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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER

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LDEQ begins operation of new Ambient Air Monitoring Site in New Orleans

After receiving a significant number of odor complaints in the Irish Channel area of New Orleans, LDEQ has established an ambient air monitoring site in the area.

Located at the Leo Benewell Playspot at the corner of Tchoupitoulas and Pleasant streets, the site will measure for hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), Sulfur dioxide (SO_2), Methane (CH_4), non-methane organic compounds (NMOC), Total Hydrocarbons (THC), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and meteorological data.

"The addition of this air monitoring site will allow us to better assess the conditions in the air in the Irish Channel area," said Jason Meyers, LDEQ Administrator for the Air Planning and Assessment Division. "The site will be operational for six to nine months as we continue gathering data and conduct a study of the constituents present in the air."

Temporarily located community air monitoring site at Irish Channel.

The site marks the 39th air monitoring station under LDEQ's purview across the state. Environmental Scientists from the Airfield Services Section in the Office of Environmental Assessment check the stations on a regular basis. Those checks include ensuring the equipment is properly functioning, calibrations are accurate and data is being collected and logged accordingly.

Each station across the state gathers a unique set of data based upon EPA regulations and modeling criteria to include its proximity to industrial facilities and any frequent weather conditions that might commonly affect the area. As real-time air monitoring data is gathered from the air monitoring sites, it is sent to a database that is readily available on the LDEQ website for public view.

Equipment in the stations typically includes meteorological station, a group of stainless steel canisters (known as Summa canisters) which collect and store air samples, a data logger and computerized equipment calibrated to gather specific air monitoring data.

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A set of analyzers in the station are programmed to gather specific air monitoring data for real-time processing. As data is extracted, results are available near real-time on LDEQ's website.

A methane/non-methane analyzer, which measures volatile organic compounds in the air, will trigger a sample to be gathered and stored. Additionally, a Beta Attenuation Mass Monitor (BAM) measures $PM_{2.5}$ on a continuous cycle. For Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), a collector will pull a 24-hour sample every three days. During an inspection, the LDEQ technician will remove the filter for off-site analysis and replace it with a new filter. The process repeats every three days.

For more information about this site and other ambient air monitoring stations, visit the Ambient Air Monitoring page at ***www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/ambient-air-monitoring-program***.

LDEQ's Enviroschool to host webinar: Cleaning Louisiana's Air - Understanding Air Quality Standards

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) Enviroschool will host a webinar on Cleaning Louisiana's Air: Understanding Air Quality Standards. This session will focus on the six criteria pollutants for which standards are set, where Louisiana fits into each and the results that can be achieved when areas are designated 'nonattainment' for a criteria pollutant.

When: 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 12
Online: Live Webinar Only

Please register by emailing ***enviroschool@la.gov***.

A State Implementation Plan (SIP) is a collection of regulations and documents used by a state, territory or local air district to implement, maintain and enforce the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, or NAAQS, and to fulfill other requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA). Under the CAA, a SIP must be developed by each state that has areas designated 'nonattainment' or for special programs, such as Regional Haze. Included in the SIP requirements are established systems to monitor, compile and analyze data on air quality.

There are six criteria pollutants for which standards are set: carbon monoxide pollution, lead air pollution, nitrogen oxide pollution, ozone pollution, particulate matter pollution and sulfur dioxide pollution. The state of Louisiana is in attainment for all the NAAQS criteria pollutants except for two small areas out of attainment for SO2. However, the entire state is in attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM 2.5).

The Enviroschool program at LDEQ is the environmental education outreach arm of the agency and provides training for communities, businesses and other organizations on a number of regulatory topics. The program aims to inform attendees about the environmental regulatory process and to maintain and improve environmental compliance.

The workshops are free and open to the public. If you are interested, please feel free to register for any of our workshops. For more information, go to ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroschool*** or email ***Enviroschool@la.gov***.

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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

Dr. Chuck Carr Brown

Have you ever walked down a street, turned a corner and suddenly realized you are walking down the same street you were on before you turned? Of course not, but that's the experience Louisiana is having with Covid-19. We all thought the pandemic was winding down. Case numbers dropped. Hospitalizations went way down. We had the vaccines that we could get if we wanted to. There was no reason to think that the end was not in sight.

The virus was trickier than we thought. All of a sudden, variants began popping up. The first two or three were just annoyances. Then came the Delta variant. It was worse than the original, much worse. Case numbers started to increase again. Delta has proven to spread easier and has worse symptoms than the original virus. Now we are seeing thousands of cases every day. A small percentage of those cases are "breakthrough" cases where someone who has already been fully vaccinated comes down with the Delta variant.

How did we get here? Too many of us didn't get the vaccines, allowing the virus to have a ready pool of hosts. The vaccines offer a quick fix to a deadly problem. While a shot won't guarantee that you won't get the virus, it's the best protection available. It's a good bet that if you're vaccinated and do get the virus, your symptoms will be much milder than someone unvaccinated who gets the same virus. If you get the shot and are in the more than 90 percent that never gets the virus afterward, you'll also be one of the people who don't spread the virus.

It's easy. It's quick. It's socially responsible. The vaccines are safe and have been shown to produce only mild side effects. Speaking as someone who has had Covid-19 and recovered, I absolutely don't want to get it again. I need your help to avoid that. If you haven't been vaccinated, go get the shot.

We had a lot of rainy days over the last few of months. That kept the heat down. We are moving into a drier weather pattern now, and the afternoon temperatures will reflect that. It's getting hotter. I hope we never see temperatures like they saw in the West and Northwest last month – 117 in Portland, Ore.! – but the humidity here makes the 90s just as dangerous. So if you are working outside, take frequent breaks, drink lots of fluids and move inside to take advantage of your air conditioning often. Let's stay safe.

We are two months into the hurricane season. Don't let your guard down. We certainly won't get overconfident. The most active part of the season is just starting up, and you can expect to see some tropical activity in August and September. Be ready. Go to the website ***getagameplan.org*** to get information on how to be prepared for storms and flooding that can accompany a hurricane or tropical storm.

I'll offer a compliment as a parting note. The newly redesigned EDMS has gotten some good reviews online and among users in the agency. It's easier to use and seems to be faster. Kudos to the people involved in this effort.

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Bayou Lafourche office in Lockport relocates

Since 2008, LDEQ's Bayou Lafourche office, a satellite location of the Southeast Regional Office in New Orleans, has been based in a historic building in the town of Lockport in Lafourche Parish.

The former location, just across the street from the new office, was built in the early 1900s.

Built in the early 1900s, the two-story building at 110 Barataria St., a mere stone's throw from Bayou Lafourche itself, was once home to a soda fountain, a dental office and a pharmacy before LDEQ arrived and set up shop 13 years ago. In recent years, however, the Bayou Lafourche staff's mission began to outgrow the building, so a more accommodating location from which to conduct business was sought.

In late 2019, the office chanced upon a vacancy that just so happened to be a few steps across the street. A single-story, 5,000 square foot building at 125 Barataria St. was available, offering more office space and improved working conditions. Recognizing the overall value of this location, the department signed a 5-year lease with a 5-year renewal option and moved into the space in January 2020.

The new location features larger office spaces, ample public parking and new signage.

Formerly the site of a bank, before it changed ownership and became a substation for Entergy, the new office includes modern conveniences such as central heating and air and updated electrical. More important, however, is that the office provides an expansive, more visible location from which the agency can conduct operations. Exterior features include ample public parking and a security fence that encircles a paved lot in the rear of the building. Covered bays for the staging of LDEQ boats and vehicles are now housed safely inside the security fence, where they were previously unsecured at the old location.

While wastewater treatment inspections and watershed surveys comprise the bulk of the office's day-to-day duties, the rural location and semi-autonomous nature of the Bayou Lafourche office means that everyone is often called upon to wear many different hats. On any given day, an environmental scientist may respond to an open burning complaint, investigate an illegal dump site, conduct a water quality inspection, assist with an emergency response call or even help with air monitoring.

For environmental issues that are more technical or require additional manpower, the seven-member team will be supported by the 50-plus staff of the Southeast Regional Office based in New Orleans. "The Southeast Regional Office also assists the Bayou Lafourche staff with inspections, training and water quality issues," said Brian Tusa, Southeast Regional Office Manager.

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The new office also includes a laboratory workspace to conduct water testing.

A series of covered parking bays allows the office to maintain its boats in a secure location.

The biggest benefit of the move, however, is the logistical advantages that a more suitable, secure facility provides. This is particularly important during significant events such as hurricanes and storms, as the office's proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and its associated tributaries dictate a heightened need for readiness. "The larger facilities at this new location will allow us to quickly and adequately set up a Unified Command," Tusa said.

As the department's southernmost office, Bayou Lafourche personnel are often the frontline team tasked to deal with any number of natural and man-made issues that occur off Louisiana's coast. As many of those investigations require access by boat, everyone on staff is licensed to operate any of the four boats that the office maintains – including a Carolina Skiff, two Boston Whalers and a 25-foot Parker Boat.

The Bayou Lafourche staff is enjoying the new location and its expanded capabilities. "The staff is pleased to be operating from this new office space, and its accommodations better allow us to accomplish our tasks in the Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. John and lower Jefferson Parish regions," said Stephen Lorio, Environmental Scientist Supervisor at the Bayou Lafourche office.

Lorio also highlighted the strategic advantages of being close to the Gulf. "Our location here logistically makes sense as we have immediate access to La. 1 and La. 308, as well as U.S. 90 to New Orleans and Houma." "There's plenty of work here, so having an office in Bayou Lafourche is a big time-saver, shortening the department's response time to address issues and complaints," Tusa added.

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LDEQ celebrates National Water Quality Month

August brings lots to look forward to. The start of a new school year and the kick-off of football season, for example, but did you know that August is also National Water Quality Month? Each and every day, society benefits from the environmental, social, health and economic gains that clean and safe water provides. Water Quality month was created to emphasize these important benefits of water quality. LDEQ hopes everyone will take some time this August to educate themselves about where our water comes from and how we all can help preserve it to ensure that it continues to be high quality and free of contamination.

All water comes from one of two sources – surface water or groundwater. From there, water is supplied to most people by a local water provider. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has placed federal regulations on these public water providers to ensure that they are monitoring for more than 100 contaminants in the surface water or groundwater they are using. In addition to following regulations, part of their job is to remove pollutants from and re-use, or release back into the environment, wastewater that flows from our households into the utilities' main wastewater pipeline.

LDEQ's role in protecting the quality of Louisiana's water takes many forms. For instance, the LDEQ Aquifer Sampling and Assessment Program works to protect the quality of all waters found in underground aquifers as well as the surface water sources of that groundwater. In comparison, the LDEQ Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program works to protect surface water quality of all of Louisiana's water bodies, including rivers, streams, bayous, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, estuaries and many other types of surface water. While these two areas are broad, the Water Quality Division of LDEQ is broken down into many more programs. Each program has a specific focus and expertise aimed at addressing the various water quality issues faced by the state, and all are equally important.

LDEQ oversees the Mercury Initiative, the Drinking Water Protection Program, the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) section with the New Vision program, water surveys, Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention, the Clean Water State Revolving

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Things You Can Do to Protect Our Water

1. **Choose Better Household Products – Try not to use antibacterial cleaning products or soaps. Regular soap and water will do the trick. Many antibacterial soaps contain a registered pesticide that is known to harm marine life. Additionally, using phosphate-free detergents will help save our lakes and streams.**

2. **Regular Maintenance - If you have a private well, make sure it is tested and cleaned regularly. Bacteria can build up in the wells.**

3. **Pick Up After Your Pets - Animal waste contains harmful organisms like E. coli, salmonella and giardia. If you don't pick up after your pet, the storm waters could wash these pollutants into our waterways and contaminate the water. Animal waste is also high in nitrogen, which in excess can deplete the oxygen in the water, making it harmful for fish and other underwater plants.**

4. **Use the Car Wash - Washing your car at home can flush chemicals down the storm drains that flow into our lakes and streams. Professional car washes are required to drain into sewer systems so that wastewater plants can treat the water before it is re-used.**

5. **Use a Trash Can, NOT the Drain - Avoid putting products like motor oil, prescription medications, antibacterial household cleaners, paints, bug/pest repellents and detergents down the drain. We don't want products like these in our waterways because they contain toxic chemicals. Additionally, some of these items should NOT be thrown in the trash either. Instead, they should be disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day hosted by your parish.**

6. **Don't Use Fertilizer/Pesticides - Fertilizer and pesticides can run off the soil and contaminate the waterways that feed our drinking water supplies. Exposure to these chemicals can cause harm to humans and wildlife alike.**

7. **Clean Up - Join a community cleanup crew to pick up litter on streets, beaches, rivers, and wetlands that could end up affecting our water. It's important to educate yourself and learn from others who care about our environment. Make friends and have fun while protecting our water!**

LDEQ, in conjunction with Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, produced a fishing and swimming advisory map. The map can now be viewed via an application (app) on smartphones.

The LDEQ 2020 Louisiana Water Quality Inventory: Integrated Report (305(b)/303(d)) was recently released in application (app) form for smartphones.

Loan Fund, aquifer protection, reviewing and managing online Network Discharge Monitoring Reports (known as NetDMR) in water permits, conducting investigations when there are spills that affect Louisiana water bodies, and oversight of the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program. These are all initiatives designed to address different water protection efforts throughout Louisiana. Identifying emerging water quality concerns, assessing compliance with environmental regulations, developing effective watershed pollution reduction strategies and understanding trends in water quality statewide are just a few of the goals of LDEQ's water division.

There are tools for the public to access water quality information collected throughout the state via these programs, including:

1. The Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Data portal can be viewed at ***https://waterdata.deq.louisiana.gov***.

2. The currently available 2020 Louisiana Water Quality Inventory: Integrated Report (305(b)/303(d)). Found at ***https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/2020-water-quality-inventory-integrated-report-305b303d***. The 2020 Integrated Report is now available as an application (app) for smartphones as well.

3. Fishing consumption and swimming advisories can be viewed at ***https://deq.louisiana.gov/page/fishingconsumption-and-swimming-advisories***. The online fishing and swimming advisory map is now available as an application (app) for smartphones as well.

Water is a huge part of Louisiana, both economically and recreationally. Unfortunately, most people do not realize that the bodies of water they are enjoying are continually threatened by increasing water pollution. The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 to help reduce water pollution, but most people are unaware of the little ways they may be contributing to the pollution of their water. Water Quality Month reminds us to take a long, hard look at what our households and communities are doing to protect our water.

For more information on water programs LDEQ administers, visit ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/subhome/water***.

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Glass recycling success stories in Louisiana

The Glass Half Full team diverts glass from landfills and creates useful products.

One of the most recyclable products on earth is glass. Many years ago, it was worth a few cents to return glass containers to be reused. Many kids earned candy money doing just that. However, in 2021, glass requires special treatment, and many recycling programs do not have the equipment to sort and process used glass.

In Louisiana, the mantle has been taken up by two programs, run under different business models and in different cities. In Lafayette, partners Tina Crapsi and Dawn Vincent created a backyard program. While in New Orleans, a non-profit was started by Tulane University seniors Max Steitz and Franziska Trautmann. The non-profit organization, Glass Half Full, is operating an ever-growing glass recycling program.

Lafayette's Backyard Sapphire is the innovation of enterprising partners Vincent and Crapsi. They operate it with the support team of Willie, a cat who is in charge of security and inspection, and Sebastian, a dog who is in charge of moral support. Crapsi is in charge of crushing, scraping, forging metal and birdwatching, and Vincent organizes and works with computers. It is a grassroots recycling movement. The partners shared a concern about the lack of glass recycling in Lafayette and its impact on the environment. They began with an idea and started collecting glass bottles in their backyard. Word got around quickly, and their friends and others started to bring bottles to them. Soon they had gallons of bottles. What to do with them was the question? It was going to be a daunting project, but that did not deter them. Crapsi, who is a welder, created a crusher herself to process the bottles. The plan was to turn these wasted bottles (that would otherwise end up in a landfill) into sand and glass mulch (multi-colored glass) out of their backyard.

How does it work? Backyard Sapphire processes over a ton of glass a month. There are basic steps: gather, soak, scrape, crush and bag. The gathering step has not been an issue, and even though they collect in the backyard, they also have two drop-off points. For drop-off point locations, go to their website, ***www.backyardsapphire.com***.

The soaking process takes place in 100-gallon soaking tanks using collected rainwater and baking soda. It takes one or two days before they can scrape off the labels. The scraping is the most arduous and time-consuming of the steps.

The crusher, designed and built by Crapsi, can crush a case of beer bottles in seven seconds. It is in this step that they sort the colors to create their signature blends. "It's like mixing paints to get the best hue or color," according to the website. Their motto is Backyard Sapphire: "Where the glass is always greener, 'cept when it's blue!"

After the crushing, comes the sifting to separate sizes for their signature blends. The first sift is kosher salt, sand-sized and the second is their sand pebble blend that they sell as a base mulch layer. The pieces that are left go into the agitator for about 10 hours to create the decorative beach-style finish that is sold as the top mulch layer. The products are bagged to be sold and become a part of a small circle of sustainability for your garden. Backyard Sapphire is part of a grassroots movement toward sustainability and making the human footprint smaller. It concentrates on taking glass and crushing it back to sand. It significantly shrinks the volume of waste and creates reuse of the end product.

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Vincent and Crapsi are passionate about their program and hope to be able to move it to a bigger location and acquire more equipment. “This is our passion, so we just had to start doing something,” they said. “We just saw that something needed to be done, and we are trying to do it.”

Picture of bottles collected on the Backyard Sapphire collection areas.

Email them for more information at ***backyardsapphire@gmail.com***, or visit them on Facebook at ***https://www.facebook.com/BackYardSapphireRecycling***.

The New Orleans glass recycling effort is Glass Half Full, a non-profit founded in Feb. 2020 by Tulane University seniors: Max Steitz and Franziska Trautmann. New Orleans did not have a glass recycling program, and this led to the creation of the Glass Half Full. Instead of looking at the current system, the challenges that would be faced and giving up before beginning, they decided to see the “glass half full.”

Since its inception, Glass Half Full has diverted more than one million tons of glass from landfills and converted it into sand and glass cullet (broken or refuse glass usually added to new material to facilitate melting in making glass). The products can be used in disaster relief, eco-construction and new glass products.

Dawn Vincent and Tina Crapsi speaking with Jessie Mitchell of CBS News about their recycling business.

There are many ways to be involved in this project. You can recycle your glass. 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://glasshalffullnola.org/dropoff-hotspots***.

Volunteers are always needed, and the team can work with your schedule. Volunteers are a critical element of their operation. Students and locals volunteer to 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 and become familiar with the processes.

The group sees a clear line of growth for the project. To help the project reach the next phase, contact Glass Half Full to inquire as to how you may assist. You can donate at ***https://glasshalffullnola.org/donate***.

Look for a complete update on this growing glass recycling program in the next issue. You can find out more about Glass Half Full at ***www.glasshalffullnola.gov*** and ***https://www.facebook.com/glasshalffullnola***.

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Louisiana Envirothon is back for 2022

After a year of the event being sidelined by COVID-19, LDEQ has announced plans to host Louisiana Envirothon for 2022. LDEQ has helped host the Louisiana Envirothon for more than 10 years and agency participants believe the 2022 competition will be the best yet. Stay tuned for the 2022 competition date announcement.

In the meantime, 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 such as FFA, 4-H or science clubs. The team registration fee is $50.

ADVOCATE: Share information! Please share this email 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.

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.

Louisiana Envirothon is a success because of the ongoing partnership between academia, state government, and private entities to provide students with the opportunity to experience environmentally oriented activities, enabling them to become environmentally aware citizens. Become a part of our team by spreading the word to potential sponsors and groups of students that share the Envirothon spirit. It is important to promote a desire in young people to understand natural resources and a willingness to work towards achieving and maintaining a balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment. We hope you'll join us!

Visit ***http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/envirothon*** for more information.

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Join LDEQ at the 2021 Louisiana Environmental Conference and Trade Fair

The Louisiana Solid Waste Association (LSWA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) are pleased to announce the upcoming Louisiana Environmental Conference and Trade Fair scheduled Sept. 15-17, at the Cajun Dome in Lafayette. Organizers are excited to be able to meet in person and see attendees, exhibitors and speakers.

The organizers will continue with all the plans made in March 2020. The golf tournament sponsored by K&L on Wednesday afternoon is teed up, the reception on Wednesday night, co-sponsored by LSWA and Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, is scheduled and, of course, the Thursday night vendor sponsored hospitality night will proceed as planned.

Organizers want to thank everyone for their patience as there were numerous rescheduled dates. Everyone is looking forward to a great time in Lafayette.

Please note that all registrations from 2020 have been transferred and any additional conference-related information can be found at the LSWA website at ***www.LSWA.us***.

Save the Date: Keep Louisiana Beautiful Annual Conference scheduled for October 2021

Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) will hold the Annual Conference at the Hilton Capitol Center in Baton Rouge Oct. 13-14. To register, book a room, become a sponsor or exhibitor or download the agenda go to ***www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org/2021conference***.

The Keep Louisiana Beautiful State Conference is an annual professional development and networking forum welcoming all individuals, affiliates, state and local governmental agencies, community and business partners and non-profit organizations.

All those interested in working towards a greener, cleaner, more beautiful Louisiana are invited to attend. Industry experts, civic officials and anti-litter advocates from across the state will gather to present and share real-world applications for environmental stewardship in local communities. Join them for two days of engaging content and networking opportunities.

If you have someone you would like to nominate for the KLB Everyday Hero Awards, you can do that at the website, ***www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org***.

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LDEQ On The Move

On behalf of the department, Linda Piper, LDEQ's Small Business Assistance Manager (right), accepted an Appreciation Award from The Louisiana Rural Water Association's (LWRA) Executive Director, Patrick Credeur, at the LWRA's 35th Annual Conference July 21.

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Who's Who At LDEQ?

Arlys C. Dalton – Environmental Chemical Specialist, Air Planning and Assessment Division, Office of Environmental Assessment

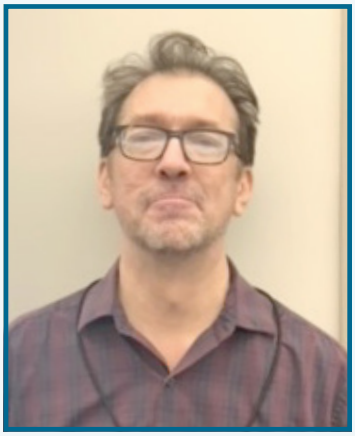
A Baton Rouge native, Dalton rejoins LDEQ from private industry. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Louisiana State University with a major in chemical engineering and a minor in chemistry. She brings a unique perspective after having the privilege of working in many different industries such as higher education sector, previously with LDEQ in the Air Permits Division, the medical profession and in the engineering/procurement/construction field.

She is excited to return to LDEQ as an environmental chemical specialist in the Air Planning and Assessment Division. She enjoys spending time with family, reading, word puzzles, movies and traveling.

Will Steele – Environmental Scientist Staff, Waste Permits Division, Office of Environmental Services

Steele earned a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from Arizona State University in 1991. He worked in microbiology laboratories at Louisiana State University and later at the Hansen's Disease Center through the 1990s.

Since joining the staff at LDEQ in 2002, Steele has worked in hazardous and solid waste permitting. His experience includes permit reviews, regulation development, waste determinations and financial assurance for hazardous and solid waste sites. Since 2015, Steele has worked as a Staff Environmental Scientist for the Waste Permits Division, focusing on financial assurance issues.



Jennifer Williams - Environmental Scientist, Permit Support Division, Office of Environmental Services

Williams recently graduated from Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University in 2020, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemical analysis and instrumentation with a minor in chemistry.

She is a Baton Rouge native and Army veteran, having served nine years during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. After her service, Williams worked in retail inventory management for more than twelve years.

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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's Second Quarter Summaries

Second Quarter 2021 Enforcement Actions:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-actions

Second Quarter 2021 Settlement Agreements:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enforcement-division

Second Quarter 2021 Air Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/permits-issued-by-calendar-quarter

Second Quarter 2021 Water Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/lpdes

Second Quarter 2021 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:
http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/waste-permits