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State of Louisiana Drinking Water Protection Program

September 2007

Office of Environmental Assessment

Issue 11

Sibley Lake Watershed Individual Sewage Treatment System Improvement Project



The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) Drinking Water Protection Team has worked with the City of Natchitoches Parish Drinking Water Protection Program to protect their water source.

Individual sewage treatment systems treat sewage that originates from the same property on which that system is located. They commonly serve individual homes, camps, and businesses. Several different types of individual sewage treatment systems exist, and these systems work well when maintained properly. However, malfunctioning or failed systems can be a major source of pollution and can contaminate sources of drinking water. In fact, 1% of the nation's aquifers have been contaminated by pollution attributed to individual sewage treatment systems.

DEQ counted approximately 35,000 individual sewage treatment systems in source water protection areas (areas surrounding public water wells and water intakes.) In Louisiana, it is estimated that 1,323,600 people are served by individual sewage treatment systems, and that half of these are malfunctioning.

The sewage treatment systems surrounding Sibley Lake are in varying degrees of operational condition. Many of these systems are located within only a few hundred feet of the lake or its tributaries. Development

Continued on page two...

The water source, Sibley Lake, is located in the Red River Basin in Natchitoches Parish. It is the drinking water supply for the City of Natchitoches, the Village of Clarence, and the community of Hagewood. It is also the water supply for the unincorporated areas around the lake and along the water distribution system between the above listed municipalities. A population of almost 25,000 people uses drinking water from Sibley Lake.

The area immediately surrounding the lake has a significant amount of residential development that is located outside the corporate limits for the City of Natchitoches. This unincorporated development has no existing centralized sewage system, and therefore it is served by individual sewage treatment systems.



City of Natchitoches Engineering Technician Tom Solomon and a local home owner inspect the aerator on a home sewage system for the Sibley Lake Watershed Individual Sewage Treatment System Improvement Project.

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On the Radar Targeted Parishes for Drinking Water Protection Programs 2008

- Rapides
- Bossier
- Grant

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Visit us at our website:
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/aeps>

GOT NEWS? IDEAS?

If you have any news or ideas that you would like to share with other communities in next year's issue of the newsletter, please submit them to Micaela Marchand Coner at Micaela.Coner@la.gov or at the following mailing address:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assessment
Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section
Post Office Box 4314
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314
225-219-3510

New brochures available



New Drinking Water Protection brochures are available. Designed by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's graphic designer and art director, Josh Carroll, these brochures are the new look of the Drinking Water Protection Program.

The brochure gives an introduction to the importance of protecting drinking water, describes the goals of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Program, and provides tips on protecting drinking water in your home.

If you or your water system, school, business, governmental office or other organization would like to place an order, please contact the Drinking Water Protection Team. Copies of the brochure will be provided at no cost, based on availability.

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On the Radar: Drinking Water Programs for the upcoming year



There are three drinking water protection programs planned for this year: Rapides, Bossier and Grant Parishes.

Rapides Parish Joins the Drinking Water Protection Cause

Drinking Water Protection staff Mary Gentry and Tiffani Cravens began working in Rapides Parish in January 2007. They met with representatives from the 20 community public water systems serving Rapides Parish as well as local officials to introduce them to the drinking water protection program and encourage them to participate and attend the community meeting. The community meeting was held on March 22, 2007 in Alexandria, LA. In addition to advertisement in local newspapers and on television, the City of Alexandria mailed 30,000 meeting announcements with their February water bill. Ten people volunteered to join the Drinking Water Protection Committee. The committee membership has since doubled.

The Rapides Parish Drinking Water Protection committee held its first

meeting in May 2007. They elected Harlis Bass from the City of Alexandria Water Department to serve as chairman. Patrice Chenevert from the Alexandria Water Department was elected secretary, and Ann Wilson from the City of Alexandria Laboratory Services was elected as media chair. Committee members have embarked on the somewhat daunting task of conducting visits to the 451 local businesses identified as potential sources of contamination. They have also invited guest speakers for upcoming meetings to learn about topics such as cross connection control and ground water management in Louisiana.

Bossier Parish is Next in Line

The Drinking Water Protection staff is getting ready for a Drinking Water Protection Program in Bossier Parish. Jesse Means and Micaela Coner of the Drinking Water Protection Team began meeting with water system and local government officials in June of 2007 to explain the purpose of the Drinking Water Protection Program.

Sources of drinking water for Bossier Parish residents are the Red River and

four aquifers, including the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. All citizens interested in learning more about their drinking water are invited to join us for the following community meetings:

Tuesday, September 25th, 6:30 P.M.
Bossier Parish Courthouse
Police Jury Meeting Room
204 Burt Blvd., Benton, LA

Thursday, September 27th, 6:30 P.M.
Bossier City Parks and Recreation
Department
Public Service Complex
3223 Old Shed Road, Bossier City, LA

Grant Parish moved up from 2010

Grant Parish has been moved up in the schedule and will receive Drinking Water Protection Program implementation in 2008. Sources of drinking water for Grant Parish include several aquifers and the Georgetown Reservoir. Also within Grant Parish is Big Creek, which is a drinking water source for Rapides Parish. Big Creek is not meeting all of its water quality designated uses.

Please contact the Drinking Water Protection Team at 225-219-3510 for more information on our programs.

Sibley Lake Watershed Project continued...

...continued from page one

of the property directly adjacent to and around the lake is expected to continue, which will increase the potential for sewage loading going into the lake.

As part of the effort to protect Sibley Lake from contamination, the City of Natchitoches submitted a proposal to obtain 319 grant funds for a project entitled the Sibley Lake Watershed Individual Sewage Treatment System Improvement Project. The project was approved, and the funds were granted. This will enable the City of Natchitoches to inventory and inspect all individual sewage treatment systems within a half-mile of Sibley Lake, and,

to the extent permitted by time and funding, additional areas beyond a half-mile which are immediately adjacent to tributaries. These systems will be located by GPS and all pertinent information on each system will be entered into the city's GIS System. Owners of failing individual sewage treatment units will be served notice that their systems must be repaired or replaced. Funding will be provided to individual sewage system owners for the repair/replacement of failed systems on a cost-share basis. Owners of repaired/replaced systems will be required to sign a document stating that they will abide by specified maintenance requirements for as long as they own the repaired/replaced system.

The project became effective on May 1, 2007 and will end on October 31, 2008. On July 20, 2007, Drinking Water Protection Team representative Jesse Means visited Natchitoches to view the progress of the work and found that the inspections had started ahead of schedule and that an excellent system had been set up to perform and track the work.

This project will enable the City of Natchitoches to mitigate the future threat of sewage loading in Sibley Lake and protect their source of drinking water and the health of those that swim and boat in the lake.

Submitted by Micaela Coner

City of Port Allen
Town of Port Barre
Village of Powhatan
Prarie Ronde Water System
Provencal Water System
Rapides Parish Waterworks Dist. #3
City of Rayne
Town of Rayville
Red Chute Utilities
Red Oak Water Co., Inc.
Red River Water System
Robeline-Marthaville Water System
City of Ruston
Town of St. Francisville
St. Helena Waterworks Dist. #2
St. Helena Waterworks Dist. #2, Phase 3
Town of St. Joseph
St. Landry Consolidated #2
St. Landry WW Dist. #2
Sandy Lake Water System
Savoy-Swords Water System Inc.
Town of Sibley
Village of Sicily Island
Sieper Area Water System
Town of Simmesport
Village of Simpson
Town of Slaughter
City of Slidell
South Bonne Idee Water System

South DeSoto Water System
South Grant Water System
South Oakdale Water System
South Rayne Water Corp.
S.E. Hodge Water System
Southeast WW Dist. #2
Southwest Allen Parish WW Dist. #2
Southwest Avoyelles WW District
Southwest Ouachita Waterworks, Inc.
Sterlington Water Supply
City of Sulphur
Town of Sunset
City of Tallulah (Peoples Water Serv.)
Tangipahoa Parish Water System
City of Thibodaux
Torbert-Frisco Service
Tunica Water System
Union Springs Water System
United Water System
Town of Urania
Varnado Rural Waterworks
Vermilion Parish WW Dist. #1
Vermilion Parish WW Dist. #1 Esther
Village Water System
Town of Vinton
Walnut Bayou Water Association
Ward One Water System
Ward Two Water District
Ward Four Water District

Town of Washington
Waterloo Water Service
Town of Waterproof
Waterworks District #7
Town of Welsh
West Allen Parish Water District
West Baton Rouge Parish Public Utilities
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #1
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #2
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #4- Section
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #4- Holiday Inn
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #4- Crocodile
W. Baton Rouge WW Dist. #4- Arbroth
West Feliciana WW Dist. #2
West Feliciana WW Dist. #13
West Grant Water Association
City of Westlake
West Monroe Water System
West Winnsboro Water System
Weston Water System
Town of White Castle
Village of Wilson
City of Winnfield
Town of Winnsboro
Town of Wisner
Town of Woodworth
Town of Youngsville
City of Zachary
Zone Two Water System

CONGRATULATIONS! THE DRINKING WATER TEAM SALUTES!



Municipalities that have enacted a Drinking Water Protection Ordinance- Town of Church Point, City of Crowley, Town of Iota, City of Rayne, City of Marksville, Town of Mansura, Town of Moreauville, Town of Simmesport, Village of Norwood, Town of Wilson, Town of Welsh, Town of Youngsville, Town of Duson, Village of Gollonna, City of Eunice, Town of Melville, City of Opelousas, Town of Washington, City of Abbeville, Town of Delcambre, Town of Erath, Town of Gueydan, Town of Kaplan, Town of Maurice, Town of Addis, Town of St. Francisville, Town of Angie

Parishes that have enacted a Drinking Water Protection Ordinance – Acadia Parish Police Jury, Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury, St. Landry Parish Council, Vermilion Parish Police Jury

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION TEAM

The Drinking Water Protection Team is a part of the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section in the Water Quality Assessment Division. This Division falls under the Office of Environmental Assessment at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Drinking Water Protection Team members educate the public on the importance of protecting drinking water. The team plays a vital role in working with Louisiana communities in establishing local drinking water protection programs. The team is available to give presentations on drinking water protection issues to your school or organization. Please call 225-219-3510 for more information.



Drinking Water Protection team members (l to r) Tiffani Cravens, Jesse Means, Mary Gentry, Howard Fielding and Micaela Coner.

We look forward to helping you protect
Your community's Drinking Water

WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAMS/CONTINGENCY PLANS APPROVED

City of Abbeville
 City of Alexandria
 Village of Angie
 Town of Arnaudville
 Assumption Parish Waterworks Dist. #1
 Atlanta Water System
 Avoyelles Waterworks District #1
 Avoyelles Ward 3 Waterworks Dist.
 City of Baker
 City of Bastrop (Peoples Water Service)
 Baton Rouge Water Co.
 Bayou Bonne Idee Water System, Inc.
 Bayou Des Cannes Water System
 Bayou Liberty Water Association
 Beaugregard Waterworks Dist. #2
 Beekman Water System
 Belmont Water System
 Town of Bernice
 City of Bogalusa
 Bogue-Lusa Waterworks District
 Village of Bonita
 Town of Boyce
 City of Breaux Bridge
 Brouillette Water System
 Town of Broussard
 Brownville Water Supply
 Buckeye Water District #50
 City of Bunkie
 Cadeville Water District
 Calcasieu Parish W.D. #1 (Moss Bluff)
 Calcasieu Parish W.D. #2 (Mossville)
 Calcasieu Parish W.D. #4
 Calcasieu Parish W.D. #5
 Calcasieu Parish W.D. #7
 Calcasieu Parish W.D. #8
 Calcasieu Parish W.D. #9 (Carlyss)
 Cameron Parish WWD #2
 Cameron Waterworks #7
 Cameron Waterworks #11
 Cameron Water & Sewer Dist. #1
 Town of Campiti
 Village of Cankton
 Town of Carencro
 Chataignier Water System, Inc.
 Chee Chee Bay Water System
 Town of Cheneyville
 Chestnut-Readhimer Water System
 Village of Choudrant
 Town of Church Point
 Clarence Water System
 Village of Clarks
 Town of Clinton
 Town of Colfax
 Town of Columbia
 Columbia Heights Water District
 Coteau Water System
 Town of Cottonport
 Town of Coushatta
 Creston Water System
 Cross Roads Waterworks
 City of Crowley
 Darbonne Hills
 Darlington Waterworks Assoc.
 Town of Delcambre
 Town of Delhi

Village of Delta
 City of Denham Springs
 City of DeQuincy
 Town of DeRidder
 Village of Dry Prong
 Town of Duson
 East Columbia Water District
 East Feliciana Rural Water Assoc.
 East Feliciana Rural-Reeves-Morgan
 Egan Water Corporation
 Village of Epps
 Town of Erath
 Village of Estherwood
 City of Eunice (LAWCO)
 Town of Evergreen
 False River Water Co.
 Town of Farmerville
 Village of Fenton
 Fifth Ward Water System
 Village of Fordoche
 Town of Forest Hill
 Town of Franklinton
 Franklinton Rural Water Corp.
 Gardner Community Water System
 Village of Georgetown
 Village of Gilbert
 Village of Goldonna
 Town of Grand Coteau
 Grand Prairie Water System
 Village of Grayson
 Greenbriar-Prairie Basse Water System
 Town of Greensburg
 Greenwood Water System
 Town of Gueydan
 Hagewood Water System
 City of Hammond
 Town of Houghton
 Hayes Water System
 Hebert Water System
 Hermitage Community
 Village of Hessmer
 Highway 80 Water System
 Hineston Water System, Inc.
 Huntington Park Water Supply
 Innis Water Corp.
 Town of Iota
 Town of Iowa
 Town of Jackson
 Town of Jena
 City of Jeanerette
 Jeff Davis Central Waterworks Dist.
 Jeff Davis Water & Sewer Comm. #1
 Jeff Davis Waterworks Dist. #4
 City of Jennings
 Town of Jonesboro
 City of Kaplan
 Kiroli Shady Oaks
 Kolin-Ruby Wise W.D. 11A
 Town of Krotz Springs
 City of Lafayette
 Lafayette Parish WW Dist. North
 Lafourche Parish Water Dist. No. 1
 Town of Lake Arthur
 City of Lake Charles
 LaSalle Waterworks Dist. #1

Lawtell
 Town of Leesville
 Leland Water System
 Lena Water System
 Town of Leonville
 Lewisburg-Bellevue Water System
 Liddieville Water System
 Town of Livonia
 Louisiana State Penitentiary
 Louisiana Tech University
 M&S Water Supply
 Magnolia Plantation Water System
 Town of Mamou
 Mamou Road Water System, Inc.
 Mandeville Water Supply
 Town of Mangham
 City of Mansfield
 Town of Marksville
 Village of Maurice
 Town of Melville
 Village of Mer Rouge
 Village of Mermentau
 Midway Water System
 Milton Water System
 City of Minden
 Mire Branch Water Corp.
 Town of Montgomery
 Monticello Water System
 Town of Montpelier
 Town of Moreauville
 Morehouse Consolidated W.D. #2
 Village of Morganza
 Morrow Water System
 Village of Morse
 Mt. Hermon Water Districty
 City of Natchitoches
 Natchitoches Parish WW Dist. #2
 N-E-W Carroll Water Dist.
 City of New Iberia (LAWCO)
 City of New Roads
 North Crowley Water Corp.
 North Franklin Water System
 Village of North Hodge
 Village of Norwood
 Old River Water #1
 Tow of Olla
 City of Opelousas
 Village of Palmetto
 Parish Water Co.
 Pecan Island WW Dist. #3
 Pine Grove Water System
 Pine Hill Water System
 City of Pineville
 Pioneer-Darnell Water System
 Pitkin Water System
 Plaisance Water System
 City of Plaquemine
 Town of Plaquemine
 Point Blue Water System
 Pointe Coupee Area Water
 Pointe Coupee WW Dist. #1
 Pointe Coupee WW Dist. #2-Batchelor
 Pointe Coupee WW Dist. #2-Hwy 10
 Town of Pollock
 Pollock Area Water System

Lafayette Parish Program a Success

Lafayette Parish was selected in 2006 by DEQ to participate in the Drinking Water Protection Program. The DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team visited community water operators and local officials prior to the community meeting, which was held on June 29, 2006 in Lafayette, LA. Twenty-three people volunteered to join the Lafayette Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee.

**Coming together
 is a beginning.
 Keeping together
 is progress.
 Working together
 is a success.**
 Henry Ford

Since its inception in June of 2006, the Lafayette Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee has worked diligently on efforts to protect drinking water. The committee completed 248 visits to

businesses within Source Water Protection Areas.

Dr. Tim Duex, Professor of Geology at the University of Louisiana Lafayette (ULL), recruited his students to conduct the visits for the City of Lafayette and the Town of Youngsville. Angie Arnold with the LSU Cooperative Extension Service organized a group of 4-H Club students to visit businesses in the City of Carencro. To help educate the public at large, Mark Pope from the Environmental Division of the Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government participated in a radio show to promote drinking water protection. Committee members invited the Drinking Water Protection team to give presentations in several Lafayette Parish schools, nursing homes, and a Lafayette Utilities System operator training session.

An award ceremony was held on August 23, 2007 in Lafayette to recognize the

committee members for their dedicated efforts to protect their drinking water.

Drinking Water Protection ordinances were adopted by the Town of Youngsville and the Town of Duson. The Lafayette Consolidated Government has been working on an ordinance and will present it to the council within the next two months. If the Lafayette Consolidated Government passes the ordinance it will protect all public water supply wells within Lafayette City limits and all wells in unincorporated areas of the parish, including Lafayette Parish Water Districts North and

South and Milton Water System. The City of Carencro is also in the process of drafting a drinking water protection ordinance.

Submitted by Mary Gentry



Above: Bill Chaumont receives an award for his participation with the Lafayette Drinking Water Protection Committee.



Left: Mark Pope receives an award for his participation with the Lafayette Drinking Water Protection Committee.



Drinking Water Protection team member Mary Gentry gives a presentation on Drinking Water Protection to Dr. Tim Duex's geology class at the University of Louisiana Lafayette.



Below: City-Parish President Joey Durel addresses the committee.

Update on Current Parish Programs

Jefferson Davis Parish, Still in the Works

The Jefferson Davis Parish Committee is currently focusing on encouraging local governments to pass drinking water protection ordinances, and committee meetings are being held as needed. The Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury passed the drinking water protection ordinance on November 8, 2006 and the Town of Welsh passed the ordinance on March 6, 2007.



Bayou Black, in Terrebonne Parish, is a drinking water source.

The Drinking Water Protection Team is still working with the committee to encourage the Town of Lake Arthur and the City of Jennings to pass the ordinance. A meeting with the Mayor and Town Council of Lake Arthur is scheduled for September 2007. The ordinance will also be presented in Jennings at their September City Council meeting.

The committee, in conjunction with the 4-H Club, has visited 117 local businesses to inform them that they are located close to drinking water sources and to distribute information on drinking water protection.

Lafourche, Terrebonne and Assumption Parish Drinking Water Protection Program

A public education campaign on drinking water protection was launched for Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes in August of 2006, and four community meetings were held in the area. One



Algae in Bayou Lafourche

drinking water protection committee has been formed for these three parishes. This committee is made up of local citizens, water system personnel and local government officials that want to participate in protecting their drinking water sources.

Bayou Lafourche is the source of drinking water for every public water system in both Assumption and Lafourche Parishes and also for one of the public water systems in Terrebonne Parish. The remaining water systems in Terrebonne Parish use water from the Intracoastal Canal and Bayou Black. They also use water from Bayou Lafourche to blend with their existing water sources whenever those sources receive salt water intrusion from the Gulf

of Mexico. Together these systems serve over 200,000 people. Bayou Lafourche is also a drinking water source for approximately 16,000 people in Ascension Parish; this parish will be targeted by the Drinking Water Protection Program at a later date.

A water quality standard is defined as the designated uses of a water body plus water quality criteria to support these uses. Bayou Lafourche is meeting standards as a drinking water source but is not meeting its primary contact recreation and fish and wildlife propagation designated uses. Dissolved oxygen and total fecal coliform criteria are not being met. Further downstream, toward the Gulf of Mexico, where the bayou is not a drinking water source, it isn't meeting its fish and wildlife or its oyster propagation designated uses. The dissolved oxygen criterion is not being met. Sampling performed by LDEQ highlights a problem of sewage loading in the bayou. This becomes a compound

issue for water suppliers when additional chlorine added for disinfection combines with decaying organic material and encourages the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts then require additional treatment.

Working goals for the committee and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Drinking Water Protection Team were formed based on input from local citizens in the form of a survey/questionnaire, by communication with local citizens during the public awareness campaign, and through input on areas of concern from committee members.

Committee members and LDEQ have visited businesses and facilities that are potential sources of contamination to educate them on best management practices to prevent pollution from getting into the waterways. A potential source of contamination is any facility or activity that stores, uses or produces compounds with potential, through mismanagement or improper disposal, for contaminating a drinking water source.

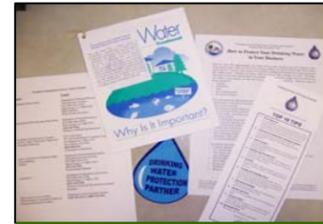
Of the 387 facilities visited, 219 are located within the drainage area for Bayou Lafourche. Urban runoff has been identified as a significant contributor of nonpoint source pollution in Bayou Lafourche; therefore it is important that these facilities know that prudent operation on site is important

Continued on page five...

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so that contaminants do not end up beyond their premises and in the bayou. When visited, the facilities received fact sheets on "How to Protect Drinking Water in Your Business," "Top Ten Tips" for drinking water protection, an emergency contact list, and a "Drinking Water Protection Partner" decal.

LDEQ is working with the Assumption/Lafourche/Terrebonne Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee and local organizations to address fecal coliform impairment in Bayou Lafourche. The organizations are the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, the South Central Planning and Development Commission, The Bayou Lafourche Fresh



SPSOC visit handouts

Water District, the Regional Department of Health and Hospitals Office, and Nicholls State University. On-site treatment systems and unpermitted sewage discharges have been cited as two of the sources of fecal coliform loading in the bayou.

LDEQ has compared a list of sewage treatment systems in the local Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital's regional sanitarian's database to the list of sewage treatment systems permitted by LDEQ to be sure no systems are

unpermitted. As a result, the LDEQ Surveillance staff is conducting an extensive inspection of permitted and unpermitted facilities that contribute wastewater to Bayou Lafourche. The inspections began on August 8, 2007.

Also, another way that LDEQ will work on the fecal coliform issue is to address malfunctioning home on-site sewage systems. A contract with Nicholls State University to sample in ditches that are receiving effluent from home sewage units is being considered. LDEQ, using committee input, hopes to develop an ordinance to present to parish governments that would provide a local mechanism to address the maintenance of on-site treatment systems and demon-

stration, removal, replacement, or repair of malfunctioning or improper systems.

The committee has held six meetings since November 2006. They have had guest presentations from Ellen Finger of the regional office of the Department of Health and Hospitals on sewage issues, from Archie Chaisson, director of the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District, and from Karen Fisher-Brasher of LDEQ on Household Hazardous Materials Collection. The committee has compiled a used oil recycling brochure that will be distributed locally. Other goals may be developed as the committee continues meeting which will further address pollution prevention for the area's source water.

Submitted by Micaela Coner

Survey shows many Americans do not know the source of their tap water

A recent nationwide survey conducted by Enviromedia Social Marketing in Austin, Texas reveals that many Americans do not know the source of their tap water. Of 1,015 people surveyed only 32 percent said they knew with certainty the source of their drinking water. However, the survey suggests Americans would be willing to do their part to save hundreds of millions of gallons of water a day if they were reminded that their drinking water originates from a local, natural source, such as a lake, river or aquifer, before it gets to their taps. The relationship between knowledge of the local water source and conservation is most critical during the summer months when water usage peaks in most

communities. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average American family uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day during the summer months, about 30 percent of which is used outdoors to water lawns and landscapes. As much as 50 percent of the water used outdoors is lost due to runoff, evaporation, and over-watering, taxing the capacity of many community water supplies. Yet, simple steps such as watering slowly to prevent runoff, watering thoroughly in the early morning hours to prevent evaporation, and watering only once or twice per week to prevent over-watering can conserve our water resources.

Lack of knowledge may

create a barrier to conservation; nevertheless that barrier can be broken with public education. The fundamental goal of the Drinking Water Protection Program is to educate the public on where their drinking water comes from, why it's important to protect it, and how they can protect it. Armed with this knowledge, people can not only take steps to prevent contamination of their drinking water supplies but they can also recognize the importance of conserving an invaluable resource. In the visionary

words of Nelson Mandela, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Enviromedia Social Marketing is a communications firm that works solely on environmental and public health campaigns, educating consumers on how to protect and conserve water. For more information visit their website at www.enviromedia.com



Bailey Cravens takes a drink of fountain water originating from the Sparta aquifer.