

# LA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

E-NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011  
Issue 7



## DNR Employees Raise Funds for UW

Capital Area United Way is all about people helping people. If you have ever seen the organization's website, you would know that CAUW is focused on people improving communities by investing in programs of non-profit agencies that make a measurable difference in serving people's basic needs, and in the education, income stability, and general good health of those in need.

To quote from the website, United Way Worldwide --- "We envision a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability, and healthy lives."

At DNR, there is a commitment each year made by many of our employees to United Way by 'pledging' a portion of their paycheck to the cause. In addition to this traditional method of giving, our DNR Human Resources Office takes up this truly worthy cause by offering a number of activities and fundraisers during the fall months.

DNR's United Way troop leader is HR Director Mary Ginn, who has become known for spreading the motto, "Live

United." With her planning, the activities for 2011 have been organized, well-coordinated, and well-participated! Cheers to the HR staff's dedication, to their credit, the department surpassed its goal of \$14,000 for this campaign year.

A sincere thanks to Mary Ginn and company including Pam Harrell, Mimi Vidrine, Lacey Hue, Allison Eldridge, and students Molly Csaki and Jennifer Villarrubia.

### Photo Gallery

*From Left to Right:* Mary Ginn enjoys Chick-fil-a night with OCPD's Karim Belhadjali's son, Ellis. Lacey Hue presents a table of prizes donated by vendors at the Vendors' Fair. Donna Thompson, Regina Stone, and Vicky Amedee of Coastal Management prepare for bidding at the Live Auction.

### United Way Campaign 2011 Current Collections

To date the donations collected amount to \$16,834 including a Jewelry Show, Books Are Fun, Prize Raffle, Vendor Shopping Fair, Jambalaya Lunch, Cake Auction, Bake Sale, Live Auction of Treasures, Frito Pies Lunch, Jean Days, Chick-fil-a Family Night and Pledge Cards.

### A Special Message from DNR Secretary Scott Angelle

**"DNR employees are generous givers. Thanks to all for supporting this mighty cause."  
DNR ROCKS!**





# Coal mining in Louisiana

A dragline at Oxbow Mine in Red River Parish removes overlying sediment to expose coal seam



Yes, lignite, a type of coal, is mined and regulated in our state. The Office of Conservation's Surface Mining Regulatory Program covers all aspects of regulating active coal mines, including permitting, performance bonds, reclamation plans, and provides for public participation in the permitting, bonding and release of performance bonds.

Geologists perform inspections of surface mining operations for compliance with environmental protection performance standards, issue Notices of Violation and Cessation Orders, assess Civil Penalties, and perform follow-up inspections to ensure compliance with the Louisiana Surface Mining and Reclamation Act and the Louisiana Surface Mining Regulations.

Conservation's Judith Stoute is shown here doing an inspection at the Dolet Hills Lignite Mine. She is responsible for making monthly trips to the Oxbow Mine in Red River Parish, Dolet Hills Mine in De Soto Parish, and Five Forks Development Operations in Natchitoches Parish for regulatory and environmental compliance inspections.



## Did you know...

- Lignite accounts for approximately 9 percent of the United States' coal reserves.

- Dolet Hills Mine has been recognized by the Federal Office of Surface Mining for excellence in land reclamation.

***Congratulations and Best Wishes to Dale Bergquist*** upon his recent retirement. Dale served as Conservation's Geologist Supervisor over the Surface Mining Program for 9 years, overseeing all aspects of the Regulatory and Abandoned Mine Lands Programs and mentoring six employees, four of whom remain in dedicated service to DNR. Dale began working with the Surface Mining Program in 1986, performing inspections for most of those 25 years. He has 32 years total state service. He has fostered a very positive and effective working relationship with the coal mining industry in Louisiana, developing a system in which stewardship for public safety and the environment are paramount. Dale has brought a level of experience, dedication, prudence, and foresight to the program that will be missed. The very best to Dale as he moves into his retirement years.



# SONRIS to Sunset Success in 2011

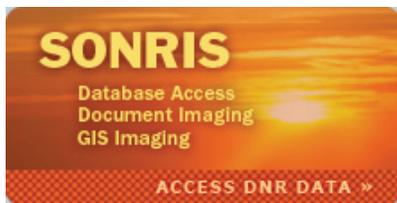
Congratulations to DNR Office of Mineral Resources staff who planned, organized, and delivered a successful 2 ½ day conference in New Orleans for users of the SONRIS database system. Continuing education certificates were provided to 366 participants at the conference. Special thanks to company sponsors that included TBS, Chesapeake Energy, URS, River Birch Inc., MPH Solutions, Curry and Friend PLC., John Chance Land Surveys, Inc., PPM Consultants, Fenstermaker & Associates, Inc., S. Paul Provenza, Gulfport Energy Corp., R360., La. Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, Eagle Environmental Services, Inc., Slattery, Marino & Roberts, and La. Oil and Gas Association. Also special thanks to DNR Information Technology staff who introduced a new GIS system, allowing for greater ease of use and function.



Office of Mineral Resources coordinates an informative, well-managed conference. Shown here are Auditor 3 Calvin Booth, Deputy Assistant Secretary Stacey Talley, and Audit Supervisor John Schott. Middle photo: John with conference attendee. Right photo: Auditor Taletha Shorter.

## SONRIS Information Portal: [www.sonris.com](http://www.sonris.com)

Use SONRIS “Lite” for quick and easy access to all oil and gas records. Use Data Access: Oil & gas information and more at your finger tips. Now all Data Access pages are combined onto a single page for ease of access.



Mineral and Energy Board Lease Sale Totals	
July	\$4.2 million
August	\$647,000
September	\$2.9 million
October	\$2.7 million

## Office of Conservation

### Increase productivity and improve performance

The Office of Conservation has been participating in a review by the Center for Lean Excellence at the University of La. at Lafayette of its permitting process in the Injection and Mining Division. With that review nearing completion, Conservation’s Injection and Mining will have the opportunity to provide comment to the La. Legislature on having subscribed to Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR 83) of 2010.

SCR 83 recommended that state agencies adopt “lean” principles to improve efficiencies, increase overall productivity, eliminate waste and conserve public funds. DNR Office of Conservation will be the first state government agency to complete LEAN’s efficiency program.

The Injection and Mining’s team working on the LEAN project includes Joe Ball, Teresa Rougon, Matt Simon and Laurence Bland, who have been focused on the current application process, in particular, on how much time was spent on receiving, reviewing and processing saltwater disposal wells permits. According to Director Joe Ball, LEAN did not find the current application review process to be deficient. However, LEAN did suggest a redesign of the application form for a lease saltwater disposal well. The redesigned form will soon be available for use which should make it easier for an applicant to provide the needed data correctly the first time. This should reduce the time needed to fully review and process the application.

# Conservation Office Adopts New Hydraulic-Fracturing Rule

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Office of Conservation has adopted a new rule requiring oil and gas operators to obtain a work permit and disclose the types of fluids used in the hydraulic fracturing process of wells in Louisiana.

Additionally, operators are required to disclose the composition of the fracturing fluids and volumes used after completing the well to the Office of Conservation or to a public registry, such as FracFocus - <http://www.fracfocus.org/>, which was developed by the national Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission.

Louisiana oil and gas regulations are found in Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, under Subpart 1, Statewide Order No. 29-B.

La. Commissioner of Conservation James Welsh said the new rule provides for more disclosure of information and allows the office to collect technical data not required before.

“With the intense development of the Haynesville Shale and in the interest of being protective of the environment, revising our rules provides substance and transparency,” Welsh said.

Welsh explained that the STRONGER, Inc. report issued in March 2011 also recommended this type of amendment to Louisiana’s existing regulations.

Since June of this year, the amended rule has made its way through the necessary administrative rule-making process, allowing for public comment along the way. Likewise, the states of Arkansas and Texas have similar requirements.

The Hydraulic Fracture Stimulation Operations rule is available by viewing the “Rules” webpage, located in Office of Conservation website - <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/1110/1110.pdf>



## Coming Soon

21st Annual Clean Gulf Conference  
Hosted by the State of Texas General Land Office  
State of Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office  
November 30-December 1  
San Antonio, TX, Henry B. Gonzalez Center



[www.cleangulf.org](http://www.cleangulf.org)

### Co-Location Events

The Industrial Fire, Safety, and Security Training  
The Deepwater Prevention and Response



## Chesapeake Energy Gets Stewardship Award

Chesapeake’s Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs John Satterfield and Commissioner of Conservation James Welsh are shown here during the awards ceremony at the IOGCC Chairman’s Stewardship Award Meeting in Buffalo, NY, held October 17,2011.

Conservation’s executive staff nominated Chesapeake for the stewardship award during the nomination period and were notified of their selection in late September.