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Louisiana observe May As Air Quality Awareness Month

The month of May is Air Quality Awareness Month, and the week of May 4 to May 8, is Air Quality Awareness Week (AQAW). While many scheduled activities had to be moved or canceled due to the COVID-19 restrictions, it is still important to be mindful of the air quality issues.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is focusing on air quality for the week through topics pertinent to air quality. The theme for AQAW is Better Air, Better Health!

Monday – Wildfires and smoke

While smoke from wildfires is a more consistent pollutant in the colder and western states because of fireplace burning and other issues, Louisiana has been affected by wildfire smoke carried by wind from other places. In mid-September 2017, Baton Rouge experienced a spike in ozone, which appeared to be influenced by wildfire in the Pacific Northwest. A satellite registered a visible plume that shows smoke transport from there in Lake Charles.

Smoke is a complex mixture of carbon dioxide, water vapor, carbon monoxide, particles, hydrocarbons and other organic chemicals, nitrogen oxides and trace minerals. Fine particles are the principal pollutant of concern from wildfire smoke for short-term exposures (hours to weeks).



Smoke can affect health. Fine particles can be inhaled deeply into the lungs; exposure to the smallest particles can affect the lungs and heart. Particles are respiratory irritants that can cause coughing, phlegm, wheezing and difficulty breathing. Even short term exposure may aggravate pre-existing heart and lung disease.

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LDEQ has monitors that register fine particle (PM2.5) pollution across the state. If you are interested in getting notifications about PM2.5, you can subscribe to that service at <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/Subscriptions/Manage>, or if you prefer to see current air quality at monitors, go to <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov/>. For more information on wildfires and smoke pollution, visit <http://www.airnow.gov>.

Children, pregnant women, elderly individuals and people who are sensitive to air pollution (such as those with pre-existing heart and lung disease) should take precautions to limit exposure to wildfire smoke. Consult the Air Quality Index (AQI) at www.airnow.gov each day for the air quality forecast and for information about ways to reduce exposure.

Tuesday – Asthma and your health

Asthma may cause difficulty breathing, chest pain, cough and wheezing. According to the Mayo Clinic, asthma is a condition in which your airways narrow, swell and produce extra mucus. This can make breathing difficult and trigger coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

For some people, asthma is a minor nuisance. For others, it can be a major problem that interferes with daily activities and may lead to a life-threatening asthma attack.

Asthma can't be cured, but its symptoms can be controlled. Asthma can usually be managed with rescue inhalers to treat symptoms and controller inhalers that prevent symptoms. Severe cases may require longer-acting inhalers that keep the airways open, as well as oral steroids.

Because asthma often changes over time, it's important that you work with your doctor to track your signs and symptoms and adjust treatment as needed.

Poor air quality can affect you if you have asthma or another lung disease, so it is important to be aware of the air quality in your area. Sensitive groups, people with asthma, respiratory problems, heart disease, older adults and children are most affected.

LDEQ offers several ways to keep you current on air quality in the state. You can subscribe to EnviroFlash, a free air quality notification system that LDEQ provides in partnership with EPA. To subscribe to daily notifications, or to personalize a notification, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash and select a level of notification. You can also go to www.airquality.deq.louisiana.gov for current information or www.airnow.gov for air quality around the country and abroad.

Wednesday – Where does your AQI come from?

If you want to know about air quality, there are many ways to access that information.

Check the Air Quality Index (AQI) for current air quality in your area. Join the EnviroFlash Notification System for free air quality notifications and air quality advisory day notifications. Go to www.deq.louisiana.gov/enviroflash to sign up. You can also see the location of fires, the path of smoke plumes and air quality information on the AirNow

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website, under “Current Fire Conditions” at https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=topics.smoke_wildfires. Visit the EPA website, www.epa.gov, to research information and historical information concerning air quality.

- The AQI is used to report information about the most common air pollutants, including particulate matter (PM2.5 or PM10) and ozone. For more information, visit the AirNow website www.airnow.gov.
- The AirNow website is a multi-agency website run by EPA that reports air quality using the AQI. The AirNow program accepts, stores and displays data provided by air quality agencies. Agencies submit continuous particulate matter (PM) data to AirNow from over 1,200 PM2.5 monitors and 500 PM10 monitors, plus temporary monitors that monitor smoke on an hourly basis. This data is available to the public via national, regional and local maps on airnow.gov and through email notifications, widgets and smart-phone apps.
- Many local news and local air quality agencies report air quality forecasts on their websites.

Thursday – Air quality around the world

AirNow International addresses Air Quality issues in many countries around the world. Air quality in other countries is important and can affect the air quality in the United States. An example is dust storms in the Sahara Desert. Trade winds bring the Saharan dust into the Southern United States causing haze and affecting air quality, according to NOAA.

How does particle pollution such as Saharan dust reach the U.S., and how does it affect our country?



According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a massive plume of Saharan dust appears across the tropical North Atlantic Ocean in this image captured by the GOES East satellite on June 27, 2018. On the satellite, imagery shows a hazy, beige-colored cloud stretching from the west coast of Africa to the Caribbean Sea. This is known as the Saharan Air Layer. It forms as a dry, dusty air mass during late spring, summer and early fall over the Sahara Desert. It typically moves westward over the tropical Atlantic Ocean every three to five days. NOAA indicates that this is an annual occurrence.

According to NOAA, the Saharan Air Layer extends between 5,000 and 20,000 feet in the atmosphere. Especially strong winds cause the dust to be transported several thousand miles, reaching as far as the Caribbean, Florida and other parts of the U.S. Gulf Coast. Information from the NOAA website indicates that dry air associated with the Saharan Air Layer often suppresses hurricane and tropical storm development. Large quantities of dust entering the Atlantic during the summer hurricane season create a stable layer of dry, sinking air, which prevents storms from spinning up or gaining strength.

Each year, over one hundred million tons of Saharan dust gets blown across the Atlantic, according to NOAA.

This is an example of how the world’s pollution problems can affect the United States and its people. Another more recent example is the wildfires in California, where the smoke reached Texas, Louisiana and possibly further east. It is important to remember that we are globally connected.

AirNow-International (AirNow-I) is a stand-alone, international version of the EPA’s real-time air quality data management and display system known as AirNow. AirNow-I includes a suite of software for data processing, quality control methods, system monitoring and graphical output that allows tailoring for each country/region/language need.

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AirNow:

- Helps decision-makers communicate the connection between air pollution, health and sustainability goals, and helps involve the public in efforts to improve air quality
- Promotes sustainable development by facilitating air quality management programs
- Supports better public health and environment around the world through air quality data sharing and scientist to scientist knowledge exchange and cooperation
- Meets World Health Organization goals to raise public awareness, warn of pollution episodes and advise sensitive populations

EPA had originally designated Friday, May 8, to be used for local events and promotions. Since the circumstances do not allow for events and interviews, they've updated it to focus on **Air Quality Educational Resources**. We can all participate by becoming more aware of our air quality. Louisiana's air quality is the best it has been, but there is always room for improvement. We can all help protect and improve our air quality. The world is changing and challenging, but if we all work together, we can make a difference.

American Lung Association State Of The Air Report

Air quality in Louisiana has been steadily improving and, the entire state of Louisiana is in attainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone and PM 2.5 (fine particulate matter).

Every year, the American Lung Association publishes a report called State of the Air. The report, using lung association methodology, classifies air quality in the nation. This year the report, State of the Air 2020, was released on April 21. Of the 18 Parishes considered by the report to be monitored, nine parishes received a grade of A or B.

Bossier - A	Lafayette - B
Lafourche - A	St. John - B
St. James - A	St. Martin - B
Caddo - A	Pointe Coupee - B
Ouachita - A	

Alexandria, Houma/Thibodaux and Lafayette-Opelousas- Morgan City were on the list for Cleanest Cities nationwide for short term PM 2.5 pollution.

Cleanest Cities for Ozone Pollution in Louisiana are Houma/Thibodaux; Monroe/Ruston; Shreveport/Bossier City; and Minden.

Listed as Cleanest Cities nationwide for PM 2.5 (24-hour Particle Pollution) were Alexandria; Houma/Thibodaux; Lafayette/Opelousas/Morgan City; and New Orleans/Metairie/Hammond.

No cities in Louisiana were listed on the most polluted cities for ozone or PM 2.5. The other nine parishes considered monitored for purposes of the report received a grade of C or below.



Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.



Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

These are difficult times all around. Right now, stress and fear are everyday obstacles to living our lives and doing our jobs. I know how many of you, stuck at home with endless newsfeeds of COVID-19 deaths, are worried about your own lives and families. Yet you continue to do your jobs. And I could not be prouder of you for that.

We are meeting our commitments, responding to incidents, writing permits, doing the paperwork, answering calls for help, doing our jobs. All the while, we are social distancing and working at home as much as possible. Fortunately, we have been touched only lightly by this virus so far, and I am hoping things stay that way. That is why I keep reminding you all to wash your hands frequently, keep up the social distancing and wear masks. Keep your interactions with others to a minimum. Do as much shopping and visiting as possible online.

Be especially vigilant if you or someone in your family has an underlying risk factor like diabetes or high blood pressure. Those high-risk groups have been hit especially hard. Wash your hands. Wear a mask. Practice social distancing. Those practices are your best defense against this vicious virus.

We can beat this thing. We are not anywhere near the end of it, and a lot of questions are still unanswered. But we will get through this.

The big question on my mind and, I think, everyone else's mind is "when?" We have to listen to our leaders and heed their words. Coming back will be a very slow process. Life as we once knew it will likely be forever changed. Who knows when we will shake hands as a greeting again? It may not ever be done again. But it might. We will find a vaccine and move past this – eventually.

I, the executive staff and administrators are working on a plan to start repopulating the Galvez Building and all regional offices on May 4. It will begin slowly. Our goal is to get at least 20 percent of the workforce back in the building each day. We will take exigent needs under consideration. If you have a disability, if you have a high-risk condition, if your personal situation will not allow you to work in the office, we will look at your circumstances and try to work something out. It may be that some people will continue to work at home for a while.

There is not going to be a one-size-fits-all solution. Some people will wind up having to be in the office more than others. I know that. Try to keep the end goal in sight and know that you are part of the solution. What we are doing is working. We have not had an LDEQ employee test positive for COVID-19. I want to keep it that way. Follow the advice. Stay safe. Keep up the good work.



Work From Home Tips During COVID-19

During this time of uncertainty, many are telecommuting and spending more time with family. We can take this time to continue promoting the protection of our environment. There are many conservation practices that will help us be environmentally friendly during this trying time.

Some tips:

- Don't flush anything down your toilet other than toilet paper. Flushing anything else risks causing a severe stoppage for your treatment system.
- If you run out of bathroom tissue and must use baby wipes or other paper products, dispose of those properly in your regular trash instead of flushing them.
- While at home, strive for energy conservation. Turn off lights in rooms not in use, save on gas by not driving unnecessarily and monitor any non-essential consumption of water.
- Take this time to check your house for energy efficiency. Check and clean your heating/air unit and vents. Ensure your windows and doors are sealed properly.
- Cut your grass and fuel your car after 6 p.m. to prevent ozone pollution. Limit any outside-the-home errands and group those errands into a single trip.
- Keep recycling on your mind as you go through canned goods and paper waste. Cut down on the stress on landfills by diverting your aluminum, metal, paper and plastic discards to the recycle bin.
- For those with gardens, spring is here, and it's a great opportunity to use your free time to plant a "victory garden" and possibly tidy up that flower bed. Since trips to the grocery store have become difficult, consider sprucing up your garden. It can be a free source of fresh fruits and vegetables for your next healthy meal or snack.
- When shopping, make a single trip and shop for your neighbors and loved ones, when possible. Since we have to maintain six-feet apart for social distancing, we can still take this opportunity to help each other and save on gas as well as time out on the road.
- Clear out your neighborhood storm drains and make sure they're free of any debris or anything that could form a clog.
- Gather up used books, clothing, toys, furniture and items you no longer need to donate. Before you take your donation, contact the charity to be sure they are accepting donations, where you can drop them off and during what hours. Many are not accepting donations and others have different times and places. Have any clothing you plan to discard? Find someone who can sew and convert those fashions into masks that can be donated to area hospitals and medical clinics that are in need of extra cloth masks.
- If you plan to fire up the grill or BBQ, consider using rolled newspaper under your briquettes in lieu of dousing those briquettes directly with lighter fluid. Simply lighting the rolled paper serves as a more environmentally friendly way of cutting down on the release of lighter fluid-produced toxins into the air – not to mention the infusion of those chemicals into your cooked burgers and hot dogs.
- Be a good steward of the environment while out fishing. Practice environmentally safe fishing practices, clean up and properly dispose of any fishing lines and rubbish.
- Working from home and spending less time in your vehicle can be a positive change with gas savings and cutting down on air emissions. Consider walking or riding a bicycle for local errands and exercise to break up your daily routine. In the future, when you resume normal activities, you'll be familiar with using alternative modes of travel – and can continue incorporating walking/bicycling to exercise and run those errands.



EPA and LDEQ advise to flush only toilet paper

With more and more people working from home and schools closed temporarily across the state, our sewage and septic systems are seeing a drastic increase in activity. This, coupled with the toilet paper shortage, has many using alternatives to toilet paper.

Flush	
✓ Toilet Paper	
Do Not Flush	
✗ Disinfecting Wipes	
✗ Baby wipes	
✗ Paper napkins	
✗ Other non-flushable items	



As our sewage treatment and septic systems undergo this strain. Flushing anything other than toilet paper exacerbates the problem.

While baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, paper napkins and other non-flushable items are making their way down into our systems, our infrastructure begins to have problems, and the stress finds its way to sewage treatment workers – who are called upon to unclog these systems.

Wipes labeled “flushable” or “disposable” should also be placed directly into the trash, as flushing those items can ultimately create sewer problems. That applies to paper napkins, paper towels, baby wipes and anything else people may be using as alternatives to toilet paper.

A recent press release issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) noted that preventable toilet and sewer backups could pose a threat to human health and present an extra challenge to our water utilities and their workforce. Flushing anything other than toilet paper can damage internal plumbing, local sewer systems and septic systems. Fixing these backups is costly and takes time and resources away from ensuring that wastewater management systems are otherwise working properly.

While LDEQ encourages the continued disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, it’s important to dispose of any disinfecting wipes and other paper items into the trash – not the toilet. Again, that includes wipes marked as “flushable” or “disposable.” Flushing anything other than toilet paper can be damaging their sewer system. Flushing wipes, paper towels, disposable and non-disposable wipes and other non-flushable items can create what’s known as a “fatberg,” or a congealed mass that forms in a sewer system due to the combination of flushed non-biodegradable solid matter, such as wet wipes, grease and cooking fat. These can potentially clog the sewage line and ultimately disrupt pump equipment.

Information received from sewage treatment operators across the country has shown that many people often flush both “disposable” and “non-disposable” disinfectant wipes – both of which can cause issues down the line. In recent years, wastewater treatment officials around the country have been advising people to stop flushing any type of wet wipe, even if manufacturers say it’s safe. So, regardless of what the label says, toss all baby wipes and disinfectant wipes directly into your trash can.

To view EPA’s press release, go to <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-encourages-americans-only-flush-toilet-paper>.



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The world celebrates Earth Day's 50th Anniversary



Millions of people around the world celebrate Earth Day each year on April 22. This year marks the 50th anniversary of what began as a grassroots environmental movement back in 1970. Earth Day was founded by Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, an environmentalist who hoped to increase ecological awareness.

Earth Day 1970 did just that. It was a time of an emerging public consciousness about the state of our planet, and Earth Day gave citizens a way to voice their concerns.

Nelson had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States. Up until 1970, there were no environmental laws or restrictions in place to monitor the impact industrialization may have been having on the health of the environment and public. According to EarthDay.org, Earth Day started to take form when Nelson announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses to the national media. He then persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican congressman, to serve as his co-chair. They recruited Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize the campus teach-ins, and they choose April 22, a weekday falling between spring break and final exams, to maximize student participation.

They changed the name to Earth Day, which immediately attracted national media attention and caught on across the country. Earth Day inspired 20 million Americans to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate a desire to better the environment.

EarthDay.org states the true success of Earth Day 1970 was the achievement of a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, business and labor leaders alike. By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of other first of their kind environmental laws, including the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Clean Air Act. Two years later, Congress passed the Clean Water Act. A year after that, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act and soon after, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. These laws have protected millions of men, women and children from disease and death and have protected hundreds of species from extinction.

In 1990, Earth Day went global, engaging 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto an international platform. Over the decades, Earth Day Network has brought hundreds of millions of people into the environmental movement. To date, Earth Day engages more than 1 billion people every year and has become a major catalyst for engagement around the protection of the planet.

By tapping into some of the learnings, outcomes and legacy of the first Earth Day, Earth Day is empowering individuals with the information, the tools, the messaging and the communities needed to make an impact and drive change for the betterment of the environment.

At Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, every day is Earth Day. The department's mission is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect health, safety and welfare while considering sound policies that are consistent with statutory mandates. Every day can be Earth Day for you as well. Get involved! Plant a tree or garden, clean up a street or waterway, or take alternative transportation like a bicycle. We all have a responsibility to the Earth, and we hope you will join us in doing your part.



Changing times require creative solutions

Long before Covid-19 came into our lives. Long before stay-at-home orders and social distancing became catch phrases. And long before our world transformed into a virtual world, the industrious board, affiliates and members of Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) were busy planning a huge event week, Love the Boot.

Love the Boot Week was scheduled for the week of April 20. "Love the Boot Week was Louisiana's largest civic engagement and media campaign, inspiring and motivating individuals, schools, businesses and local governments to do their part to clean and beautify communities," KLB Executive Director Susan Russell said.

When COVID-19 hit, KLB, after countless hours of preparation and planning, already had 120 events in 40 parishes scheduled, a breakfast and press conference involving state agency leaders and government representatives, an extensive media campaign including radio, TV, print and social media and much more.

Obviously, for the folks at KLB, it was time to switch gears. But how? Well, changing times call for creative solutions and methods. Through online meetings and planning, the content of the radio campaign was changed from hands-on events and gatherings to what everyone can do at home. It was a literal embodiment of making lemonade out of lemons. KLB decided to focus on the positive things families and individuals can do at home.

Love the Boot at Home replaced the hands-on events with a statewide television, radio and social media campaign focusing on 21 eco-friendly activities individuals and families can do while practicing social distancing and following stay at home orders.

The impetus behind the campaign, according to KLB, is that it takes 21 days to make or break a habit, so the tips encourage the public to incorporate eco-friendly habits into their daily lives to reduce litter and waste and beautify outdoor spaces.

Some of the tips include picking up litter on your daily walk, planting a tree or vegetable garden and using reusable bottles. You can see the entire list at <https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/>. Please go to the website for the tips and much more. Listen for the radio spots and watch for the KLB Love the Boot TV spots.

KLB also has activities for the kids. For parents looking for lessons and activities for children out of school and undertaking distance learning, KLB offers eleven environmental education lessons, hands-on activities and worksheets. These are designed to teach your children about important environmental issues that face Louisiana, such as litter, pollution, recycling, protecting our waterways and citizenship. Visit <https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/programs-events2/environmental-education/> for a free download.

Changing times require creative solutions, and Keep Louisiana Beautiful encourages Louisiana to make this a change for the better.





Plant the Peace looks to make a local impact with Glass Half Full project



The recycled glass collected is pulverized into a soft, silica-like sand.

As in most of the nation, the vast majority of glass used in New Orleans ends up in a landfill. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans dispose of almost seven million metric tons of glass annually. Most of it ends up in the trash. EPA reports that only about one-third gets recycled. Once it hits landfills, it does not decompose and sticks around forever.

This is unfortunate as glass is 100% recyclable. It has an unlimited life and can be melted and recycled endlessly to make new products with little loss in quality. Glass Half Full saw this an opportunity to impact their local community for the better. The group hit the ground running with a learn-as-we-go approach. They started a Go Fund Me page with the goal of raising \$8,700 to get the project off the ground. A significant portion of the money raised through the online campaign allowed them to purchase a glass-pulverizing machine. They also implemented free hotspots around New Orleans that are open 24/7, offering a location where you can drop-off your glass recyclables, free of charge.

Plant the Peace is a Louisiana-based non-profit organization focused on bringing education and action together in an effort to offset global carbon emissions. On their website, they educate users with fun games that teach you things – from world geography to vocabulary. For every 10 correct answers, funds are sent to tree-planting partners all over the world. To date, they’ve planted over 30,000 trees globally.

The non-profit was started by three Tulane University seniors: Max Steitz, Franziska Trautmann and Maxwell Landy. While planting as many trees as possible remains a priority, the group recently felt compelled to make an impact locally. This led to the creation of the Glass Half Full project. The project was created to address the lack of a glass recycling program in New Orleans. Instead of looking at the current system, the challenges that would be faced and giving up before beginning, the trio decided to see the “glass half full.”

It is the first pick-up glass project of its kind in New Orleans. They convert the recycled glass into a super soft beach-like sand, which they hope will replace mined and extracted alternatives in south Louisiana.

Max Steitz, founder and Tulane international development senior, said the outpouring of support shown by the New Orleans community was astounding and confirmed what they suspected – that there is a strong desire for an easily accessible glass recycling alternative in the city. In the first six weeks of operation, the project successfully produced 3,000 pounds of sand from the recycled glass.

Unfortunately, the project hit a hiccup early on in the form of a global pandemic, COVID-19. All pick-ups have been temporarily stopped until the local government says otherwise. Keeping with the “glass half full” outlook, the group sees this as an opportunity to take a step back and regroup. They also hope to take this time to further their research regarding the potential uses for their sustainably sourced sand and its environmental impact in the varying applications.

“Hold on to those bottles,” Steitz urges the public. “It might be tough because we know they are piling up during the quarantine, but we are not going anywhere. We’ll be back up and running as soon as the mayor and governor give the go-ahead.”

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Another important element of the project is that the sand created is sourced sustainably — not mined and extracted from public commons. Additionally, they plan to sell it at a below-market price to those who need the critical resource. Water filtration companies, construction companies and Tulane University are all large sand purchasers the group has reached out to. The group hopes to have commercial contracts in place to distribute large quantities of sand quickly. However, there will also be some sand available free to the public during times where there may be a flood risk or hurricane threat, for instance.

The group is passionate about working with coastal restoration efforts, as well. This avenue will rely heavily on the result of their research taking place during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. “If we put this in the water, we need to know what impact or effect it might have on the waterbody,” Steitz said.

Sand extraction and production is a \$70+ billion/year industry, according to the Glass Half Full website. They aim to bring this industry to New Orleans. The end goal for the project is to “generate jobs and industry locally while providing an ethical and sustainable alternative to current sand-mining and -extraction practices.” Steitz says that the group would like to donate most of the sand they create. What is sold will be done to help the organization cover operation costs and break even.

How can you get involved?

Recycle your glass: Even though pick-ups having been temporarily suspended, Steitz urges New Orleanians to hold onto their glass and drop it off when safety restrictions regarding COVID-19 have been lifted. Hotspots across the city have been set up so anyone can drop off their used glass products, whenever they please (24/7) – all for free.

Glass Half Full volunteers come by weekly to collect the glass and swap the dirty barrel with a fresh one. Alternatively, the public can also opt not to haul glass to one of the drop-off hubs. Instead, volunteers will pick it up directly from the resident’s door - all for a couple of dollars a month.

Most glass products are accepted unless it is not jar/bottle-shaped or if it is bigger than a double wine bottle. Please rinse any glass that contained food products (i.e., sauce containers), and remove any bottle caps. Labels can remain (labels can be sifted out).

Find a drop-off location here: <https://glasshalfnola.org/dropoff-hotspots>.



The founders, Maxwell Landy, Max Steitz and Franziska Trautmann, are all Tulane University seniors.



There are drop-off hubs around New Orleans that will re-open for recycling as soon as COVID-19 safety precautions are lifted.

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Volunteer: Volunteers are an absolutely critical element of their operation. Steitz states that they have great relationships with Tulane and Loyola universities and get most of their volunteers through that partnership. However, with all of the students sent home due to COVID-19 and with the structure for summer and fall semesters still up in the air, they have to plan for the unknown. The students that usually volunteer may still be taking courses online through the fall, and that will directly impact the number of volunteers those partnerships produce. They are asking the community to consider getting involved.

They have volunteer days called "community days" that they strive to make a fun experience for everyone. They work with a local brewery that provides food and beverages for these days. Locals volunteer can sort and crush the glass at a community day, but they are also educated on the process and the importance of recycling glass. You can visit <https://glasshalffullnola.org/get-involved> to sign up to sort materials, crush bottles, make pick-ups, etc. The group is very flexible and works with the volunteers' schedule to come to a mutually beneficial opportunity.

Donate: The group sees a clear line of growth for the project. They began by using a much smaller machine than they will ultimately end up utilizing. This machine has allowed them to keep up with the original capacity planned. However, viewing the first six weeks (prior to COVID-19 restrictions) as a pilot phase has shown them that the need is greater than the initially planned for scale of the project. They originally planned to target hotspots around New Orleans but quickly learned there is a need to be met throughout the entire New Orleans community. The organization has set up a website where interested persons can donate to help the project reach the next phase: <https://glasshalffullnola.org/donate>.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries sponsoring photo contest

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (WLF) is sponsoring the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Photography Contest to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Scenic Rivers Act.

The purpose of the contest is to promote the beauty of our Louisiana designated natural and scenic rivers, according to WLF. All photographs must be taken within the boundaries of the state.

"Photos should portray the wildlife, fisheries, natural habitats or recreational opportunities our Louisiana natural and scenic rivers provide. There are three categories, Professional, Amateur and Youth. You can enter and submit your photo by emailing SRPhoto@wlf.la.gov. See the flyer on the next page for more information.

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LOUISIANA SCENIC RIVERS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

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



ENTRY DEADLINE: JUNE 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 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"x14" without pixilation.
2. Be sure to include "Photo Contest Entry" in the subject and include the following information in the body:
 - First and Last Name
 - Phone number
 - Email address (this is how we will contact you to confirm entry and winners)
 - Physical address
 - Photo title (if applicable)
 - Name of the Louisiana designated natural and scenic river where the photo was taken (complete list of LA natural and scenic rivers eligible to enter into the photography contest can be found at: www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/scenic-rivers-descriptions-and-map)
 - Date of photo 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 at any time that has charged for their photographs.
- **AMATEUR:** Any person who has never charged for their photographs and is 16+ years of age.
- **YOUTH:** Any person who is 15 years or younger.

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

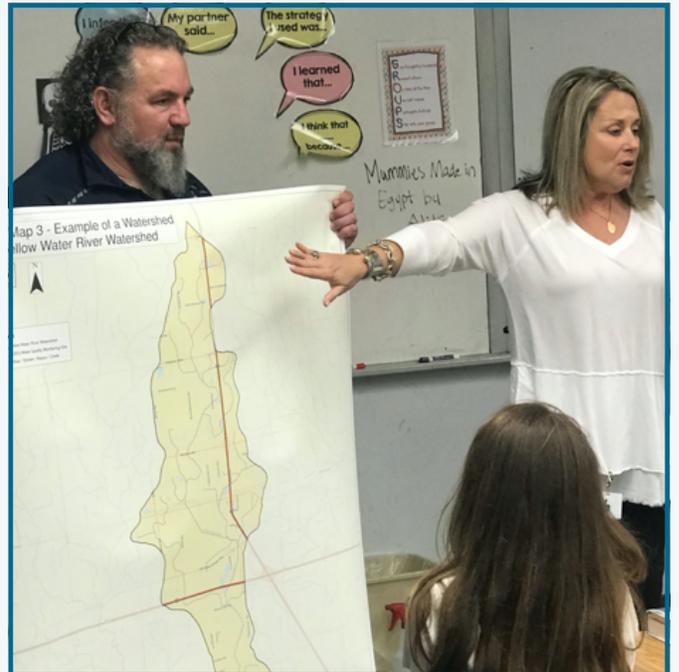
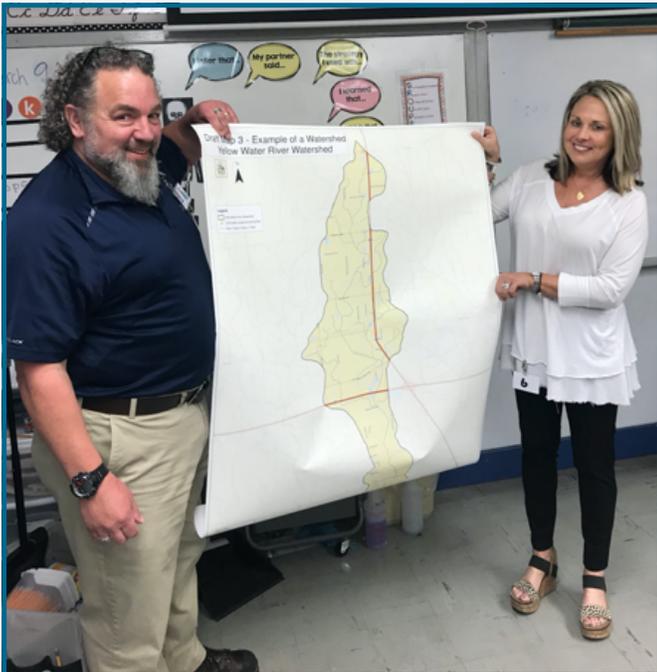


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LDEQ On The Move



Before the COVID-19 outbreak changed how we do things here at LDEQ, Chuck Berger, an LDEQ engineer for the Water Planning and Assessment Division, was fortunate enough to attend St. Joseph Catholic School in Ponchatoula to present a litter and water quality education class. LDEQ, and Berger specifically, partnered with Ginger Tastet from Tangipahoa Parish Government to provide water quality educational materials throughout Tangipahoa parish schools.

Tastet and Berger presented to several 4th grade classes at St. Joseph Catholic School in early March and hope to continue visiting classrooms when the 2020-2021 school year begins in the fall.



Who's Who At LDEQ?



Jesika Lee – Paralegal, Permits Section, Legal Department, Office of the Secretary

Lee is a native of Baton Rouge who graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with a bachelor's degree in December 2017. In January 2018, she started the LSU Paralegal Certification Program. While in the program she worked at a personal injury/criminal defense firm as a legal assistant. Lee graduated from LSU with a paralegal certification in May 2019 and began working at LDEQ last July.

She is currently a paralegal for the Permits Section of the Legal Department. During her time off, she enjoys reading, cooking and spending time with her family and dogs.

Matt Carlson – Environmental Scientist, Northwest Regional Office, Office of Environmental Compliance

Carlson is a Shreveport native who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences with an environmental science concentration from LSU Shreveport in 2012. Prior to employment with LDEQ, he spent five years as an inspector with the city of Shreveport's Environmental Services Division, where he was responsible for helping the city of Shreveport meet LDEQ's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit goals. He also worked for a brief period as a lab analyst at the Amis Water Purification Plant.

Carlson enjoys spending time with friends and family, BBQ, fishing and watching football and basketball.



Sadie Meshell – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division, Northwest Regional Office, Office of Environmental Compliance

Meshell has a small cattle ranch called "Hossa Cattle." Raised on a farm, she is a lifelong resident of a small town called Belmont, Louisiana. She graduated from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches in 2016 with an Associate Degree in veterinary technology and a Bachelor of Science in biology. From there, she went straight into the veterinary field to gain experience before vet school.

Meshell then began working with the chicken industry for Pilgrims as a service technician for three years before coming aboard at LDEQ as an environmental scientist for the surface water surveillance division.

In her free time, she enjoys painting, writing and anything related to hunting or the outdoors.





DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



April 2020 Issue Number: 99

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>

