



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



May 2017 Issue Number: 64

What's Inside?

Gorgeous spring weather may cause Ozone Action Days

Message from the Secretary

LDEQ reports a 7.4 percent recycling rate for 2015

LDEQ welcomes Nigerian delegation to Louisiana

LDEQ participates in oil spill drill in Lafourche Parish

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Brown joins LABI panel

Boy Scouts place storm drain markers in Slidell community

Employee Appreciation Day 2017

LDEQ participated in "Kids to Park" day in Zachary May 9

LDEQ On The Move

Who's Who At LDEQ?

Gorgeous spring weather may cause Ozone Action Days

The gorgeous days we enjoy so much in the spring are not necessarily good for ozone levels. Recently, LDEQ has forecast more frequent Ozone Action Days, and it may seem that the air quality is getting worse. More frequent Ozone Action Days does not mean poor air quality; it is a direct result of the tightening of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). You can take a deep breath in knowing that the air quality in Louisiana is better than it has been since the promulgation of the Clean Air Act and it continues to improve.

Ozone Action Days are based on a forecast, and like the weather forecast the prediction for high ozone does not always result in a high ozone day. The purpose of the forecast is to help sensitive populations make informed decisions about outdoor activity. The ozone forecast is determined by a set of variables: the presence of precursor pollutants plus the amount of sunlight and wind. In the spring and fall when Louisiana experiences high-pressure systems, the result is clear skies and stagnant winds. Ozone forms in highest concentrations mainly on sunny days with light wind speeds. Add to this is the fact that the 2015 Ozone NAAQS are very close to the area's background precursors.

Background precursors are biogenic chemical compounds emitted from trees, plants, lightning and other natural occurrences. During the spring and fall when the plants and trees are exhibiting new growth or becoming dormant, they emit greater amounts of isoprene. The presence of biogenics coupled with the man-made pollutants, in the presence of sunlight and stagnant winds, result in an air quality alerts, known as Ozone Action Days.

This year's Ozone Action Day alerts are being forecast more frequently due to the new standard, so there have been more action days forecast than in recent years. Louisiana continues to meet the 2008 Ozone standard of 75 parts per billion. The 2015 standard, set at 70 ppb, was implemented in October 2015; however the Environmental Protection Agency has not yet made final attainment/nonattainment designations.

It is important to know about the air quality, and you can sign up for EnviroFlash, the free, automated air quality notification system that will send you an alert, by email or text, when an Ozone Action Day is forecast. You can also sign up to receive information on a daily basis by simply registering for EnviroFlash, at <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash>. To access real-time air quality monitoring information, go to <http://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/>.

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Message from the Secretary *Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.*

I want all to know that enjoyed visiting with LDEQ staff at Employee Appreciation Day May 10 at the Galvez Building. I look forward to this annual visit and want to see as many of you as possible -- and not just on that day. I want you all to know how much I appreciate your continuing efforts to make the agency the best that it can be.

That gratitude extends 365 days a year. As I said to the group at the Galvez Building, we are a family. All of us, in the regional offices, as well as our locations in Baton Rouge, we are one unit, and we should keep that in mind as we approach our daily work. A word of encouragement, and a helping hand can go a long way to making a job easier and more efficient.

As we celebrated Employee Appreciation Day, I took a moment to reiterate our core values – our solid work ethic that always guides our decisions and interactions with business, the public and each other. They are:

- Make technically sound decisions rooted in science
- Conduct ourselves honestly and ethically
- Strive for continuous improvement
- Be accountable for our work
- Manage our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver value to the public
- Sustain our commitment to diversity

To those I will add one more:

- We will be fair in all of our dealings with the public, industry and persons inside and outside the agency.

I believe in these values, and I am having the communications department print up a poster listing them. Each LDEQ floor of the Galvez Building will get a poster to display in a prominent spot and each regional office will get a poster as well.

If you follow Gov. John Bel Edwards on Twitter, you know that the week of May 7-13 was Hurricane Preparedness Week. We all need to pay some attention to planning an evacuation route, having an emergency kit in our homes and other common sense actions (see <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness> for tips). Hurricane season kicks off June 1.

At LDEQ, we have some very unique concerns during big storms and floods. We have ongoing training to prepare to meet the special challenges these events pose. We have protocols in place for before and after these events. Each of us needs to take similar care with our homes and families. Be prepared, get a game plan.

Finally, the Legislative Regular Session is winding down. LDEQ offered input and testimony on several bills of interest to the agency. Some of the committee hearings were intense, but all of you showed grace under pressure. In the face of adversity and stressful situations, we stick to sound science and the task at hand to get to the answer and get the job done. And that, I believe, is a testament to the bearing, intelligence and diversity of employees in our agency. I want to thank the staff who testified as well as those who worked behind the scenes or helped brief those who testified.

Have a great last few weeks of spring, and let's keep up the great work!



Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.



LDEQ reports a 7.4 percent recycling rate for 2015

Speakers from LDEQ, the Environmental Protection Agency and Recycling Partnership outlined methods and ideas for better management of recyclable waste at the Louisiana Recycling Coalition's (LRC) second meeting at the Waste Expo in New Orleans.

Discussion ideas included: New information, new ideas and a more organized approach to dealing with recyclable waste.

"You can't manage what you can't measure," LCR President Sarah LaRock said.

LDEQ Engineer 6 Don Caffrey is in charge of recycling issues at the department. LDEQ is required by law to compile a report each year on resource recovery and recycling programs in parishes and municipalities in the state. The goal is 25 percent waste reduction in the state.

The problem is that the municipalities and parishes are not all reporting as mandated. LDEQ is reaching out to encourage full participation in the reporting, which should be received by Oct. 1.

"In order for the Legislature to know whether the state of Louisiana is meeting its recycling goals set forth by law, complete and accurate information is needed," Caffery said. "So it is very important for LDEQ to receive this information annually from the parishes and cities implementing the recycling programs throughout the state. Even those entities which do not presently have a recycling program need to report their solid waste tonnages."

The 2015 report was the first one to report overall recycling in Louisiana, but it does not reflect the true picture. Thirty parishes (47 percent) and four cities reported for 2015, 34 parishes did not report and seven parishes reported no recycling activities. With this reporting, the overall recycling rate for the state was 7.4 percent.

Ron Vance, EPA branch chief, spoke about "coming to grips with recycling measurement at a state level" with state-to-state reporting of waste and waste streams of recyclable materials. "We have to rethink national measurement measures," Vance said, because not all states measure the same waste streams the same way. "It is not like comparing apples to apples. Economically, recycling accounts for 757,000 jobs, \$36.6 billion in wages and 6.7 billion in tax revenue."

The final presenter was Chris Coady of Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit that works with recycling. He said that there is a high demand for recycled materials, and there are three major ways to increase them. Avoid contamination of the waste streams, such as plastic bags in the recyclable containers. Using carts instead of bins increases the stream and makes use more convenient and boosts participation by identifying the waste streams needed and by using clear and simple signs and messages so the public knows what recyclables are needed and where to put them. "People are the secret and you have to plan, act and measure," Coady said.

Recycling is one way to protect the environment and make Louisiana a better place to live. For more information on the Louisiana Recycling Coalition or to join the fight for a better environment by becoming a member, email lrc@serdc.org or go to the website, <http://www.serd.org/louisianarecyclingcoalition>.



Don Caffrey, LDEQ engineer, presents the recycling report as Sarah LaRock, Louisiana Recycling Coalition President, and Chris Coady, Recycling Partnership, listen.



LDEQ welcomes Nigerian delegation to Louisiana

LDEQ is doing its part for international relations. On May 9, the agency hosted a delegation of seven senators and eight staff members of the Upstream Petroleum Committee of the Nigerian Senate. The Nigerians were on a 5-day visit to the U.S. sponsored by the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council in partnership with the U.S. Department of State.

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown extended a personal welcome to the visiting dignitaries. Brown talked about the challenges an environmental agency faces in 21st Century America, including a potential changes at EPA. With many of the previous administration's policies being reversed or modified, many worry that environmental harm may result, he said. That won't happen instantaneously, Brown said.

"When you change policy, it's like putting the brakes on a train. It won't stop right away. Policy just doesn't change that quickly," Brown told the visitors. Other areas the secretary mentioned were fuels for electric generation – coal versus natural gas – LDEQ's emergency response role, global warming, the VW settlement and transportation changes. "We are moving to electric vehicles and diversification in how we get around as a society."

The group was keenly interested in reviewing how U.S. petroleum industry is regulated. This visit was part of Mission Nigeria's strategic goal "to expand economic growth, trade, and investment, including improved infrastructure and greater privatization in the key energy sector." One of their objectives was to learn how government agencies work together to manage environmental impact from the oil and gas industry (oil spills, etc.).

Environmental Scientist Senior Jeff Dauzat gave a presentation about just that subject, going into oil spills, whether out of a well or pipeline, and explaining how each agency (DNR, LDEQ, LOSCO) moves to respond to an incident.

Also on hand to greet the Nigerian delegation were three state employees who are natives of Nigeria: Edwin Akujobi, a supervisor in LDEQ's Remediation Services Group 1; Mark Jideonwo, senior geologist in LDEQ's Remediation Services; and Peter Chukwuemeka with Strategic Planning/Design in OTS Network Services.

Members of the Nigerian delegation were Pheobe Elejo Abdul, Ahmad Abubakar, Olusola Adebisi Adeyeye, Francis Ngozi Adigwe, Albert Bassey Akpan, Donald Omotayo Alasoadura, Friday Okechukwu Alike, Gershom Otu Henry Bassey, Anthony Chukwuma Ikem, Kabir Garba Marafa, Habib Nuhu, Augustine Oluyemisi Olorunsola, Philip Aduda Tanimu and Utiyenin Juliet Umealor.



Secretary Chuck Carr Brown greets the Nigerian delegation at LDEQ Headquarters in Baton Rouge.



LDEQ participates in oil spill drill in Lafourche Parish



Spokesmen representing the Unified Command participate in a mock press conference during the drill.

Staff from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, along with representatives from various environmental response organizations and local, state and federal agencies, gathered at the Larose Civic Center in Lafourche Parish for participation in an oil spill drill conducted by Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, LLC (LOOP) May 18.

LOOP is a Louisiana-based company whose mission is to ensure the safe offloading of crude oil from tankers, proper storage of that oil and its transportation through pipelines to refineries throughout the Gulf Coast and Midwestern United States. Each year, they hold an exercise based around an oil spill scenario as a training tool that brings response partners together in order to work through the drill. Doing so prepares LOOP and its partners for a real response, while identifying their strengths and weaknesses.

This year's scenario began on day two of an event involving an oil leak emanating from a segment of pipe in Lafourche Parish. As a day

two scenario, the Unified Command System was already in place when participants arrived. This streamlined the response, so that the focus would be on the actual response effort as opposed to taking time on the initial logistics of gathering resources, defining response duties and setting up the Unified Command.

Within the Unified Command structure, personnel were organized and the appropriate response mechanisms and resources were identified. Each response team was given a specific role, such as command, security, operations, planning, logistics, legal, public information and finance/billing.

All participants worked together throughout the day to secure the spill, as they initiated an internal and external communications plan, coordinated the recovery effort and addressed issues of concern from the public, the media, stakeholders and response partners.

Each year, the focus of these exercises is to get the participants together under one roof communicating with each other so that it fosters a rapid, sound decision-making effort. The goal is to develop an incident action plan that ensures for the safety of human health and the environment.

Participants included the LDEQ, U.S. Coast Guard, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, the Louisiana State Police, Lafourche Parish, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, St. James Parish, the Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission along with additional agencies, contractors, consultants and guests.

Jeff Dauzat, LDEQ senior environmental scientist, assisted in planning the exercise this year. "Training on oil spills and how to quickly and accurately respond to them provides the necessary tools should an oil spill actually occur," he said.

"Drills such as this one bring a variety of organizations, groups and agencies together – all working toward the resolution of an environmental incident. This exercise promotes the sharing of ideas, while tapping into the expertise and engaging the resources under the Unified Command framework," he continued.

Continued on page 6



During the exercise, staff from LDEQ served in an advisory capacity to the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, who acted as the state on-scene coordinator. Both agencies participated in meetings and briefings on response strategies and addressing media inquiries.

The exercise concluded with a mock press conference where Unified Command spokesmen fielded questions from media role-players, followed by a feedback session from the participants.

LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Brown joins LABI panel

Although the Clean Power Plan (CPP) may be administratively dead, the goals it outlines are still in reach, LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said.

Speaking to a meeting of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) in Baton Rouge May 11, Brown pointed out that the CPP was aimed at climate change. By burning fuels that emit less carbon, utilities would slow climate change under CPP. That's not the only reason many utilities are switching from coal to cleaner burning natural gas, Brown said. He told the group that he heard the CEO of Appalachian Power say that he consulted prices in the paper every day before even deciding to fire up his coal-fueled units. Brown said the Appalachian Power CEO made the remarks in West Virginia – the heart of coal country.



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown was part of a panel at LABI that included LED Secretary Don Pierson and DNR Secretary Tom Harris. The group discussed "State Perspectives on Federal Environmental Regulations."

"Whether it's environmental or economic, we are still going to get to those environmental goals," Brown said.

Regulations pose no major impediment to industrial development, Brown said. "The only barrier I see now is attainment," he said, referring to the state's ozone levels. "We have had a few exceedances in Baton Rouge in the past few weeks – exceedances of the new standard (70 parts per billion for ozone), not the old standard. Attainment can be a barrier for industry."

The good news is that the entire state is in attainment for the 75 ppb standard, Brown said, and the new standard, set last fall, was imposed in October 2015 by EPA. No industry wants to go backward on air quality progress, he added.

"There is nobody in this room that wants to roll back the regulations," Brown said. "No one wants to breathe less clean air, drink less clean water or catch fish with mercury in them."

Industry can help LDEQ do its job, Brown said. "EPA administrator Scott Pruitt's buzzword is cooperative federalism. He wants the states to do more," he said. The federal agency is not proposing to give the states more funding along with the additional work, Brown said.

"What you can do is talk to your congressmen (or congresswomen) and write letters. Tell them not to cut aid to the states," Brown said. If the loss of EPA funding is severe, Louisiana might have to delegate some of the authority it was granted by EPA back to the federal agency. That could result in a dual permitting system.

Continued on page 7



“Nobody in this room wants that,” Brown said.

Harris talked about moving federal wetlands permitting to the state level. Pierson praised LDEQ’s expedited permitting programs, and suggested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers might use it as a model for speeding up wetlands use permits.

Brown did not speculate about specific changes, but he promised that “we are going to do what is right for Louisiana.”

Boy Scouts place storm drain markers in Slidell community

Nonpoint source pollution in our state waterways is a continuing problem, but many organizations, groups and citizens in the state are making strides to cease it while informing the public on what they can do to be a part of the solution.

Matt Bald is part of the solution.

Matt, a candidate for the highest rank of Eagle Scout, is a member of Boy Scout Troop 315 in Slidell. As part of the requirements of attaining Eagle, candidates must plan and conduct a project that benefits their community in some way.

For his project, Matt decided to focus on educational outreach relating to preventing nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution consists of pollution that is a result of runoff due to rainfall, as opposed to pollution emanating directly from a point source, such as a discharge pipe. Much of the nonpoint source pollution going into our waterways is generated by humans, and it negatively impacts the designated uses (such as swimming and fishing) for our waterways.

Matt then gave several presentations on nonpoint pollution in his community, following up with a plan to place 207 markers on storm drains in the Turtle Creek Subdivision in Slidell. With the assistance of 19 scouts from his troop and 20 additional volunteers, Matt’s team installed the markers over a four-week period during March and April. He received guidance on the project from Joann Haydel from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and Environmental Scientist Greg Waldron from LDEQ, who also provided the storm drain markers.



*Photo courtesy of Ronald Bald
Eagle Scout candidate Matt Bald planned the storm drain marking project*



*Photo courtesy of Ronald Bald
Boy Scouts (l to r) Alexander Nash, Alex Clifton, Clay Downing and Mitchell Burks assisted Matt Bald on the storm drain marking project.*

Continued on page 8



Waterways.” They serve as a constant reminder to citizens about the environmental impact of dumping trash or chemicals into the storm drains.

“Matt contacted LDEQ and informed me that he wanted to install storm drain markers as part of his Eagle Scout project. After some discussion about his plan and approval from local government, we sent him the markers he requested. We were happy to help him with a project that will benefit Louisiana’s waters,” said Greg Waldron, LDEQ environmental scientist.

For more information on how to obtain storm drain markers and educational material for a marking project in your community, contact Crisalda Adams, LDEQ Nonpoint Source Unit Manager, at Crisalda.Adams@la.gov.

More information on nonpoint source pollution can be found on the LDEQ website at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/nonpoint-source>.

Employee Appreciation Day 2017

“I appreciate everything that you do. This is our day, us executive staff members, to tell you that we do appreciate you,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown told employees gathered in the first flood kitchen area of the Galvez Building on May 10. The employees were having ice cream and cookies, courtesy of the agency executive staff, to mark Employee Appreciation Day.

Administrators from various departments served up the ice cream, which came from LSU Dairy. Employees outside headquarters were sent treats as well. The secretary and members of the executive staff were on hand to visit with employees and enjoy a cup of ice cream too. It was a convivial atmosphere that reminded everyone that work is more than just a job.

“We are family, and that is how I want you to function in this group,” the secretary said. He went on to say the agency had enjoyed some successes in the past year, and he looks forward to more successes in the rest of 2017. Dr. Brown also advised employees to keep the agency’s core values always in mind as they go about their daily work.



LDEQ administrators served up delicious ice cream.



Dr. Brown addresses LDEQ employees during Employee Appreciation Day.



LDEQ participated in “Kids to Park” day in Zachary May 9

Environmental scientists from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality demonstrated nonpoint source pollution scenarios at “Kids to Park” day at Zachary Community Park May 9.

Using EnviroScape, LDEQ staff demonstrated a variety of scenarios involving nonpoint source pollution. Their audience was fifth- and sixth-grade students from Copper Mill Elementary School in Zachary. The school was awarded a “Kids to Park” grant through a nationwide contest administered by the National Park Trust.

EnviroScape is a series of portable models used to demonstrate water pollution concepts and their prevention. At “Kids to Park” day, the models will be used to show examples of nonpoint source pollution, such as rainfall that moves over and through the ground, carrying natural and man-made pollutants which are subsequently deposited in our waterways.

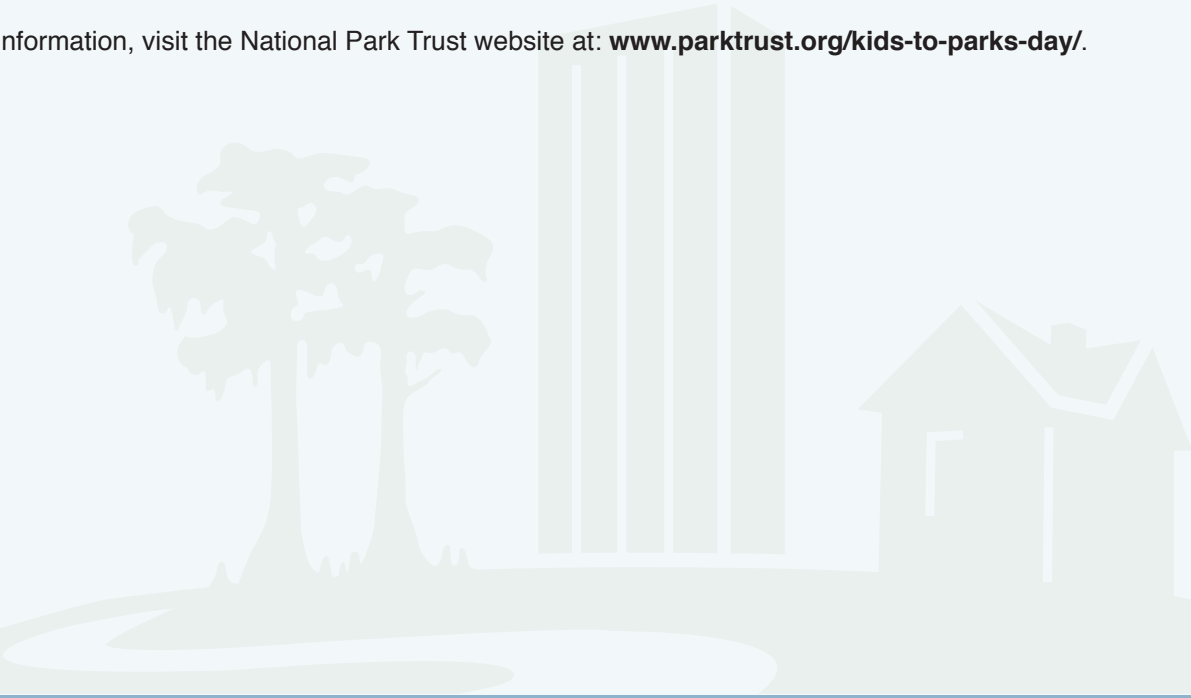


Students planted shrubs and trees as part of Kids to Park Day.

The grant awards schools with funding to promote student interest in exploring history, nature and science at their neighborhood parks. Classes can receive funding for a “Kids to Park” event to be held in their community, and students are responsible for the research and writing of the proposal with encouragement and support from teachers and local park staff.

Seventy schools across the United States in grades kindergarten through 12 were winners in the contest. Copper Mill Elementary was the only school in Louisiana to receive the grant.

For more information, visit the National Park Trust website at: www.parktrust.org/kids-to-parks-day/.





DEQ On The Move

St. Bernard Day



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown and agency staff met with three members of the St. Bernard Parish Council and the Parish President during St. Bernard Day at the Pentagon Barrack on the Capitol grounds May 10. Dr. Brown and agency personnel gave the visiting dignitaries a short update on air quality concerns in St. Bernard Parish.

In addition to Dr. Brown, LDEQ personnel at the meeting were Lourdes Iturralde, Bryan Johnston, Mike Algero, Vennetta Hayes, Vivian Aucoin, Dwight Bradshaw, Herman Robinson and Greg Langley. In addition to St. Bernard Parish President Guy McInnis, council members Howard Luna, Wanda Alcon and Gillis McCloskey were in attendance.

Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day



Twenty-four LDEQ volunteers assisted with the Ascension Parish Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day May 20 at the Lamar-Dixon center in Gonzales. More than 400 cars were served. The volunteers processed paint at the paint swap and prepared 105 five-gallon buckets in a myriad of colors. The paint is donated to Habitat for Humanity.

"Once again I want to thank each and every one of you for the great job that was accomplished again this year," Joyce Burriss, Ascension Parish government said in an email. "I think we had a great turnout for this year's event."

LDEQ provides judges at Park Elementary school science fair in Baton Rouge



Employees from LDEQ served as judges at the EnvironMentors Science Fair at Scotlandville Magnet High May 1, followed by a science fair at Park Elementary in Baton Rouge May 11.

Exhibits were graded on the effective use of the scientific method, inclusion of experiments and exhibits, how well data was presented and overall originality/creativity.

At Park Elementary, the LDEQ judges were assisted by representatives from ExxonMobil in the grading of 12 projects planned and designed by students in grades K through five. Projects included demonstrations on the floatation of an egg in saltwater, photosynthesis and its relationship to plant life and an experiment on the probability and accuracy in successfully shooting basketballs into a hoop using three test groups.



LDEQ On The Move



Kurt Wilson, LDEQ environmental scientist, demonstrates Enviroscape at the Jefferson Parish Earth Day, May 10.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist, India Ambeau, demonstrates Enviroscape to students at the Pontchartrain Elementary Earth and Science Day in Mandeville. April 28.

Earth Day Events

Approximately 200-250 students from six schools in Jefferson Parish participated in Earth Day at LaSalle Park in Metairie. Kurt Wilson (SERO) and Linda Hardy (HQs) presented the Enviroscape nonpoint source pollution model. The students were presented with reminders to keep them thinking about "BEEEEEE the Solution!"

Pontchartrain Elementary's Earth and Science Day was held on April 28 in Mandeville. Copper Mill Elementary's was held on May 9 and Jefferson Parish Earth Day was held on May 10 in Metairie.

"As the students approach the Enviroscape model, the air is buzzing with questions about the items on the model. It's exciting to hear their thoughts on 'what is pollution' and 'what are the sources of pollution' in the various scenarios presented on the model," said Linda Hardy, outreach and Small Business Assistance manager. "It's rewarding and fun getting the students engaged in thinking of ways they can prevent pollution based on the model. After all questions have been addressed, the students are presented with reminders to help them remember to 'BEEEEEE the Solution!'"



Who's Who At LDEQ?



Corrinthia Hinton – Environmental Scientist 3 in Remediation, Office of Environmental Assessment

Hinton is originally from Hattiesburg, Miss., but was raised in Gulfport, Miss. A graduate of Harrison Central High School, Hinton continued her education at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in regulatory sciences in 2009.

She received a Master of Science degree in environmental sciences from Louisiana State University in 2012. She returned to Baton Rouge after spending two years working for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality as an Underground Storage Tank Inspector.

Christy Clark – Environmental Scientist 4, Water Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

Clark is from Dupont, Louisiana. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in December 2008. She was recently promoted to Environmental Scientist 4 and has been with the Water Permits Division since May 2009.



Christine Thurman – Administrative Assistant 5, Air Planning, Office of Environmental Assessment

Thurman grew up in the Lake Charles area and graduated from McNeese State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics in business (fashion merchandising) in 1982. She earned a degree in Paralegal Studies in 1989 and is also a Notary Public.

Thurman was employed at McNeese State University, the Louisiana State Library and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development before coming to LDEQ. She is married to Mike and they have three grandsons aged 9, 6 and 4. Thurman and her husband are members of a Spanish Town Mardi Gras group, Krewe of No Klue. They both enjoy cooking, boating and traveling.



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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2017 Enforcement Actions:

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

First Quarter 2017 Settlement Agreements:

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

First Quarter 2017 Air Permits:

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

First Quarter 2017 Water Permits:

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

First Quarter 2017 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

