



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2019 Issue Number: 87

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Air quality in Louisiana – Governor proclaims May as Air Quality Awareness Month

Co-operation is the key to maintaining attainment. Louisiana's air quality is much improved. In May 2018, the entire state of Louisiana came into attainment with the pollutant ozone. The state is now in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Louisiana gained total compliance thanks to improved ozone levels in the greater Baton Rouge area, which comprises East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension and Livingston parishes.

This latest accomplishment is the result of cooperation from industry that developed Air Quality Action Plans, implemented stricter regulations, responded to early action days and limited their activities to avoid emissions. Additional partners include environmental and governmental groups as well as individual citizens who heeded Ozone Action Days and curtailed their activities.

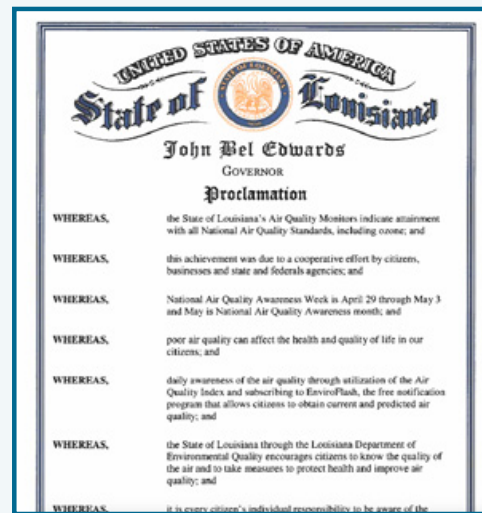
"We want to thank everyone, especially the groups that have worked with us to reach this goal. And our work does not end here. We will continue working to maintain our attainment status," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. "Congratulations to all."

When the amendments to the Clean Air Act were promulgated in 1990, the state had 20 parishes in the nonattainment category for unsafe ozone levels. With a great deal of effort and cooperation, the state met the previous standards three times. Louisiana attained the one-hour ozone standard in 1997 and the more restrictive eight-hour standard in 2008 and 2015.

Now the task is to maintain the improvements in air quality and plan for future standards.

Future path

One component of maintaining and improving the air quality is the finding alternative energy sources. One source is alternative fuels. Alternative fuels, such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Propane, Hydrogen



Gov. John Bel Edwards proclaims May 2019 Air Quality Awareness Month in Louisiana.

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and Electric, are an integral part of the plan to improve air quality. These fuels either do not produce or produce lesser amounts of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), components of the pollutant ozone.

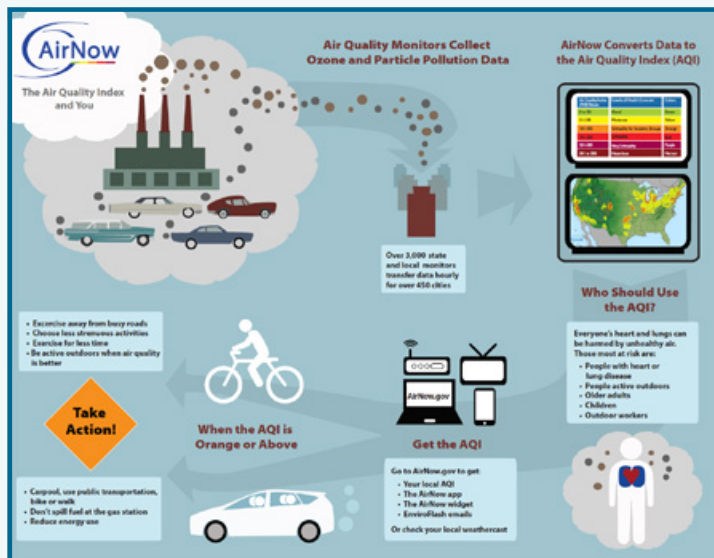
One of the issues with expanding the use of alternative fuels has been the lack of infrastructure, fueling stations and availability. This is changing. Louisiana has recently gained designation for alternative fuel corridors, part of a national network of alternative fueling and charging infrastructures along national highway system corridors. These corridors will assure motorists that they will be able to find fuel for their alternative fuel or electric vehicle.

The Federal Highway Administration is establishing Alternative Fuel Corridors for vehicles that are fueled with CNG, electricity, hydrogen, LNG, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Louisiana has been approved for signage for CNG, Propane and LPG fuels in Louisiana. The signs will be positioned at the beginning of the newly designated Alternative Fuels Corridors and at exits where specific fueling stations are located. The initial interstates making up the Alternative Fuels Corridors in Louisiana include I-10, I-12, I-20 and I-49. LDEQ is working with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the Department of Natural Resources and EPA to establish Alternative Fuel Corridors for electric vehicles and other alternative-fuel-powered vehicles.

LDEQ, Louisiana Clean Fuels and the Capital Region Planning Commission worked on the proposals.

Progress through cooperation has brought the state into attainment, but there is much left to do. Being aware of the levels of air quality is important, and LDEQ offers several ways to get more information.

You can access real time air quality information on the LDEQ website, <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>; you can receive the AQ forecast at <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/forecast>; or, if to receive air quality information automatically by email, text or on a phone app, subscribe to EnviroFlash. Enviroflash allows citizens to receive daily or on-demand air quality information and ensures that the public receives Air Quality Action Day advisories. To sign up to receive air quality notifications from EnviroFlash go to <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash>.



AirNow: Air Quality Index and You



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

May is Air Quality Awareness Month in Louisiana. If you read the story in this newsletter, you will learn that the governor has signed a proclamation declaring just that. This is an especially meaningful May: it marks a full year of Louisiana being in attainment with EPA's ozone standard. A quick look back shows why that is so important.

On May 2, 2018, Gov. Edwards announced that the entire state was in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The federal ground-level ozone standard of 70 parts per billion was established in 2015, and Louisiana had struggled for years to lower ozone levels to that level.

In the late '80s, when 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) were crafted, the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone was an hourly average concentration of 120 parts per billion (ppb). Back then, the Baton Rouge area experienced approximately 14 days per year when ozone levels exceeded the standard. Some of the more severe ozone episodes presented multi-hour exceedances. As a result, the Baton Rouge area was classified as having a "serious" ozone problem following the 1990 CAAA criteria.

In accordance with the Clean Air Act, EPA, using the most recent science data available, reviewed and revised the NAAQS for ozone. They kept lowering the bar. In 1997, the ozone standard was revised from the maximum 1-hour concentration-based standard (120 ppb) to a daily maximum 8-hour average concentration of 80 ppb. In late 2008, the standard was once again revised – this time to an 8-hour average concentration of 75 ppb.

Like a skilled limbo dancer, the Baton Rouge area kept meeting the dropping standards, reaching attainment two times, once for the 1-hour standard and another time for the 1997 8-hour standard. Finally, the area met the more stringent 8-hour ozone standard again. On Oct. 1, 2015, the EPA announced a new National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, setting the new standard at 70 ppb. On March 21, 2018, the Greater Baton Rouge Area -- East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension and Livingston parishes -- was designated attainment by the EPA. The whole state was in attainment.

A year later, Louisiana, the entire state, is still in attainment for ozone. We can step back and take a deep breath. With the help of industry, stakeholders and dedicated regulators, we made it under the bar. We have more work to do, but we deserve to stop for just a second and congratulate ourselves. We made the air cleaner.

I want to remind everyone that cleaning in the Galvez building is still underway. As you walk into and out of the building, there may be folks working above your head. Hoses and scaffolding are located in and around the building. Be aware and stay safe.



LDEQ Public Information Officers Tim Beckstrom and Megan Moore came to my office and shot a YouTube video to mark Air Quality Awareness Month. It's accessible on the agency website.



LDEQ hosts 2019 Louisiana Envirothon

For the 14th year, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) proudly partnered with other Louisiana organizations to host the Louisiana Envirothon, an environmental problem-solving competition, in Baton Rouge. On Saturday, April 13, eight high school teams participated in the environmental competition that included testing in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, a current issue and an oral presentation. The 2019 current issue was “Agriculture and Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.” Winning teams received recognition, plaques, medals and cash prizes. Participating schools included Calvin High School, Live Oak High School, Caddo Parish Magnet High School and Parkview Baptist School.

The winners of the 2019 Louisiana Envirothon are:

First Place: Calvin High School – Future Farmers of America (FFA) (Anthony Adams, Joseph Adams, Emma Bevill, Josie Camp and Treyton Trawick); Second Place: Caddo Parish Magnet High School – Team Hue Manatees (Diya Desai, Ashini Modi, Sophie Weiner, Brennan Deshotel and Savannah Green); Third Place: Live Oak High School – FFA Blue (Gage McKey, Brennan Stokes, Logan Schesser, Kyle McDaniel and Triston Roberson).

The highest scores on station tests were:

Calvin High School’s FFA scored highest in Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife and Orals. Live Oak High School’s Environmental Club Team Two (Lauren Rogers, Madeline Pastuszek, Marcello Delvisco, Callie Tate and Cassie Pritchard) and Live Oak High School’s FFA Blue Team tied for the highest score in Current Issue. Caddo Parish Magnet High School – Team Hue Manatees scored highest in Soils.



Anthony Adams, Joseph Adams, Emma Bevill, Josie Camp and Treyton Trawick of Calvin High School win First place overall.

LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens sponsored the 2019 Louisiana Envirothon as a major sponsor. Louisiana Science Teachers Association and Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts sponsored as patron level sponsors. Detel, Louisiana Environmental Health Association, Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association and an anonymous donor all sponsored at the supporter level. Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers sponsored at the friend level.

Louisiana Envirothon partnered with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, LSU School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, LSU Superfund Basic Research Program and Southern University and A&M College-Urban Forestry Program to host the competition.

For more information on Envirothon, please visit www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon or follow Louisiana Envirothon on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/Louisiana-Envirothon-143476735949/>.



Think before you dump crawfish peels and boil water

This time of the year brings the excitement of the neighborhood crawfish boil, the occasion of many a gathering among neighbors, families and friends in Louisiana. As the “mudbugs” begin crawling out of the muddy bayou and are suddenly swept up into nets, their fate ultimately rests in a boiling pot, and they’ll soon find their tails consumed and their bodies discarded.

But after the festivities have subsided, what’s one to do with the peels and boil water? While the arbitrary disposal of any waste can create a potential problem, the dumping of any seafood refuse such as crawfish peels and boil water, can be a smelly, ecologically-troublesome enterprise if done improperly and without the consideration of your sewage system, neighbors and environment.

Dumping boil water into a storm drain is against the law and harmful to the environment -- and contrary to the opinion of many -- simply dumping shells and boil water into a ditch or waterway DOES NOT FAVOR the aquatic conditions of that waterway. In fact, quite the opposite. Dumping boil water and crawfish discards into a ditch or waterway can seriously harm or kill the resident aquatic species, as it can play a significant role in nutrient overload, pathogen stimulation and depletion of dissolved oxygen.

The good news is that there are better alternatives. The burial and covering of crawfish peels on a landowner’s personal property can actually create an environmentally-friendly composting option that adds nutrients and oxygen to the soil. Just make sure you don’t bury the peels near a ditch or water body.

It’s important to note, however, that for businesses that produce larger amounts of waste, a BMP, or Best Management Practice, will be necessary.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) provides guidance and issues BMPs on a case-by-case basis, with LDEQ as the ultimate authority on regulatory control and enforcement. BMPs are varied and are categorized into different agricultural classifications such as agronomic, aquaculture, poultry, dairy, swine, beef, sugarcane, rice and sweet potatoes. BMP’s may be simple and brief, or more detailed -- created as a result of a large body of research and testing conducted by researchers and soil engineers.

According to the LSU AgCenter, “BMPs are practices used by producers to control the generation of pollutants from agricultural activities and to thereby reduce the amount of agricultural pollutants entering surface water and groundwater.” BMPs allow for a safe, viable environmental use of the refuse while protecting human health and the environment.

“The BMP program is intended for large-scale waste streams such as commercial producers, processors and related industry, occasionally even municipalities, that would otherwise need a solid waste permit, rather than for composting or proper disposal of these types of wastes around the house,” LDAF Agriculture Environmental Specialist Joey Breaux said. “For home use, information in the Backyard Conservation website is useful for illustrating the conservation practices being used large-scale on the rural/agricultural landscape, and how these practices can be scaled down to backyard sized versions of the same thing, to accomplish the same environmental benefits.”

Tips to proper disposal of crawfish peels and boil water:

- Double-bag crawfish peels and place them in the trash.
- If you own the property, you can dig a hole (if away from a ditch or waterbody), drop the peelings in, and refill the hole. Hay, grass, mulch or topsoil may be used as an added cover so that odors are reduced along with the potential for subsequent disturbance by animals or humans.
- If you’re on the city sewage system, remove all solids and pour the boil water down a sink drain. Your wastewater treatment system is better equipped to handle the breakdown of constituents in the boil water.
- If you’re NOT on the city sewage system, you may pour boil water into a grassy/weeded area that is AWAY from a ditch or body of water.

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To enroll in the Agriculture Solid Waste BMP program, the waste generator must develop an individual plan and submit it for approval to LDAF's Office of Soil and Water Conservation. With the consideration of any associated permits or regulations relative to the operation, a BMP will then be developed and approved based on the type of operation, type of wastes involved, geographic characteristics of the site and other factors. Once the plan is reviewed and approved, the applicant will receive a letter of approval. LDEQ's Solid Waste Division will receive a copy as well.

Any subsequent complaints regarding a BMP will be handled by the LDAF, who will work with the party to seek a resolution. Failure to follow the parameters set forth in the BMP can result in a potential penalty or further enforcement action by LDEQ's Waste Permits Division.

So, before you discard seafood peels and boil water into a bayou, stop and choose the smarter, environmentally safe alternatives that support our ecosystem and protect our unique Sportsman's Paradise.

For information on composting and backyard conservation tips, please go to https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcs143_023574.

For more information on conservation programs, please go to <http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/conservation/conservation-programs/>.

To report the illegal disposal of peels or boil water, file a complaint at <https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/file-a-complaint-report-an-incident>.



LDEQ Environmental Scientist Andrew Kimmel responds to a complaint regarding an uncovered crawfish refuse pile in Acadia Parish. While a landowner may grant approval for a seafood processor or distributor to dump the refuse for organic use on his property, a Best Management Practice needs to be in place in order for the waste to be applied to the land in a legal and environmentally-sound manner.

SPOC

Single Point of Contact

TO REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS
In the event of an environmental emergency, citizens are encouraged to first contact their local authorities – police, sheriff, fire department, etc. Citizens and the regulated community can also contact the SPOC hotline. SPOC concerns include spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents. Citizens can report the incident online at www.deq.louisiana.gov.

SPOC HOTLINE
225-219-3640
M-F, 8AM-4:30PM

To leave a message, call
225-342-1234

1-888-763-5424
Toll Free in LA

DEQ CUSTOMER SERVICE
225-219-5337
1-866-896-5337



LDEQ conducts periodic watershed investigations in northeastern Louisiana

Ensuring that our state waterways are free of pollutants and any hazardous materials or potentially hazardous constituents is a large part of LDEQ's environmental protection mission. The goal is to keep all Louisiana water bodies off the impaired list. This is done by mapping out an area in a watershed for investigation and first identifying any negative factors that might be contributing to, or causing a particular impairment in a given waterbody.

A sector on the map is assigned to an environmental scientist in Surveillance Division, who will canvass the area to ensure all businesses with a water discharge have been identified. The challenge can be identifying water discharge points and tying those to a business, church or organization.

Since many discharge points ultimately feed into a larger water body, the status of those discharges can play a significant role in the health and environmental conditions in the watershed. The key is to identify those sources and verify that each has a discharge permit and some form of wastewater treatment process such as an aeration treatment unit or septic system. The permit, known as an LPDES, or Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination Standards permit, will outline the parameters of the discharge based on frequency of discharge, types of constituents and/or chemicals discharged and other factors.

As part of this effort, LDEQ's surveillance personnel periodically take to the backroads, streets and highways across the state to identify any sources of pollution in our watersheds. Storm water and wastewater are common sources, along with agricultural runoff and chemicals – usually from vehicles (such as oil, hydraulic fluid and gasoline) – that leak into the soil and/or flow into an adjacent waterway.

The focus of the watershed survey is to look for unauthorized dischargers and identify those that are not on file with an active permit. All businesses, churches, facilities and organizations discharging into the waters of the state must have a permit and must be up to date on their discharge monitoring reports, if required.

Often, Surveillance will come across areas where it's unclear whether a business exists, if it's active or abandoned, or if it's simply a resident's private work area. The location might be fenced in, with a shed or building, industrial/farming equipment, and some apparent type of work process such as machinery, stacks of product or shelving units on site. There may be no signage or indication of a business name, making identification difficult. It may also be unclear whether or not a wastewater discharge point even exists.

In those cases, the investigator will check the records to research the location's history. "If we are unable to determine if a building on the property is a business, we can check with the Parish Tax Assessor's office to determine who owns the property," LDEQ Environmental Scientist Bradley Osbon said. "If the property is owned by a business, we can check the Louisiana Secretary of State webpage to find a contact for the company. Ultimately, we're trying to find a name of someone



LDEQ Staff Environmental Scientist Bradley Osbon inspects and photographs a discharge pipe behind a building in Union Parish. Inspectors attempt to discern a pipe's origin and whether it is active or dormant.

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...tied to the property that we can contact to determine if a business is present on a specific property.” If an active business is found to exist at the location and a wastewater discharge may be a part of their operation, Surveillance can then confirm whether or not the business has a discharge permit on file.

When the Surveillance team locates an entity that has a discharge, it is marked on the map. Roads, streets and highways that are free of discharge points will also be annotated on the map to show that those areas have been checked.

After evaluating a site with an unpermitted discharge, the inspector will attempt to speak with the site owner to inform them of the applicable regulations and provide information regarding the steps required to get into compliance. In some cases, a business or church may need a discharge permit for sewage plus an additional permit, such as a multi-sector general permit for a storm water discharge.

While some business owners and church representatives may be unaware of the regulations, or claim that they’ve never had to apply for a permit in the past, it’s important to note that the topography and environmental conditions in an area are subject to change, along with local ordinances and state/federal laws. Also, waterbodies that feed into a river or lake can expand or shift course, necessitating a continuous observation of a sometimes ever-changing watershed. As those changes are examined, Surveillance will check to see that all dischargers in the watershed have an appropriate permit. This ensures a level playing field.

While watershed surveys are a comprehensive and time consuming effort, the ultimate result allows citizens, aquatic life and animals to fully enjoy the recreational and aesthetic benefits of the watershed. For more information, visit: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/PROGRAMS/Water.aspx>



Osborn photographs a discharge pipe flowing from an oxidation pond behind a building in the Bayou D’Arbonne Lake area. If necessary, the building manager will be contacted regarding permit requirements for the discharge.

LDEQ Donates Over 5,000 Dollars to the American Heart Association

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) raised \$5,223.22 for the American Heart Association (AHA) via various events during the fundraising campaign held in February and March.

LDEQ kicked-off the campaign and fundraising efforts with a Casual Dress Day package. Employees were given the option to pay 20 dollars to wear casual dress on blocked out days throughout the months of February and March. On Valentine’s Day, the campaign ramped up with the kickoff for the heart sale competition. LDEQ sold hearts for one dollar and the regional office that sold the most hearts won a Smoothie King party. Valentine’s Day also kicked off the Office Basket Raffle. All the baskets had different themes and a raffle ticket for one dollar won the whole basket.



American Heart Association Representative Leslie Dozier is presented a check from LDEQ by Undersecretary Karyn Andrews.

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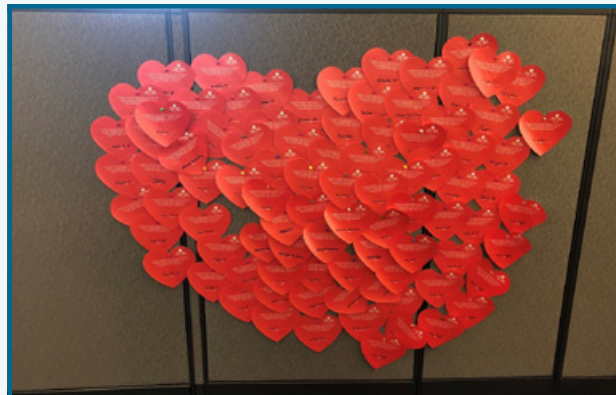
The Heart Sale Competition turned out to be a success. The Southeast Regional Office won for most hearts sold at a Regional Office with 182 hearts. The Office of Environmental Services sold the most hearts at a headquarters office with 427 hearts. The Office of Environmental Services came together as a unit to secure the win, with Administrative Assistant Deidre Robinson leading the cause. She had help from Environmental Specialist Keiley Well, Environment Scientist Lina Saale, and Administrative Assistants Jill Ruffin, Minta Canelas and Jill Saale to out sell the other four offices.

The winners of the raffle baskets were: Engineer Vennetta Hayes winning the Five-0 Box basket, Environmental Scientist Laura Eschette winning the Laissez Les Dons Temps Rouler-Crawfish Boil basket, Business Analytics Specialist Tomeka Prioleau winning the Cooking with an Air Fryer basket, Environmental Project Specialist Shawntel Robertson won the Friday Night at the Box basket and Environmental Scientist Taylor Alexander won the Get FIT basket.

The fundraising campaign came to a close March 30 with the American Heart Association's Heart Walk. Different companies and organizations came together and participated in a 5K walk, with a one mile Survivor Route, to honor those affected by heart disease. Graphic Designer Emily Barlett designed a shirt for the LDEQ employees to wear on the walk and for others to buy with the proceeds going towards the association. The theme of "Keep the Beat-Move those Feet" was printed on the t-shirts.

To celebrate a job well done, the Office of Environment Services and Southeast Regional Office were treated to Smoothie King parties for selling the most hearts in the Heart Sale competition. Smoothies for the party at headquarters were donated by Smoothie King Owner Rodney LeBlanc, who wanted to do his part for the Heart Association, and for the people who donated money towards the association.

For the owner, heart disease is a personal fight "My dad had open heart surgery last August. So I am familiar with the amount of time and the efforts and the ongoing process," LeBlanc said. Donating smoothies to the party was LeBlanc's way of showing in his appreciation to the people who donate their time and money to the heart association. "I feel attached to this organization. Smoothie King has done a lot of work for these organizations; we did a run with The Pennington Center. This is our way of giving back," LeBlanc said.



Office of Environmental Services heart wall.



Accountant Angela Fabre, from the Office of Management & Finance, participated in the walk at the 2019 Capital Area Heart Walk at the City Hall Plaza in downtown Baton Rouge.



The American Heart Association Heart Walk Director Leslie Dozier (second from right) also attended the smoothie party, showing her support of the LDEQ employees who won the competition. The Office of Environment Services employees enjoyed their smoothies and a time to celebrate their victory of giving back.



Southeastern Louisiana University holds an environmental talk celebrating Earth Day

Southeastern Louisiana University celebrated the April 22 Earth Day observance with the lecture series Green Talks. The program, which centers on sustainability is sponsored by the Sims Memorial Library and the Sustainability Center. “Earth Day at 50” with Dr. Robert Moreau, manager of The Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station, was the Earth Day presentation. Moreau overviewed the world and U.S. environmental history and highlighted key figures from the environmental movement through the years, including former presidents Teddy Roosevelt and Jimmy Carter, and writer and activist Rachel Carson.

In the lecture, Moreau raised a question: would you rather have a clean environment or a strong economy? It brought up the subject of Americans who think of the economy being a subset of the environment of the human economy instead of considering the importance of a clean environment. Moreau told the audience of Southeastern students, educators, environmentalists and the general public about people being either pro-economy or pro-environment. The thing is, he pointed out, that through data it has been proven that a lot of the greener states and/or cities are also economically stable. For example, a 2018 WalletHub ranking of states economically and environmentally showed Washington State is simultaneously highest in economic rating and the 17th greenest state. This rating, Moreau said, is based on three metrics: income, sustainability and toxic inventories.

Moreau detailed the history of the environmental movement in the U.S. He mentioned that during the 1960s, the key theme of the movement was human culture and consciousness. The problem during this time, he said, was that it was more of a middle and upper class movement, other classes were not included or even considered. During this time, the Industrial Revolution brought more pollution, toxics, and hazardous waste than ever before, he said. This inspired new environmentalism. The rising standard of living, energy crisis, and air pollution started being an issue in the 1970’s.

This led to the idea of Earth Day, where new federal environmental laws reflected growing American Environmentalism. This environmentalism merged with social issues, as people protested denial of civil rights and the Vietnam War. The movement touched on social justice as well. Through the citizens’ support of the environmental issues, the climate laws came forth, proposed in the form of carbon reduction regulated by the U.S. EPA.

Moreau concluded that environmental laws help steer many of the issues that arose after the 1970s. Now, the U.S. needs to look into climate change and the way that the government and the communities can create laws and regulations, he said. For Louisiana, climate change affects the state through cultural degradation, he said. The state’s cultural heritage along the coast and of the environmental heritage are lost when hurricanes hit the coast and of people leave and move away. This is an example of cultural degradation in Louisiana. Moreau, the Sims Library and the Sustainability Center hope to have more programs and events like the Green Talks and to continue to encourage the public discussion of environmental issues surrounding their community and in the U.S.



At the Green Talks at Southeastern Louisiana University, Dr. Moreau informs the audience on the environment and economic interaction.



The Sims Library showcases the books relating to Earth Day, plastic waste, and food consumption



Who's Who At LDEQ?



Elizabeth Levy – Environmental Scientist, Southeast Regional Office

Levy is a New Orleans native who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in earth and environmental sciences, dual focus on coastal studies and geology, from the University of New Orleans. She completed her coursework for her Master of Science Degree in geology and geophysics, focusing on geochemistry, from Louisiana State University. She is currently working on her thesis defense.

Prior to LDEQ, Levy was the principal operator of the electron microprobe at the Chevron Geomaterials Lab, performed research in conjunction with the Center for Advanced Microstructures and Design, and was one of 11 representatives selected by the Audubon Institute to convene with Congress regarding the Endangered Species Act after her volunteer work during the BP oil spill. She recently published her first paper in the Journal of Geosciences entitled, "Determination of ferrous-ferric iron contents in tourmaline using synchrotron-based XANES," for any who would like a dense read.

Her hobbies outside of work include camping, rock-hounding, overly complicated cooking recipes, insect collecting, reading obscenely long books, hanging with her three-year-old son, traveling to obscure destinations and making long lists of her hobbies.

Stephen Sinitiere – Environmental Scientist Staff, Underground Storage Tanks, Acadiana Regional Office

A Lafayette native, Sinitiere earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette). He also earned a Master of Science degree in geology from the same university. He previously worked in the Air Quality and Underground Storage Tank Divisions of LDEQ from 1992 to 1996.

After 22 years as an environmental geologist in private consulting firms where he became experienced in site investigation/assessment, remediation and compliance activities, Sinitiere returned to LDEQ in the Underground Storage Tank Division as an environmental staff scientist. He has recently managed two geology graduate students in the completion of their Master's Degrees covering assessment topics.

He enjoys watching his son participate in high school sports.



Jodi Holeyka – Environmental Scientist, Southeast Regional Office

Holeyka graduated from Massachusetts Maritime Academy with a B.S. in marine safety and environmental protection. She came to New Orleans after Katrina for relief work as an EPA contractor, and she fell in love with this wonderful city. "After a year away from the city, I realized how much I missed the city and moved here in 2007," she said.

From 2007 to 2018, Holeyka was an LDEQ contractor in the Southeast Regional Office and recently decided to make the transition to a permanent position within LDEQ.



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1st Quarter 2019 Enforcement Actions:

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

1st Quarter 2019 Settlement Agreements:

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

1st Quarter 2019 Air Permits:

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

1st Quarter 2019 Water Permits:

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

1st Quarter 2019 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

