



# Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Newsletter

## A Message from DNR Secretary Chustz

As Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, I am fortunate to have a unique perspective from which to view the changes that take place in the way our natural resources are utilized by the citizens and industries in this state. The men and women who work at DNR do a wonderful job of adjusting to these changes to maintain a balanced but protective regulatory regime. Our stated mission is to provide a fair, predictable and effective regulatory system that allows opportunities for development and economic growth through the use of our natural resources while at the same time ensuring protection of public safety and the environment – and the evidence of that ongoing commitment from the men and women of DNR can be seen throughout the department and the state.

## An Extraordinary Gentleman in a League of his Own

**Employee Profile**  
**Joseph "Jackie" F. DeVall**  
Office of Conservation District  
Manager  
Shreveport Office  
Since 2001



In 2012, Governor Bobby Jindal recognized Jackie DeVall with something no one else has yet to achieve, 50+ years as a Professional Engineer serving the state of Louisiana as a member of the state's Engineering and Land Surveying Board.

It is with genuine reverence and admiration that his colleagues look to him for guidance and leadership, for he has a remarkable public service record. After earning his degree from LSU in 1960, he worked in the bays and marshes of south Louisiana for Texaco Inc. But in 1961, DeVall joined the ranks of state government civil service, beginning his career with the Office of Conservation as an Engineer, advancing time and again, currently, serving as the office's District Manager in Shreveport.

While working in the Baton Rouge office for 17 years, DeVall headed the Inspection and Enforcement Division and worked on a number of environmental committees, with legislative leaders as well as business and industry officials. His retirement in 1981, was short-lived – for the call of duty came knocking and he answered with "I'll be there."

The secret to JFD's longevity is likely in his work ethic, being a team player, moving beyond the no's, and finding solutions to difficult problems when faced with them over the years. He displays a calm and easy manner, yet he is a firm and effective manager in addition to an outstanding communicator.

Beyond his job description as a regulator, once you have met him you know right away, he's been more than ordinary in all areas of his life—personally and professionally. In the middle of all this irrefutable dedication, DeVall has been generous with his time as a community leader and family man.

We salute Jackie - his career and his accomplishments.



March 11  
April 8

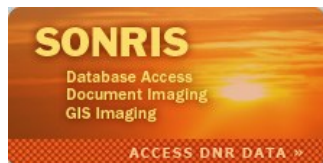
**Mineral and Energy Board**  
Lease Sale and Meeting  
Baton Rouge

March 18-20  
**La. Environmental  
Solid Waste Conference**  
Cajundome  
Lafayette

April 13  
**Start of 2015 La. Legislative  
Session**  
State Capitol

## All About *The Energy State*

### State Leasing Program, OMR and SONRIS Featured at NAPE Summit



**Coming Soon: Register  
For SONRIS Workshop**

**Friday, March 27**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

This year, the Office of Mineral Resources staff including Byron Miller, Jason Talbot, Michael Harvey and Matthew Schroeder attended the NAPE Summit (North American Prospect Expo) held in Houston in February. The event in the upstream oil and gas business is considered the largest and most successful of its kind in the world bringing deal makers together.

The massive four-day event offers prospects, producers and purchasers a unique chance to connect, reconnect and make deals. Most impressive was the 14 acres of exhibition space where some 15,000 attendees had a chance to examine Exploration and Production trends, as well as talk to vendors, leading executives and speakers, and learn of legislative and regulatory challenges and technical advances in the business.

OMR has participated in the expo for many years, but this year, a newly-designed exhibit showcasing Louisiana as *The Energy State* proved quite the show stopper. New and updated materials were displayed and attendees were coached in the workings of the DNR SONRIS records and database system.

Close to 300 business contacts were made during the summit which will potentially lead to business with the state. The next NAPE Conference in Houston is scheduled for August 2015.



## Paul Miller Selected for National Board of Energy Officials

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) has recently named its Board of Directors which is empowered to shape the group's mission and strategic objectives.

Last month, DNR Energy Office's Assistant Director Paul Miller was elected to serve on the Board as representative from the Central Region.

The State Energy Offices manage strategic programs to support the private sector in increasing efficiency, developing domestic and renewable sources, promoting economic development, delivering emergency planning and response, and reducing imported oil reliance. The NASEO headquarters is in Arlington, Virginia.

Learn more about NASEO- [www.naseo.org](http://www.naseo.org)

## Groundwater Awareness Week is March 8-14, 2015

### Emphasis on Water-Wise in BR Program

The Office of Conservation is getting the word out about why groundwater is a valuable natural resource. If you haven't seen the "Water Footprint" poster that illustrates how much freshwater is used to grow, process and consume a good or product – then it's high time to check it out – it's certainly an eye-opener! Conservation's Outreach and Education Coordinator Matthew Reonas is working to ensure widespread awareness of "being water-wise." The latest venture in the office's educational campaign known as "Water-Wise in BR" includes a set of traveling exhibits that is currently working its way through the East Baton Rouge Parish Library System.

"We have great interest and support from the Library, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, and companies like ExxonMobil, as well as teachers and environmental groups," noted Reonas. Adults and students are getting the message. According to E.B.R. Library System Asst. Director Mary Stein, "Thousands of patrons pass through our doors every day, from every walk of life, every neighborhood, and every age group in the parish."

Learn more at <http://waterwise.dnr.la.gov>.



Six-year old Will Reonas was photographed at the Jones Creek Library with some of the promotional materials offered by the "Water-Wise in BR" effort.

### Water-Wise in BR

A conservation effort to educate citizens, students and teachers about groundwater and the states' Southern Hills Aquifer.

## 2015 Theme: "Rocking with Heart" for AHA

If walking is your thing consider the upcoming Capital Area Heart Walk which is a 5K walk at the LSU Old Front Nine Course on the LSU campus starting at 9 am on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

The DNR Rock Stars are led by Team Captain Cornelius Williams in the Office of Coastal Management. He can be reached at [Cornelius.williams@la.gov](mailto:Cornelius.williams@la.gov).

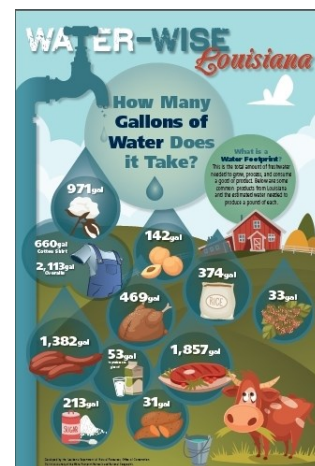
[Follow This Link](#) to visit the DNR Rock Stars heart walk team web page and help with efforts to support American Heart Association - Capital Area, LA

Remember, past supporters like you allowed the American Heart Association to fund the researcher that developed the stent, pacemaker and many lifesaving drugs.

With your donation, imagine what advancements we can make for the future.



**American  
Heart  
Association®**



### DNR Geaux Team Public and Community Outreach Events

Northeast Elementary –  
Opelousas  
St. Landry Parish  
Second Grade

Nesom Middle – Tickfaw  
Tangipahoa Parish  
Eighth Grade

La. Environmental  
Education Commission  
State Symposium  
Baton Rouge

Our Lady of Mercy  
Elementary  
Baton Rouge  
Library/Assembly

## Proposed Regulatory Rules and Changes Headed for Legislative Action

The Office of Conservation's rules are contained in Title 43 of the Louisiana Administrative Code. The process of changing the rules and developing new rules follow the state's Administrative Procedure Act. Agencies are continuously improving on ways to broaden accessibility of the process so that the public can easily follow along.

DNR and Office of Conservation's website provide current and comprehensive information with regard to all rulemaking within the agency. Once on the DNR homepage [www.dnr.la.gov](http://www.dnr.la.gov) - anyone researching and interested in regulatory and governing laws will find that they are just a click or two from getting answers and information.

In its ongoing effort to streamline procedures and improve on regulatory oversight, the Office of Conservation reviews rules and proposes updates as current times, standards and technology call for change. Right now, there are three rulemaking proposals taking shape including implementing application requirements for carbon dioxide enhanced oil recovery, increasing financial security requirements so that requirements are consistent with plug and abandonment costs, and adding a 1,250 foot setback from a school, hospital or public park for new Exploration and Production waste disposal facilities.

## Steven Giambrone Named Pipeline Division Director

Recently retired with 25 years of dedicated service to DNR, Pipeline Division Director James Mergist has charted a new course for himself over in the Lone Star state. In February, many of his friends and coworkers gathered together to offer him well wishes and celebrate his career of public service.

Chosen to move into the role as Pipeline Division Director is Steven Giambrone, whose excellent record of service after six years as a manager within the division affirmed his promotion. Giambrone is a Petroleum Engineer and will be leading a team of Conservation Enforcement Specialists.

The main function of the division is regulating the movement of intrastate natural gas. The office oversees a comprehensive pipeline safety inspection and enforcement program for both intrastate natural gas and hazardous liquids pipelines.

## Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System (SONRIS) A Free One-Day Workshop to be held March 27<sup>th</sup>

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources has announced another of its popular SONRIS Workshops to be held in Baton Rouge from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the LaSalle Building, 617 North Third Street. An understanding of the components and automated tools of SONRIS will be presented at the workshop. Participants can expect to learn the following:

- ◇ Getting started with Database Access and Document Access
- ◇ Online Reporting to Conservation
- ◇ Coastal Use Permitting and Tracking System usage
- ◇ GIS usage, and upcoming upgrades
- ◇ Mineral Resources Leasing System

The workshop will demonstrate the most frequently used access methods, queries, and reports. Participants will learn how to access Louisiana oil well profiles, query for wells in a specified area, view production volumes, print scout reports, etc. American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL) credit may be earned for this training.

For agenda and registration, visit [www.sonris.com](http://www.sonris.com)



## No Net Loss of Wetlands and Compensatory Mitigation – What It Means

By Kelley Templet, Office of Coastal Management

Mitigation is all actions taken to avoid, minimize, restore, and compensate for loss of coastal resources due to an activity. Avoidance and minimization can start in the planning phase of an activity by conducting all activities in a non-wetland location. The rules and procedures for the Office of Coastal Management's Permits and Mitigation Division were approved as part of the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program and require compensatory mitigation for impacts to coastal resources in the state's coastal zone. These rules stipulate that a Coastal Use Permit (CUP) will not be allowed unless the permit includes a requirement for compensatory mitigation to offset any net loss of coastal wetland values that are anticipated to occur for the specified activity. Compensatory Mitigation is accomplished through the replacement, substitution, enhancement, or protection of coastal resources in order to offset anticipated losses caused by a permitted activity and achieve no net loss.

The mitigation program began in 1995, and since then, with evolving oversight and management, regulatory practices of the program are compatible with the State's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast and provide a consistent and transparent permitting process. The latest amendments to the rules and procedures were made in January 2014.

Two excellent examples of marsh creation projects that were constructed using the Office of Coastal Management's Beneficial Use and Coastal Mitigation Account Funding are:

The Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation project located in Plaquemines Parish where 40 additional acres of brackish marsh was created. This project has been completed.

The Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation project located in Vermilion Parish where funds will be used for 33 additional acres of fresh/intermediate marsh creation. This project is currently in construction.

## Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan FY 2016 Available Online

By April Newman, Coastal Research Scientist

The Atchafalaya Basin Program has completed the final version of its fiscal year 2016 annual plan. Copies of the plan have been distributed to members of the Atchafalaya Basin Oversight Committee, the LA House of Representatives Natural Resources and Environment Committee, and the LA Senate Natural Resources Committee. During the upcoming legislative session, the plan is considered for final approval, funding, and implementation.

The plan is available in CD format for anyone wishing to receive one. Get a free download of the plan on the Atchafalaya Basin Program's website at: [BASIN.LA.GOV](http://BASIN.LA.GOV). Requests for printed copies should be directed to April Newman at [april.newman@la.gov](mailto:april.newman@la.gov) or (225) 342-6437.

## DNR in Partnership with the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council

International visitors traveling to the United States who are a part of the Diplomacy Council's leadership exchange programs have the opportunity to meet with professionals and experts in their field of interest, with business and industry leaders, and with members of state and local governments.

The New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council's members and professional resources are citizen diplomats who extend friendship, knowledge, and culture to international guests.

DNR has worked with the Council and the U.S. Department of State for over 10 years, having shared information primarily on the state's regulatory and environmental processes and energy technology. In February 2015, the department provided a briefing on it programs and services to several engineers, ministry officials and professors from Iraq. The group also met with La. Oil and Gas Association staff, visited the LSU Center for Energy Studies, and Shell's Oilfield Training Facility in Robert, La.



Office of Mineral Resources managers Rick Heck and Emile Fontenot along with Energy manager Louis McArthur provided an agency overview for the Iraqi visitors. Conservation's Brent Campbell also presented.