

DISCOVER DE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Issue Number: 94

What's Inside?

LDEQ gets two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories

Message from the Secretary

"Tis the season to recycle"
Holiday Recycling tips from LDEQ

The deadline for registering for the 2020 Louisiana Envirothon is fast approaching! Don't miss out!

Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council brings new life to used electronics

LDEQ attends symbolic tree planting ceremony as a part of the restoration of "North America's Amazon"

Tenth Annual Red River Cleanup sees the removal of more than 20,200 tons of trash

LDEQ On The Move

Who's Who At LDEQ?

LDEQ gets two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories

ouisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown announced that the agency has accepted delivery of two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) vehicles. LDEQ's current MAML is still an effective resource but it is aging, Brown said. These new MAMLs will join the MAML LDEQ received in December 2006.

The first MAML has been used all over the state and was even sent to Arkansas to assist the state in air monitoring needs. Most recently, the MAML was also present in New Orleans for the removal of the cranes from the Hard Rock collapse site. The

original MAML was built in a 2006 Winnebago and cost approximately \$400,000. It has been deployed throughout the state and has been an asset to LDEQ's environmental work.

"These new MAMLs will greatly enhance LDEQ's ability to respond to air quality issues across Louisiana and will allow us to sample and analyze air quality data on-site and in real-time," Brown said.



Two MAMLs are the latest addition to LDEQ's air monitoring mission.

Assistant Secretary Lourdes Iturralde, who oversees LDEQ's Office of Environmental Compliance, said settlements of civil penalties covered the \$1.4 million price tag for one of the vehicles and \$1.5 million for the second MAML.

"They have all the bells and whistles – gas chromatograph, reduced sulfur compounds analyzer, methane/nonmethane analyzer, and more," said Roger Gingles, LDEQ assistant secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment. "They have all the capabilities of the MAML we have now, testing for all criteria pollutants -- ground-level ozone, particle pollution, lead, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxide, as well as hydrogen sulfide, methane, ammonia, speciated reduced sulfur compounds, speciated hydrocarbons and atmospheric mercury."

The vehicles are mounted on a 35-foot truck chassis with a custom body to house equipment, supplies and work gear with benches. The MAML currently in use will remain active in a support role, said Bob Bailey, environmental scientist manager in the Office of Environmental Assessment.

Continued on page 2

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November 2019 Issue Number: 94

"We will have them all out at the same time if it is necessary," Bailey said. The new MAMLs will have an awning and exterior lighting to facilitate night work and will also have the capability of collecting meteorological data. One of the new MAMLs is equipped for water analysis, Bailey said. LDEQ personnel are looking forward to having these new, fully functional assets in their work to protect the health and environment of Louisiana, he said. "It will be exciting."

The new MAMLs are currently undergoing a shakedown phase as LDEQ personnel train with representatives of Farber Specialty Vehicles of Columbus, Ohio, the company that built the vehicles.

LDEQ is anticipating that the MAMLs will be ready for use within six weeks. Some equipment may take longer for new standard operating procedures to be written and for the MAML team to show proficiency with the equipment.

The MAML team will consist of eight environmental scientists. The team, presently consists of seven people: William Felicien, Bradley Gauthier, David Wagenecht, Erin Lombard, Thomas Lee, Randy Creighton and Miranda Wimmer. The team is in extensive training and will participate in specialized training the first week in December from Quantum Analytics and Agilent on the gas chromatographic system.



MAML team poses in front of the new MAMLs.



State-of-the-art equipment in the MAMLs will be a benefit to the air monitoring process.



LDEQ employees tour the new MAMLs.



LDEQ graphic designer Emily Barlett, designed the wraps for the MAMLs.



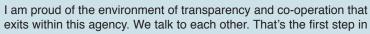
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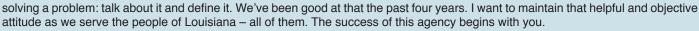


Message from the Secretary Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

The long gubernatorial election campaign is over. Election day has come and passed. Now the endless commercials have ended. You can eat dinner without being interrupted by multiple robo calls. Your mailbox won't be crammed with flyers and appeals. All of that is a relief.

The elections are over and planning for the next four years has begun. We want to build on what we have started over the last four years, stay focused on our goals, our core values and keep our strong relationships with our stakeholders. We have accomplished a lot but there is still much to do to carry out our responsibilities.







Dr. Chuck Carr Brown tours the new MAMLs.

New MAMLs

I am very excited about the two new Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratories (MAMLs) we got on Nov. 12. They are like the Swiss Army knives of environmental equipment – they both have capability to test for all criteria pollutants -- ground-level ozone, particle pollution, lead, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxide, as well as hydrogen sulfide, methane, ammonia, speciated reduced sulfur compounds, speciated hydrocarbons and atmospheric mercury. One of them is equipped to do water and soil testing. They can analyze samples onboard with a gas chromatograph, mass spectrometer and much more. They even have awnings and exterior lighting for outdoor work day and night.

The new MAMLs are big – built on a 35-foot chassis. They are impressive looking, with a great exterior wrap designed here in LDEQ Communications by graphic designer Emily Barlett. I may repeat the design on future equipment acquisitions.

I've gotten all sorts of admiring comments from inside and outside the agency about the MAMLs, and a photo and caption of them were featured on the front of The Advocate Metro Section on Nov. 13. I hope most of you got a chance to visit the MAMLs to see what all the excitement is about. We plan to have a few more events to spotlight them at different locations. We expect them to be in service soon though, after a brief training and shakedown period. People are already clamoring for them to come do sampling at locations around the state. They will stay busy.

Corn hole tournament

Congratulations to the winners of the Corn hole Tournament Championship on Nov. 6. "The Kernels" (SP Davis, Perry Fontenot and Rob Thomas) overwhelmed the Executive Staff team (Elliott Vega and myself) in a hotly contested game. The winners got a reserved parking spot in the Galvez Parking Garage for a month - but not my spot. It was all for a good cause, the Baton Rouge Food Bank benefiting from the funds raised.

Regional offices tour

I visited the Southwest Regional Office and Acadiana Regional Office (including Pineville), the Southeast regional office in New Orleans, Lockport and the Capital Regional Office in Baton Rouge over the last couple of months. It was great to see all the familiar faces and to meet some new people. Thanks for coming out to greet me and the Executive Staff who came along. I will be visiting a Shreveport and Monroe Regional Offices in December.



DISCOVERDE

OUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

November 2019 Issue Number: 94

"Tis the season to recycle" Holiday Recycling tips from LDEQ

is the season to be jolly," but celebrations produce waste, and Louisiana, like the rest of the nation, produces more waste in December than any other month. Planning ahead is the key to reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfills, and if you reuse, you can even generate useful items. You can "Be the Solution" and have a more waste-free holiday season by following a few simple tips from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ).

When you prepare for the coming holidays, think green: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Wrapping gifts can be a challenge, and opening produces waste. Be creative! Wrap a gift in a gift -- such as a scarf, bandana, dishtowel or cloth shopping bag. The comic pages from the Sunday paper and most colorful flyers make interesting wrapping paper and are still recyclable. Last year's Christmas and holiday cards can be used in crafts and as ornaments.

Out with the old, so you have room for the new! Before the holidays is a perfect time to clean out your clutter and unused items. If you have outgrown toys and clothing, consider donating them to charitable organizations. Discarded electronics (laptops, old CPUs, copiers, fax machines, printers and flat-screen monitors) may be donated to a local nonprofit agency or the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC). CACRC provides computers to schools, families and nonprofits. Visit the council's website at www.cacrc.com for details.

When decorating your home, there are ways to consider reducing the impact to the environment. An artificial tree doesn't have to be discarded, and a live tree can be replanted. If you purchase a cut tree, remember that it cannot be flocked or have tinsel or decorations on it if it is to be recycled. Cut trees are usually collected in early January and are ground up into compost or mulch or used in other ways.

You can find information about seasonal pickups and recycling at the East Baton Rouge Parish Recycling website, www.brla. gov/890/Recycling-Office. LED Christmas lights last longer, save energy and money, and they can be recycled. Go to www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx for recycling instructions.

Continued on page 5





DISCOVERDEQ

DUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

November 2019 Issue Number: 94

Recycling packaging materials such as cardboard and plastic foam peanuts really helps. Cardboard can be put into a recycle bin or taken to a drop off location. Foam peanuts and bubble wrap can be reused or taken to a retailer who reuses it.

Buy rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at 800-8-BATTERY, or go to their website at *www.call2recycle.org* for information on the nearest battery recycling drop off location.

Have a safe holiday season and remember to never burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in the fireplace.

For more recycling ideas, go to: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/recycling or go to Republic's holiday recycling tips at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8KR5qWMhpU&feature=youtu.be.



Many large retail and big box stores offer courtesy bins to collect plastic grocery bags which can be recycled.

Check your local store for details.

Give your environment a present this holiday season and properly dispose of holiday waste.

The deadline for registering for the 2020 Louisiana Envirothon is fast approaching! Don't miss out!

DEQ has proudly helped host the Louisiana Envirothon for more than 10 years and hopes you will join us in making the 2020 competition the best yet. This year's competition is Feb. 15, 2020, at the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens. However, the team registration deadline is Dec. 13, 2019.

The 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 2020 is "Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions."

You can get involved by organizing a team of five students from the same school or that are associated with an organized group (i.e. FFA, 4-H, science clubs). Test preparation is on your own. However, Louisiana Envirothon will hold training sessions where



LDEQ environmental scientist India Ambeau participates in an Envirothon Blitz in the lobby of the Galvez building to help spread the word about the competition and answer any questions.

team members and advisors can meet with station masters. Teams will listen to presentations and participate in hands-on demonstrations in the six subject areas as well as practice for the oral presentation. Additionally, station masters and other subject experts are available on an ongoing basis to assist teams in preparing for the competition.

Continued on page 6





November 2019

Issue Number: 94

Get Involved!

LEAD: You can get involved with Louisiana Envirothon by organizing a team of five students from the same school or associated with an organized group (i.e. FFA, 4-H, science clubs). The team registration fee is \$50. Download your registration packet now! The registration deadline is December 13, 2019.

ADVOCATE: Share information! Please share this information with any teachers or groups you think may be interested! Follow us on Facebook and share the opportunity via social media. Envirothon is an exceptional opportunity for our youth to get hands-on experience in environmental problem-solving. Help us spread the word!

SPONSOR: Become a Sponsor! Envirothon would not be possible without our wonderful sponsors. Sponsors receive recognition on competition posters, promotional items, DEQ website, social media and through press releases. Details are listed on the sponsorship flyer found at *http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/envirothon*.

Louisiana Envirothon is a success because of an ongoing partnership with academia leadership willing to provide students with the opportunity to experience environmentally oriented activities, enabling them to become environmentally aware citizens. We hope you'll consider leading a team or sharing this with someone who will!

Visit http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/envirothon to register now!!!

Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council brings new life to used electronics

on't toss your old cellphone, laptop or other electronic devices in the garbage when you buy a new one. The Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC) in Baton Rouge accepts those items and offers an environmentally friendly alternative to disposal.

The CACRC accepts computers, wipes the hard drives (if applicable) and refurbishes them for reuse. Then they are either sold to the public or donated to those in need. Items that cannot be repurposed will be recycled, and no landfills will be burdened by the process.

Discarding electronics, as many people do, creates an environmental problem because electronic materials and plastic and batteries do not biodegrade.

"Globally, between 70 and 75% of electronics are just discarded.

Doing so creates additional stress upon the environment, ," Nancy
Jo Craig, executive director of the Capital Area Corporate Recycling
Council, said. "It's important that this technology is put back into
classrooms, businesses, libraries and homes instead of seeing it lost to landfills."



Newly donated electronics and computers are sorted and shrinkwrapped at the CACRC warehouse in Baton Rouge.

Continued on page 7



DISCOVER DE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT DE ENVIRONMENTAL QUIALITY NEWSLETTER



November 2019 Issue Number: 94

Founded in 1997, the CACRC, a non-profit organization, has been committed to electronic scrap reduction by providing recycled computers and equipment to schools, non-profits, veterans, senior citizens, low-income families and organizations as well as individuals who have been impacted by natural disasters. The CACRC follows the credo of reuse, recover and recycle for the material that flows through their facility. To facilitate that mission, they operate two trucks that travel throughout the state on a daily basis picking up electronics – and they've even expanded into Adams and Hancock counties in Mississippi.

An EPA-registered large handler of universal waste, the CACRC also holds the distinction of being the only non-profit R2 RIOS (Recycling Industry Operating Standard) certified recycler in Louisiana. R2, a responsible recycling practices standard certification that's recognized by the EPA, is a set of guidelines designed to promote and assess responsible practices for recyclers. It's a management system that accounts for practices affecting worker health and safety, as well as proper downstream management of electronic material and equipment. As such, the CACRC tracks all of its recycled material as it moves from their shop downstream to its final destination/end-of-life.

Anyone may drop off their used electronic equipment at the CACRC's 35,000-square-foot warehouse located at 1400 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. New Orleans-area residents may drop off their donated equipment at the recycling center located at 2829 Elysian Fields in New Orleans. Items donated at that location will be transported to the CACRC warehouse in Baton Rouge.

As items come in, technicians examine the equipment and sort them by category and serviceability. As a guarantee that personal information is protected, technicians wipe all computer hard drives clean within 24 hours after a computer is dropped off. Inoperable hard drives are physically destroyed and Certificates of Destruction are available upon request at the CACRC's front desk. Donors may also request a tax voucher for their donation.

The CACRC also sells items to the public. Orders can be place via phone or email as well as online through their eBay store. Monetary donations are accepted electronically through PayPal.

For more information on an item, fill out an inquiry form at http://store.cacrc.com/inquiry.html.

You may also contact the Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council at **www.cacrc.com**, or call 225-379-3577.

BY THE NUMBERS

CACRC has recycled 107,251 lbs. of electronics in 2018 (based on 23 events in which CACRC participated).

Based on the EPA equivalencies calculator, this amounts to:

- Recycling and reuse of this material results in energy savings equal to enough electricity to power 494 households for a year.
- Greenhouse gas reduction equal to removing 349 passenger cars from the road for a year.
- Solid waste reductions equal to the solid waste generated by 19 U.S. households in a year.
- Air emissions equal to 23,128 metric tons of air emissions reduction.
- Water emissions equal to 48 metric tons of water emissions reduction.

ITEMS ACCEPTED

Laptops, flat screen monitors, scanners, printers, desktop keyboards, power cords, mice, cables, cellphones, electronic piano keyboards and speakers. For fax machines, there is a \$10 recycling fee.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

VGA monitors, copiers, video gaming systems, DVD players, CD players, televisions and white goods/kitchen devices.



DISCOVER DE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT DE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Issue Number: 94

LDEQ attends symbolic tree planting ceremony as a part of the restoration of "North America's Amazon"



LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett (center) plants a bald cypress at Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management in support of the partnership project between Dow and Restore the Earth Foundation.

ow is teaming up with Restore the Earth Foundation, Inc. to replant 200 acres of native bald cypress trees severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina in the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area of Montegut, Louisiana. LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett and staff members attended the networking reception and symbolic tree planting ceremony on Nov. 7.

Dow hosted the event with Restore the Earth Foundation—a U.S.-based non-profit organization dedicated to restoring the Earth's essential forest and wetland ecosystems— to plant 200,000 trees over 200 acres as a part of the larger Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area project in the Mississippi River Basin. The Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area project is a part of Restore the Earth Foundation's efforts to restore "North America's Amazon." The Mississippi River Basin is a vast ecosystem once so rich in biological and environmental resources that it was compared to the Amazon Rainforest. The area is the third largest watershed on Earth, and, therefore, a critical ecosystem.



LDEQ Deputy Secretary Denise Bennett and staff members join other stakeholders to commemorate the 200 acres of bald cypress replanted on Nov. 7.

Over the past 100 years, 80% of the southern portion has been degraded or destroyed. With the help of outside support like Dow, Restore the Earth Foundation plans to plant 100 million trees across one million acres in the lower Mississippi River Basin in an effort to rebuild the area by the end of 2030. The Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area project is the first of many planned and will restore a total of 4,000 acres of fresh-water wetland when completed.

"It is always exciting to see industry collaborate with communities and local organizations to work towards a shared goal of inspiring actions that can reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable solutions," Bennett said.

The 200 acres planted on Nov. 7 is estimated to generate 40,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions reductions over a 40-year period. In addition to the carbon reduction benefits, the project serves as a

line of defense to help protect more than 200,000 residents from future storms, while improving water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat. This project is also anticipated to generate \$11 million in environmental, social and economic value in the region, as estimated by Restore the Earth's EcoMetrics Model.

Visit http://restoretheearth.org to learn more about the project and how you can get involved.



November 2019

Issue Number: 94

Tenth Annual Red River Cleanup sees the removal of more than 20,200 tons of trash

ith the tenth year now under its belt, the Red River Cleanup continues to remove trash from the waterway and improve the aesthetic along a downtown stretch of Shreveport/ Bossier.

The Cleanup kicks off each year from the Stoner Park boat launch in Shreveport and brings together a variety of volunteers who desire to contribute something positive to their community. More than 500 volunteers came out to give their time to remove trash from the river, riverbanks and adjacent levees.

Residents Adam and Lisa Willard began the cleanup in 2010. Since then, the yearly Red River Cleanup events have removed more than 144,220 lbs. of hazardous debris and trash from the Red River.

As usual, the debris pulled from the waterway varied in scope and type, with 135 waste tires among that number. The collected tires are staged separately to be properly disposed of.

As the event continues to grow in popularity, the system has become more streamlined each year. As volunteers arrive, they are directed to a sign-up station where they sign a waiver, receive a T-shirt and water, along with a supply bag that includes gloves, a trash grabber and trash bags.

Volunteers represent the surrounding community and include church groups, civic and scouting organizations, businesses, local schools and military service members from nearby Barksdale Air Force Base. Walk-ups also make up a large part of the contingent.

While trash elimination is important, community engagement is the key to seeing long term results and changes in attitudes. Informational displays focusing on watershed education and ecological awareness are always a part of the Cleanup - as it's important to inform and educate the public on the hazards that litter causes. Each person can make an impact and do their part to preserve their environment - and, in doing so, spread the word to their friends, relatives and co-workers about what they can do to reduce, reuse and recycle.



Photo courtesy of Red River Cleanup Volunteers pulled more than 20,200 lbs. of trash from the Red River area during the Nov. 4 cleanup.

ANTI-LITTER TIPS

- If you drive a pickup truck, keep the bed debrisfree as many items can fly out and add litter to the water and soil.
- Tossing cigarette butts is littering and may cause a fire hazard.
- · Use your own recyclable bag when shopping, and forgo using plastic bags.
- If you do use plastic bags, many big box stores accept used bags for recycling.
- · Avoid the use of Styrofoam cups and coolers whenever you can, as it's not bio-degradable and one of the most common types of litter.
- Report any violations to the state's litter hotline at 1-888-548-7284, or 1-888-LITR-BUG.

Continued on page 10



November 2019 Issue Number: 94

Debris pulled out of the river and shoreline this year included the usual glass beer bottles, Styrofoam, waste tires, automotive parts, used oil containers, paper and plastic waste, and hazardous chemicals and products and aluminum cans.

As always, lunch was provided to those in attendance, with several event sponsors and contributors supporting the event.

"This event is a great way to get involved and make an impact in the betterment of our community. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay informed on next year's Red River Cleanup. Tell your friends and co-workers! We'd look forward to seeing you out there," said Lisa Willard, co-organizer of the event.

For more information on how to help out, please visit **www.redrivercleanup.com** and stop by their Facebook page at the Red River Cleanup.



November 2019

Issue Number: 94

LDEQ On The Move



LDEQ participates in a radiation exercise at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Mississippi on Oct. 23

LDEQ Environmental Scientist Supervisor Regina Taylor (I) and Environmental Scientist Keri Cason Meyers review public information procedures in the Joint Information Center at the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency in Pearl, Miss. The duo served as joint information controllers as part of the volunteer contingent from LDEQ who supported Grand Gulf Nuclear Station's radiation emergency response exercise held Oct. 23.



LDEQ hosted an informational booth at the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (LATM) and Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) 2019 Joint Conference in Baton Rouge in early November. The annual conference provides opportunities for professional development and information gathering.

The conference was called "STEMulate your mind."



LDEQ Graphic Designer Emily Barlett films the CACRC's computer sorting process for an informational video the department plans to produce.



OUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Issue Number: 94

Who's Who At LDEQ?



April Baiamonte – Regional Office Manager, Capital Regional Office, Office of Environmental Compliance

Baiamonte earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Southeastern Louisiana University. Prior to her employment with LDEQ, she worked at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development as a regional environmental liaison. She has worked for LDEQ for the last 12 years in the Surveillance Division where she completed inspections/investigations for air, asbestos, water and lead. She was recently reassigned as regional manager for the Capitol Regional office.

Baiamonte enjoys music, dancing, reading, traveling and spending time with her "big fat Italian" family.



Vance is a native of Jackson, Miss. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Master of Science degree in agriculture at Alcorn State University. In 2015, she moved to Louisiana to pursue a doctoral degree at Louisiana State University and was hired by LDEQ in October 2019 as an environmental scientist.

She recently defended her dissertation research, "Using Poultry Litter Ash as a Fertilizer Source for Bermudagrass (Cynodon dactylon) Establishment and Loblolly Pine (Pinus taeda) Plantation." A chapter of her dissertation research, "Incorporating Poultry Litter Ash as a Pre-plant Fertilizer Reduces Nutrient Leaching during Bermuda grass Establishment," was published in the "Communications in Soil and Plant Analysis Journal 2019," Vol. 50, Issue 17. In December 2019, she will graduate with a doctoral degree in plant, environmental management and soil sciences. Vance enjoys spending time with her family, football, crafting, cooking with her husband and being a mommy to her wonderful son Cayden.





Jimbo Earles - Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Office of Environmental Compliance, Surveillance Division, Kisatchie Central Office

Earles earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science/environmental management from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He joined LDEQ in 2003 as an environmental scientist conducting water quality surveys.

In 2008, Earles began conducting National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) inspections and transitioned into Solid Waste and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) compliance inspections soon after.

After providing technical support for the RCRA and Solid Waste programs for five years with the Acadiana Regional Office, Earles accepted a transfer to LDEQ's Kisatchie Central Regional Office in Pineville as the surveillance division supervisor.

Issue Number: 94

Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Third Quarter Summaries

Third Quarter 2019 Enforcement Actions:

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

Third Quarter 2019 Settlement Agreements:

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

Third Quarter 2019 Air Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2019 Water Permits:

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

Third Quarter 2019 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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