



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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2023 Louisiana Brownfields Conference held in Alexandria

"I was there at the beginning," LDEQ Secretary Roger Gingles told attendees at the 2023 Louisiana Brownfield Conference: Brownfields Bootcamp.

Gingles opened the Oct. 25-26 event in Alexandria's Convention Hall by welcoming all in attendance. The LDEQ Brownfield Program was started by Gingles two decades ago. "I didn't know what a Brownfield was," he said. "I learned."

The free conference was hosted by the city of Alexandria with event funding from EPA. The event offered guests insights into the LDEQ Brownfields Program and the process of how a Brownfields property is redeveloped for future community use. The program serves as a technical assistance and assessment program for Louisiana communities looking for land reuse by funding environmental properties and addressing liability issues through grants awards by the Environmental Protection Agency. Events like the Alexandria conference are meant to publicize the resources the program can offer to help solve community problems like blighted property.



LDEQ Secretary Roger Gingles speaks to attendees at the 2023 Louisiana Brownfields Conference in Alexandria, Oct. 25.

"Brownfield is the greatest program that nobody knows about," LDEQ Environmental Scientist and Brownfields Coordinator Rebecca Otte said. Otte and LDEQ Environmental Scientist Jennifer Schatzle both gave presentations on how the Brownfield process works.

What is a Brownfield? Brownfields are vacant or underutilized properties with suspected environmental concerns, such as asbestos or lead paint, that can present as an obstacle to site redevelopment.

LDEQ's Brownfield Program allows federal, state and local entities to facilitate the reuse of Brownfield properties throughout the state. The program assists in

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transitioning these properties into new community assets by helping local communities and government with the steps of the environmental process: investigation, cleanup and redevelopment.

There are many reasons why land redevelopment is important. It addresses perceived or real contamination of a site, reduces urban sprawl, creates jobs and can spur further revitalization. Land has economic value and it's important not to leave land to waste.

What are some good candidates for the LDEQ Brownfield Program? Gas stations, old government or municipal buildings with asbestos present, old manufacturing facilities and houses where reuse is for affordable housing.

Attendees of the Brownfields Conference learned how to prioritize Brownfield sites and build inventory, how to attract developers to rural communities with Brownfield sites, how to seek guidance from the EPA on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding and further resources to support Brownfield projects.

There are five phases involved in the redevelopment of a Brownfield site. Phase I is the environmental site assessment to find out what environmental hazard exists on the property. Phase II allows for a survey to be performed where groundwater samples are taken. Next is the Cleanup and Remediation Planning phase where plans are developed to address identified site contamination. The Cleanup and Remediation phase puts the planning phase into effect. The final step in the process is the Regulatory phase where documentation of cleanup activities is submitted to regulatory agencies.

At the conference, Gingles presented a \$500,000 award from EPA to the city of Alexandria to fund future Brownfield site redevelopments for years to come. "The more property you get cleaned up and redeveloped in the state, the more it benefits everybody," he said.

If you're interested in learning more about past Brownfield properties, please visit the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) accessible from the official LDEQ website, www.deq.louisiana.gov.

EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Grant program awards New Orleans \$2 Million

Recently the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally awarded the city of New Orleans \$2 million to support the environmental remediation of the former Naval Support Activity Complex (NSA) in the city's Bywater neighborhood. Officials from the city, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), EPA and Limitless Vistas were on hand at the presentation ceremony at Stallings Recreation Center. The award is from the EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Grant program, funded by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

"Both of these recipients have been partners in Brownfields for over two decades and it has been a pleasure to work with everybody," LDEQ Secretary Roger Gingles said. "Brownfields is not just getting a place cleaned up and putting a fence around it but getting beyond that."

The Brownfields Cleanup Grant program provides funding to carry out cleanup activities at Brownfield sites to allow for future development. Funds are used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum.

"The Brownfields Program helps communities that have experienced long periods of disinvestment," EPA Region 6 Section Chief Althea Foster said.

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“As the City of New Orleans remains on the frontlines of the ongoing global climate crisis, a top priority has been bolstering our more vulnerable, marginalized populations that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental injustices for generations,” New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell said. “We are honored to be selected as a recipient of EPA’s Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program, which is a critical next step towards the renovation of this immense and derelict property. Once complete, this site will provide a resilient and sustainable source of power, as well as much needed affordable housing, commerce and job creation. My administration will continue to demonstrate our commitment to resolving our decades-long environmental issues and identifying sustainable solutions that are a win-win for our city and our residents and also in direct alignment with our federal infrastructure and climate action goals.”



From left, Robert D. Rivers, executive director of New Orleans Planning Commission; Kari Godchaux, principal planner/Brownfields manager for City of New Orleans; Rebecca Otte, LDEQ Statewide Brownfields Director; Jennifer Schatzle, LSU Brownfields and VRP Technical Liaison/Environmental Scientist; Gary Fulton, LDEQ Assistant Secretary for Assessment; Roger Gingles, Secretary of LDEQ

The former NSA complex was completed in 1919 by the Navy and was used as a logistic station to protect the Port of New Orleans from attack, a shelter and training center for the unemployed and homeless during the Great Depression and later as a recruiting and training station for multiple military branches. It was deactivated and sold to the City of New Orleans in 2011 to facilitate its redevelopment. The complex is currently vacant and primarily consists of three 84,000-square-foot, 6-story buildings within an approximately 1.5 million-square-foot site. All three buildings are listed under criteria A on the National Register of Historic Places due to their military history.

Future development of the property will create mixed-use buildings with 295 affordable residential units. A local grocery store will be the primary first floor retailer included in the development plan. The vacant lots included in the development will be transformed into a recreational area for residents, in addition to hosting public events. Recreational areas will include walking trails with native and pollinator plants to support the bee and butterfly populations and a stage for local music and events to further promote the music culture of New Orleans. The flat roof tops of the buildings are slated to become a site for solar panel installation to assist with powering the property and

storing energy for power outages. Energy efficient appliances are included in the build out as well. There will be no displacement of residents included in this project; alternately, affordable housing will create placement and housing for residents.

EPA has also selected local nonprofit organization, Limitless Vistas, for a Brownfields Job Training grant. Limitless Vistas plans to train 200 students and place at least 120 in environmental jobs. Students who complete the training will earn up to three federal certifications. Limitless Vistas is targeting students from New Orleans, specifically dislocated, unemployed, underemployed and low-income individuals, minorities, opportunity youth, citizens with justice-system involvement, and veterans. Key partners include the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, Louisiana DEQ and the Urban League of Louisiana.

“We have free training (environmental),” Sherry Calloway, Limitless Vistas Executive Director said. “We hope to support the Brownfields project with technical training for people.” The City’s application for the Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program was submitted by the CPC’s Brownfields Program, in coordination with Mayor Cantrell’s Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Task Force. The City created the multi-departmental IIJA Task Force in January 2022 to analyze infrastructure needs within the City and secure funding from the new infrastructure law.

More information on the EPA Brownfields programs and awards can be found here at www.epa.gov/brownfields/marc-grant-application-resources.



Message from the Secretary

Roger W. Gingles



LDEQ Secretary Roger W. Gingles

The general election was held in Louisiana on Oct. 14. We elected a governor and approved some constitutional amendments. Don't forget, however, that it was a primary election. We have runoff races for several statewide offices coming up Saturday, Nov. 18. We will select an attorney general, secretary of state and treasurer and decide on four more constitutional amendments. So don't think your duty is done. Last election's turnout was about 35 percent, not nearly what it should be. Let's get out and cast our ballots in the runoff races. Support the candidate of your choice. Be a part of the process.

Also coming up in November: holidays. The first is Veteran's Day. The actual holiday is Saturday, Nov. 11. The observed day will be Nov. 10. That's the day off. Enjoy it, and remember to let a veteran know that his/her service is appreciated.

We will celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 23. It's a time for families. I hope you will all gather to enjoy all that this day brings – good food, family, football and an after-dinner nap. I hope you will also contribute to the fall campaign to support the Food Banks. Not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to afford a nice meal for Thanksgiving. This food drive is one way of helping out those needy people. At the beginning of this month, Terry Thomas sent out an email with a list of items requested to help families prepare holiday meals. Collection barrels are located on each LDEQ floor where you can deposit food items. Or you can give money if you don't want to bring food items. Pickup dates for the barrels is Nov. 16 for the Thanksgiving meals. The barrels will stay out until Dec. 14 to accommodate collections for the Christmas meals.

There are also fundraisers underway to benefit the Food Banks. For \$20, you can have casual dress privileges through Dec. 2. The Snack Shak on the ninth floor is open 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. selling sodas and snacks, with proceeds benefiting the Food Banks as well. Then there are the turkey feathers for a \$1 each. Write what you are thankful for on the feathers and pin them on turkeys located at HQ and regional offices.

So it's easy to help out. It will make someone's holiday just a little better, and yours too.

I want to give the Brownfields program a quick kudo here. They had their annual state meeting in Alexandria on Oct. 25. I was there to participate in some of the awards and to hear speakers from LDEQ, EPA and local brownfields offices from local governments around the state. It's a great program that boosts LDEQ's image around the state.

I will remind you again. There is a burn ban in most parishes around Louisiana. It's still critically dry. We don't want more wildfires. Now that the weather is a bit cooler, the temptation is to light up those backyard fire pits. If you live in an area with a burn ban (most of us do), just wait until we get more rain to enjoy those backyard fires.

Happy Halloween! Be safe! Leave the scary stuff to the little spooks!



LDEQ Communications releases a new MAML tour video

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has released a new video on YouTube featuring a tour of one of the agency's handy gadgets: its Mobile Air Monitoring Lab (MAML).

LDEQ has two MAMLs that use state-of-the-art air monitoring and analysis equipment to gather real-time air quality data. LDEQ Secretary Roger Gingles leads the introduction of the MAML and LDEQ Environmental Scientist Thomas Lee gives the tour of the vehicle. The LDEQ MAMLs can be found testing air quality in Louisiana monthly in designated cities or after emergency events to make sure no harmful chemicals are leaking into the air that we breathe.

If you'd like to watch the LDEQ MAML tour and learn more about what the MAML can do, please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtw_7bXCquk&pp=ygUJbGRlcSBtYW1s on YouTube.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Thomas Lee gives the tour of the MAML.

Kevin Borne explains Emergency Response on the latest episode of LDEQ On Air Podcast



The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has released the eighth episode of the LDEQ On Air Podcast. In this episode, Environmental Scientist Manager Kevin Borne explained how LDEQ's Emergency Response Section works to protect Louisiana's environment and public health.

Borne discussed the three programs within the Emergency Response Section: Chemical Accident Prevention Program (CAPP), Radiological Emergency Planning and Response (REP&R) and Single Point of Contact (SPOC). He also explained the importance of the unified command and how it functions during a catastrophic event.

Each month, the podcast features one guest answering questions about his or her role at LDEQ. Next month's guest will be LDEQ Environmental Scientist India Ambeau. She will

discuss Louisiana's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program and give information on how to become involved in LDEQ community outreach events.

The goal of the podcast is to inform the public about how issues are handled at LDEQ, how LDEQ is organized, the people behind the processes at LDEQ and to answer questions about agency issues.

To listen, visit the LDEQ On Air Podcast webpage at www.deq.louisiana.gov/podcast. The podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts. If you have any questions or would like to submit suggestions, please email the LDEQ Communications Section at SECTCOMMUNICATIONS@la.gov.

For more information about LDEQ's Emergency Response Section, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/emergency-response-section.



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LDEQ honors employees with service awards

On Oct. 17, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) honored employees for their dedicated years of state service. LDEQ consists of different people in different jobs that all contribute to the fulfillment of the LDEQ mission. “The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect health, safety and welfare while considering sound policies that are consistent with statutory mandates.” We like to showcase our employees to show them how much they are valued by recognizing them for the many years they have served the great state of Louisiana. The following are the LDEQ employees who have served for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years. We appreciate each and every one of you and the work you do. Thank you!

2023 Service Award Recipients

(In recognition of milestone anniversaries that occurred July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

5 Years

Thomas Aepelbacher
Sal Ange
Kathleen Bowers
Nicholas Burton
Ruby Costa
Arlys Dalton
Perry Fontenot
Kevin Foy
John Grosch
Garrett Hawkins
Jace Hood
Mary Hughes
Tiffany Hundshamer
Rashmi Krishnapuram
Erin Lombard
Amanda Marshall
Donna McCollough
Matthew Meyer
Dave Meyers
Lori Pittman
Coty Rabalais
Madeline Richard
Tonjia Scott
Clayton Smith
Yuxin Tang
Katie Vidrine

10 Years

India Ambeau
Emily Barthelemy
Whitney Brasher
Kodi Brignac
Sharron Crayton
Mary Ducote
Audrey Hall
Joyce Rogers
Terry Sylvester

Melati Tessier
Katie Thames
Melonie Ward
Randall Wiggins

15 Years

Sarah Baquet
Clinton Beauregard
Derek Borne
Brad Bourgoyne
Bernadine Boyett
Ashley Broom
Yu Cheng
Bradley Clary
Michael Daniels
Rachel Davis
Amy Exnicios
Adrienne Gossman
Tonya Landry
Ardrene Logan
Alan Magro
Kelly O'Neal
Rhyshima Parme-Green

Tomeka Prioleau
Jacqueline Prudente
Shannon Pusateri
Isaac Ricketts
Yolunda Righteous
Shawntel Robertson
Alicia Ryan
Della Smith
Jeffrey Stansberry
Leslie Taylor
Jeffrey Thibodeaux

20 Years

Crisalda Adams
Laura Almond

Remy Boudreaux
Michael Broussard
Randy Creighton
Craig Easley
John Fontenot
Jay Glorioso
Devlin Hopper
Kathryn Huddle
Kerry Michael Jones
Alan Karr
Jean Kelly
Jodie Kimball
Dionne Magness
Rachael Mathews
Gregory McCarty
Andrew Messina
Melissa Miller
Jeremy Moore
Yvette Olmos
Jeffrey Parham

20 Years

Margaret Parker
James Reed
Dana Shepherd
Willard Steele
Regenia Taylor
Don Wiley
Hellena Williby
Naz Zanjani-Bachar

25 Years

Peter Cazeaux
Angela Fabre
Jason Hanchey
Holly Herrmann
Elizabeth Hill
Mark Juneau

William Little
Tad Loupe
Carolyn Mathis
Rhonda McCormick
Christopher Means
Kevin Natali
Richard Ober
Kevin Scott
Victoria Thibodeaux
Robert Thomas

30 Years

Elizabeth Altazan
Jeffrey Baker
William Berger
Michelle Bickham
Debbie Bissett
Samuel Broussard
Gilberto Cuadra
Maria Fatima Cuadra
Dawn Dufrene
Roselle Foote
Raye Gendron
Sheryl Grimmer
Fritz Hurst
Ronald Kay
Guy Lafleur
Dan Nguyen
Jill Ruffin
Douglas Wafer

35 Years

Lisa Lamendola

40 Years

Deirdre Robinson



Keep Louisiana Beautiful state conference draws wide-ranging attendance



Keep Tiger Town Beautiful volunteers - Chairman Jennifer Richardson (front with award) and volunteers won the Love the Boot Community Impact award for outstanding initiative and dedication during this year's Love the Boot Week. They had more than 100 volunteers and nine events, collected more than 600 trash bags of litter and 11,000 pounds of large waste items.

Kee Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) hosted its annual State Conference Oct. 10-11 at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. This year more than 260 participants attended to hear from experts on best practices for litter prevention, recycling, beautification, managing litter at outdoor events and sustainability efforts in Louisiana.

The participants attending were from six different states, 74 cities, 79 businesses and nonprofits, 13 universities and 42 government agencies.

Day one of the conference provided a keynote from Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser on Louisiana's progress in tackling litter. Dr. Cecile Carson, who conducted the 2023 Litter Study, reported to the group on the results on the 2023 Louisiana Litter Study. Susan Russell, KLB Executive Director Susan Russell gave a report on activities on our college campuses.

The afternoon provided information from Russell and Andrew Woodruff, Operations Director at French Quarter Festivals, Inc., on the new

Greener Grounds manual and workbook for outdoor events followed by a panel consisting of Osprey Initiative, Greener Grounds and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, organizations leading the way with green outdoor events. Each participant got a copy of the Greener Grounds Guidebook and workbook and because Louisiana has so many festivals and outdoor functions, this is a significant part of the solution.

"Louisiana spends \$91 million or more on litter, and only 10% of the amount is spent on prevention," Russel said. "Louisiana has a serious litter problem, and it will take all of us, working together to solve it."

Day two brought more information and the Every Day Hero Awards Ceremony.

Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish Sharon Weston Broome, and East Baton Rouge Parish, spoke on efforts to clean up Baton Rouge. The Louisiana Stormwater Coalition, Pearl Riverkeeper, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens and the City of New Orleans Adopt a Catch Basin program spoke on keeping our waterways clean. Then a panel from the Recycling Partnership discussed the 2023 State of Recycling in Louisiana Report; followed by a grantee panel featuring Matt James, Grant Development Manager for The Recycling Partnership, Denise Calhoun, HR Manager for The City of West Monroe and Bethany Crochet, Environmental Director for the Coshatta Tribe of Louisiana.

The conference ended by honoring Everyday Heroes with awards for their efforts. The 2023 Everyday Heroes include:

- Yuri Cobb (Rocksey's Young Leadership Award)
- John Hattaway (Litter Enforcement Award)
- Clean Pelican (Community Improvement Award)
- LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens (Clean Biz Leadership Award)
- ExxonMobil Baton Rouge (Clean Biz Leadership Award)

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- Winnsboro-Franklin Chamber of Commerce (Chamber Clean Biz Leadership Award)
- Keep Tangipahoa Beautiful (Outstanding Community Affiliate Award)
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Outstanding University Affiliate Award)
- Tulane Trash to Treasure (Collegiate Environmental Steward Award)
- Janet Vincent (Leaders Against Litter Award)
- Ryan Chavers (Let Louisiana Shine Volunteer Award)
- Keep Tiger Town Beautiful (Love the Boot Community Impact Award)
- Sandra Slifer (Alice Foster Award)

For more information on the awards, go to <https://keeploouisianabeautiful.org/programs-events/everyday-hero-awards>.

For more information about how you can become involved in the effort, go to www.keeploouisianabeautiful.org.

LDEQ's fall campaign to support food banks has begun

The Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays are coming soon. And this year, as many years before, LDEQ employees will be participating in fund- and food-raisers to support the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

Food donations are being received until Dec. 14, and LDEQ has barrels to collect food on every floor. Employees help provide Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals. There is a list of items requested to help families prepare holiday meals:

- Mashed Potatoes, Yams,
- Marshmallows, Corn Bread Mix, Brown Sugar, Macaroni & Cheese,
- Pecans/Nuts, Non-Perishables, Dessert (Pie filling, crust, cake mix),
- Cranberries, Whole Grain Cereal, Stuffing Mix, Canned Vegetables,
- Canned Ham, Gravy

Monetary donations are also being accepted in lieu of food.

Pickup dates are Thursday, Nov. 16 for Thanksgiving meals and Thursday, Dec. 14 for Christmas meals

LDEQ employees can also contribute by purchasing casual dress days from Oct. 4 – Dec. 2.

LDEQ also has a snack shack where employees can buy snacks and sodas and they can buy turkey feathers for each floors' turkey with gratitude is the best attitude sayings.

No matter what time of year it is, you will always find that our LDEQ employees pitch in through work or personally to try to help and bring gratitude.

For more information on the Greater Baton Rouge food bank, visit <https://brfoodbank.org>.





Little Lambs Christmas tree is now up in the Galvez Building Lobby

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality employees can now participate in the Little Lamb Christmas outreach for children who have incarcerated parents.

Little Lambs is an outreach of InnerFaith Prison Ministry that has been around since 1995. They have 300 children in their program and expect 400 children for Christmas this year. Gifts and a food box will be provided for the kids and their caretakers. The gifts and food will be handed out at a Christmas party on Dec. 9.

There is a Christmas tree hung with name tags in the lobby of the Galvez Building in Baton Rouge, La. Employees can pick a name tag ornament from the tree and provide the wishes for that child or family.

InnerFaith Prison Ministry will pick up the gifts after Nov. 15, though they may do another pickup later if needed. The gifts should be in gift bags, not wrapped. All you have to do is select a child's ornament from the tree, purchase a gift from the child's wish list (located on the back of the ornament), place the gift in a gift bag, and attach the ornament to the gift bag. Place the gift bag under or near the tree. Each ornament has a QR code on the back that you can scan which links you to a short video explaining more about Little Lambs.

There are other ways you can sponsor a child – either through PayPal, or through the InnerFaith website at https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_a7e03570. Questions can be directed to Terry Dedon: 225-324-2995 or tadedon7@gmail.com.

To contact InnerFaith directly, you can send an email to innerfaithpm@gmail.com, mail to PO Box 51574 Lafayette, LA 70505 or call 337-288-1744.

Thank you for your consideration of helping put a smile on a child's face this Christmas season!



2022 LDEQ employees gift donations



Sean Darensbourg named “National Runner of the Year” at Atlanta Conference

Environmental Scientist III Sean Darensbourg has been with LDEQ for 22 years, and he works as a water waste inspector with the Capital Regional Office in Baton Rouge. Darensbourg has been running with the Baton Rouge Chapter of Black Men Run for 9 years. This month, Black Men Run had their 10-year Anniversary Conference in Atlanta, GA and more than 500 members from across the country were in attendance.



Sean Darensbourg

Sean was given the “2023 National Runner of the Year” award. This award category is based upon those “who keep on running consistently and encouraging others!”

“We are so very proud of Sean here in CRO,” Capital Region Supervisor April Wallace said.

Black Men Run was founded in July 2013 in Atlanta by Jason Russell (CEO) and Edward Walton (CMO) to facilitate and promote health in Black Men through running as a way to battle chronic diseases associated with the black community such as obesity, diabetes, cancer and others.

Not only does it strive to get men healthier physically, it also fosters better health mentally and emotionally.

The organization currently has 52 chapters in the United States and 3 International Chapters in Paris, London and Okinawa, Japan. Baton Rouge and New Orleans are the only chapters in Louisiana.

The Baton Rouge chapter was established in February 2014 under the leadership of Chapter Captain Kenny Ricard.



LDEQ On The Move



LDEQ Environmental Scientist India Ambeau (Right) asks trivia questions to National Hunting and Fishing Day attendees.

National Hunting and Fishing Day

On September 23, LDEQ environmental scientists India Ambeau and Melanie Bauder participated in National Hunting and Fishing Day hosted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at Waddill Outdoor Education Center. There were over 1,110 participants in attendance. Ambeau and Bauder asked the audience environmental trivia questions focusing on water pollution and how it can be prevented and also gave out fun prizes.



(Left to right) LDEQ Environmental Scientists Della Smith, My Trinh and Kevin Cousins present the Enviroscope at the BIG event.



Girl Scouts Believe In Girls (BIG) Event

On Sept. 23, LDEQ employees participated in the Girl Scouts Believe In Girls (BIG) Event in New Orleans, La. The event featured hands-on activities and presentations showcasing organizations that encourage Girl Scout involvement. LDEQ staff engaged with students demonstrating the Enviroscope model to discuss non-point source pollution sources and ways we can work to improve water quality.



LDEQ On The Move (Continued)



(Left to right) LDEQ Environmental Scientists Seth Brown and John Grosch demonstrate Walnut Bayou at Wild Things.



(Left to right) LDEQ Environmental Scientists Della Smith and Gabrielle Gremillion present EnviroScape at Wild Things.

Wild Things: a Celebration of National Wildlife Refuge week

LDEQ employees participated in Wild Things on Oct. 14 in Lacombe, La. Wild Things engages adults and children in activities related to the great outdoors. LDEQ staff presented two demonstrations: Walnut Bayou and the EnviroScape – both discussing the importance of protecting our water quality in Louisiana.



(Left to right) LDEQ Environmental Scientists John Grosch and Amanda Marshall present Walnut bayou to students at Ocean Commotion.



Ocean Commotion

On Oct. 25, LDEQ participated in Ocean Commotion in Baton Rouge, La. Ocean Commotion is an event that shares environmental and coastal knowledge with K-8 students. LDEQ staff used Walnut Bayou to discuss the importance of water movement in a dynamic environment and the environmental and other stressors that impact the quality of water and movement.



LDEQ On The Move (Continued)



(Left to right) LDEQ Staff Rachel Rogers, Amy Mack, Madison Pigott, Melonie Ward and Bahareh Kokabian presented the enviroscape at Super Science Saturday.

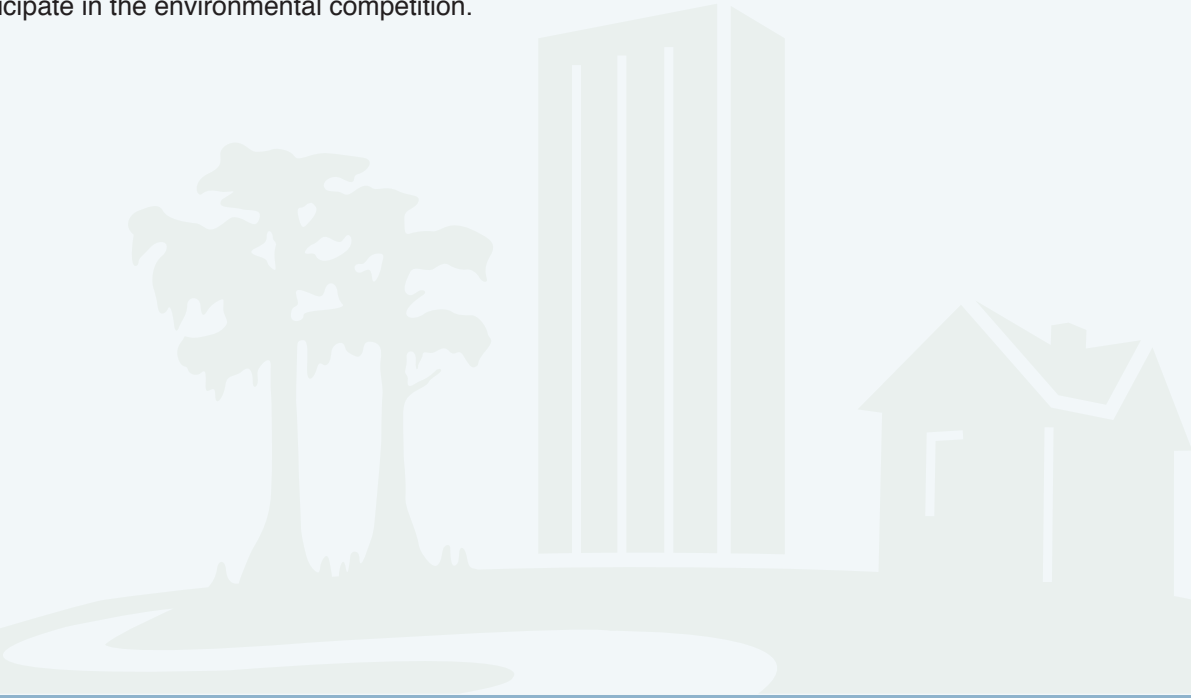


Attendees watch the EnviroScape presentation.

Super Science Saturday

LDEQ participated in Super Science Saturday in Baton Rouge, La. on Oct. 28. The event featured fun, hands-on activities for K-12 students, parents and anyone interested in seeing science in action.

LDEQ engaged with students demonstrating the EnviroScape model to discuss non-point source pollution sources and ways we can work to improve water quality. Middle and high school students also learned about Envirothon and how they can participate in the environmental competition.





Who's Who At LDEQ?



Jay E. Love - Attorney, Permits Section, Legal Division, Office of the Secretary

Love is a native and resident of Walker. He graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Bachelor of Arts in mass communications with a minor in history. After Southeastern, he obtained his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center. Prior to LDEQ, Love practiced law with the Louisiana Workforce Commission. He also practiced construction law and insurance defense in the private sector.

In his spare time, he enjoys working in his garden, fishing, golfing and spending time with his girlfriend Kacy and their pets, Kibbles, Mia and Larry.

Scott Brewster – Geologist II, Office of Environmental Assessment

Brewster was born and raised in Covington, and he currently lives there. He attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on an academic and athletic scholarship, and he received a Bachelor of Science in Geology. He worked in the energy sector in multiple roles, including wellsite geologist and field geologist in the Permian Basin of West Texas. Brewster moved back to Louisiana in 2023 and looks forward to his time at DEQ and is motivated to play his part in ensuring industry compliance with environmental regulations.

In his spare time, Brewster enjoys working outside, the occasional round of golf and a good poker game.



Stephanie Cernich – Environmental Scientist III, Office of Environmental Assessment

Cernich is a native of Slidell and currently lives in Ascension Parish. She graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. She previously worked at LDEQ from 2004-2009 in Water Quality Standards and Assessment, Nonpoint Source Pollution Program.

Cernich left LDEQ to travel with her military spouse to Fort Benning where she worked in the Quality Assurance lab of a chemical plant. She settled again in Louisiana at Fort Polk for eight years where she worked for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). After her husband retired from the military and she gave him the ultimate retirement gift (a new baby), they moved back home to Ascension Parish where she continued working for DCFS. Cernich decided in August 2023 to switch her career path back to science and came back to LDEQ.

In her free time, Cernich enjoys spending time with her family, exploring the world with her little boy and playing with her rescued dogs, Chopper and Kimber.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2023 Enforcement Actions:

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

Third Quarter 2023 Settlement Agreements:

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

Third Quarter 2023 Air Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2023 Water Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2023 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

