous system, kidneys and liver. Asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and cancer are other potential problems.

Open burning of waste is a habit passed down from generation to generation. However, the responsible parties are liable for committing an illegal act. These types of waste must be disposed of in the proper manner.

Those without trash pickup service should deliver their waste to a landfill for proper disposal. Doing so is protective of public health and the environment and helps you do your part in preserving our Sportsman's Paradise.

Here are some alternatives to open burning:

- Reduce, Recycle and Reuse as much as possible.
- Compost vegetative matter such as eggshells, coffee grounds and fruit/vegetable peelings for your garden.
- Take household paint, chemicals and waste tires to a Household Hazardous Materials Day event for disposal – free of charge. Check your city or parish for locations.
- Used fluorescent light bulbs, batteries and plastic grocery bags are accepted for recycling at many big box stores.
- Electronics (laptops, iPhones, etc.) you no longer need are accepted by the CACRC at www.cacrc.com.
- Deliver any household waste to a landfill or trash disposal location within your city or parish.
- Construction and demolition waste should be disposed of at permitted landfills, municipal incinerators or other state-approved facilities.
- Spread the word. Talk to your neighbors about the importance of not open burning for you and your family's health and the environment.

LDEQ encourages citizens to watch for open burning activities. Report any open burn of waste tires, household debris, oil or chemical waste to your local law enforcement authorities as well as LDEQ at 1-888-763-5424. Also, submit an incident report online at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/apps/forms/irf/forms>. Reports can be anonymous, but a phone number is required for a call back for further details. In order to assist authorities with the investigation, document the exact location and parish, time/date, materials burned and parties involved with as much detail as possible.

LDEQ's Criminal Investigations Section will investigate anyone conducting an open burn. If they are violate the law, they are subject to prosecution and may face a fine of up to \$100,000, ten years imprisonment at hard labor, or both. Please view LDEQ's video on Open Burning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yunEs3aYGY>.

To read the regulations on open burning, go to https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/About_LDEQ/enviroschool/33v03-201107.pdf.

To see the LDEQ State of Louisiana comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management, visit <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Solid-Waste/DebrisManagementPlanrevised093021.pdf>.



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Discussion continues to grow around climate concerns. Serving on the Governor's Climate Initiative Task Force, I have a front row seat to the conversation. Carbon is the concern. Atmospheric carbon fuels climate change and impacts air quality and weather. It's mostly in the form of carbon dioxide, and is produced when hydrocarbons are burned – gasoline or diesel in engines of cars or boats or trains, coal in power plants or furnaces and other hydrocarbons burned to produce energy.

We have to generate energy. The electricity that powers your television, lights up your house at night and enables your computer to display your social media posts is generated from an energy source. Most of it is produced with natural gas, a hydrocarbon, but smaller amounts still come from coal-fired plants and from solar, hydroelectric and wind generation. Those last three are generally referred to as “clean” energy sources or “renewable” energy sources.

We want to use more energy from renewable sources, but it has to be available. Solar power is fine, but not at night. Wind power is great, except when the wind is not blowing. And hydroelectric power has a whole set of infrastructure hurdles to clear and requires some fast-flowing water to work well. Nuclear power plants also provide some of our energy needs, but the issue of how to dispose of nuclear waste from reactors has not been settled. People worry about leaks, meltdowns and spills with nuclear power plants.

My point is that there is no one clear solution, and good arguments can be made for and against any single path to a low-emissions energy future. That's OK. If there was ever a multiple-choice exam, this is it. We need to do what works and everything that works. The economy will eventually weed out those less efficient, less profitable solutions. We just have to ensure that we get to that low-emission future, no matter what road we take to get there.

I want to take a second to congratulate all the winners of the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Everyday Heroes Awards. I was honored to be a presenter at the organization's state conference in Baton Rouge on Oct. 14. KLB does much to help clean up litter in Louisiana, and by honoring local groups and individuals who make special contributions to the effort, they spread the word and share the dream of a cleaner, healthier Louisiana.

We are coming up on the holiday season. There will be lots of parties and fun gatherings. I hope all of you enjoy yourselves but stay safe. It's a particularly dangerous time out on the highways. Be alert. Drive sober, and don't let your friends drive home drunk.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown



LDEQ Secretary Brown addresses AWMA Conference

“Engaging the public is what I am going to focus on,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. The secretary was addressing members of the Air and Waste Managers Association (AWMA), Louisiana Chapter, gathered for their annual meeting on Oct. 28 at L’Auberge Casino in Baton Rouge.

Brown gave a quick picture of the agency and where it’s headed. Among his goals for LDEQ, he said, are being accessible, transparent and responsive to the public. At the same time, he said the agency should use all media available to inform and educate the public because knowledge empowers individuals to ask the right questions.

Right now, “Environmental Justice is their buzz word,” Brown said of national environmental discussions. “I firmly believe that equity is a better term than justice.” Brown said he has an Equity Advisory Panel examining how to address the question of environmental impacts across all communities. “I challenge them to bring folks to the table who are not the usual suspects,” he said, pointing out that he wasn’t looking to hear from the people who have already received grants or formed groups. Rather, he said, he wants to hear from those community members who have not had their say so far.



Dr. Brown speaks at the AWMA Conference.

Some of the big challenges the agency faces in its mission to protect human health and the environment in Louisiana come from within, he said. Brown pointed to municipal solid waste as an enormous task that just keeps getting bigger.

“Every man, woman and child in the U.S. generates about 5 pounds of municipal solid waste every day, seven days a week, 365 days a year,” he said. There is just too much waste, he said, and alternative solutions like recycling have to be employed. “I’ve always had a compost pile,” he said.

Landfills have odor problems, he noted, and it’s a growing problem because many of them are near residential areas. It’s not all bad, though. Brown suggested that landfills that reach capacity and are closed with proper soil covering could perhaps serve as locations for solar farms in the future.

Brown, who also is a member of the Governor’s Climate Initiatives Task Force, talked some about striking a balance between sustaining high levels of energy availability and reducing levels of carbon in the atmosphere. Climate change is real, he said, and he pointed to the increasing number of hurricanes that have been hitting Louisiana. Brown said bridge fuels like natural gas and alternative fuels like blue hydrogen could send carbon emission sharply downward. Renewable alternatives like solar, wind and hydroelectric power will have to play a major role in the future, he said. But, “nothing is ruled out.”

Brown said that carbon reduction needs to have a stick as well as a carrot, and the stick may come in the form of taxes on carbon emissions based on a set value for carbon.



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LDEQ's EnviroSchool to host webinar: World of Waste

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) EnviroSchool will host webinars in November on the World of Waste. The topic will be covered in two sessions.

Part one will provide an overview of LDEQ's Waste Permits Division. Topics discussed will include descriptions of various types of landfills and what they are permitted to accept, an overview of financial assurance requirements and a brief discussion of the Hazardous Waste Generator Improvement Rule.

Part two will also provide an overview of the LDEQ's Waste Permits Division. Topics discussed will include recycling--the importance of recycling, annual reporting from parishes within the state, as well as legislative reporting. Also addressed in this session will be all aspects of waste tires including permitting, licensing, fees, generators, transporters, processors, recycling and cleanups.

PART ONE:

When: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9

Online: Live Webinar Only

PART TWO:

When: 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 18

Online: Live Webinar Only



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

ENVIROSCHOOL

Please register by emailing enviroschool@la.gov.

The EnviroSchool program at LDEQ is the environmental education outreach arm of the agency and provides training for communities, businesses and other organizations on a number of regulatory topics. The program aims to inform attendees about the environmental regulatory process and to maintain and improve environmental compliance.

The workshops are free and open to the public. If you are interested, please feel free to register for any of our workshops.

For more information, go to <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroschool> or email EnviroSchool at Enviroschool@la.gov.



LDEQ's airboat navigates hard-to-reach areas in Louisiana's waterways

Over the last few years, LDEQ has seen an escalating need to access remote or precarious waterways. Airboats have a reputation as the optimal mode of transportation for maneuvering through hard-to-reach, swampy and low-lying areas. So in 2018, LDEQ acquired a 17-foot airboat to meet that need.

Available for statewide use, the airboat has proven to be a valuable asset, expanding the department's breadth of coverage. The airboat's agility and design allow it to be deployed successfully into rivers, lakes, tributaries and bayous that cannot otherwise be accessed by the department's Boston Whalers and skiffs.

"The airboat allows LDEQ's emergency response team to safely navigate otherwise inaccessible areas as we conduct emergency response tasks in support of the state's environmental protection mission," LDEQ Environmental Scientist Manager Jerry Lang said.

Constructed by Mark's Airboats, Inc., in Franklin, La., the airboat is fitted with a small block levitator motor and has a cruising speed of about 40 mph. The vessel can go up to 60 mph, depending on the waterway's conditions. LDEQ currently has four drivers certified to operate the airboat, each of which can transport a driver plus four passengers. Housed in LDEQ's warehouse in West Baton Rouge Parish, the vessel can be deployed practically anywhere across the state.

The airboat has recently seen a great deal of use, especially evident during the busy 2020-21 hurricane season that impacted many areas across south Louisiana. Particularly useful for post-flood and post-hurricane endeavors, the vessel has supported oil sheen investigations, orphaned container search, recovery operations and flood assistance missions. An added benefit is how it has enhanced partnerships and helped to forge some camaraderie during those emergency response operations. It transported personnel from other agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, during storm damage assessments in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

"The addition of this unique vessel will improve agency response options and allow staff to investigate and assess pollution incidents fully," said Jeff J. Dauzat, Administrator for LDEQ's Emergency and Radiological Services Division. "This vessel will also allow LDEQ to function in other spaces such as search and rescue activity during high water events. We are happy to add this piece of equipment into our fleet."



At 17 feet long, the airboat has a cruising speed of 40 mph and seats a driver plus four people.



LDEQ emergency response personnel locate an orphaned tank during post-Hurricane Ida recovery operations.



U.S. Coast Guard personnel ride along with LDEQ emergency response staff during a post-Hurricane Ida assessment mission to locate, identify and recover displaced tanks and drums.



Keep Louisiana Beautiful 2021 State Conference convened in October

For the first time in over a year, members of Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) and its affiliates met, in person, at the Capital Hilton in downtown Baton Rouge, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 13-14. The conference included a professional development day for the Board of Directors, the affiliate directors and information on how to write a winning grant proposal.

Thursday's activities included a morning of informative speakers and helpful topics and the Everyday Heroes Awards Luncheon hosted by KLB and Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser.

Morning speakers shared a variety of information and topics with the participants. David Scott, Ph.D. and Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Senior Director of Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, discussed an overview of the KAB National Litter Study and its implications for KAB programming and how it would affect the affiliates.

The second session, The Litter–Flooding Connection, featured the founding members of the Louisiana Stormwater Commission talking about litter and its flooding consequences. Members, Marie Constantin, Dr. Jeff Keuhny (LSU Burden Center), Kelly Sword-Hurtado and Renee DeWitt-Verma, discussed how litter contributes to Louisiana flooding problems. The Stormwater Commission is an all-volunteer, grassroots effort whose mission is to increase awareness about the management of stormwater programs.

Session three addressed Creating and Maintaining Community Recycling Programs. It included panelists who discussed the issue and how they created and worked with the programs. Panelists were Rachel Hering from Keep Texas Beautiful, Janet Vincent from Keep Deridder Beautiful, Courtney Hornsby, board member of KLB and representative of the city of West Monroe and Aundi Brown from Ouachita Green.

The final morning session was called Steal this Program with panelists who have instituted and created innovative programs to fight litter. The panelists were Trey Brownfield of Keep Slidell Beautiful, Lauren Jones and Emelie Hornmeyer of Shreveport Green and Franziska Troutman and Max Steitz from Glass Half Full glass recycling.

University Track, a new program with Louisiana university participation, was announced at the Everyday Heroes Luncheon. The university representatives are members of the University Sustainability Coalition. The goal of the coalition is to “embark on a new and exciting effort to increase the sustainability conversation, engagement and collaboration amongst universities and institutions of higher learning in Louisiana,” according to KLB. There are seven Louisiana university members – LSU, Tulane,



Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser speaks at the KLB conference.



*Photo courtesy of KLB
Dr. Brown presents the Most Innovative Program Award to Glass Half Full representatives.*

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Grambling, Xavier, Nicholls State University, University of New Orleans (UNO) and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL).

The Everyday Heroes Awards were the highlight of the luncheon, which also recognized affiliates throughout the state. Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser spoke to the group to recognize their efforts and encourage participation. He also shared a video promoting the state of Louisiana with the group. LDEQ Secretary Dr. Brown presented the Alice Foster Award.

To see the winners of the 2021 Everyday Hero Awards, visit <https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/programs-events/everyday-hero-awards>.

St. Tammany's Litter Court enforces litter laws



*Photo courtesy of St. Tammany Parish
St. Tammany has three litter abatement vans that frequently transports crews throughout the parish to conduct litter cleanups.*

Littering is such an unnecessary, senseless act that not only costs millions of dollars to fight but also ruins our environmental aesthetic. It causes roadside hazards, harms aquatic species and wildlife, can cause sewage backups and flooding and a host of other problems for everyone. There is nothing positive about litter.

With the idea of "Show your love, not your litter," St. Tammany Parish decided to do something about it.

St. Tammany's website says that "fighting the scourge of litter has been a cornerstone of St. Tammany Parish Government since its inception." To that end, the parish created a Litter Abatement Department tasked with addressing litter violations, illegal dumping and illegal signage.

Louisiana Beautiful, litter removal costs up to \$40 million per year statewide. That's money that could go toward education, infrastructure, beautification and community programs.

But for those who decide to litter anyway, the parish wanted to go a step further in enforcing environmental laws by putting some "teeth" into the litter law through a legal deterrent – known as the litter court.

Rick Moore, a retired sheriff's deputy and former Litter Enforcement Officer for the parish, organized the litter abatement program in 2016, which included the creation of a litter court.

Convening on a monthly basis, the parish's litter court is in place to enforce litter laws through Justices of the Peace and Parish Constables. The purpose is to spread the word that littering has legal consequences and should not be tolerated. Through the court, offenders are brought to justice and can either pay a fine or be placed on what is known as a litter abatement crew, consisting of those who have been held responsible for littering. The crew is tasked with picking up trash from the roadside, actively becoming a part of the solution to a problem they helped to create.

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St. Tammany's investigatory process is straight forward and robust. As litter is discovered, constables will take photographs and a subsequent investigation will attempt to identify the offending party or parties responsible. Once the offender is tracked down, either a ticket or court summons with a bond sheet (denoting fines and charges) will be sent to their address, along with the penalties, photographs and a copy of the litter ordinance that was violated. The offender has the option to pay the fine or argue the infraction at the litter court in front of a Justice of the Peace.

The parish website describes the program as a collaborative endeavor that will use three litter abatement vans as well as St. Tammany Parish jail trustees, who will deploy Monday through Friday to conduct cleanups assigned by the Litter Abatement Office. Since litter fines are cumulative, over the last 20 years, the parish has maintained a repeat offender database that now has approximately 4,000 offenders.

"The database is kept up to date, so that if the parish finds a repeat offender, their fines can go up by a half. For the third offense, the offender can lose their driver's license, in addition to a fine at the discretion of the court," Moore noted.

A large component of the program is citizen engagement, and the parish has made reporting litter easier through a Litter Prevention Form on its website. There, citizens may report violators and even submit a Road Cleanup Request Form to report unattended litter.

"Our program has been growing in popularity over the last 20 years. St. Tammany Parish is partnered with Keep Louisiana Beautiful and have worked closely with attorney Mike Daniels at LDEQ over the past ten years to prepare a program that all parishes and municipalities can use in their jurisdictions," Moore added.

Daniels and Moore wrote a comprehensive litter ordinance template and handbook for the state to address the litter problem. "The litter abatement program and litter court is a great way of deterring the litter problem as we continue to enforce environmental regulations," Daniels said. "LDEQ is proud of its collaboration with St. Tammany Parish and Keep Louisiana Beautiful, as we work together to address the litter problem statewide."

"St. Tammany has seen about 40 cases per month, or 400 to 500 summonses written each year," Moore said. While some settle or plead out, the result is that citizens are held accountable for their choice to litter.

Based on the success and unique nature of the program, Susan Russell, executive director of Keep Louisiana Beautiful, asked Moore to hold seminars across the state to spread the word to assist other cities and parishes with starting up their own programs. "Our goal is not just to provide the 'how to' on starting a program. We also have a handbook that can be downloaded on how to set up a litter court, which walks you through the steps that need to be taken. Enforcement is just one tool, as everyone has to have a hand in solving the issue. Mindsets must be changed," Russell said.

To promote the handbook and help local governments with the creation of their own litter abatement programs, Daniels and Moore traveled around the state to spread the word. While results have been varied, parishes such as Ouachita, Jefferson, Calcasieu and Tangipahoa, along with the cities of Shreveport and Lafayette have successfully launched anti-litter programs that took a page from St. Tammany's model.

Litter enforcement, education, outreach and cleanup programs continue to be topics of discussion at city/parish council meetings, with many putting together plans of action that aim to take a bite out of littering.

To view the litter abatement handbook, go to <https://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/app/doc/view.aspx?doc=10054868&ob=ye&child=yes>. Visit Keep St. Tammany Beautiful at <http://www.keepsttammanybeautiful.org>.

For more information on St. Tammany's Litter Abatement program, check out <http://www.stpgov.org/index.php/residents/litter-abatement>.



LDEQ hosts GBRFB Food Drive and Fundraiser

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is once again partnering with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank (GBRFB) to host a fundraiser and food drive with opportunities to give through Dec. 30. Louisiana communities are still exhibiting a greater need than ever. LDEQ’s annual food drive strives to support that need. According to the GBRFB website, hunger impacts one in five people in our community. With the global COVID-19 health pandemic still affecting many and another active hurricane season this year, the number of individuals and families seeking support is sure to rise.

Map the Meal Gap is the latest Feeding America report on food insecurity at the state and parish level (data from 2019). A Meal Gap is the difference, measured in meals, between a household being food insecure and food secure. Pre-pandemic data from 2018 reflected a 20.1 million meal gap in the 11-parish service area, whereas 2019 data showed a slight decrease but still a meal gap of over 19 million. It is critical, however, to consider how the pandemic will affect these numbers and the amount of people in need.

The GBRFB anticipates significant cutbacks in the amount of food product they receive from the government and federal feeding programs, which were designated for pandemic response, but are now expected to expire. Not only are they looking at the expiration of these programs but also an increase in the new families turning to their member agencies for assistance as a result of the uncertainty of the workforce and the increased number of unemployed. This means overall lower levels of food resources for 2021, requiring GBRFB to purchase more food to meet the increased need.

In addition to the anticipated food shortage from government and federal feeding programs, Feeding America reports that the demand for food assistance in 2021 will be 60% higher than Pre-Covid levels. At the same time, available food resources will be 50% less available than Pre-Covid levels. Consider these alarming projections and add that the new data ranks Louisiana number one in child hunger. Support for organizations like GBRFB is more important now than ever before.

How can you help?

Give Funds. This pandemic’s impact is being felt by so many – especially our seniors, children, and low-income families. According to GBRFB, just \$1 can provide up to three meals. The Food Bank has the ability to purchase products in bulk at low costs, which allows a single donated dollar to go much further than the average dollar. You can give monetary donations to Terry Thomas by Dec. 30. Checks should be payable to the Food Bank.

Additionally, all funds raised in the “Snack Shack” will go to GBRFB, so be sure to support them when in the office. It is now open daily from 8 am – 3 pm. The “Snack Shack” can be found on the 9th floor of the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge, in the Undersecretary’s lobby. You can also purchase a casual dress pass for the dates Nov. 1 – Dec. 30 for \$20. You can get your sticker from Terry Thomas or at desk 921-01A.

Finally, LDEQ encourages you to participate in “Gratitude is the Best Attitude.” This activity requires your help in growing feathers for the turkeys! \$1 a feather. Each feather will include a written note of



LDEQ’s Waste Permits Division made a colorful turkey in 2020.

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gratitude, which will be pinned to the turkey. Please see the flyer for details.

Give Time. Without the thousands of volunteer hours each year, the GBRFB would be unable to provide food to the many children, seniors, and families facing hunger in our community. To read about volunteer safety or to sign up to volunteer, please visit brfoodbank.org.

Give Food. With the increased need for food assistance, GBRFB is seeking an increase in food donations. You can drop off your donated items at the designated collection areas in the regional offices and Headquarters.

Read “Stories of Hunger” on the GBRFB blog, www.brfoodbank.org/category/stories-of-hunger, to see first-hand how impactful your donation is. We hope you all will join us in our efforts to help support GBRFB this year.

Gratitude is the best Attitude

Show your gratitude this holiday season
AND help the turkey’s feathers grow!

This is how it works:
Buy feather(s) at \$1 each
Write on the feather what you are
thankful for... either serious or funny!
Pin the feather(s) to the turkey and
watch them grow!

Turkeys and feathers will be at regional
offices and throughout HQ.

All proceeds benefit area
Food Banks.



What to Donate

- Canned vegetables (beans, peas, carrots, etc.)
- Canned soups
- Dried beans
- Canned meats
- Flour
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Pasta
- Corn meal
- Breakfast cereal and bars
- Any canned, bagged or boxed nonperishable food



April Wallace promoted to Capital Regional Office Manager

Wallace earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Grambling State University in May 1999.

She joined LDEQ as an environmental scientist in the Surveillance Division within the Office of Environmental Compliance in 2002. After working at the agency for four years, Wallace left to pursue a passion in the teaching profession. She rejoined LDEQ in July 2009 as an environmental scientist in the Surveillance Division.

After 15 years as an environmental scientist and inspector, Wallace was promoted to Environmental Scientist 4 in February 2020. In December 2000, she was promoted to Environmental Scientist Supervisor.

Wallace has over 16 years of experience with the Department and was recently promoted to Capital Regional Office Manager.



April Wallace

Jeff Leonick promoted to Regional Manager for LDEQ's Southeast Regional Office

Leonick graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University in January 1993, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in biological science. He joined the LDEQ team in June 1994 and has been in the Surveillance Division for 27 years. Leonick worked as an inspector, supervisor, water dual career ladder (DCL) and as a regional manager in the Surveillance Division. Leonick was recently promoted to SERO Regional Office Manager.

He enjoys hunting, fishing, boating and spending time with friends and family.



Jeff Leonick



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2021 Enforcement Actions:

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

Third Quarter 2021 Settlement Agreements:

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

Third Quarter 2021 Air Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2021 Water Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2021 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

