



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



May 2020 Issue Number: 100

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COVID-19 has proved challenging for everyone over the last few months. Unfortunately, the start of the Atlantic hurricane season on June 1 will not be delayed regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves navigating. While Louisiana is no stranger to the brutality that can come with hurricane season, the way residents prepare and plan for the season may look a bit different this year.

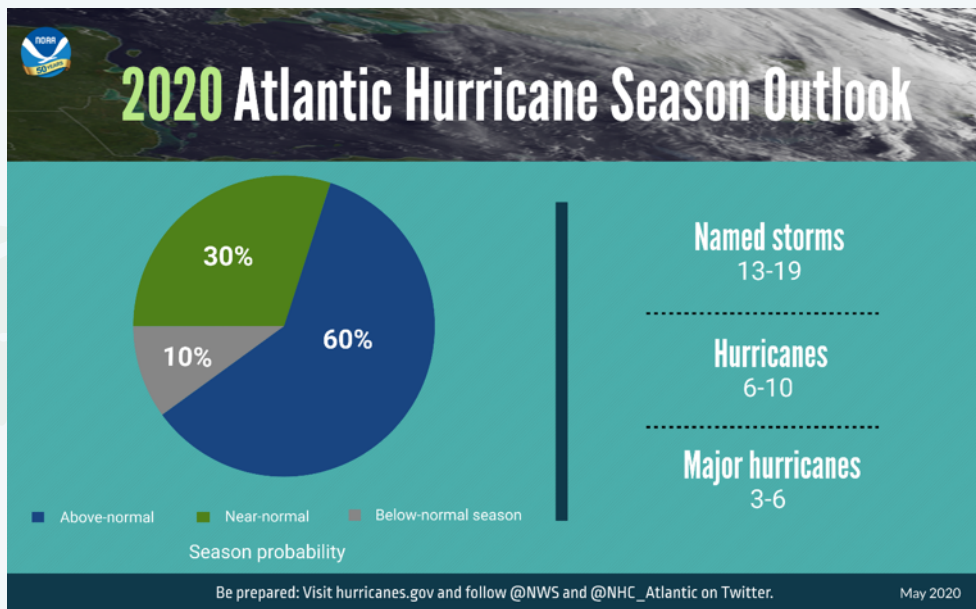
The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. Early reports from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center forecast a likely range of 13 to 19 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which six to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including three to six major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5, with winds of 111 mph or higher).

Because COVID-19 has changed the way we do many routine things, LDEQ asks Louisiana residents to stay current on advice and restrictions from your state and local public health authorities as it may affect your actions and available resources and facilities during an emergency. Residents are also encouraged to "get a game plan" early on or, if necessary, review any current plans to accommodate COVID-19 safety restrictions based on the latest **health and safety guidelines from the CDC**.

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GET A GAME PLAN

As with all hurricane seasons, you may need to leave your home quickly and travel to a safe place outside the affected area. If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your evacuation kit and plan in place. It is important to sit down with family and/or close friends to decide how you plan to communicate with each other, where you will go and what your plans are in the event of an emergency. Write the plan down, make sure everyone has a copy and keep a copy of the plan in your evacuation kit.

The first thing you need to do is evaluate your hurricane evacuation zone risk. Will you stay, or will you go? In the event you need to evacuate, not only do you need to determine where you will go, but you should also examine how you will get there. If you live in a well-built home outside the evacuation zone, your safest place may be to remain home. **Ready.gov** suggests finding out if you live in a hurricane evacuation area by contacting your local government/emergency management office or by checking the **evacuation site website**.

Plan now if you will need help leaving or if you have transportation needs. Know who issues evacuation orders for your area, determine locations on where you will ride out the storm, and start to get your supplies now. Ask friends or relatives outside your area if you would be able to stay with them in the event of an evacuation. Remain in close contact with them over the next few months monitoring if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have people in their home at higher risk for serious illness. If they have symptoms or a vulnerable population in their home, you should have a contingency plan in place.

Your contingency plan may include hotels, motels and campgrounds. Check with these businesses to see if they have re-opened and if there are any restrictions, you will have to consider due to COVID-19. Plan a meeting place to reconnect in the event you are separated from your family. Find out if your local emergency planning and preparedness officials have adapted the sheltering plans in your parish. If you need to go to a public shelter, the CDC recommends bringing at least two **cloth face coverings** for each person and, if possible, hand sanitizer. (Children under two years old and people having trouble breathing should not wear face coverings).

Now is also the time to review your insurance policies to ensure you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property. Remember, standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. Call your insurance company or agent and request an insurance check-up to make sure you have enough homeowners insurance to repair or even replace your home. Don't forget coverage for your car or boat.

PREPARE FOR A HURRICANE

KNOW YOUR AREA, MAKE A PLAN!
Include more than one evacuation route.

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT!
Prepare a kit with supplies for at least 10 days.

PREPARE YOUR HOME!
Install shutters, clean gutters and drains, trim trees and shrubs.

Ready.gov

FEMA

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BUILD A KIT

You're going to need supplies not just to get through the storm, but supplies to protect you from COVID-19 as well. Kits may vary slightly from person to person, but everyone should have two kits ready to go: a stay-at-home kit and an evacuation kit.

Stay-at-home kit (two weeks of emergency supplies): Have enough non-perishable food, water and medicine to last each person in your house for a minimum of three days and/or up to two weeks. Electricity and water could potentially be out for at least that long. You'll need extra cash, a battery-powered radio and flashlights. You may need a portable crank or solar-powered USB charger for your cell phones. Household cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items are likely already in your kit, but consider adding disinfectant supplies as well.

Evacuation kit (three days of supplies in a "go bag"): Your second kit should be a portable, smaller version that you can take with you if you must leave your home quickly.

Some supplies may be hard to get, and availability will worsen in a disaster, so start gathering supplies now. However, please be conscious of potentially over-buying. It is important to remember that our neighbors will need similar supplies.

STAY INFORMED

Your access to accurate and current information can mean the difference between being a survivor or a casualty. Have access to weather alerts and community notifications. Be sure that you can receive official notifications even during a power outage. Always follow the directions of your state and local authorities. Learn about your community's response plan for each disaster and determine if these plans have been updated to accommodate COVID-19 precautions.

Understand National Weather Service (NWS) forecast products, especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings. Visit www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane-ww to learn about NWS's forecasts.

Visit getagameplan.org/ for more information on emergency preparedness and how to stay informed.

Visit www.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/covid-19/prepare-for-hurricane.html for more on the CDC's recommendations for preparing for hurricanes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Common items for both kits:

Food and water

Personal hygiene items

Cleaning and disinfectant supplies that you can use on the go (tissues, hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol and disinfecting wipes)

Cloth face coverings for everyone in your household who can wear one safely

Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream

Pet food and extra water for your pet

Cash or traveler's checks

Battery-powered flashlight and extra batteries

Portable USB phone charger with cords

Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container

One-month supply of prescription medication, as well as over-the-counter medications like cough suppressants and fever-reducing drugs and medical supplies or equipment. Keep these items together in a separate container so you can take them with you if you have to evacuate.



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

It's been a long and winding road, to quote Paul McCartney. None of us foresaw the crushing effect of the COVID-19 outbreak. And it's not over. We are only now coming to terms with how changed our lives are, how differently we have to approach everyday tasks and, of course work. We're getting there.

One thing we can foresee is hurricane season. It starts on June 1. It's here. And we still have restrictions in place for the Coronavirus. Those restrictions complicate things, but they don't change our basic response to hurricane season: get a game plan, be ready, make preparations.

You can find a list to guide your own personal game plan at **www.getagameplan.org**. Posted by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Planning (GOHSEP), **getagameplan.org** has tips for things you can do before, during and after a storm.

The first step is really, really important: Put together an emergency kit. Included in that kit are essential supplies, food and drink, phone chargers, water and batteries, things like essential papers you need to access your different bank accounts and credit cards, paper and pencils, extra glasses and sunglasses and much more. When a strong storm passes through, the world it leaves behind is much changed. There will likely be no electricity, limited communications options. Even cell phones may be inoperable because the necessary towers are downed by storm surge or winds. You may be limited in your ability to even summons help.

Make sure you take advantage of communications options before a storm. Make sure someone knows where you are. Make sure they will check on you or arrange for someone to check on you after the storm. Do the same for others. Track the progress of the storm. Listen to advisories. If your area is told evacuate, leave. Don't hesitate. Go.

Don't forget to do storm preparations this year because you are distracted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Some early predictions are forecasting a higher number of named storms this season. We are in harm's way in Louisiana, we know that from past experience. So don't forget. Get a game plan.

For those of you returning to our offices, thank you for your patience. Elevators haven't backed up so far, and everyone seems to be serious about wearing a mask and maintaining proper social distancing. Keep up the good work! Until next time, stay safe out there.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown



Tips for Maintaining Health Safety when Returning to Work

With many people now returning to work in offices, warehouses and establishments it is important to consider a few tips in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The main thing to remember is that, while a bit of a nuisance, the wearing of a facial covering is a way to be polite and to protect your neighbor and co-worker. It's not only protective of yourself, but it protects those you circulate around as one can be an unknowing carrier of the virus. Social distancing along with the frequent hand-washing and wiping down of surface areas are important habits to implement when returning to work. Every cleaning measure is an important one and cuts down on your chances to catch or carry COVID-19.

MASK UP LOUISIANA
HOW TO PROPERLY WEAR A FACE MASK

- Do not touch the inside of the mask
- Only touch the ties and adjust the outside to fit your nose/face by touching it as little as possible
- Make sure it covers from the brim of your nose to under your chin
- Always wash your hands before and after touching your mask

With that in mind, here are some quick tips we can all use to make the transition a seamless one:

- Always wear a facial covering over your nose and mouth when walking around the office
- Maintain at least six feet of distance from others in elevators, breakrooms, hallways and areas where people typically congregate
- Use a paper towel when handling doorknobs, handles and any frequently touched areas
- Always wash hands and use hand sanitizer
- Make it a habit of using sanitized wipes and sprays to clean commonly used areas such as desktops, keyboards, your computer mouse, chairs, tables, phones and places or things you're likely to touch frequently
- Limit interpersonal/face-to-face meetings as much as possible and maintain the 6-foot rule. If possible, consider using virtual conference platforms such as FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, HouseParty, Microsoft Teams, etc.

There are many online tutorials on how to make your own facial covering. You can fashion an inexpensive, homemade facial covering out of a bandanna, old T-shirt or other cloth material, so please consider making one if you haven't already done so. While there has been much information on how to make your own hand sanitizer with rubbing alcohol, aloe and other products, many experts say it's no comparison to the real thing – and they stress the importance of frequent hand washing as an effective measure for killing germs.

Check the State of Louisiana's website and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness website for instructions, as well as other important health tips and information:

www.ldh.louisiana.gov
emergency.louisiana.gov
gohsep.la.gov



Natural and Catastrophic Disaster Parish Resource Book available for use

Hurricane season is a fact of life in Louisiana. We remind our citizens to “get a game plan,” but that is just the beginning of what needs to be done. Our parishes and local governments need a game plan and solid resources to accomplish it. They need accessible and current information, and LDEQ provides it.

Every year, before June 1, LDEQ updates the Parish Resource Book for use around the state. This book includes current contact information and documents to assist Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OSHEP) coordinators/directors, city and state officials and the public for use before, during and after a hurricane or any natural disaster.

Although hurricane season usually runs between June and November, the book is a resource for any weather-related event.

“The link for the Parish Resource Book has been emailed to the current parish contacts by LDEQ Parish Liaisons,” LDEQ environmental scientist manager Linda Piper said. “We are ready to assist our parishes as the hurricane season approaches.”

The Resource Book contains valuable current information and can be used online or printed out as a hands-on aid. The 2020 book contains:

- LDEQ Regional Office Map
- Parish Contact Liaison list
- LDEQ Regional Office information
- Single Point of Contact Notification Procedures and requirements
- Guide for segregation of Curbside Debris and Debris Management
- Attachment A – Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management

The Natural and Catastrophic Disaster Parish Resource Book can be accessed at: www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/parish-resource-book

Another valuable resource for the state is LDEQ’s webpage for Disaster Debris Management: www.deq.louisiana.gov/resources/category/debris-management

One tool for debris management is pre-approved emergency debris sites:

- LDEQ maintains a Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management (aka, “debris management plan”).
- Legislative mandate (R.S. 30:2413.1) requires that “the total green and woody debris intended for final disposal in a landfill, shall be reduced 50% by weight and 50% by volume prior to transport to a landfill” (for disposal); minimize disposal and maximize recycling, reuse and composting.
- Emergency debris sites allow local governments and state agencies to deal with the surge of debris (i.e., staging or reduction of disaster-generated debris).
- Governmental agencies and state agencies can submit an Emergency Debris Site Request Form to the LDEQ. Private individuals and companies cannot apply.
- Request Forms must be complete and accurate.
- Approval of State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is REQUIRED (FEMA will not approve funding without this).
- Each pre-approved request is evaluated by personnel from LDEQ by conducting an inspection to determine the suitability of the site.
- Pre-approved emergency debris sites are currently issued as an Administrative Order to governmental or state agencies for a maximum period of two years (currently between July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021).
- Pre-approved sites can be activated only after a Declaration of an Emergency has been issued by the Governor and the Secretary of LDEQ.

When an EDS is activated, it will remain active until the end of the declared emergency unless a request to close or deactivate is submitted.



Agencies' Employees Hand-to-Hand combat against COVID-19

One of the main weapons against COVID-19 has been hand sanitizer. Medical experts say it's not as effective as hand washing, but it's a good substitute if you can't access soap and water. Hand sanitizer is a lot more portable than the kitchen sink. The problem is that it's been scarce since the onset of the Novel Coronavirus. Panic buyers hoarded just about all hand sanitizer from store shelves as soon as experts recommended its use.

There was a clear need. LDEQ had people with the technical knowledge and agency leadership saw a way to help fight the epidemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) promoted a formula for hand sanitizer on the Internet. The recipe requires three main ingredients: isopropyl alcohol, glycerol and hydrogen peroxide. The Secretary of State's Office had acquired small amounts of some of those ingredients to produce a batch of sanitizer to be used to clean voting machines. Then the election was postponed because of the outbreak. The leftover ingredients were available. A project was born, one that would evolve and eventually produce 7,370 gallons of hand sanitizer.



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown shows off a bottle of the hand sanitizer his agency helped manufacture.

"We added this project to the list of things we do as part of our normal workload," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. "We wanted to help. Hand sanitizer was the first thing we could do. It won't be the last. We hope to assist in the fight against COVID-19 as the pandemic continues."

Brown and Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Jimmy Le Blanc collaborated on a plan to make more hand sanitizer to help meet the high demand. The first order of business was to get the ingredients for the WHO recipe. Louisiana industry sources stepped up. ExxonMobil donated isopropyl alcohol of proper purity, Proctor & Gamble provided the glycerol and Solvay added the hydrogen peroxide. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) purchased some small bottles for the sanitizer and organized the product's distribution.

The operation began at Prison Enterprises on March 24, LDEQ was on-hand with an air monitor to make sure no harmful gases accumulated. LSU chemistry professor and chemistry department chairman John A. Pojman, Ph.D., and LSU chemistry graduate student Anthony Mai provided additional expertise.

"They mixed the batches in the tank, adding the ingredients in a fixed sequence. Liquid nitrogen was fed into the tank from the bottom and bubbles through the mixture to homogenize it. We had a line coming out of the tank to carry any fumes to a carbon scrubber – 250 pounds of activated carbon in a 55 barrel drum. Any vapor was scrubbed there," LDEQ Environmental Scientist Senior/Disaster Coordinator Daniel Lambert said.

Lambert has been the agency's liaison in the manufacturing project. The finished product was bottled in 8-ounce, 10-ounce, 16-ounce, 32-ounce and 1-gallon containers, he said. "Sixteen 55-gallon drums were also produced," Lambert added. "It went to different facilities."

"This is a good example of public/private co-operation to meet an emergency need," Brown said. "It can be a template for how we can do more of these public service projects moving forward."



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LDEQ's EnviroSchool program plans to get "social"

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) mission includes protecting Louisiana's air, land and water and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. LDEQ has long recognized the important role education plays in bringing this mission to reality and strives to support environmental education in diverse ways. The EnviroSchool program is the environmental education outreach arm of LDEQ that provides training for communities, businesses and other organizations on a number of regulatory topics.



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENVIROSCHOOL

The goal of this program is for the attendees to become informed about the environmental regulatory process and to maintain and improve environmental compliance. These workshops are offered via digital webinars that are open to the public free of charge. The program plans to also be available via social media in coming months. The workshops will be live streamed on the LDEQ Facebook page as well as offered as a webinar. You can follow LDEQ on Facebook by "liking" the agency's page at www.facebook.com/LouisianaDEQ.

The agency believes environmental education increases public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues or problems. In doing so, education provides the public with the necessary skills to make informed decisions and take responsible action. If you are interested, please feel free to provide feedback on any subjects you would like to see offered as an enviroschool topic by visiting the EnviroSchool page at www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroschool and check back later for a schedule of classes. Please contact us at enviroschool@la.gov if you would like additional information.

LDEQ selected for EPA Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Grant

This month, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Brownfields & Land Revitalization announced the award of an \$800,000 Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund grant to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for use in the department's continued support of environmental cleanups that facilitate the reuse of vacant and abandoned properties throughout the state.

The Brownfield program has a great record of successes with projects in urban areas such as the Rose Collaborative in New Orleans. "We want to do more, especially in our target areas of Shreveport Common, the historic downtowns of Monroe and West Monroe and small communities such as Arabi. I am very pleased and gratified to be able to continue this impressive work in Louisiana," LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said.

According to LDEQ Brownfield Statewide Coordinator Rebecca Otte, the award is the result of a competitive application process in which EPA sent out a Request for Applications for Brownfield assessment, cleanup and revolving loan fund grants last October. The competition is nationwide and open to both government and nonprofit entities. More than 400 funding applications were submitted from across the country. Of the 155 grants selected by EPA, only 13 were Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund grants.

The grant will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which LDEQ will provide loans and sub-grants to support cleanup activities. Grant funds also will be used to market the revolving loan fund program and support community outreach activities.

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Wilson's Corner in the Shreveport Common redevelopment district is slated to be one of the revolving loan fund projects under the Brownfields grant

Revolving loan fund activities will focus on sites throughout the state, including a few areas that were impacted by major flooding events and the petroleum industry downturn: The Historic Ouachita Riverfront, Shreveport Common, and Arabi Riverfront.

“LDEQ is thrilled with this award to revive our Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund and provide much-needed funding to clean up vacant properties to facilitate their redevelopment. We look forward to continuing our partnership with EPA and local Brownfield Programs at the Regional Planning Commission, the city of Shreveport and the Monroe/West Monroe/Ouachita Parish Brownfield Coalition as well as small communities throughout the state to fully utilize this funding to support local revitalization efforts,” Otte said.

LDEQ will collaborate with EPA on the cooperative agreement paperwork necessary to fund the cleanup of vacant properties and turn them around for redevelopment and future reuse.

The project period is expected to start Oct. 1, with the loan program projected to be ready to accept applications by Spring 2021.

The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfield Revitalization Act of 2002, as amended by the Brownfield Utilization, Investment and Local Development Act of 2018, was passed to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize brownfield sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through five competitive grant programs: Multipurpose Grants, Assessment Grants, Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Cleanup Grants, and Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

EPA's Brownfield Program empowers states, communities and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is a real property, the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.

Battery-powered lawnmowers offer environmentally friendly alternative

As many people continue to find themselves spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and spending more time outdoors, there is a greater focus on lawn maintenance, and that means that lawnmowers are seeing increased use. When internal combustion engines startup, they introduce volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides into the air, causing air pollution. But there's an option that eliminates emissions altogether: the battery-operated lawnmower.

Up until a few years ago, there weren't many non-gas-operated alternatives to suit your grass cutting needs. Other than the old-fashioned, reel push mowers (using a multi-bladed spinning cylinder) and the plug-in, electric model (with the hard-to-miss electrical cord), gas-operated mowers dominated yards everywhere.

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Battery-operated mowers are the latest answer to promoting environmental stewardship while doing an effective job on the lawn. Many models also offer a mulching option which adds nutrients to your soil, while eliminating grass clipping waste (which is typically bagged and ultimately sent to a landfill).

More importantly, the mowers don't contribute to the nasty air emissions that negatively impact our ozone levels and overall air quality every spring and summer.

In fact, according to the Scientific American, using a gas-operated mower for an hour generates as many volatile organic compounds as driving a car for 350 miles. The publication also reports that the EPA estimates that approximately 54 million Americans mow their lawns each week, with gas lawnmower emissions accounting for as much as five percent of the country's total air pollution. Further, they report that people spill 17 million gallons of gas each year, just refueling their mowers.



Baton Rouge homeowner Faron Kraemer recently switched from a gas-powered mower to a 56-volt, lithium battery-operated model.

So, while the battery-operated mowers may cost a bit more than standard internal combustion mowers, switching to battery-powered mowers will save you money on gas and oil (not required in battery-run models) and general maintenance in the long run. They are respectful of our air and eliminate accidental oil and gas spills. Baton Rouge homeowner Faron Kraemer touts the benefits of these mowers, having recently swapped his gas mower for a new battery-operated model. "It's very quiet, lightweight and environmentally friendly. It's much easier to use, and there's very little upkeep compared to my gas-operated mower."

But whether you choose a mower that's electric, reel push or battery-operated, all offer the benefit of low maintenance while reducing air emissions and noise – all desired qualities. So, please consider switching to an environmentally friendly mower as you venture outdoors again to tackle your weekly grass cutting chores.

Deadline for entering the Scenic Rivers Photography Contest extended

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has extended the deadline for entering the Scenic Rivers Photography Contest until August 1, 2020. See flyer on following page for more information.

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LOUISIANA SCENIC RIVERS

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

We invite you to participate in a
photography contest celebrating
the 50th Anniversary of
Louisiana's Scenic Rivers Act!



ENTRY DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2020 | 12:00 AM



The purpose of the contest is to promote the beauty of our Louisiana designated natural and scenic rivers. All photographs must be taken within the boundaries of the state. Photos should portray the wildlife, fisheries, natural habitats or recreational opportunities our Louisiana designated natural and scenic rivers provide.

HOW TO ENTER

1. To submit your photo, email a JPEG to SRPhoto@wlf.la.gov. JPEG must be high enough resolution to be blown up to 11-inches x14-inches without pixelation.
2. Be sure to include "Photo Contest Entry" in the subject and the following information in the body:
 - First and last name
 - Phone number
 - Email address (for entry confirmation and winner notification)
 - Mailing address
 - Photo title (if applicable)
 - Name of the Louisiana designated natural and scenic river where the photo was taken (see complete list of Louisiana designated natural and scenic rivers at wlf.louisiana.gov/page/scenic-rivers-descriptions-and-map)
 - Approximate location where the photo was taken (e.g. identify nearby highway, road, bridge, etc.)
 - Date the photo was taken
 - Category in which you are competing: Professional, Amateur, or Youth.
3. You will receive a confirmation email once your photo has been officially submitted.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

- **PROFESSIONAL:** Any person who at any time has charged for their photographs.
- **AMATEUR:** Any person who has never charged for their photographs and is age 16 or older.
- **YOUTH:** Any person who is age 15 or younger.

For a complete list of
contest rules, please visit
our website.



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Who's Who At LDEQ?



Miranda Wimmer – Environmental Scientist, Air Planning and Assessment Division, Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory, Office of Environmental Assessment

Wimmer is native of Uptown New Orleans - WHO DAT! In 2017, she graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a focus on resources and diversity and a minor in chemistry.

"I love my home state of Louisiana — from living in New Orleans to Lafayette to making a year in Baton Rouge in February. I have been getting acquainted here slowly... I mean very slowly, because ... traffic." She grew up traveling a lot and appreciating everything nature has to offer. Wimmer loves trail running, playing soccer and scuba diving. She is an animal lover and owns a husky named Georgie.

Rachael Mathews – Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Water Planning and Assessment Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

Mathews earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Southeastern Louisiana University and a master's degree in biology from the University of Nebraska. She joined LDEQ in 2017 after working for the Louisiana Department of Health's Molluscan Shellfish Program since 2003. She was recently promoted to an environmental scientist supervisor.

Mathews has contributed to the LDEQ Water Quality Trading development workgroup, as well as a nutrient-related Mosaic/LSU beneficial environmental project. She volunteers as a certified Louisiana master naturalist and a Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries aquatic instructor.



Daniel Leija -- Environmental Scientist, Waste Permits/Solid Waste Section, Office of Environmental Services

Daniel Nicholas Leija earned his Bachelor of Science degree in urban forestry and natural resources and a minor in plant and soil science at Southern University and A&M College. Following a stint with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, he began his career at LDEQ in 2019.

Leija is a huge New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox fan. He enjoys outdoor activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, mud riding, the gun range, wine tasting and Southern University football and baseball. He also loves being at the local animal shelter getting his hands dirty and helping Habitat for Humanity.

His favorite scripture is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2020 Enforcement Actions:

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

First Quarter 2020 Settlement Agreements:

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

First Quarter 2020 Air Permits:

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

First Quarter 2020 Water Permits:

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

First Quarter 2020 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

