

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Newsletter

Spreading awareness in an effort to influence change

Making Energy Efficiency a Priority in our Lives

In Louisiana and other states, the month of October was recognized as Energy Awareness Month, with a push for citizens to get more involved in becoming energy efficient in their daily lives.

DNR Secretary Thomas Harris informed that the department advocates empowering citizens and our young people with educational information so that positive steps toward conserving our natural resources can be made. Secretary Harris noted, “the power behind behavioral efficiency lies with the consumer while industry must step up with strategies and investments to support energy savings for the future.”

Additionally, Secretary Harris said the department promotes alternative transportation fuel usage, energy efficiency projects, the use of renewal energy such as solar power, along with responsible energy exploration and development.

During the month, DNR’s Energy and Public Information Office posted energy facts, messages, and energy-savings tips on its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. An informational video was produced and hosted on the agency’s website to encourage citizens to learn about ways to take proactive steps toward energy conservation.

La. Governor John Bel Edwards’ proclamation supported DNR efforts, particularly in its role of administrating energy efficiency projects for homes, schools, businesses, industry and government facilities. [Gov. Edwards Proclamation](#)

It’s time that we all take some real action– Conservation Slogans like these should become our new norm.

Reduce Reuse Recycle

If It's Not In Use - Turn off the Juice

Don't be Fuelish!

Save Energy Save Money with Energy Star



Louisiana Department of Natural Resources



dnr.la.gov



DNR Energy Office Education and Community Outreach

Recently, the Runnels School in Baton Rouge 6th graders learned about how clean burning fuels like natural gas can help reduce fossil fuel air emissions. The topic of Clean Cities and Clean Fuels along with other U.S. DOE programs initiated plenty of discussion about changes in the way we live and about what’s important for saving our planet, our future, our health and national security.

Pictured here: Ann Vail, Executive Director at [Louisiana Clean Fuels](#) is surrounded by several enthusiastic students including her daughter Megan, and project assistant, Tyler Herrmann at the far left.

DNR Energy Awareness Social Media Campaign : Check out some of the tweets and posts

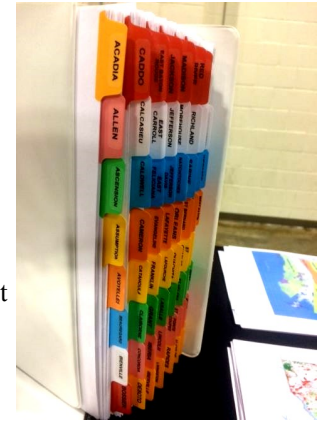
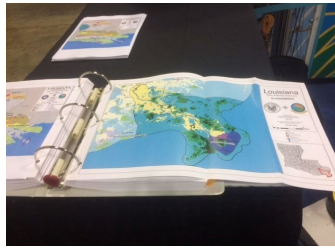
- ◆ Over 7,000 homes in La. are powered by solar power
- ◆ Looking for a STEM career – Think about oil and gas
- ◆ Currently there are over a billion cars on earth– Go Electric
- ◆ ULL Solar Farm project to generate power for the university
- ◆ Did you know-Only ENERGY STAR products are independently certified to save energy

The Notebook—By parish oil and gas activity, acreage, assets and more

Kudos from the municipalities to Office of Mineral Resources' Geology Lands Administrator Boyd Handley and Geologist Supervisor Byron Miller who attended this summer's La. Municipal Association's Conference in Shreveport where they interacted with mayors and local elected officials about the state's mineral leasing program and the department.

Miller developed a notebook of oil and gas statistics, geographic maps, leasing information, operator, production and permitting information tabulated by parish - making it simple and comprehensive for officials to get a snapshot of the resources and activity happening in their parish, cities, and towns.

The 'notebook' has become a great tool for use by the office and the public on a continuing basis.



Dr. Britton of OCM takes visitors on tour of river diversions and other projects

DNR's Office of Coastal Management, in coordination with the LSU School of Coast and Environment, recently worked together to conduct a day-long field trip with a group of visiting wetlands scientists from China showing them a variety of coastal wetlands projects.

Coastal Resources Mitigation Scientist Dr. Ed Britton worked with Dr. Aixin Hou and Dr. Qianxin Lin of LSU Coast and Environment to organize a group of seven visiting scientists from the China Academy of Science, led by Dr. Wu Zhengfang, Dean at Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China to view and examine several coastal restoration sites. CPRA staff and OCM Field Biologist Frank Cole helped to make arrangements and recommendations for a productive day in the field.

On October 17th Dr. Britton gathered the team of thirteen for a five-project tour covering a 40-mile radius of New Orleans. The scientists began with a stop at a relatively recent site to the east of New Orleans, Turtle Bayou, which was constructed within the past year but not vegetated yet. An older coastal wetland restoration project near Myrtle Grove, Bayou Dupont BA-0039, was shown where vegetation was very well established. By the end of the day, the group viewed the LaBranche Wetland after seeing the Naomi Outfall and Davis Pond river diversion projects in Plaquemines and St. Charles parishes.



Thank You Letter to Environmental Impact Specialist Teri Tharp of Conservation

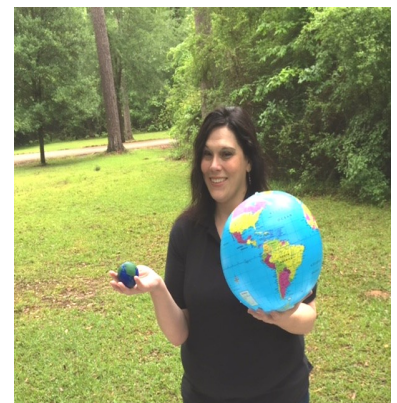
Secretary Harris and Commissioner Ieyoub wish to extend their sincere appreciation to the Office of Conservation's Environmental Division staff— particularly to Teri Tharp of the Ground Water section who was recently praised for her outstanding public service. Reprinted is this letter of gratitude to Teri from Ronald G. Bourgeois, Jr., Landman, North Shore Asphalt, Barriere Construction Co., Franklinton, La. (Photo shown: Tharp is also a member of the department's Geaux Team, providing community, classroom and STEM outreach and education across the state.)

"Too often, folks are quick to complain about poor service and loath to compliment good service upon receiving it. I've intended to extend a compliment for some time, and I'm finally getting around to it. Better late than never..."

Several years ago, DNR's water well records came to my attention. I called DNR to find out more about accessing these records, and had the good fortune of connecting with Teri Tharp, an Environmental Impact Specialist. She took the time to tell me how DNR has made big push to digitize these records and explain how they are kept and used. Mrs. Tharp was and continues to be helpful, courteous, and most importantly FAST! I have now been dealing with Mrs. Tharp for almost three years. Whenever I have requested records for review, I almost always receive them within a day of the request. Mrs. Tharp has rendered this wonderful state resource easily accessible, while making it a pleasure to do so.

As a landman, I often deal with public facing employees at the Federal, State, Parish, and municipal level. The level of service provided by Mrs. Tharp is a pleasant surprise and well above expectations. The State could use many more like Mrs. Tharp in Civil Service."

Sincerely, Ronnie



A Message from DNR Secretary Tom Harris

I recently had the opportunity to join with several members of our DNR staff in meeting with a delegation from Nigeria to discuss how we do the work of regulating the oil and gas industry – everything from permitting to enforcement and protecting the state’s mineral rights. Their interest in how we approach regulating the energy industry was a compliment to the work our staff does day in and day out in ensuring we appropriately maintain the balance between the needs of economic development and protection for the environment and human health in this state.

The laws and regulations that guide us are the heart of what we do, but those rules would be meaningless without the work ethic, commitment to our shared mission and constant effort to improve and find new efficiencies that the men and women of this agency have consistently demonstrated. And that serves not only the people of Louisiana, but helps to serve as an example to other governments, even other nations, of how to approach the dual responsibility of encouraging economic growth and protecting the people and their environment. I believe that the staff of this agency carry out that responsibility well and provide a strong example that others can follow.

Photo: Thanks to Office of Conservation Engineering staff Brent Campbell and Carrie Wiebert as well as Office of Mineral Resources Executive staff Stacey Talley and Rachel Newman who contributed to the discussion on Louisiana’s regulations and mineral income management.



Human Resources Office promotes SCCC participation and holds fundraisers

HALLOWEEN RAFFLES * GOOD WITCH BARB

SCCC CAMPAIGN 2017



According to Barbara the Good Witch - DNR Employees are generous givers!

DNR HR Analyst Barbara Mann, aka Good Witch Barb, helped to coordinate this year’s State Combined Charitable Campaign along with HR Director Rikki David, HR Manager Bobbie Scott and HR Specialist Marilyn Joseph. Several activities took place during the campaign period including Blue Jean Days and four gift basket raffles for Halloween. DNR employees also participated with generous donations by payroll deduction. All in all, David reported that the department’s overall contribution to the campaign would reach over \$5,000.

Congratulations to the gift basket winners! Diana Hudson, Suzanne Hyatt, Karen Blank, Belinda Rogers, and Debby Wells .

HR REMINDER UPCOMING DATES: **Nov. 15** Annual Benefits Enrollment for Plan Year 2018 ends. **Dec. 31** Complete Required Training Courses : Ethics and Preventing Sexual Harassment

Louisiana: Global Leader in Water Management

Excerpt from: La. Economic Development’s Economic Quarterly Magazine 2017 [Making Waves](#)

Louisiana is preparing for a workforce future filled with water-related jobs. GNO Inc. recently completed its first “World of Work: Water Series” to inform career counselors and teachers about growing opportunities for high-wage, high-demand jobs in water management, along with the training needed to secure those jobs.

Much of Louisiana’s water management prowess will spring from the 35-acre Water Campus, where the Baton Rouge research park will function as a living laboratory for solutions that can save coasts and protect their 2 billion inhabitants worldwide.

In addition to developing 1.8 million square feet of research and commercial office space in Baton Rouge, Water Campus visitors will be able to walk out onto the Mississippi River via a transformed, former municipal dock. That educational tourism attraction, opening in December 2017, will be home to The Water Institute of the Gulf and a companion center.



La. Representation on the Hill: Current Congressional Delegation

The current Congress is known as the 115th United States Congress. Congress has 535 voting members: 435 Representatives and 100 Senators. Become an active participant in democracy by staying in touch with your elected officials. Learn more at Contact Congress - <https://contactingcongress.org/>

Louisiana has two members of the Senate-

U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy and U.S. Senator John Kennedy

Members of the House of Representatives-

U.S. Representative, 1st Congressional District: Steve Scalise

U.S. Representative, 2nd Congressional District: Cedric Richmond

U.S. Representative, 3rd Congressional District: Clay Higgins

U.S. Representative, 4th Congressional District: "Mike" Johnson

U.S. Representative, 5th Congressional District: Ralph Abraham, Jr.

U.S. Representative, 6th Congressional District: Garret Graves



Gov. Edwards declares Louisiana “in” for FirstNet Communications System for First Responders

Louisiana will soon have a wireless broadband network for first responders and the state’s public safety system. In September, Gov. John Bel Edwards decided to “opt-in” the plan that links FirstNet and its network provider, AT&T, that will deploy, operate and maintain FirstNet at no cost for 25 years. The FirstNet Network will transform the way fire, police, EMS, emergency management and other public safety personnel communicate and share information – enabling them to better serve citizens in every emergency and every day. “From natural disasters like flooding and hurricanes, to other planned events like Mardi Gras, hosting Super Bowls or other large sporting events, Louisiana has many unique times when communications systems can be strained. We will be working with our partners at FirstNet and AT&T on this communications network which means deploying a true interoperable nationwide system for public safety. The sharing of instant information will only become more critical in the future,” Gov. Edwards noted in a news release this fall.



FirstNet™ *FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Authorized by Congress in 2012, its mission is to develop, build and operate the nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities.*

DNR Emergency Preparedness Policy has new Emergency Support and Recovery function

Secretary Harris revised the agency’s Emergency Preparedness policy in July of this year and outlined the role of the department and agency personnel assigned to GOHSEP’s Emergency Operations including its primary ESF-5 and ESF-12 functions. Additionally, with a MOA between DNR and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the department has added the ESF-6 (Mass Care, Shelter and Human Services) functions to the plan. An Emergency Preparedness Playbook with response protocols was also incorporated into the policy.

Special thanks are in order to those employees supporting the ESF-6 effort, and who will become the Shelter Forward and DSNAP Site Teams working with DCFS leadership. The Emergency Coordinator for Support Services is Human Resources Director Rikki David, along with the following ESF-6 volunteers– Lea Ann Baker (OCM), Paula Chaney (OC), Phyllis Darenbourg (OS), Mirika Haney (OMR), Jonathan Helis (OS), Marreo Kimbrough (OS), Lisa Kursevich (OC), Stacie Massey (OC), Christopher McGee (OS), Andy McKnight (OS), Jeffrey Miller (OC), Paul Miller (OS), Debra Persick (OC), David Pipkin (OMR), Corey Shircliff (OC), and Jon Truxillo (OCM).

The Commissioner of Conservation Richard Ieyoub is the Primary Emergency Coordinator and his designated Assistant Coordinator is Engineering Director Brent Campbell.

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSMAKER – LARGEST OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE IN U.S. HISTORY

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, the March 2018 oil and gas lease sale will offer \$76.9 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico which is offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Proposed Lease Sale 250 will take place in New Orleans. La. Senator John Kennedy said, “Our Louisiana workers are ready to go back to work.” Learn more at <http://boem.gov/Sale-250/>.

OC Lafayette District Office Janet Lemaire, known and loved by many in industry and government



Congratulations Janet on your Retirement after 46 years of Public Service

By: Joseph Freeman, III Mineral Production Supervisor, OC

The Office of Conservation would like to wish a Very Happy Retirement to Ms. Janet Lemaire, a Mineral Production Supervisor in the Lafayette District Office, who is retiring in January 2018. Ms. Lemaire has been a valued employee in the Office of Conservation for more than 46 years. She began her career with the Department of Conservation in October of 1971 as a Typist Clerk 2. During her time with the State of Louisiana, she has worked for six different District Managers, and helped the Lafayette District Office relocate twice.

Janet has always been the type of employee and supervisor who leads by setting an excellent example for others to follow. She is usually the first person in the office in the morning, and quite often the last person to leave the office at night. She has always been willing to learn new programs and implement new methods, such as cross training her employees to perform all Mineral Production Analyst responsibilities, in order to keep the Lafayette District Office running efficiently. Her patience in teaching new employees to perform their job duties was matched only by her willingness to share her vast knowledge of the Louisiana oil and gas permitting and regulatory rules with new oil & gas operators in Louisiana.

The Lafayette District Office will miss all the freshly baked “goodies” Janet brought to the office as well as the delicious Holiday lunches that she prepared for all to enjoy. We hope that she enjoys her retirement, which will allow her to spend more time spoiling her grandchildren. We will miss her!

Fond Farewell to ABP Director Don Haydel of Coastal Management with 25 years of service



DNR Office of Coastal Management salutes Haydel for his active duty and wishes him a fond farewell as he retires.

After working for the private sector for twenty-plus years, Don Haydel transitioned to government service, first working at the Dept. of Environmental Quality, and in 1993, moving to DNR to manage the Atchafalaya Basin Program. To know him is to appreciate his infectious smile, as well as his genuine way of spreading positivity, warmth, and enthusiasm for both work and play. Just ask him “How are you” and you can bet his reply will likely be just “wonderful”!

Over the years, he has been responsible for many successful capital improvement projects of the Basin including new boat launches, water quality projects, and other construction. Haydel worked through the Bayou Corne incident with geologists and managers; and has also worked with landmen, land owners, legislators, local officials, and the public at countless hearings and special forums and events. Haydel is known for his leadership and his ability to take a problem –provide clarity—and act with resolution. In 2015, Haydel was awarded the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Civil Service Honorable Mention Citation.

He is a community volunteer and youth group leader, who loves the outdoors and is a mentor for Boy Scouts and distance runners. He and his wife are Cajun dancers who wouldn't miss an opportunity to take a back road for travel or to take their grandkids on a bayou trail.

Congratulations Don on your retirement in December, we wish you well!



Keep Louisiana Beautiful will soon partner with the New Orleans Saints as its “Green Sponsor of the New Orleans Saints.”



Keep
LOUISIANA
Beautiful

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

November 15

[America Recycles Day](#)

Get involved in recycling collection drives, school competitions, tours, or neighborhood improvements and make a pledge to recycling each and every day of your lives. Keep Louisiana Beautiful also challenges you to volunteer to promote recycling in your community.