



# DISCOVER DEQ

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NEWSLETTER



May 2022 Issue Number: 124

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## "Be Air Aware and Prepared" the theme of May as Air Quality Awareness month

May is Air Quality Awareness Month nationally and in Louisiana. May 2 through May 6 was Air Quality Awareness Week in 2022. The theme for the week was "Be Air Aware and Prepared." This timeframe corresponds with the beginning of ozone season, wildfire season, and World Asthma Day.

Louisiana's air quality is the best it has been since the Clean Air Act was promulgated. The entire state is in attainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), but there is still much to do to maintain our progress.

The unclouded days we enjoy so much in the spring are not necessarily good for ozone levels. Spring weather may cause LDEQ to call Air Quality Advisory days. Air Quality advisories are based on a forecast, but like the weather forecast, the prediction for high ozone does not always result in a high ozone day. The purpose of the forecast is to help sensitive populations make informed decisions about outdoor activity.

The ozone and the PM 2.5 forecasts are determined by a set of variables: the presence of precursor pollutants, plus the amount of sunlight and wind. When Louisiana experiences high-pressure systems in the spring and fall, the result is clear skies and stagnant winds. Ozone forms in the highest concentrations, mainly on sunny days with light wind speeds. Add to this is the fact that the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are very close to the area's background levels.

Background levels reflect natural precursors, biogenic chemical compounds emitted from trees, plants, lightning and other natural occurrences. When the plants and trees are exhibiting new growth or becoming dormant during the spring and fall, they emit greater amounts of isoprene. The presence of biogenics coupled with man-made pollutants, in the presence of sunlight and stagnant winds, result in air quality advisories.

It is important to be aware of the air quality, and you can do this by signing up for EnviroFlash. This free, automated air quality notification system will send you an advisory, by email or text, when an Air Quality Advisory is forecast.

You can sign up to receive information daily by simply registering for EnviroFlash, at <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash>.

To access real-time air quality monitoring information, go to <http://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>.



## Message from the Secretary

**Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.**

Members of the surveillance staff from different offices were called to the Galvez Building for a meet-and-greet in two separate sessions, May 17 and 19. I was happy to get the opportunity to come by and talk to each group.

One thing I asked the attendees is how many have been here for five years or less. A majority of them raised their hands in both groups. I followed that with how many of you have been here for a year or less. Fewer, but still a large number raised their hands.

We have a young staff at LDEQ, and we need to be aware that we need to train all these freshman scientists in the subtleties and nuances of our work. What's the best way to keep one of your staff from making mistakes you wouldn't make? Teach them what you know. You can't impart 20 years of knowledge in 20 minutes, that's true, but you can set up a regular training schedule. You will find that 20 minutes a day three times a week can work wonders.

Hands-on is the best training. Show your employees how to do things, don't just tell them. Don't assume that they know what you know. Ask a lot of them. Maybe you won't get all you ask for, but you will get a lot. And don't forget the positive reinforcement. Tell them they did it right. Tell them they did it well.

Be a teacher, and you will learn yourself.

I am happy to see all these young people at LDEQ. They are the future. I am even happier to see some experienced people staying around to show the new generation the way. We need that institutional knowledge to ensure continuity at LDEQ.

### Weather

Stay informed on weather conditions. We are entering hurricane season and a storm can pop up in the Gulf of Mexico practically overnight. These early season storms may not be as powerful as the long track monsters we see in August and September, but they still pack a punch.

LDEQ's responsibilities can suddenly multiply if a storm makes landfall in Louisiana. History says that is very possible and even probable. You may have to come in to work or go out on a storm response. Be ready. Have your home ready, too. Visit **[GetAGameplan.com](#)** for tips on how to prepare.

### Core value

Each month I am revisiting one core value. This month, I will talk about "We will strive for continuous improvement."

We all want to get better at what we do. The secret is in knowing how to get better. It's simple. You have to try, and keep trying. Improvement is usually measured in small increments, although sometimes there can be a leap forward. Large or small, improvement won't happen without effort. You have to strive for improvement.

We must never be totally satisfied with our result. We must strive to improve and refine. We have to reset our goals each time we begin a task. You need faith to keep striving. You have to believe it's possible to reach that goal. And the next goal. And the next.

I know that's a lot to ask, but I believe you can do that.



*Here is the first group of surveillance staff in the Pensacola Room on May 17.*



## Air Quality Action Day advisories – when and why are they issued?

Ozone season is here again, and that means the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will issue Air Quality Action Day advisories when the conditions are conducive for the formation of ozone or Fine Particle pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Conditions are more favorable for ozone formation May through September but we can experience an exceedance anytime. It is important to be aware of air quality every month of the year.

An Air Quality Action Day for ozone means that weather conditions are favorable for the formation of higher than normal levels of ozone. LDEQ issues an Ozone Action Day advisory when the Air Quality Index (AQI) forecast is above 100, categorized as Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or Code Orange. When sunlight combines with Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), it forms higher than normal levels of ozone near the ground that may cause harmful health effects. Increased ozone levels may cause unhealthy air quality for the general population. Active children and adults, the elderly and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor activities.

To create these advisories, LDEQ works with a forecaster, Sonoma Technology, to look at the weather conditions and other factors to predict when ozone formation is likely or to identify other air quality issues. The factors include cloud cover, the presence of ozone precursors - volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides VOCs and NO<sub>x</sub> – along with wind speed and direction. These forecasts are listed daily on the LDEQ website and can be viewed at <http://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>.

Advisories are generally sent out in early to mid-afternoon, the day before the forecast advisory. In Louisiana, we tend to see ozone advisories more in May through September, when high-pressure systems stall over the area. Ozone advisories are more common on very sunny days with little or no wind for mixing. Ozone is a colorless gas that exists in the earth's stratosphere and protects us from the sun's ultraviolet rays. However, when ozone forms near the earth's surface, it can affect health.

When LDEQ issues an Ozone Action Day Advisory or when it appears that the AQI will reach 90 or above, Industry is requested to take voluntary measures to reduce ozone precursor emissions into the atmosphere. LDEQ notifies Industry when the ozone level is predicted to be 90 or above on the Air Quality Index (AQI). Industry then takes steps to reduce the level of ozone precursors that are released into the air. Many facilities have Ozone Action Plans.

However, individuals can also impact the air quality and be part of the solution by taking voluntary steps to reduce their impact on the air quality, such as:

- Drive Less – Carpool, take public transportation, walk more, bring your lunch to work and combine errands.
- Do not idle your car in car pool lines or use the drive-thru. Turn off your engine and go into the restaurant or business. You create less pollution by stopping and restarting your engine than you do idling.
- Refuel when temperatures are cooler – typically after 6 p.m.
- Mow grass and use other gas-powered lawn equipment and off-road vehicles after 6 p.m.
- Postpone chores that use oil-based paint, varnishes and solvents (that are flammable) to another, preferably breezy day.
- If you barbecue, use an electric starter or a chimney starter instead of lighter fluid.
- Conserve energy in your home.

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Set your thermostats a little higher when you are not at home to conserve energy and to help reduce the load placed on power producers. Not only will it save you money on your utility bills, but it also reduces the amount of precursor emissions produced by the power company. If you want to get free notifications of daily air quality or just get notified when there is an advisory, you can sign up for Enviroflash at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/enviroflash).

To obtain real-time air quality information, or to sign up for real-time notifications about ozone, PM2.5 or Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) go to <https://airquality.deq.louisiana.gov>.

To see the regional air quality information, go to [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov).

## EPA selects LDEQ for \$2 million Brownfields Assessment Grant

**O**n May 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a \$2 million grant to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to go toward Brownfields assessments. Additional Brownfields assessment grants in the amount of \$500,000 each were awarded to the city of Baton Rouge/East Baton Rouge Parish and the Regional Planning Commission (St. Bernard Parish Commercial Corridor). EPA also announced \$2 million in funding for the South Central Planning and Development Commission in Houma on behalf of the Brownfields Coalition Revolving Loan Fund.

What is a Brownfield? Brownfield sites are vacant and underutilized properties where actual or suspected environmental issues are a barrier to redevelopment. Under the Office of Environmental Assessment, Remediation Division, LDEQ's Brownfields Program partners Federal, State and local resources to facilitate the reuse of Brownfield sites throughout the state. Addressing potential environmental issues, especially financial and regulatory hurdles, is often intimidating and creates a barrier to the redevelopment or expanded use of these sites. LDEQ's Brownfields Program helps convert these properties from community liabilities into community assets by assisting local governments and communities navigate the environmental process from investigation to cleanup and redevelopment.

"We are grateful for these grants which will help bring more contaminated properties back into use through assessments and cleanups," said LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown. "By targeting blighted and underserved areas, Brownfields projects put effort and resources where they are most needed."

The community-wide grant funds will be used to conduct 50 Phase I and 30 Phase II environmental site assessments. The funding will also go toward the development of 25 cleanup plans and support community outreach activities. Target areas benefiting from the grant will be the city of Pineville, the Shreveport Common neighborhood in the Shreveport, and the city of Eunice's downtown district. Priority sites include a 618-acre hospital complex and closed gas stations, historic buildings, former dry cleaners and former industrial sites throughout all three target areas.

"I want to acknowledge the work of all our Brownfields staff and especially our Statewide Brownfields Coordinator, Rebecca Otte (and her team). They have logged a lot of hours putting together grant proposals and working with local governments to achieve this good outcome," said Roger Gingles, LDEQ Assistant Secretary for Assessment.

A \$500,000 Brownfields assessment grant will also be awarded to the city of Baton Rouge and the Parish of East Baton Rouge. Community-wide grant funds will be used to conduct 10 Phase I and 12 Phase II environmental site assessments. Grant funds will also be used to develop three cleanup plans and support community outreach activities in the Mid-City and

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Scotlandville neighborhoods and the Plank Road corridor – all communities with environmental justice concerns. Priority sites include a former auto repair facility, an 8-acre site where chemical drums were stored, cleaned out, and repainted, and a former filling station.

The Regional Planning Commission will also be awarded a \$500,000 Brownfields assessment grant. Community-wide grant funds will be used to conduct 15 Phase I and four Phase II environmental site assessments. Funding will also go toward developing five cleanup plans, one reuse plan, and one area-wide plan, and to support community outreach activities. The grant will target the St. Bernard Parish Commercial Corridor, with priority sites to include a 27-acre old Ford motor plant along the Mississippi River waterfront, a 48-acre former industrial business park, a former wastewater treatment plant, and a once-thriving shopping center and housing complex.

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields.

For more information on LDEQ's Brownfields Programs go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/brownfields).

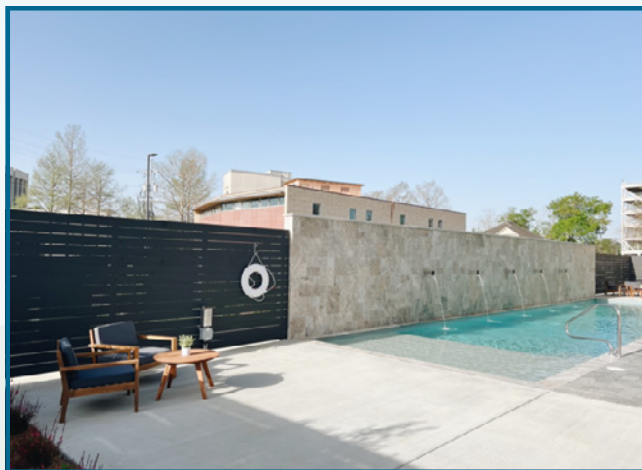
## LDEQ celebrates Lofts at the Municipal Ribbon Cutting

After a decade of working with stakeholders to assess the environmental conditions of the site to facilitate its revitalization, LDEQ Brownfield Program members attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently renovated Lofts at the Municipal.

The former Lafayette Federal Courthouse Building, Police Administration Building, and Acadiana Arts Building at the corner of East Main Street and Lee Avenue in downtown Lafayette, were initially enrolled in LDEQ's Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) program in 2010 to begin revival of the vacant blighted buildings.

Initial environmental work included a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment and asbestos and lead-based paint surveys, completed on behalf of the Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) who owned the site at the time. In 2018, LCG conducted a nationwide developer search and selected the team of Place de Lafayette and Weinstein Nelson Developers to acquire the property for redevelopment. Additional assessment work needed to compile a comprehensive cleanup plan was then completed with the support of LDEQ's TBA.

A \$785,000 loan from the South Louisiana Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (managed by the South Central Planning and Development Commission which includes Acadiana Planning Commission as a partner) funded the abatement of lead-based paint and asbestos identified throughout the three buildings. With the environmental issues addressed, the developers invested \$17.2 million to transform the vacant buildings that had blighted downtown Lafayette area for decades into a mid-century modern living space within historically significant structures.



*Outdoor view at the Lofts at the Municipal Brownfields Project.*

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The April 7th ribbon cutting was a true celebration, with performances by local musicians David Greely and Steve and Burke Riley. Developers, community leaders, and stakeholders gathered to commemorate the completion of the project and the long road traveled to finally open these new homes to the community. Speakers at the ceremony included Anita Begnaud, CEO of the Downtown Development Authority, and developers E.J. Krampe and Dyke Nelson, all of whom highlighted the perseverance of stakeholders who believed in this long-awaited project.

The Lofts at the Municipal provides 68 energy-efficient living units with 37 unique layouts in downtown Lafayette with easy access to work opportunities, music venues, galleries, shops, and restaurants, supporting the overall revitalization of area. The renovated complex includes a variety of community amenities such as vibrant historical murals and artwork, resort-inspired pool and tanning deck, social lounge with media wall, courtyard with outdoor grills, and pet washing station all with beautiful architectural design concepts that incorporate the history of the buildings and the Acadian culture.

For more information, visit [www.LoftsAtTheMunicipal.com](http://www.LoftsAtTheMunicipal.com).

## The results of Love the Boot week are in

Congratulations Louisiana! Love the Boot week in April was a success.

Two hundred eighty groups registered to pick up litter during the week culminating in Earth Day. The groups were from all areas of the state and comprised of families, nonprofits, Keep Louisiana Beautiful affiliates, organizations, local and state agencies, town and local governments and more.

LDEQ had volunteers from the Baton Rouge headquarters, Acadiana Regional, Kitsatchie, and Southwest Regional offices participating. A big thank you to all who participated. Good job.

During Love the Boot Week 2022, 8,476 volunteers and participants collected 293 tons of litter!

Keep it going and let's not lose the momentum. Here are some things you can do to let Louisiana shine:

- Organize a cleanup or volunteer
- Take the 4th Saturday Cleaning Pledge
- When you see it – pick it up
- Spread the word, not the litter

Visit [letlouisianashine.org](http://letlouisianashine.org) or [www.keeplouisianabeautiful.com](http://www.keeplouisianabeautiful.com).

To see the complete report, go to [https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Love-the-Boot-Impact-Report\\_final-2022.pdf](https://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Love-the-Boot-Impact-Report_final-2022.pdf).



## Trash Bash in Lafayette removes 2.12 tons of litter from the city

Lafayette's annual Trash Bash, held 8 a.m. until noon Saturday, April 23, was a success. The event, postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, returned this year, bringing many past volunteers as well as new ones who donated their time to remove litter from community areas.

Hosted by Keep Lafayette Beautiful, the Environmental Quality Division of Lafayette Consolidated Government, and the Bayou Vermilion District (BVD), the Trash Bash focused on a comprehensive litter pickup along parks, streets, and along Bayou Vermilion.

Volunteers had the option to clean up Bayou Vermilion or another location in Lafayette Parish. Many Bayou Vermilion volunteers brought personal watercraft to make litter more accessible in certain areas.

The event began at the Begnaud House on Fisher Road in Lafayette, with T-shirts, supplies, lunch and refreshments provided to the attendees.

During the 4-hour event, 88 volunteers removed approximately 2.12 tons of trash and four waste tires from more than 9.5 miles and 10 acres of city roads and parks. "According to the waste audit conducted by Keep Lafayette Beautiful, the items most picked up during the event were single use Styrofoam cups and to-go containers," said Greg Guidroz, recycling supervisor with Lafayette Consolidated Government's Public Works Department. "Most of the trash picked up during the event goes to the landfill, minus tires and scrap metal."

Guidroz noted that packaging materials have the greatest potential to be recycled when they are still in the hands of consumers and are properly deposited in a recycle bin. The Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) is not equipped for washing plastics and other materials prior to separation and bailing, so it's incumbent upon consumers to clean those materials prior to placing them in recycling bins.

The cleanup has been in place for several years, and in 2019 included 175 volunteers who removed 15 waste tires and 20 cubic yards of trash from the area. After the pandemic postponed the 2020 cleanup, a small cleanup took place in 2021 before organizers were able to return to form with this year's event.

"This year, we had volunteers conduct another brand audit on a portion of the litter collected during the event. The waste audit data will be submitted to the citizen science project initiated by the Break Free From Plastics Coalition and will be compiled with an international database identifying brand producers of packaging materials that ends up as litter in our environment," Guidroz said. The overall idea is to identify where most of the litter is coming from, and open a dialogue with the vendors



*Photo courtesy of Lafayette government. Volunteers sifted through the litter and identified Styrofoam cups and food packaging as the most common discards.*



*Photo courtesy of Lafayette government. More than 104 bags of litter were collected by the volunteers in Lafayette.*

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at those locations in order to seek pro-environmental alternatives that will reduce the impact that the litter will have on the community.

Reducing waste – specifically repetitive waste – has been a hurdle that the city, and many cities across the state are facing. To address this issue, during this year's cleanup, data was collected in support of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation. "We have plenty of proven technologies to deal with recyclable materials, however without proper legislation, there is no steady incentive for entrepreneurs to invest millions to billions of dollars in infrastructure projects when there is no legislation to secure a circular supply chain for turning recyclable materials into usable products," Guidroz said. He added that EPR legislation is the best chance the city has to reduce the burden on the landfills.

Keeping Lafayette and the Atchafalaya Basin litter free while engaging the community in litter reduction and watershed protection are important themes in the Trash Bash. Identifying the sources of pollution and informing the public on preserving their environment is a big part of Lafayette's mission.

For more information, check out the event's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/events/278873787765205/?ref=newsfed](https://www.facebook.com/events/278873787765205/?ref=newsfed)

Anyone needing help identifying a clean-up site can call or send an email to [recycling@lafayettela.gov](mailto:recycling@lafayettela.gov).

## Ascension and St. Landry parishes hold Household Hazardous Materials Collection days

**A**scension Parish Held its Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day (HHMD) at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 14. LDEQ volunteers manned the paint booth – accepting paint, recycling it for reuse, blending the paint in five gallon containers and sending it to Habitat for Humanity.

At the HHMD, the 19 volunteers served 470 cars and blended 101 five gallon buckets of paint for Habitat.

St. Landry Parish Household Hazardous Materials Day was held on May 21 at the St. Landry Parish Recycling Centers in Eunice and Opelousas and was open to all residents of St Landry Parish. Thirteen LDEQ volunteers recycled paint and mixed it in five gallon buckets. They served 157 cars and mixed 44 five gallon buckets of paint which went to Habitat for Humanity.



LDEQ volunteers at the Ascension Parish HHMD.



LDEQ volunteers at the St. Landry Parish HHMD.





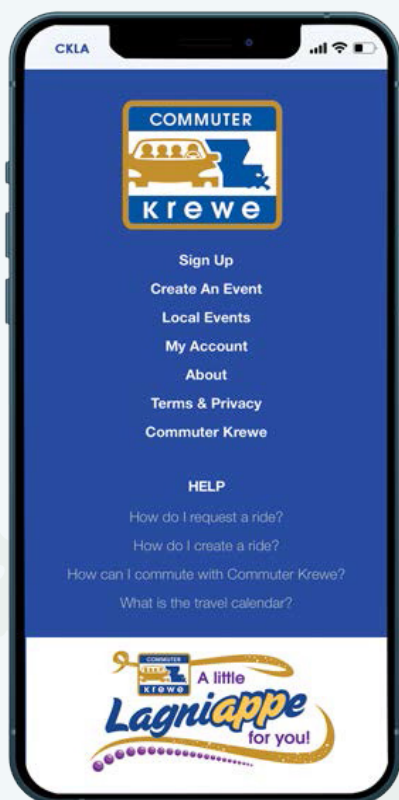
## Commuter Krewe offers solutions and help with traffic congestion

**C**ommuter Krewe is a free service that helps commuters find transportation options for work, school or any place you have to drive. You can become a Krewe member and find more flexible ways to commute with a ride that suits your needs.

Carpooling is one way to save on your commute, as vehicle maintenance costs and wear and tear on your vehicle can add up. Carpooling has the added benefit of reducing air pollution, by keeping one less car on the highways. If you are worried about getting a ride home in an emergency, the Krewe has a solution. With the emergency ride home program, you receive four reimbursed trips a year so you will not be stranded at work.

### Commuter Krewe is now available in a free app

that can lower travel costs, save time, reduce stress and help ease traffic congestion. Download the app and find others who live and work near you and share your ride. You will find it in your app store.



Commuter Krewe App



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In May, the Commuter Krewe held a luncheon at Lod Cook Alumni Center at LSU to honor partners who have been an integral part of their success in Louisiana. Rewards were presented for various categories such as Partnership, Rising Star, Level Up, Major Impact and Performance leaders.

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Secretary Shawn Wilson spoke to the group about the challenges we face now and in the future and how they plan to be addressed.

East Baton Rouge Director of Transportation and Drainage Fred Raiford presented information to the group concerning traffic issues in the Baton Rouge area. Raiford discussed how traffic will be addressed by “modernizing the entire signal system so Baton Rouge will be a connected city with centrally manager mobility.” This will be accomplished with the use of fiber optic cable, signal retiming and connected corridors.

The work is planned to be completed by 2024.

Renae Skinner and Jacob Bradford – Evening Anchors at WVLA-B R Proud shared their experiences with commuting and Baton Rouge’s congested traffic.

LDEQ received a Level Up Award and the other awards were presented as follows:

- Rising Star Award (Cox and CSRS)
- Partnership Award (CATS, Capitol City Produce, LA Clean Fuels, LA DNR, Office of the Mayor-President)
- Level-Up Award (Associated Grocers, Bike Baton Rouge, ITI Technical College, LDEQ, LSU)
- Major Impact Award (Amerihealth, AT&T, Fortis, Southern Univ.)
- Performance Leader (Belle of Baton Rouge Casino, IBM, L’Auberge Casino, Div. of Administration)

For more information about Commuter Krewe and their programs go to [www.commuterkrewe.la](http://www.commuterkrewe.la).



*LDEQ Secretary Chuck Carr Brown with the Level Up Award*



*Top left – Fred Raiford, top right Jacob Bradford and Renae Skinner and bottom right Dr. Shawn Wilson DOTD Secretary*



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## Louisiana has two Gulf Guardian Award winners for 2022

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Division announced Andrew Barron of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and St. Tammany Parish Government & Pontchartrain Conservancy are two winners of the Gulf Guardian Awards for 2022.

Barron, Senior Water Quality Resources Manager and Quality Assurance Manager for BTNEP, has developed projects in water quality, culture, education, and economic development in the South Louisiana coastal area. St Tammany Parish Government and Pontchartrain Conservancy won the award for its Home System Inspections project, which is designed to improve beaches, living marine resources and water quality in the Gulf.

Barron, who has been with BTNEP for 14 years, is a prominent scientist who has devoted 25 years to water quality research and education. He is well respected in the science community for his work with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP). His expertise goes further than water quality as Barron can be found teaching about Louisiana's land loss issues, edible plants, soil types, invasive species and cultural sciences.

"Most of our nation's waterways are impaired at high levels due to improperly treated wastewater coming from individual home sewage systems," Barron said. "Home sewage assistance programs are absolutely critical if we want to restore our waterways for human and fisheries health."

St. Tammany Parish Government and the Pontchartrain Conservancy (PC) worked in partnership to improve watersheds in the Parish through a cooperative approach. PC was tasked with conducting door-to-door inspections in the Ozone Woods subdivision. The PC team inspected home wastewater systems in the project area and provided homeowners and residents with instruction and education on proper operation and maintenance. By the completion of the project, 347 onsite wastewater systems (ATUs) and 82 septic tanks became compliant or functional as a result of the inspection program, per EPA.

"I am incredibly proud of the efforts of our team who work diligently to prioritize the needs of our citizens," St. Tammany Parish President Mike Coopersaid. "It is satisfying to know that our inspections of home wastewater treatment systems in the Bayou Liberty Watershed has improved the water quality and the quality of life for our citizens."

The Gulf of Mexico Program initiated the Gulf Guardian awards in 2000 to recognize and honor the businesses, community groups, individuals and agencies that are taking positive steps to keep the Gulf healthy, beautiful and productive. First, second and third place awards are given in seven categories: individual, business/industry, youth environmental education, civic/nonprofit organizations, cultural diversity/environmental justice, partnership and bi-national efforts, according to EPA.

EPA said that the Gulf of Mexico Program began in 1988 to protect, restore, and maintain the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem in economically sustainable ways. The Gulf of Mexico Program is underwritten by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is a non-regulatory, inclusive consortium of state and federal government agencies and representatives of the business and agricultural community, fishing industry, scientists, environmentalists, and community leaders from all five Gulf States. The Gulf Program seeks to improve the environmental health of the Gulf in concert with economic development.





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## LDEQ employees rally for the American Heart Association and Tom Payne

***LDEQ's 2022 donation to the American Heart Association is \$2,214!***

This year, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality raised money for the American Heart Association in two ways: through the Annual Fundraiser and with a special collection in honor of longtime LDEQ employee Thomas Payne, who passed away in April of this year.

Totals for each fundraiser are:

**LDEQ Annual Fundraiser** – \$1,214

**LDEQ Annual Fundraiser - 2022 American Heart Association**

**In Memory of Tom Payne** – \$1,000

**In Memory of Tom Payne, LDEQ Employee – 2022 American Heart Association**



*LDEQ Undersecretary Karyn Andrews presents the LDEQ check for the Fundraiser to Capital Area Heart Walk Director Nicole Naquin Jackson.*

## LDEQ Employee Appreciation Day

LDEQ employees enjoyed ice cream provided by the executive staff for employee appreciation day on May 5, 2022.







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## Who's Who At LDEQ?



**Matthew Hollis – Environmental Scientist, Emergency Response Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, Southeast Regional Office**

Hollis graduated from University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor's in biological science. He has worked with multiple engineering and consulting firms from 2010 to 2015; projects included the Exxon Pipeline incident in Mayflower, Ark., and BP Deepwater Horizon.

Hollis also worked as an Oil Spill Responder with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries from 2015 to 2017, then worked with the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office as a Responder and On Scene Coordinator from 2017 until 2021.

He is currently with LDEQ in Emergency Response in the Southeast Regional Office.

**Hannah Cleary – Environmental Scientist, Air Field Services, Office of Environmental Assessment, Southeast Regional Office**

Born and raised in Albuquerque, N.M., Cleary attended the University of New Mexico and graduated with a bachelor's in biology with a focus in conservation and ecological studies. During her time in school she participated in evolutionary studies of Anolis lizards, collecting and surveying forested areas in Panama and Puerto Rico.

Shortly after, Cleary found her way to New Orleans and started working as an Entomologist at the Audubon Insectarium and Butterfly Garden. Pursuing entomology opened doors into the public health world for Cleary, whereupon she spent her most recent years studying mosquito vectored diseases and control. Cleary is now settling in at LDEQ as an environmental scientist in Air Field Services.



**Joe L. Carruth – Environmental Scientist, Surveillance Division, Office of Environmental Compliance (Solid & Hazardous Waste), Southeast Regional Office**

Carruth is a New Orleans native, who attended Southern University at New Orleans. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology. He recently joined the LDEQ Surveillance Division as an environmental scientist after working at the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans for two and a half years.

Carruth has more than ten years of experience working in law enforcement with Orleans and Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Offices. He enjoys movies, reading books, playing the piano, traveling, cooking, football, and many other outdoor activities.



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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>

