



DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



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LDEQ participates in Love the Boot week

April 18-24 was "Love the Boot Week" in Louisiana, and beautification and trash pickup events were held throughout the state. During the week, businesses, local governments, non-profit organizations and individuals participated in more than 250 cleanup and beautification events across 52 parishes in Louisiana.

In keeping with tradition, LDEQ headquarters staff participated in a litter pickup event 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 19. Staff from LDEQ's Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette, the Kisatchie Central Regional Office in Alexandria and the Southwest Regional Office in Lake Charles also participated in litter cleanups in their respective regions.



Volunteers received a T-shirt courtesy of Keep Louisiana Beautiful, along with gloves, trash bags and grabbers. Thirty employees in Baton Rouge Headquarters, 15 from the Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette, 14 from the Southwest Regional Office in Lake Charles and 8 from the Kisatchie Central Regional Office in Alexandria participated for the event.



Volunteers from LDEQ's headquarters took part in the cleanup day, along with offices in Alexandria and Lake Charles.

In Baton Rouge, volunteers collected around 25 bags of trash and covered approximately 400,000 square feet around the Galvez Building and surrounding areas downtown. The most common items retrieved were cigarette butts, Mardi Gras beads, Styrofoam cups and boxes, food bags, paper, bottles, plastic straws and bags and candy wrappers, among others.

A few items found are indicative of local traditions that unfortunately leave litter behind. Mardi Gras beads are an obvious one, as is confetti – much of which was

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recovered near the Capitol Building where it was ostensibly left by graduating students who toss confetti into the air for celebratory graduation photos.

Most of the volunteers reported that cigarette butts were the most common item retrieved. The most confounding of which are cigarette butts and other trash that is discarded within the close proximity of a trash can. Whether it's laziness or absentmindedness -- or both -- it's a completely unnecessary act, as dropping cigarette butts onto the ground introduces non-biodegradable litter into the environment, spoils the aesthetic and creates an eyesore. Many smokers may not even realize that the protective lid covering many trash receptacles can actually be used to snuff out cigarettes before discarding them -- further adding to the convenience.

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Ten bags of litter were collected by staff at the Kisatchie Central Regional Office in Alexandria, with fast food packaging as the most common type of litter.



Volunteers from the Acadiana Regional Office in Lafayette collected 18 bags of litter, a children's plastic swimming pool, a refrigerator door and two waste tires, along with plastic bottles, aluminum cans, cigarette butts, alcohol bottles and paper waste.



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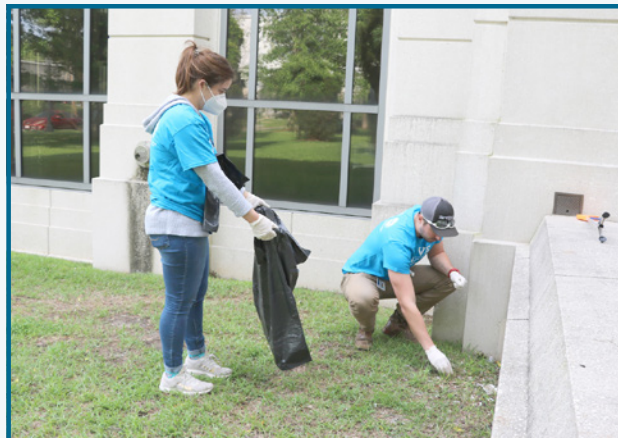
While many don't think about how their actions affect the environment, if everyone just simply ensured that trash made its way into trash receptacles – windblown litter included – we would come very close to eliminating the sight of trash in our communities. Litter is an easily eradicated issue if we all take personal responsibility and ensured that trash is properly discarded.

While the day certainly offered a sense of service to the state, the event also served to boost camaraderie amongst employees from different sections and offices who normally don't directly work with each other – all while serving the common goal of removing trash from the community.

In addition to supporting Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the Southwest Regional Office also partnered with the 'Pick It Up Calcasieu' parish-wide cleanup event, in order to encompass both a state and local initiative. "We cleaned along Lakeshore Drive, Bord Du Lac Drive, and the north beach of Lake Charles for a total of 2.4 miles," said Chrissie Gubancsik, regional manager for the Southwest Regional Office. "All in all, the employees had a wonderful time, and it was great for employee morale! We look forward to doing this again next year."

"Thanks again to the LDEQ volunteers who participated in the 'Love the Boot Litter Cleanup' event all across the state," said Linda Piper, environmental scientist manager. "We pitched in to do our part to bring awareness to the litter problem thereby improving our environment. Litter is a personal choice and education is the key to stopping litter before it starts. Let this be the goal for all of us, think before you toss!"

For more information, go to www.lovetheboot.org and please check out the work being done by Keep Louisiana Beautiful at www.keeplouisianabeautiful.org.



Cigarette butts were the most common item of litter recovered by the volunteers. Many smokers have a bad habit of tossing their cigarette butts onto the ground instead of extinguishing them and placing them in a trash can.



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Message from the Secretary

Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.

It has been a tremendously busy month. I want to take a little time to tell all of you how much I appreciate your continuing hard work. We are doing the underappreciated but wholly necessary routine tasks of permitting, enforcement, remediation, assessment and associated commitments in a professional, thorough manner.

I especially want to thank all who volunteered for the cleanups for our Love the Boot events. On Tuesday, April 19, approximately 30 LDEQ employees worked on picking up litter in the square formed by Spanish Town Road, North Seventh Street, Main Street and North Third Street. They bent their backs and scoured the area for paper and plastic, cigarette butts, bottles, cans, pieces of wood, beads and any other items of litter they spotted. Team LDEQ brought in 25 bags of litter that day.

Also on Tuesday, volunteers at the Acadiana Regional, Kisatchie Central and Southwest Regional offices held their own Love the Boot events, targeting areas near their offices. The Kisatchie Central Regional Office had 8 volunteers and collected 10 bags of trash. The Southwest Regional Office had 15 volunteers and collected 15 bags of trash. Not to be outdone, Acadiana Regional office had 15 volunteers and picked up 18 bags of litter around their office in Lafayette.

Great work! I hope we can continue to do this on a more regular basis and keep our state looking clean and beautiful.

Core value

I am discussing one of our agency core values each month. For April, I will discuss a value that is at the root of how we approach everything we do. The core value: "We will conduct ourselves honestly and ethically."

There's just no room for interpretation here. When I say honestly, I mean we won't vary from the truth. We won't misrepresent findings or make any change to anything that might cause a reading or a document or a statement to be untrue. In fact, the only time we might make changes is if we find we have made a mistake. It is also honest to admit mistakes and correct them.

We all take ethics courses each year. We should know what is ethical behavior and what is not. Most of the time, ethics questions arise from accepting something of value from someone who represents a regulated entity. The best thing? Just say no. Don't put yourself in a compromising position. Take that ethics course every year and avoid any uncomfortable questions.

Be ethical in all you do. Know what the standard procedure are and follow them. That way no one can ever say you cut corners or didn't look at something you should have. You are LDEQ. I am depending on you to uphold this agency's standards of behavior.

One last thing

Speaking of standards of behavior, when LDEQ volunteers were cleaning up around the Galvez Building on April 19, they found piles of cigarette butts on the ground at the smoking area on the north side of the building. There is a receptacle right there where smokers can dispose of their cigarette butts when they finish smoking. There is just no reason to toss them on the ground. Please make every effort to facilitate a stop to this behavior. Love the Boot, Don't Pollute.



LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown addresses LDEQ headquarters' volunteers at the start of the "Love the Boot Week" cleanup event April 19, 2022.



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LDEQ staff participate in Household Hazardous Materials Collection day

On Saturday, April 9, more than two dozen LDEQ employees volunteered their time to assist with the East Baton Rouge Household Hazardous Materials Day at the F.A. Clark Activity Center at Southern University.

LDEQ ran the paint tent and collected 127 five-gallon buckets of paint to be recycled/reused by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Baton Rouge.



LDEQ volunteers Karmen Poole (l) and Paige Green mix donated paint that's ultimately sent to the ReStore for reuse.

LDEQ employees Zoom their way to HAZWOPER Certification

LDEQ employees who frequently work around hazardous conditions or are subject to doing so, must complete a 48-hour HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) course, plus an 8-hour refresher class each year. Holding the HAZWOPER credential indicates that the employee has been trained in and understands safety measures regarding chemical releases and the associated potential hazards relative to an emergency response.

An 8-hour refresher course was held April 5-6 via both Zoom and an actual classroom. Presenters were LDEQ environmental scientists Jim Pate and Greg Waldron, with Training and Safety Officer Jared Champagne assisting with chat room questions and answers.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires HAZWOPER annual certification as a standard that certifies and protects employees who may perform duties at locations where hazardous materials may be present.



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Louisiana Army National Guard's Qualified Recycling Program promotes recycling, waste management

With authorization from the National Guard Bureau in 2019 to conduct direct sales of recyclable materials, the Louisiana Army National Guard developed a Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) in an effort to prevent pollution, reduce waste entering landfills and conserve natural resources.

In an effort to minimize waste and promote recycling, the Louisiana Army National Guard recently began restructuring its approach to environmental quality, creating a regional system that works well with environmental compliance as a whole. During 2019-2020, their recycling efforts were expanded.

In April 2019, retired Army Lt. Col. John Frost came aboard to manage the Louisiana National Guard's waste and recycling endeavors. As the Solid Waste and Recycling Manager based at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Frost wrote a QRP plan, and in January 2020, the QRP was established. Under the plan, thousands of pounds of materials are diverted from solid and hazardous waste streams. Enhancements to training and environmental awareness, along with recycling goals, support QRP's mission.

Prior to creation of the QRP, recycling had been occasional and largely uncoordinated throughout the state, relying upon various local vendor agreements.

Under the QRP, a new solid waste management plan is being developed. "To further provide for a model of full environmental compliance across the state, the environmental quality program has implemented waste prevention, stormwater management and hazardous waste management plans," Frost noted. All are current and reviewed on three- or five-year schedules, while Installation Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure plans are reviewed annually.

Their endeavors have resulted in several accolades. For 2020, the Louisiana Army National Guard won first place for Environmental Quality at an Industrial Installation with the National Guard Bureau's Environmental Security Awards. The Guard also took first place for Environmental Quality (Team/Individual) for the Louisiana Army National Guard Compliance Team.

The Louisiana Army National Guard's environmental quality program is managed by several key players who guide its success. The solid waste and recycling manager collaborates with the state's environmental manager in overall waste reduction efforts. Additionally, an environmental manager oversees environmental compliance and is supported by three regional coordinators and three managers who work together to ensure operations run smoothly.



The Louisiana Army National Guard's Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) operates a dedicated recycling headquarters facility at Camp Beauregard.



Recycling containers in office spaces play a large role in QRP's waste reduction mission.

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Recycling guidance is also distributed to more than a dozen maintenance shops across the state through the regional coordinators' monthly visits. With more than 1,000 pieces of equipment and vehicles being maintained at the shops, asset management is a priority, making it a good opportunity to further expand recycling capabilities.

The QRP also accepts a wide range of other recyclables such as cardboard, paper, aluminum, brass, scrap metal, lead acid batteries and plastic. In recent years, the program has diverted thousands of pounds from landfills. These include approximately 50,000 pounds of lead-acid batteries, 2,000 pounds of plastic, 12,000 pounds of cardboard, 400,000 pounds of mixed scrap metal and 6,000 pounds of paper collected from the installation and other training sites in the state.

In 2019, recycling of used oil, antifreeze, and oil filters was established across the state's Army National Guard facilities, resulting in the removal of 3,499 gallons of used oil, 208 gallons of used antifreeze, and 12 drums of oil filters.

"The waste stream is being tracked, via spreadsheets, across the industrial sites, and communication among the regional coordinators and environmental technicians ensures that improvement can continually be addressed," Frost said.

In accordance with the QRP mandate, recycling efforts continue to expand, along with the avoided disposal costs, and the reduction of waste streams. These benefits will help to make the installation and the state greener and more operationally sustainable.

As a stockpile and collection point for recyclables on the installation, the QRP established collection containers at the other National Guard installations in the state, including Camp Minden Training Site, Gillis W. Long Site in Carville and Jackson Barracks in New Orleans. The ultimate goal is to incorporate all military readiness centers in Louisiana in the waste removal endeavor.

Training is a huge component in their environmental quality program, and the team has partnered with Louisiana State University to develop a learning management system that will offer online environmental awareness training.

The program also extends to communities and local schools and institutions, who are encouraged to bring their recyclable materials to Louisiana Army National Guard, via the QRP. Installation service members and civilian employees are also allowed to bring residential recycling to the Installation for processing. This makes it especially



John Frost, Louisiana Army National Guard's solid waste and recycling manager, demonstrates the functionality of the high-capacity baler at the main QRP recycling center.

In 2021, the QRP diverted more than 1.4 million pounds of material from landfills.

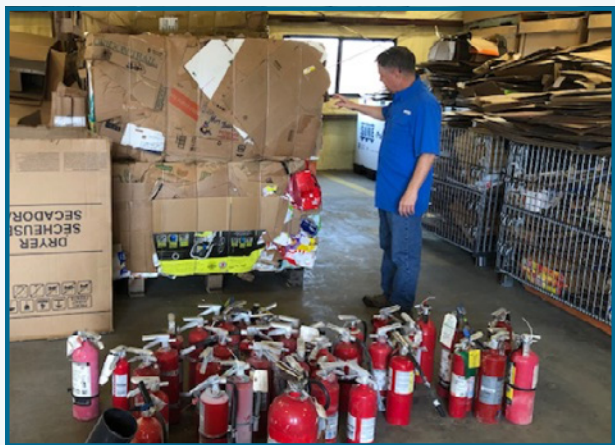
This includes:

- 874,014 lbs of metal
- 167,232 lbs of oil
- 153,981 lbs of lead acid batteries
- 61,330 lbs of cardboard
- 48,154 lbs of spent brass
- 32,768 lbs of crushed oil filters
- 24,936 lbs of aluminum cans
- 21,450 lbs of plastic
- 20,421 lbs of paper
- 11,540 lbs of toner cartridges
- 2,430 wooden pallets

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John Frost explains the cardboard baling and palletizing process in the QRP warehouse. Fire extinguishers are also accepted and have been refurbished for use by fire departments and organizations in need, eliminating the equipment from the waste stream.

easy for individuals who want to do the right thing, but may not have a dedicated recycling program where they live.

“Making recycling easy for people is important, and the state-wide distribution of our recycling boxes in the offices facilitates that,” said Jonathan Watson, Environmental Compliance Technician for Camp Beauregard. “Most may not go out of their way to recycle, but when recycling cans are nearby, it becomes much easier to do the right thing for the environment.”

“Our focus is on compliance with the regulations, and the diversion of waste from landfills is the primary driver for that – and diversion is more important than profit,” Frost added. “Reduction and reuse is key, and anything we can do to repurpose items or find another use or home for them is our goal.”

For more information, visit www.geauxguard.la.gov/qualified-recycling-program.

LDEQ mourns loss of Thomas Payne

Thomas Wade Payne, one of the most well-liked employees at LDEQ, passed away Saturday, April 9, in Mississippi. Tom worked at LDEQ for more than 30 years in shipping and receiving at headquarters in Baton Rouge. Born into a military family, Tom grew up at various locations overseas, before serving his country in the U.S. Air Force.

Always lending a hand to anyone in need, Tom volunteered for outreach activities such as helping with the annual McMains Developmental canoe day, an event offering children facing developmental challenges an opportunity to enjoy a day out on the water. An example of Tom’s hands-on, participatory nature – especially for those in need -- was exhibited during those events. Not one to simply stand idly by dry and on the shore, Tom chose to stand in the water. Carefully holding each canoe steady for the passengers to settle in, Tom guided them downstream with a hearty sendoff. That act of kindness summed up Tom and how he approached life.

Present, caring and supportive were just some of the traits he exhibited in his daily life, with many friends recalling how he took the time to ask about how people were doing.

Those who knew him will always remember him by his ever-present smile and lighthearted demeanor. He greeted everyone with a sincere “are you doing OK, today?”

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Connie, a retired LDEQ employee; and daughter, Corley. A memorial service was held for Tom on April 14 at Dutchtown Baptist Church in Prairieville. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to your favorite charity.



Thomas Payne



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LDEQ participates in New Orleans Saints and Pelicans STEM Fair

LDEQ Outreach and Small Business Assistance Staff were excited to work with the Saints, Pelicans and Chevron to create another great STEM Fair this year. Approximately 3,000 students from the Greater New Orleans area participated as several support organizations and their committed teams shared their time and expertise with the community. Held 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. April 1, the fair created an incredible educational experience for the schools.

“LDEQ staff demonstrated the Non-Point Source Enviroscape Model to inquisitive youngsters, showing them how pollution can impact the water in and around their communities,” said Linda Piper, environmental scientist manager with LDEQ’s Outreach and Small Business Assistance group.



Students attend the STEM Fest at the Ochsner Sports Performance Center (Saints indoor practice facility) in Metairie to learn about careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. LDEQ’s Small Business group was one of the participating guests during the event.



Perry Fontenot, with LDEQ’s Small Business section, demonstrates how the Enviroscape model works.



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LDEQ On The Move



Linda Piper (l) and Marissa Jimenez (r) stand with EPA Region 6 Small Business Administrator Ted James at the Louisiana Small Business Summit held at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge. LDEQ's Outreach and Small Business Assistance staff were on hand to provide information to the attendees on the Department's small business programs and general operations.



India Ambeau, LDEQ environmental scientist, demonstrates the functionality of the EnviroScape model to the attendees of the Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts' 76th Annual Meeting. The workshop was designed to certify participants to hold workshops where they can teach environmental activities to other environmental educators.



India Ambeau, Environmental scientist with LDEQ's Nonpoint Source group, visited First Baptist Christian School in Lafayette April 7 to talk about nonpoint source pollution. Using the EnviroScape model, the second graders learned about the impact that nonpoint source pollution can have on the environment.





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Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Mason Husmann – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division,
Office of Environmental Compliance, Northeast Regional Office**

Husmann is a native of Aurora, Mo., who moved to Monroe in 2016 to attend the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in toxicology in 2020 and graduated with a Master of Science degree in biology in 2021. He joined the LDEQ Surveillance Division in October 2021. Husmann enjoys being active, officiating high school football and spending time with family.

**Christopher Shipp – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division,
Office of Environmental Compliance**

Shipp is from Ville Platte. He graduated from McNeese State University in May 2021 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource conservation management.

Shipp previously worked for Idaho Fish and Game and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. He accepted a position with LDEQ in November 2021, working as an Environmental Scientist in the surveillance division.





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Louisiana Department Of Environmental Quality's First Quarter Summaries

First Quarter 2022 Enforcement Actions:

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

First Quarter 2022 Settlement Agreements:

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

First Quarter 2022 Air Permits:

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

First Quarter 2022 Water Permits:

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

First Quarter 2022 Solid and Hazardous Waste Permits:

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

