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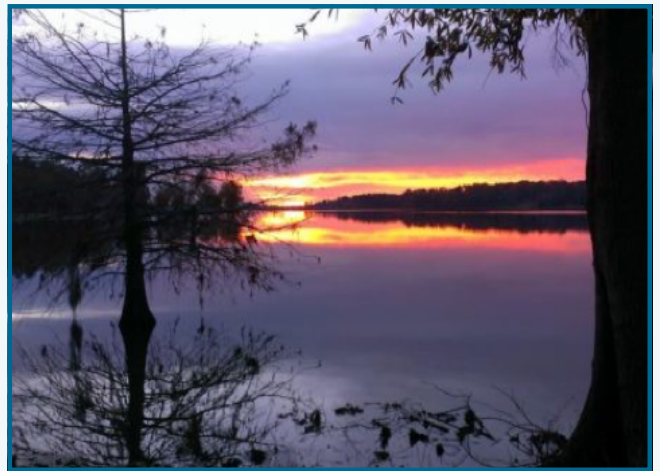
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Sibley Lake fish consumption advisory lifted

Louisiana is fortunate to have many beautiful lakes, rivers and waterbodies. The state's aquatic resources are part of the reason it has been dubbed a sportsman's paradise. Sibley Lake near Natchitoches is one of Louisiana's water assets, but it has had a longtime advisory concerning fish consumption.

Sibley Lake is a 2,250-acre impoundment constructed in the late 1950s to produce a reliable drinking water supply for Natchitoches. It provides approximately five million gallons of drinking water daily for area residents. It has an average depth of nine feet and maximum depth of 40 feet. It has been a popular sportsmen's destination for boating and fishing for many years.



Sibley Lake
Photo Credit: Natchitoches.net

After more than 30 years of sampling lake sediments and fish, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) have lifted the fish consumption advisory for Sibley Lake. The last signature necessary to remove the advisory on the water body near Natchitoches was inked Dec. 21, 2018. The fish consumption ban had been in place since 1989. No one currently involved with water quality at a state regulatory agency can recall another instance where a fish consumption advisory issued due to chemical contamination has been rescinded in Louisiana.

"I am proud to see one of our state's impaired water bodies returned to its designated uses. This was no small feat. The long process to restore Sibley Lake demonstrates the care and commitment of the LDEQ, LDH and LDWF staffs to protecting the public from possible health risks of contamination, and making it safe for everyone to now enjoy," Gov. John Bel Edwards said.

"This is a singular achievement. It is a victory for environmental remediation, a major battle we have won in the effort to clean all of Louisiana's waterbodies," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said.

"Thanks to a coordinated effort between multiple state agencies, our state, the Sportsman's Paradise, now has one more body of water in which residents who

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enjoy fishing can also safely enjoy their catch,” Dr. Jimmy Guidry, state health officer with the Louisiana Department of Health, said.

“This is a perfect example of this state’s dedication to cleaning up our waterways. It is a signature environmental achievement that Louisiana can show to the rest of the country,” LDWF Secretary Jack Montoucet said.

The decision to lift the fish consumption advisory came after decades of work by the state agencies along with extensive remediation work by Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP). Based on contamination first reported to LDEQ by TGP, LDEQ issued a Compliance Order to the company in August 1988. The order required TGP to cease discharge of wastewater containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and eliminate PCBs from treated wastewater. The order also required TGP to submit a plan for analysis of PCBs in water, sediment and fish from Sibley Lake. The plan was submitted to LDEQ and was subsequently approved. The sampling of fish, water and sediments in the lake began in 1989. Fish sampling continued until April 2018, after which LDH, with concurrence from LDEQ and LDWF, concluded that concentrations of PCBs were no longer at harmful levels in the fish.

To reach that goal, TGP was required to submit a remediation plan to remove contaminated soil and sediment around the facility and in the lake. A final remediation plan was submitted to LDEQ by TGP’s consultants in September 1992. Following plan approval by LDEQ, work commenced on Oct. 29, 1992, to remove the contaminated soils near the facility and sediment from an area in the lake closest to the facility.

The work involved the installation of a large water-filled cofferdam in the lake surrounding the contaminated area. This was followed by removal and safe disposal of all contaminated sediment and extensive sediment sampling to ensure the removal of contaminants. Remediation work in the lake was completed Feb. 10, 1993.

Prior to the remediation work, the presence of PCBs in sediment and fish prompted LDH and LDEQ to issue a fish consumption advisory in February 1989. The advisory was against the sale and consumption of fish taken from Sibley Lake. As new data was obtained, the advisory was updated in January 1996, placing limits on the quantity of fish recommended for safe consumption. The advisory for Sibley Lake was reviewed in June 1994, revised in January 1996, reviewed again in March 2000, and most recently reviewed in August 2018.

Requirements of the fish tissue sampling program were also adjusted as new information regarding fish species and PCBs became available. Ultimately, three separate sample efforts within a two-year period, each including several species and many fish, were required of TGP in order to meet the requirements of Louisiana’s fish advisory protocol. The protocol is a joint effort of LDEQ, LDH, LDWF and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture (LDAF).

“We are very pleased to reach the objective of removing the fish consumption advisory for the future generations of fisherman at Sibley Lake,” said Kimberly Watson, president of Kinder Morgan Natural Gas Pipelines North Region, which includes TGP. “For 30 years, TGP has been committed to the environmental objectives of this project and appreciates the cooperation of LDEQ, LDH and the LDWF, to achieve this goal.”



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Because of the nature of our work, this agency is designed to get very few pats on the back. No matter what we do – or don't do – someone, somewhere, disagrees with our decision and often slants an outcome to more than likely benefit them.

That's OK. It's part of the territory. This is difficult work we do. We don't expect accolades. However, it is nice to occasionally see someone recognize the importance of the things LDEQ does.

It was pleasant to experience the good news coverage the agency got about the lifting of the fish consumption advisory at Sibley Lake in Natchitoches Parish. The advisory was lifted in December, and it's the first such advisory we've been able to remove since we started our protective program. We hope to have more of that kind of success with advisories, but it's appropriate to take a moment and enjoy this achievement that represents decades of hard work by agency personnel and our partners and stakeholders in the Sibley Lake project.

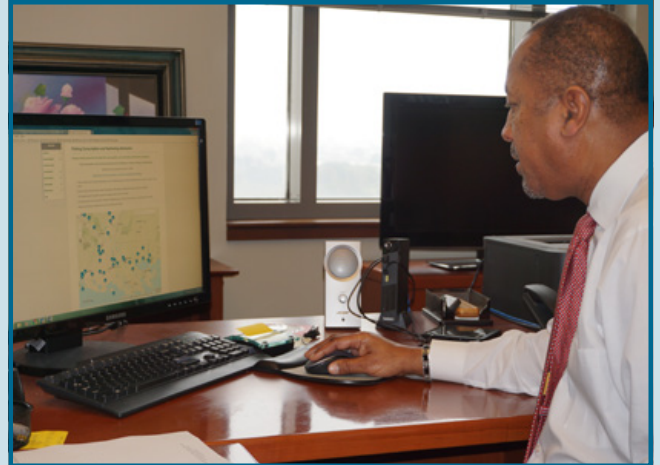
Then we announced that we had posted an interactive fish advisory map online. We got a flood of positive attention for that. Just about all the TV stations in Baton Rouge came by to talk with us about it. There's just something about a high-tech way of presenting data that grabs the attention of lay people.

Our unmanned aircraft program was also spotlighted in the Baton Rouge Business Report in February. The piece highlighted our agency's cutting edge use of the unmanned aircraft for surveillance and other applications. Several LDEQ employees are featured in the story, and extensive photography accompanied the article. It was another positive story.

Communications is working on another positive piece that may generate more attention next month. The agency is collaborating with NASA on a research project. NASA is using one of our sites to house one of their air monitors. The space agency is collecting data to use in a program which aims to measure ambient air quality from space by using satellites. LDEQ's data will provide comparison information about air quality readings gathered on the ground. It's a great project with exciting implications. We're the right people for the job. We are visionaries who believe in what we do.

I want to thank all the people who have been moving from floor-to-floor at the agency for their patience and good humor. It's not easy to undergo this consolidation. You've all been professionals about the inconveniences and schedule-altering moves. Just hang in there a little while longer, and we will all get where we are going, settle in and go about doing our jobs with fewer interruptions.

Finally, I want to wish you all a Happy Mardi Gras! It's a day off, and I know you will enjoy it. Catch some beads and party with friends. Just be careful!



Dr. Brown looks at fish advisory map on the LDEQ website.



Where we are going and where we have been

Under the guidance of LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, agency personnel trained, studied, planned and listened to the public through all of the agency's outreach media, but especially one-to-one. The staff stepped up to meet all challenges, serving the people of Louisiana and protecting human health and the environment.

At the beginning of this administration, Dr. Brown outlined his vision of how LDEQ could best serve the citizens of Louisiana and protect and improve the environment in the most responsible manner.

This vision began with a set of core values to guide the department's actions. LDEQ will continue to:

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

Protecting the environment is the LDEQ mission, and a plan was set forth to do that. LDEQ can protect the environment by:

- Being accessible
- Being transparent
- Listening
- Informing and empowering the public
- Using social and traditional media, web applications, meetings, hearings, news releases, e-news, videos and other means to inform the citizens of Louisiana
- Engaging the public to be environmental "watchdogs" and stewards
- Adhering to environmental laws and regulations while using our authority in a fair and equitable way.



Dr. Brown speaks to a reporter for Louisiana Hometown News before speaking at the Louisiana Police Jury Association meeting in Lake Charles in February.

To know where you are going, you need to know where you have been. It was a year of change at LDEQ, with air quality continuing to improve and spills, odor issues and weather events continuing to challenge the agency's emergency response capability. In 2018, LDEQ made great strides to live up to our core values and goals.

- After 30 years of remediation, the fish consumption advisory was lifted from Sibley Lake near Natchitoches. It has been a successful collaborative effort between the state and the responsible parties.
- LDEQ designed and provided a new water data portal that provides a user-friendly way to get specific water data. It can be accessed at <https://waterdata.deq.louisiana.gov>. The new portal offers web access to surface water quality data as well as a multitude of additional water data tools.

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- LDEQ launched a new interactive Fish Consumption and Swimming Advisories Map that allows the public to find out if there are any advisories on the body of water where they would like to fish. Look for your local waterbody here: deq.louisiana.gov/page/fishing-consumption-and-swimming-advisories
- Emergency Response logged 7,845 response incidents during the 2018 calendar year. These included citizen complaint calls, releases/spills, online notifications, underground storage tank releases/remediation events and other inquiries.
- The Enforcement Division logged 57 legal settlements for 2018, totaling more than \$891,066 with a total Beneficial Environmental Projects value of \$950,653.
- LDEQ continued working with the newly formed Louisiana Recycling Coalition (LRC) and Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB). Litter and waste in the environment is a huge concern in Louisiana, and the LRC and KLB are geared toward addressing the problem head-on. Dr. Chuck Carr Brown spoke at the KLB conference in Baton Rouge and participated in the Leaders Against Leaders campaign to engage and encourage citizens to pick up litter in their communities.
- The Drinking Water Protection Team continues to canvass the state, giving presentations to the public to promote the importance of protecting drinking water, understanding aquifers and imparting information concerning the potential susceptibility of public drinking water sources.
- LDEQ ramped up its posting of informational videos on its YouTube channel, with a different topic covered by video regularly throughout the year. The videos are designed to give the public information on LDEQ's scope of responsibilities, topics of concern and the agency's involvement in environmental events.
- LDEQ's Criminal Investigation Section hosted several Environmental Law Enforcement Training workshops in the state. The goal is to inform law enforcement agents throughout the country on existing, new and changing laws that are specific to environmental crimes.
- LDEQ continues to be actively involved in the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Hypoxia Task Force to address nutrient management within the basin. The Force studies the causes and effects of eutrophication in the Gulf while coordinating activities to reduce the effects of hypoxia.
- LDEQ staff continue to educate the public through conferences, EnviroSchool workshops, science fairs and events.
- LDEQ supports National Drive Electric Week to encourage electric vehicle use across the state in the push to reduce vehicle emissions.
- This year, LDEQ employees participated in a drive to help the Baton Rouge Food Bank. According to the food bank, there has been a shortage of food, due to the many disasters in the United States. LDEQ wanted to do as much as possible to help, and various events took place to support the drive. As a result of the charitable activities and donations from LDEQ employees, \$2,249 was donated, along with \$150 from the Waste Permit Division to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank this year. Food donations delivered to the Food Bank culminated in a combined total weight of approximately 550 lbs.



Sustaining local water infrastructure with the LDEQ “New Vision” CWA 303(d) Program

Each and every day, everyone benefits from the environmental, health, social and economic impacts that clean and safe water provide. There is no debating the impact water infrastructure has on daily life. One of the most critical challenges facing the nation is how to sustain water and wastewater infrastructure to ensure that the public can continue to enjoy these benefits in the future. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is collaborating with drinking water and wastewater utility managers, trade associations, local watershed protection organizations, and state and local officials to help ensure that Louisiana’s precious water infrastructure is sustainable with the implementation of programs such as the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) Program.

There is a “pollution budget” set for every body of water - from rivers and lakes to the bayou that runs behind your home. A pollution budget is the amount of pollutants that a waterbody can assimilate (or blend in) while still maintaining the water quality criteria for the parameters of concern specific to that water body. Each waterbody will have a point source loading component (i.e., discharge from a permitted sewerage treatment facility), a nonpoint source loading component (i.e., individual home septic tanks) and a margin of safety (applied percentage factor for error). All of these factors combined will equal a specific waterbody’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

A TMDL can be developed for any parameter (i.e., dissolved oxygen, fecal bacteria, etc.) and can be expressed in a variety of ways. Additionally, TMDLs establish water quality-based permit limits for point source loads and the reduction percentages, if any, that are required for both point and nonpoint source loads. The CWA 303(d) program requires TMDLs for each waterbody, and the Code of Federal Regulations governs them.



The Yellow River in Tangipahoa Parish is in the early stages of an alternative plan under the New Vision Program. It is currently being monitored.

The CWA 303(d) program allows for implementation efforts that restore and protect the nation’s aquatic resources. Through this program the nation’s waters are assessed, restoration and protection objectives are prioritized, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and alternative approaches are implemented to achieve water quality goals. The achievement of these goals is only made possible through the collaboration between LDEQ, federal agencies, the regulated community stakeholders and the public.

The original LDEQ program, referred to as the TMDL program, was established by the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) in the 1970s. At that time, it documented that states must assess all waterbodies and prioritize impaired waterbodies for TMDL development. The Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection Program, also referred to as the New Vision program, has since been implemented under the CWA 303(d) program. The primary goals of the New Vision Program include prioritization, assessment, protection, alternatives, engagement and integration to achieve water quality goals. LDEQ hopes the new program will guide the realization of our clean water goals in a manner that recognizes lessons learned from the past two decades of CWA 303(d) program implementation while addressing new challenges with innovative solutions.

All waterbodies have designated uses. Some of these uses equate to swimming, fishing, boating, a drinking water source, wildlife propagation or agricultural purposes to name a few. Some more directly impact the community than others, but ultimately, all play a role in the overall water infrastructure of a community. These designated uses are what determine the water quality criteria

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for the parameters of concern under the New Vision program. For example, non-compliant permitted facilities may be required to make repairs and/or upgrades, and unpermitted facilities may be required to obtain a permit if the assessment of the water body under the program uncovers their contribution to the impairment of a local waterbody.

How will the public benefit from LDEQ implementing the New Vision program in local communities?

The ultimate goal of the New Vision program is to restore and protect the state's water bodies, ensuring future growth and prosperity in the community and preventing the restrictions of water quality impairments on local waterbodies. The new program allows for partnerships or collaborative efforts to aid in cleaning a waterbody. It also includes more public education and allows community stakeholders the opportunity to offer input at the beginning of an assessment and into the restoration and protection activities.

For example, an educational topic for the public may be the proper operation and maintenance of an individual septic tank. The public may not be aware that the appropriate operation and maintenance of a septic tank is vital to helping clean up the state's waterbodies. Therefore, an alternative plan under the New Vision program would likely include contracting with someone to inspect individual septic disposal systems and discuss the proper operation and maintenance with the homeowner.

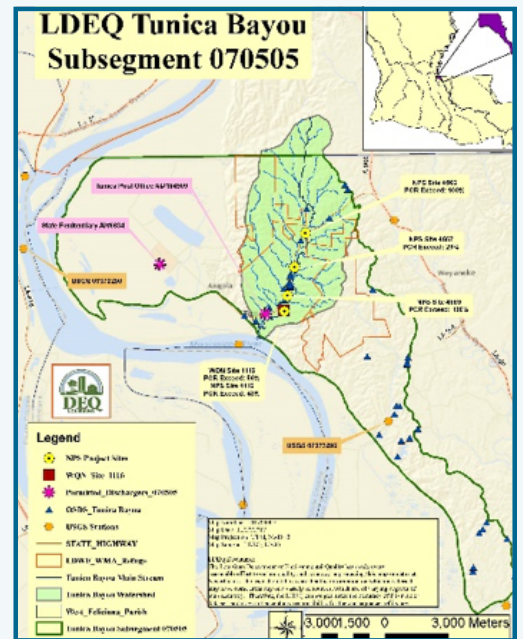
Additionally, the LDEQ would likely be sampling the waterbodies over time to gauge any improvements or fluctuations in the contamination of the waterbody. Furthermore, LDEQ would review records from permitted facilities, and if these are having any problems, the inspection division may visit the facilities to attempt to get them into compliance. Some activities could include projects from other agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the Department of Health.

What can a citizen do help facilitate the New Vision program in their community?

The most important first-step for a citizen is to take ownership of local water bodies. Contacting the local parish government and communicating a desire to see the New Vision program in the community would also ensure the collaborative nature of the plan is in place. A concerned citizen could also form or get involved in local waterbody-based organizations that support/conduct environmental education activities for the public and inform the local government of water quality concerns.

LDEQ welcomes public insight into the local water bodies in the program, including any ongoing issues that may lead to water quality impairment, changes in land use, or changes in hydrology. The agency also looks to the public to notify LDEQ and the parish of facilities in violation of their permits, other noticeable problems, flow restrictions in a waterbody and point or nonpoint loading sources impacting a waterbody. Finally, citizens should participate in engagement activities hosted by the parish and LDEQ to ensure everyone is doing their part.

LDEQ will work as an advocate by sharing information on the best practices, tools, and conducting community outreach events in an effort to fundamentally change Louisiana communities' view and management of their water infrastructure. To learn more about the New Vision program, visit deq.louisiana.gov/page/newvisionprogram.



LDEQ is currently working on an alternative plan for Tunica Bayou under the New Vision program. To date, activities have resulted in the maintenance and addition of disinfection at the Tunica Post Office as well as the restoration of a community system. Additionally, several individual septic disposal systems have been inspected and resulted in improved operation.



Troop 61 Scouts at the headwaters of the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca State Park in Minnesota. (Left to right): Jack Horn, Caleb Dixon, Spencer Malone, David Slater, Michael Martin and Chandler Achord.



Passing between two lakes in the Boundary Waters.

LDEQ scoutmaster and six scouts master Minnesota waters

Six Louisiana Boy Scouts combined learning and adventure last July when they traveled to the Boy Scouts of America's Northern Tier High Adventure Base outside Ely, Minn., with LDEQ Senior Environmental Scientist and Scoutmaster Wayne Slater, and Assistant Scoutmaster Lee Smith from Troop 61.

The Louisiana scouts spent a week canoeing and wilderness camping at the base in the million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) on the U.S./Canadian Border. The group canoed over 60 miles, experienced over 25 separate portages and paddled through many pristine glacier-carved lakes. While on the trek, the scouts participated in the Lake Monitoring Program sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Nearly 20 percent of the BWCA's total area is water, which makes it a paradise for lake lovers, but a challenge to monitor. Luckily, the BWCAW is one of the more heavily used wildernesses in the country, so visitors can play a role in the monitoring of these amazing lakes. The scouts were given a Secchi disk (an opaque disk used to gauge the transparency of water by measuring the depth at which the disk ceases to be visible from the surface) and data sheets. The scouts were to check the clarity in at least five different lakes and to also note water color and weather conditions.

"We were routinely getting Secchi disk readings of 13 to 15 feet in the lakes" Slater said. "I explained to the boys that even in our clearest lakes in Louisiana, we rarely see Secchi readings greater than two to three feet due to several factors, including higher sediment loadings and that our warmer waters allow for greater algae growth in the water column."

The scouts had some trouble adjusting to the clear water. "Several times as we got close to shore, the boys would hop out of the canoes

when they saw the lake bottom" Slater said. "Unfortunately, we were still in eight or 10 feet of water, and down they would go. Luckily all were wearing life jackets!" The remoteness and untamed beauty of the area was a unique experience for the scouts. "I think these boys learned how important it is to keep our waterways clean, and that if we all work together, we can enjoy such areas for generations to come," Slater said.

Prior to the trek in the BWCAW, the scouts spent a day at Lake Itasca to visit the headwaters of the Mississippi River. BSA Troop 61 is sponsored by the St. Francisville United Methodist Church.



Operation Fresh Start refreshes East Baton Rouge

Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome’s vision of beautifying Baton Rouge has come to fruition with Operation Fresh Start kicking off this month.

Mayor Broome started the campaign of cleaning up Baton Rouge after hearing from the community of their need and desire to fix up the appearances of their homes and businesses. The initiative started with Clean Sweep Baton Rouge, which partnered with Keep Louisiana Beautiful to have Baton Rouge citizens do a citywide cleanup in their local districts. Held last April, the cleanup event showed the urgency of clearing litter from neighborhoods, while encouraging others to clean up their areas as well.

The next initiative was having cleanups around state highways such as Interstate 10, Siegen Lane and College Drive. These cleanups focus more on cutting grass, picking up broken concrete and recycling unwanted signs from properties. Waste Management provided supplies and refreshments for the volunteers. Republic Services provided additional supplies and trucks to pick up the waste and recycling. As successful as these cleanups were, the citizens of Baton Rouge wanted to do more.

The mayor started having State of City Parish meetings with community leaders and the public in different coffee shops in specific communities. The goal is to listen to citizens’ input and their requests to have cleanups in their neighborhoods and around their businesses. Mayor Broome knew that something needed to be done and wanted to honor citizens’ wishes.

Starting Feb. 16, Operation Fresh Start is the first cleanup effort that the mayor has initiated for the year. The mayor has been quoted saying that cleaning up the city has the potential to “boost tourism, economic development and public safety.” Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Rowdy Gaudet was given the task of helping to establish Operation Fresh Start. He and the mayor picked seven locations where citizens could sign up and volunteer to pick up the trash. The locations are: Baker Municipal Auditorium, Repentance Park, Star Hill Baptist Church, Hartley/Vey Park, Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, Mane Attraction Barber Shop and Temple Baptist Church. The locations were chosen because they elicit some of the highest numbers of complaint calls concerning debris, trash piles, potholes and more.

Operation Fresh Start continued through February, with concentrated and aggressive cleanups that focused on clearing debris and improving landscapes throughout Baton Rouge. Gaudet said that the mayor has many more plans to clean up the litter in other neighborhoods, “Everyone is proud of where they come from,” Gaudet said. Operation Fresh Start participants hope that more private businesses help the cause and provide volunteers, supplies and donations.

Be informed with Operation Fresh Start’s projects and sign-ups for future cleanups on the Keep Louisiana Beautiful website, and on the mayor’s social media pages www.facebook.com/MayorPresidentSharonWestonBroome/?nr.



Volunteers gather at the Gardere Lane location in preparation for the cleanup day.



Volunteers picked up trash along Gardere Lane, filling up more than 25 bags of trash throughout the day.



Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality utilizes social media for training opportunities



Three of the 14 registered teams, (Live Oak FFA, Live Oak Environmental Club, and Calvin High School) were able to experience the trainings in-person.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) hosted the first training for the 2019 Louisiana Envirothon competition on Saturday, Feb. 9. The LDEQ Envirothon team took this opportunity to utilize live-streaming capabilities on social media as a training tool for the first time. The 2019 competition is gearing up to be the best yet with a record number of teams registered from all over the state; hence the need for a training solution that reaches audiences at various locations.

Louisiana Envirothon is an environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6-12. Teams train and compete by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management with the hope of going on to represent Louisiana at the North American Envirothon Competition. The competition focuses on five natural resource areas: soils and land use, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife and a current environmental issue. The current environmental issue for 2019 is "Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World."

The first training reviewed soils and land use, aquatic resources, forestry and wildlife while the second training in March will cover the current environmental issue. Distance, however, did not permit many of the teams to attend the training in person; so, LDEQ turned to social media. The LDEQ Envirothon team created a training page specifically for Envirothon competitors who could not make it to the training. The team then and live-streamed each session onto the page.

This new approach to training allowed everyone to participate in real time regardless of location. Viewers online were able to ask questions and engage with the presenters as if they were a part of the audience. Additionally, the live streamed videos can be saved and posted to the page for viewers to return to at a later date if they missed the real-time experience.

LDEQ is always seeking ways to improve efficiency, and high-quality, technology-based trainings are an excellent solution for reaching a statewide audience. This new approach is developed, delivered and updated quickly without the access or timing barriers associated with classroom trainings making it a great tool for the agency. Content can now be delivered over a computer or a mobile device with web access, making it as easy to attend a training session in North Louisiana as it is in the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Learn more about the Louisiana Envirothon at deq.louisiana.gov/page/envirothon.



Russell Clark

Environmental Scientist Russell S. Clark retires from the Louisiana Army National Guard

Russell Clark, a health physicist with LDEQ's Emergency and Radiological Services Division, recently retired from the Louisiana Army National Guard as a Sergeant First Class after more than 35 years of military service. He officially retires March 1.

Clark's military career began in 1983 when he entered basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He subsequently trained as an interior electrician and was assigned to the 769th Combat Engineer Battalion based in Baton Rouge. During the summer of 1987, Clark was deployed to London, England, to assist with the retrofit and renovation of a decommissioned hospital at the Royal Air Force Base in Chessington, UK, in support of Operation Capstone.

Re-enlisting in 1989, Clark changed occupational specialties and began serving as an interrogator and German linguist with the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion in Baton Rouge. In 1992, the landfall of Hurricane Andrew brought about Clark's first stint of hurricane duty, as his unit assisted with recovery efforts across southern Louisiana.

After his second enlistment ended in 1998, Clark transferred to the Inactive Ready Reserve for a short time. However, missing the camaraderie and pride of service, Clark re-enlisted back into the 415th in 2000. During this time, he served serving as a platoon sergeant in the unique job title of human intelligence collector. He then deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003 to 2004, serving as a tactical human intelligence team sergeant. During that operation, Clark personally recruited more than 50 intelligence sources, conducting more than a few source interviews in German. He produced the bulk of his team's collective output of more than 300 field intelligence reports.

Clark redeployed home in time to serve the state in support of Hurricane Katrina recovery from Aug. 2005 to Feb. 2006. During the response and humanitarian relief effort, Clark remained on active duty status serving as the Guard's emergency operations control liaison officer in Ascension Parish. A month later, he supported Army environmental compliance and logistics operations from the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

Hot on the heels of that hurricane recovery duty, Clark transferred to the 62nd Civil Support Team as a medical, non-commissioned officer from 2006 to 2007. In that capacity, he put his LDEQ training and experience to good use, providing technical support to the unit's Radiological Survey Team. He also supported disaster response operations during Hurricanes Rita, Ike, Gustav and Isaac. In 2010, Clark volunteered to join his unit's deployment to Afghanistan until Nov. 2011, where he served as an interrogation control element non-commissioned officer in charge in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His most recent assignment was conducting inventory control at the Joint Operations Center at Louisiana State Police Headquarters in Baton Rouge in support of the Aug. 2016 flood recovery operations.

Clark's service awards include the Army Commendation Medal (two awards), National Defense Service Medal (with service star) and the Louisiana Army Commendation Medal. While he served at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, his unit was awarded the distinguished unit citation for intelligence collection activities in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is extremely proud of Clark's honorable service to Louisiana and the nation during missions both stateside and in combat zones overseas throughout more than three decades. His exemplary record and continuing service with LDEQ embodies the finest example of the citizen-soldier.

LDEQ is honored to congratulate Sergeant First Class Clark for his devotion in the service of both our country and the state of Louisiana throughout a long and noteworthy military career.



LDEQ On The Move



LDEQ employees wear red for "Wear Red for AHA Day."

LDEQ shows support for American Heart Month and the American Heart Association

LDEQ kicks off the 2019 LDEQ American Heart Association fundraising campaign this month starting with "Wear Red for AHA Day." According to the American Heart Association, chances are, everyone knows someone affected by heart disease and stroke because about 2,300 Americans die of cardiovascular disease each day. That's an average of one death every 38 seconds. LDEQ is full of "heart" and is proud to show support for this cause!



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Keri Cason Meyers takes notes during the dress rehearsal drill at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency in Pearl, MS, Feb. 6. Meyers served as a controller at the Joint Information Center, supporting the LDEQ public information team.

LDEQ participates in dress rehearsal drill at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Mississippi

Members from LDEQ's Emergency and Radiological Services Division and the Air Planning and Assessment Division took part in a dress rehearsal drill at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson, MS, Feb. 6. The drill is part of an ongoing series of drills designed to test the overall response in the event of a nuclear incident at the facility. The dress rehearsal was the final training event during the fiscal year, leading up to a FEMA-evaluated exercise slated to take place in March.



Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Bailey Dean - Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division,
Office of Environmental Compliance-, Southwest Regional Office**

Dean is from Nederland, Texas, but moved to Lake Charles in 2012 to attend McNeese State University. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in natural resource conservation and management with a concentration in wildlife management in 2016. Dean also completed a Master's Degree in environmental and chemical sciences at McNeese, graduating in spring 2018.

Her hobbies include cooking, reading and various outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and camping.

Estuardo Silva – Administrator, Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

Silva earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology and a Master of Science degree in environmental management from Louisiana State University. Before joining LDEQ in 1995, Silva worked for the Louisiana Geological Survey and Basin Research Institute where he was involved in several oil and gas exploration projects.

While at LDEQ, he has worked for the Solid and Hazardous Waste Division, Environmental Technology Division and Waste Permits Division. Silva has over twenty years of experience in geology. Since 2005, he has been in charge of coordinating and overseeing all of the geological and groundwater related activities for the Geology Section he supervised. He was recently promoted to Administrator of the Waste Permits Division.



**Christopher Haynes – Environmental Scientist,
Water Surveys Section, Office of Environmental Assessment**

Haynes grew up in a tiny town called Choccolocco in Northeast Alabama. He received his bachelor's in marine science and biology from The University of Alabama in 2013 and is currently working towards his master's in marine and environmental biology at Nicholls State University.

Following a two-year stint as a fisheries biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Haynes began work in the Water Surveys Section of LDEQ in October 2018.



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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Fourth Quarter 2018 Enforcement Actions:

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

Fourth Quarter 2018 Settlement Agreements:

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

Fourth Quarter 2018 Air Permits:

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

Fourth Quarter 2018 Water Permits:

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

Fourth Quarter 2018 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

