



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ Senior Environmental Scientist Chris Piehler wins top award

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Wildlife Federation will present Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality senior environmental scientist Chris Piehler with the Governor’s Award for conservation achievement.

Piehler is being honored for outstanding performance in managing DEQ’s Mercury Program and developing Louisiana’s Mercury Risk Reduction Plan, which includes abatement measures that will help reduce mercury contamination in the environment and citizen exposure to toxic levels of various forms of mercury. Through Piehler’s collaborative efforts, the public has become more educated and cognizant of Louisiana’s mercury issues.

The award, a bald eagle statuette, is presented annually to the person or organization deemed to have made the most outstanding contribution toward the protection and wise use of Louisiana’s natural resources during the previous year. Nominations submitted by the public are presented to a panel of independent judges who are experts in various fields of conservation. From those nominations, the panel selects a top honoree along with eight additional honorees.

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation was established in 1940 as a statewide conservation education and advocacy organization with over 10,000 members and 25 affiliate organizations. It is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation and represents a wide constituency of conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts.

The Governor’s Award will be presented to Piehler at the 44th Conservation Achievement Recognition Banquet on Saturday, March 15 at the Holiday Inn in New Iberia. Banquet tickets and additional information can be found on the Louisiana Wildlife Federation website at www.lawildlifefed.org.

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