



The mission of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of present and future generations of Mississippians by conserving and improving our environment and fostering wise economic growth through focused research and responsible regulation.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Environmental News

VOL. 13 ISSUE 3

MAR 2016

MDEQ Announces NFWF Funded Land Acquisition Project

MDEQ announced March 9 the receipt of a \$17.43 million grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to fund a project titled “The Acquisition of Priority Tracts for Coastal Habitat Connectivity – Phase I.” This project was developed in consultation with state and federal resource agencies and is designed to remedy harm and reduce the risk of future harm to natural resources that were affected by the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.



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“Strategic land acquisition is a foundational step in conserving coastal habitats. By acquiring priority lands in the Coastal Preserves Program, we are systematically conserving habitats that will protect our downstream natural resources by slowing and filtering nutrient runoff, allowing for the movement of habitats, and providing a refuge for wildlife,” said Gary Rikard, MDEQ Executive Director.

This project seeks to enhance coastal habitat connectivity and increase core conservation areas within the Mississippi Coastal Preserves system, the Gulf Islands National Seashore, and the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The conservation of coastal habitats is one of the fundamental steps in building and maintaining a sustainable, resilient coastal environment. This project will address this conservation need by acquiring key land parcels that provide multiple long-term benefits for the Mississippi Gulf Coast ecosystem.

Priority parcels have been identified, utilizing the Mississippi Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Tool (MCERT), based on several key factors including adjacency to land parcels that are currently managed by the state or federal government, the existence of a target species or habitat, and/or the susceptibility to changing conditions, such as marsh migration, changes in water salinity or quality, altered fire regime, etc. This approach represents a significant opportunity to expand and complement existing conserved lands through targeted, science-based acquisition. This project will leverage approximately \$13.5 million in RESTORE funding.

This project represents another obligation of funds to Mississippi by NFWF's Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF). In early 2013, a U.S. District Court approved two plea agreements resolving certain criminal charges against BP and Transocean related to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. Provisions within the plea agreements direct a total of \$2.544 billion to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation over a five-year period. From that amount, NFWF will receive more than \$356 million for projects to protect or restore natural resources in Mississippi in the aftermath of the oil spill.

For additional information on GEBF projects in Mississippi, please visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/gulf/Pages/GEBF-Mississippi.aspx>. And, all things restoration-related in Mississippi can be found at: www.restore.ms.



Photo credit: NRCS.



Meet the New Commissioners

The Commission on Environmental Quality has added three new members in recent months. The Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor to seven-year staggered terms and formulates department policy, enforces rules and regulations, receives funding, conducts studies for using the state's resources, and discharges other duties, responsibilities and powers as necessary. Following are brief bios to introduce the new Commissioners.

John Dane III

What is your occupation and experience? I have been in the boat building business since graduating from college. I have built everything from tug boats and barges to Mega Yachts and Patrol Boats which I continue to do today.

Where did you grow up, attend school, and attend college? I grew up in New Orleans and went to De La Salle Catholic High School and then Tulane for both a BS in Civil Engineering and a PhD in Civil Engineering. I moved to Pass Christian, Mississippi, in 1981 after starting a shipyard in Moss Point in 1980.

Are you married and have children? I am married to Leslie Weatherly from Gulfport, and we have seven children, six grandchildren, and another three on the way.

What do you appreciate about Mississippi's natural resources and environment? I moved to the Gulf Coast to enjoy the boating, sailboat racing, and fishing. I also was one of the first companies to re-create marsh in the Pascagoula River area with a Dr. Eleuterius.

How do you view your role to help the Commission and the agency? My experience with shipbuilding obviously gave me knowledge about chemicals used in the process, air transported volatiles from the painting process, and disposition of wastes. It also gave me knowledge about the permitting process for bulkheading and dredging. Then, my love for sailing and fishing leads me to be concerned about water quality and cleanliness.



Ted H. Kendall IV

What is your occupation and experience? President and Farm Manager of The Gaddis Farms in Hinds County. Other experience includes: Director at Merchants and Planters Bank, Raymond, Vice-President of Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, former Member of Farm Service Agency State Committee, and former Chairman of Mississippi State Board of Animal Health.

Where did you grow up, attend school, and attend college? I was born and raised in Bolton and graduated from Central Hinds Academy in Raymond in 1978. I attended Hinds Community College on a basketball scholarship and then graduated from Mississippi State University in 1982 with a BS in Agriculture Economics. I began working at The Gaddis Farms upon graduation in the summer of 1982. Our farm is a family-owned operation that has been in existence since 1897. We grow beef cattle, cotton, corn, soybeans, and timber. We also operate a cotton gin, several hunting operations, and are active in wildlife management.

Are you married and have children? I am married to Libby Whitaker Kendall since 1983 and have two children, Anna (28) and Whit (21).

What do you appreciate about Mississippi's natural resources and environment? As a farmer and an avid outdoorsman, I have spent my life working and recreating in the environment. I have a deep sense of attachment to our state's natural resources.

How do you view your role to help the Commission and the agency? It is one of my goals to see that my children and their children are able to enjoy and benefit from the land much as I have been able to do. It is my hope that I can lend a practical businesslike approach to the MDEQ during my tenure.

Brenda H. Lathan

What is your occupation and experience? Economic Developer, Senior VP with the Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority and International Economic Development Council. I have been with the organization for 17 years. I am a Certified Economic Developer by the International Council of Economic Developers (one of 1200 in the world).



Where did you grow up, attend school, and attend college? I grew up in Shannon and Okolona, Mississippi. I am a graduate of Okolona High School, and I have a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from the Mississippi University for Women. I am also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute.

Are you married and have children? I am a recent widow. My husband's name was Charles. I have five children (Al, Raymond, Dedra, Joy, and Alonte) and five grandchildren (Al, VaLandria, Karsean, Kyra, and Curtis).

What do you appreciate about Mississippi's natural resources and environment? Mississippi has an abundance of natural resources that are enjoyed by our citizens for a variety of activities which include recreation, education, fuel, and industrial development. By maintaining a clean environment these amenities can be enjoyed for many generations.

How do you view your role to help the Commission and the agency? It is the Commission's responsibility to protect our state's natural resources and the environment from any dangers that would impede their current conditions.

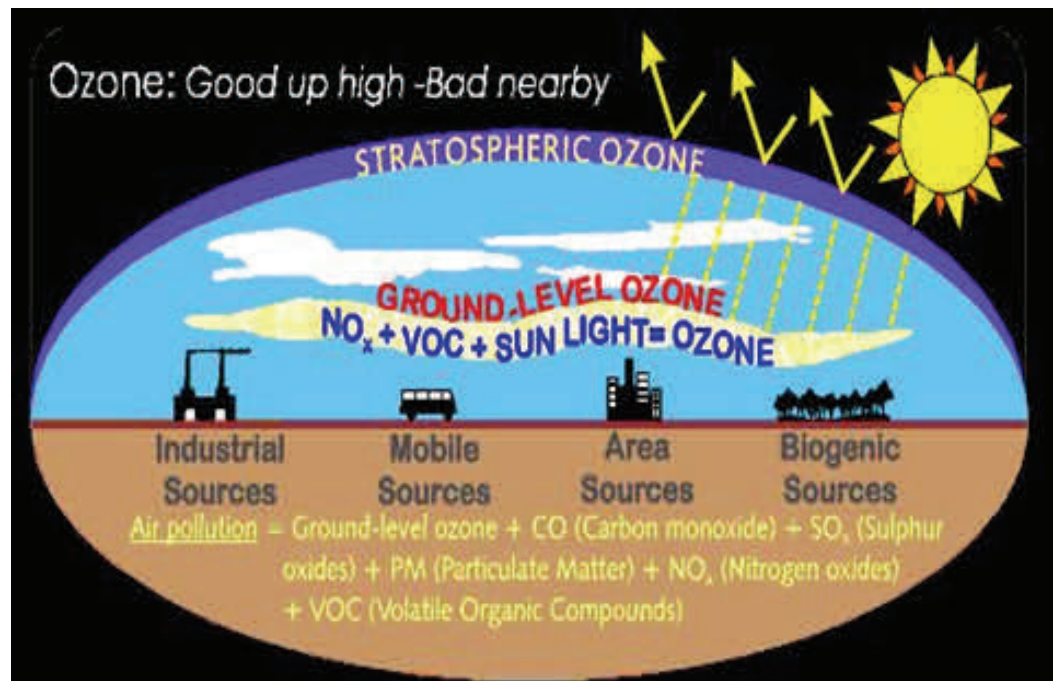
MDEQ Staff Recognized

Willie McKercher, Groundwater Assessment and Remediation Division, and Melissa Collier, Office of Community Engagement, recently received the Bronze Medal for Superior Service from EPA for their efforts responding to a municipal sewer collapse in an area of groundwater contamination and assisting remediation at the Hercules, Inc. site in Hattiesburg.



Ozone Forecasting

From April to October MDEQ issues daily ozone forecasts for DeSoto County, the Jackson Metro area, and the Gulf Coast. These forecasts keep residents and businesses apprised of the current ozone conditions and alert them if an Air Quality Action Day is forecast. Air Quality Action Days are those days when ozone levels are forecast to exceed the standard, and for those days residents and businesses can alter behavior to reduce air pollution. For individuals that includes carpooling, reducing idling, and postponing vehicle refueling and lawn maintenance until after 6:00 p.m. On these days groups that are sensitive should reduce exposure by reducing prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors. This includes children and adults who are active outdoors and people with lung disease, such as asthma. These forecasts are available on the MDEQ website at <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/aqi/>, MDEQ's Twitter account (@MDEQ), and an email list (to join contact Rodney Cuevas (rcuevas@deq.state.ms.us)).



Ground level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC). This happens when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone at ground level can be a harmful air pollutant,

because of its effects on people and the environment, and it is the main ingredient in “smog.” Under the Clean Air Act, EPA establishes primary air quality standards to protect public health and secondary standards to protect public welfare that includes protecting ecosystems, plants and animals. Currently, Mississippi is meeting all of these standards, or is “in attainment,” for the current ozone standard which is 75 parts per billion (ppb).

In October of 2015, EPA lowered the primary and secondary ozone standards from 75 ppb to 70 ppb, and although Mississippi is meeting this standard for the 2013 to 2015 period, EPA will designate attainment or nonattainment for areas based on 2014 to 2016 ozone data. Therefore, it is crucial that all areas of the state, especially DeSoto County and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, maintain the 2015 ozone levels because four relatively high ozone days this year could cause EPA to issue a nonattainment designation for a violating area. Any area designated as nonattainment faces potential economic development constraints, including limits to industrial growth and transportation improvement constraints such as restrictions on highway expansion and development.

Developing a plan to meet air quality standards is the focus of the Mississippi Air Quality Action Groups in DeSoto County and on the Coast. These groups, initially formed by MDEQ, cities, county agencies, industries, government agencies, and public interest groups, are stakeholder-led efforts to increase awareness of the issues and how to be part of the solution. The groups are developing outreach materials and planning promotional events to encourage air pollution reduction steps to protect air quality and to maintain healthy growth. In addition, these groups are also trying to create more efficient ways to notify residents and businesses about Air Quality Action Days. For more information, or to join a group, please contact Jerry Beasley with MDEQ at (601) 961-5134.



| | |
|--|--|
| Good 0-50 | Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk. |
| Moderate 51-100 | Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. |
| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150 | Members of sensitive groups* may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected. |
| Unhealthy 151-200 | Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects. |
| Very Unhealthy 201-300 | Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects. |
| Hazardous 301-500 | Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more than likely to be affected. |

enHance Stewardship Workshop

Environmental Policies, Planning, and Economics



Mississippi Manufacturers Association

Come Join Us!

Join us for the annual enHance Environmental Stewardship Workshop in downtown Jackson. This workshop aims to share the principles of environmental stewardship, lean manufacturing, and waste reduction through best management practices presentations and case studies. Take part in discussions about regulatory changes on the horizon and network with environmental stewardship leaders!

Don't miss your chance to discover important energy saving opportunities and lean manufacturing principles.

AGENDA

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Registration | 8:00-8:30 |
| Welcome | 8:30-8:35 |
| MDEQ Overview and Regulatory Update | 8:35-9:00 |
| Mississippi's Energy Outlook and Commitment to Reliable, Affordable Energy | 9:00-9:15 |
| Energy Incentive Opportunities with Entergy | 9:15-9:45 |
| Break | 9:45-10:00 |
| Plant Master Planning: Efficiency and Energy Case Studies | 10:00-10:30 |
| The Kaizen Mindset | 10:30-10:45 |
| Rankin County Energy Project | 10:45-11:00 |
| High Voltage: A POWERful Case Study | 11:00-11:30 |
| Continuous Improvement from Toyota | 11:30-12:00 |
| Awards Luncheon | 12:00-1:30 |

DETAILS

Date: Thursday April 21, 2016

Place: Jackson Marriott
200 E Amite Street
Jackson, Mississippi
601-969-5100

Cost: \$85 per person

Register online at mma-web.org by following the **enHance Workshop** link under Upcoming Events.

If you would like more information about this or other MMA seminars, contact Barbara at 601-292-1125 or Barbara@mma-web.org.

ABOUT ENHANCE: The MDEQ enHance program is a voluntary initiative to recognize environmental leaders in Mississippi. Environmental leaders strive to reduce wastes and inefficiencies from operations, resulting in environmental and economic benefits. Visit the www.enhance.ms for membership requirements and application forms. Applications are accepted annually from July 1 – September 30.



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



MDEQ Names State Recycling Coordinator

MDEQ recently announced that Jennifer Milner has been appointed the state's new Recycling Coordinator leading the agency's efforts with local governments, industries, institutions and agencies to grow and promote recycling and the recycling industry in Mississippi.

Jennifer has worked with the MDEQ for 12 years serving the past four years as an administrator over a number of key solid waste programs—organics recycling efforts, the state biosolids program, the landfill methane outreach program and various outreach and organizational efforts.

"I am honored and excited for the opportunity to work in this new role with MDEQ to promote and grow recycling, and I look forward to the opportunities ahead to help improve recycling and environmental conditions in Mississippi," said Milner.

Jennifer has a BS degree in Biology from Ole Miss and prior to joining the solid waste programs she worked for the MDEQ Laboratory in Pearl and for a commercial laboratory in the Jackson metropolitan area. Jennifer and her husband Derick, along with their two daughters Lily and Amelia, reside in Brandon.

Electronic Waste Collection Day at Jackson State University

A collection event for discarded computers (and associated hardware), cellphones, and printers will be held Saturday, April 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the campus of Jackson State University. The materials can be dropped off behind the JY Woodard Building and Old Industrial Arts Building on the main campus. E-waste such as televisions, copiers, gaming systems, radios, and DVD players are not accepted.

This event is sponsored by MDEQ, Jackson State University, and Hinds County. Co-sponsors are Keep Jackson Beautiful and JSU's Office of Community Engagement.

Jackson Business Electronics Waste Collection Day

Friday, April 22, 2016

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

at:



MISSISSIPPI FARMERS MARKET

929 High Street

Jackson, MS 39202

Contact Info

Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership

Ms. Niki Carr Lowery
(601) 948-7575, ext. 234
nlowery@greaterjacksonpartnership.com

Keep Jackson Beautiful

Ms. Marsha Hobson
(601) 366-4842
keepjack@bellsouth.net

Iron Mountain

Mr. Corey Johnson
(601) 324-6727
Corey.Johnson@ironmountain.com

Magnolia Data Solutions

Mr. Christopher Lumaghini
(601) 919-0062
Christopher@magnoliadatasolutions.com

Acceptable Electronics

Computers, Desktop Copiers, Computer Components, Fax Machines, Radios, Televisions, Cell Phones, Desk Phones, VCR Players, DVD Players, Electronic Games, Monitors, Keyboards, Printers, Laptops, Scanners, and Stereos/Radios

\$2 Fee for LCD Monitors

\$5 Fee for Monitors

\$15 Fee for Televisions

No cost for other items!

Contact Magnolia Data Solutions (see Contact Info) to inquire about items not listed above or make arrangements for large loads.

Event Information

- Businesses or individuals from the Jackson Metro area (Hinds, Madison, & Rankin County) may participate.
- All traffic in the drop-off area is **one-way only!**
- For your safety, stay in your vehicle as event staff unload materials from your vehicle.
- **All materials collected will be recycled!**
- The fee charged for televisions and monitors is to pay for the proper handling of hazardous components such as lead and mercury contained in these devices.
- Paper and document shredding will be available and provided by Iron Mountain. Please direct inquiries to the them (see Contact Info) if you have other document destruction/handling needs.

Sponsored by



Deadlines For Solid Waste Assistance Grants

Deadlines for local governments to apply for MDEQ's competitive and non-competitive solid waste assistance grants are approaching: April 1 for competitive grants and April 30 for non-competitive grants to county governments. The competitive grant funds are available for municipalities, counties, regional solid waste management authorities and other multi-county entities. Applications for noncompetitive grant funds are available for counties only for an annual allocated amount based on the county's state aid road mileage formula.

The MDEQ solid waste grants may be used by eligible local governments for various types of solid waste projects and programs including: clean-up of unauthorized dumps; establishment of collection programs for white goods or other bulky wastes; support for recycling and waste reduction programs; public education campaigns on solid waste and recycling; salary support for local solid waste enforcement officers; household hazardous waste collection programs; and other activities that support proper management and recycling of solid wastes. For more information or to request a grant application, contact Denise Rodgers or Aveleka Moore at 601-961-5171.

MDEQ Partners with Local Governments to Sponsor Spring 2016 HHW Collection Events



MDEQ is providing Solid Waste Assistance Grants and technical assistance to a number of local governments to sponsor upcoming collection events for household hazardous wastes (HHW). These collection events provide citizens with local options to properly and safely dispose of aerosols, corrosives, pesticides, herbicides, paints, used oil, batteries, automotive fluids, electronic wastes and other household hazardous materials. The events help remove these hazardous materials from the municipal solid waste stream so that these wastes are not disposed in local landfills.

Local governments that are planning to host HHW event for which MDEQ is aware include the following communities:

Continued on next page

City of Cleveland – Saturday, April 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the City of Cleveland’s Department of Public Works (1098 Old Highway 61 North - behind Baxter Laboratories).

Three Rivers Solid Waste Management Authority – Saturday, April 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Oxford Conference Center in Oxford.

Golden Triangle Solid Waste Management Authority – Saturday, April 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Golden Triangle Regional Landfill near West Point.

Jackson County – Saturday, April 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Singing River Mall Parking Lot, Highway 90 in Gautier.



City of Hattiesburg/Pine Belt area – Saturday, April 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at two locations: the Lamar County Multi-Purpose Center in Purvis, and the Bobby L. Chain Airport in Hattiesburg.

Three Rivers Solid Waste Management Authority – Saturday, April 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at The Agriculture Center in Verona.

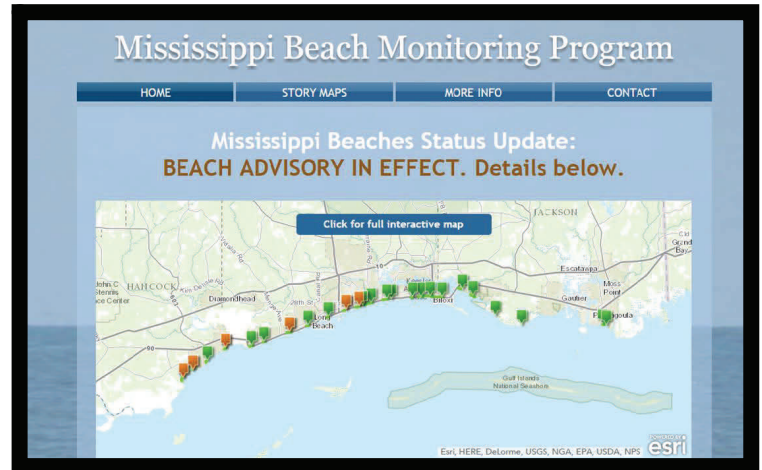
Harrison County – Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Mississippi Power Plant Watson on Lorraine Road in Gulfport.

Madison County/Ridgeland – Saturday, May 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Holmes Community College Campus in Ridgeland.

The information listed above represents the best available information at the time of publication; however, these dates may be subject to change and other communities may be host events. Contact local city or county officials for more details on these events. Interested local governments may apply to conduct HHW events by submitting a solid waste assistance grant application to MDEQ by October 1 or April 1 of each funding year. For more information on these solid waste assistance grants, contact Denise Rodgers or Aveleka Moore at 601-961-5171.

New Beach Program Website

The Mississippi Beach Monitoring Program recently unveiled a new website to assist residents and visitors to the Mississippi Gulf Coast with the status of beach advisories. The new website provides updates of the entire Coast at a glance, information about each sampling station, and Frequently Asked Questions.



Check out the new and improved site at: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/beaches>.

Advisories are issued when bacteria levels exceed water quality criteria and therefore pose an increased risk to human health. Under the Mississippi Beach Monitoring Program, water is tested for the presence of *Enterococcus* bacteria, which is an indicator for bacteria pollution. When an advisory is issued, water contact should be avoided. MDEQ leads the Mississippi Beach Monitoring Program Task Force comprised of MDEQ, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, the Mississippi State Department of Health, EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program, the Secretary of State's office, and the three coastal counties.

WaterFest in Pass Christian

MDEQ is partnering with Celebrate the Gulf and Art in the Pass to bring WaterFest to the Gulf Coast. The event will be held on Saturday, April 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at War Memorial Park in Pass Christian.





Adopt-A-Stream Workshop

The Mississippi Wildlife Federation along with MDEQ will hold a two-day Adopt-A-Stream workshop at Percy Quin State Park near McComb on June 14 to 15, 2016.

Adopt-A-Stream is a program that promotes environmental stewardship through training workshops, outdoor field activities and by introducing participants to watershed action projects.

The two-day program provides an in-depth study of watersheds, as well as hands-on training in chemical and biological parameters important to a healthy stream.

In addition, the workshop will:

- ▶ Increase awareness of nonpoint source pollution
- ▶ Introduce surveying and mapping of your watershed
- ▶ Increase watershed protection awareness and possible actions that can be taken to help your watershed. A new model of *It Begins at Home* with ideas about projects such as:

*Storm Drain Marking

*Stream Clean-ups

*Recycling

*Advocacy and More

Who Should Participate?

Educators, land managers, advocacy groups, Scout troop leaders, Envirothon Team advisors, watershed team leaders, environmental educators, concerned citizens and others. For teachers, two CEU credits are available.

Registration Information

Registration will be available on the Mississippi Wildlife Federation/Adopt-A-Stream website; www.mswildlife.org/AAS/ or by contacting Debra Veeder, Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator at (601)605-1790 or dveeder@mswf.org for a registration form.

For any questions or additional information, please contact Kayra Johnson, Data Administration Branch, at 601-961-5106 or via email at Kayra.Johnson@deg.state.ms.us.

NetDMR Classroom Training

These classes provide an overview of NetDMR, including registration, data entry, and importing of data. Each class will include a hands-on training exercise that will allow permittees to register and submit a Discharge Monitoring Report.

Class sizes are limited and registration is required. To register, please click one of the links below:

Class # 37 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: April 11, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi

Room A102 [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 38 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: April 11, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi

Room A102 [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 39 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: April 12, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi

Room A102 [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 40 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: April 12, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi

Room A102 [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 41 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: April 20, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 42 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: April 20, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 43 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: May 4, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 44 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: May 4, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 45–Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: May 11, 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 46–Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: May 11, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 47 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: June 1, 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 48 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: June 1, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 49 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: June 22 , 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 50 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: June 22, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 51 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: July 20 , 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 52 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: July 20, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 53 –Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: July 27, 2016, 8:30-11:30am
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 54–Participants need to bring their own laptops
Date: July 27, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 55 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: August 17, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 56 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: August 17, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 57 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: August 24, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 58 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: August 24, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 59 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: September 7, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: Itawamba Community College- Belden Campus [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 60 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: September 7, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: Itawamba Community College- Belden Campus [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 61–Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: September 21, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 62–Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: September 21, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 63 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: October 12, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 64 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: October 12, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 65 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: October 27, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi
Room A102 [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 66 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: October 27, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi
Room A102 [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 67–Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: November 2, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 68 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: November 2, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 69 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: December 6, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 70–Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: December 6, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 71 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: December 7, 2016, 8:30-11:30am

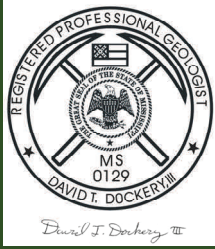
Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Class # 72 –Participants need to bring their own laptops

Date: December 7, 2016, 1:30-4:30pm

Location: MDEQ-700 N. State St., Jackson [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kayra Johnson, Data Administration Branch, at 601-961-5106 or via email at Kayra.Johnson@deq.state.ms.us.



MDEQ Geologists Participate in the 2016 Gem and Mineral Show and the Fossil Road Show

David T. Dockery III, RPG, Office of Geology

The 57th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, sponsored by the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, was well attended on February 27 and 28 at the Trade Mart Building in Jackson. MDEQ's Office of Geology had a booth at the event as did the geology departments of the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Sitting at a booth is always more fun with good company, and some made it a family affair (Figure 1). The show was a good opportunity to meet the public, distribute literature published by the Office of Geology, and identify the latest rock, mineral, and fossil finds from Mississippi.

A selection of interesting finds is shown in Figure 2. Figure 2A is the fossil dental plate of a ray showing wear at the front end (at right in A1) from crushing shells of clams and crabs and such. Worn front teeth are replaced as those behind move forward. This find came from a boulder of limestone in the Pearl River south of the Old Byram Swinging Bridge. Figure B is a knapped preform artifact made of ironstone, most likely of the mineral goethite or limonite. Figure C is a large chert pebble showing the truncated branches of an extinct trepostome bryozoan. Figure D is a cobble-size concretion with a rainbow of jasper bands in greenish-gray and red. Figure E was described by the collector as an exploded agate, not a bad portrayal of its geologic description as a brecciated agate. Figure F is the concave valve of a productid brachiopod preserved in carnelian, a red agate. Figure G was described by the collector as a black agate, a color not common to local agates. The exterior bands show the dark color.

An annual favorite at the show is the traveling Rock Food Table exhibited by the Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society in Corpus Christi, Texas (Figure 3). All the delicious-looking items are stones of one kind or another.



Figure 1. Staffing the Office of Geology booth, a family affair. Left, James Starnes with wife Laurie and daughters Abby (left) and Gracie (right). Right, Andrew Newcomb with wife Stacy.



Figure 2. Interesting finds presented at the Office of Geology booth. A. Ray dental plate from the Byram Formation south of the Old Byram bridge. B. Preform artifact knapped from ironstone. C. Trepostome bryozoan branches. D. Rainbow jasper concretion. E. Brecciated agate. F. Carnelian productid brachiopod. G. Black agate.



Figure 3. George and Judy Johnson from Lake Odessa, Michigan, view the dinner table set in stone, a popular exhibit at the Gem and Mineral Rock Show.

The 13th Annual Fossil Road Show was held at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson on March 5. A team of experts, including MDEQ staff, was assembled to identify fossils brought in by the public. Figure 4 at left shows dinosaur expert James Lamb of the University of West Alabama. At right is MDEQ Office of Geology geologist James Starnes with his daughter Abby. In Figure 5 at left is Mississippi Department of Archives and History's Robin Person representing Historic Jefferson College at Washington, near Natchez, in Adams County. At right in the figure is a binder with details concerning B. L. C. Wailes, who received his formal education at Jefferson College and became a trustee of the college in 1824. In 1838, Jefferson College and Washington Lyceum petitioned the Mississippi Legislature to fund a geological survey of the state. This legislation passed in the spring of 1850, and funds for that purpose went to the recently founded University of Mississippi at Oxford to support a professor of chemistry, geology, and agriculture, Dr. John Millington. When Millington could not both teach and do the survey, Wailes was contracted to do the job. Wailes traveled the length and breadth of the state by carriage to make the survey and, in 1854, published a *Report on the Agriculture and Geology of Mississippi*, a book of 371 pages with hand-colored figures.



Figure 4. Left, James Lamb, a dinosaur expert at the University of West Alabama, has been helpful in identifying dinosaur remains from Mississippi. Right, James Starnes and his daughter Abby greet those bringing both rocks and fossils for identification.



Figure 5. Robin Person (left, behind table), MDAH Branch Director of Historic Jefferson College at Washington, Mississippi, displays fossils from the college collection. B. L. C. Wailes (right, binder) created the first fossil collection at Jefferson College and published the first book on the geology of Mississippi in 1854.

In Figure 6 at left, representing the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of Mississippi, are Louis Zachos and his wife Marla. Dr. Zachos is an expert in fossil echinoids; Marla holds degrees in law and geology. At right is Robert Seyfarth, a retired employee of MDEQ's Office of Land and Water Resources, exhibiting his collection of fossils from the Natchez area. In Figure 7 at left is museum volunteer Emily Dear holding a copy of the newly published book *The Geology of Mississippi*. Emily and husband Dr. Dave Dear are featured on page 490 in Figure 853 of that book beside a plaster jacket containing the skull of a large hippo-like land mammal named *Metamynodon* at a site on property they once owned on the Big Black River at Edwards. This site (at right in Figure 7) is so important that it covers a seven-page spread in the section on the Early Oligocene Byram Formation. Figure 8 shows the use of *The Geology of Mississippi* in identifying specimens brought by the public to the Fossil Road Show.

These annual events are great ways to interact with the public, share information, and discover new finds.



Figure 6. Left, Louis Zachos and wife Marla, representing the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of Mississippi. Dr. Zachos is an echinoid expert, and Marla is both a geologist and attorney. Right, Robert Seyfarth, retired engineer from MDEQ's Office of Land and Water Resources, displays fossils from Natchez, Mississippi.

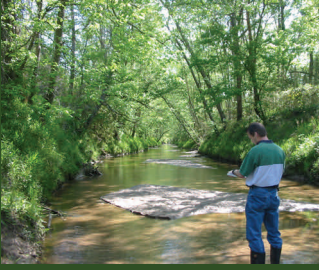


Figure 7. Left, Emily Dear, a volunteer at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, holds a just-published copy of *The Geology of Mississippi*. Right, in this book is a picture of Emily and her husband Dr. Dave Dear (heart surgeon, figure 853 in book) beside a plaster jacket containing the skull of a *Metamynodon*, a large land mammal, excavated from property they once owned at Edwards, MS.



Figure 8. *The Geology of Mississippi* book was put to use at the Fossil Road Show in identifying specimens brought in by the public. At left is a fossil snake vertebra from the Cane River Formation in Louisiana compared to a specimen of *Palaeophis virginianus* from Mississippi in the book. At right is the fossil conch shell *Galeodea millsapsi* from the Moodys Branch Formation in Louisiana compared to others from Mississippi figured in the book.

MDEQ ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION LINKS



- Draft permits currently at public notice, <http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/publicnotice.aspx>
- Permits and certificates issued in the last 90 days, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_permits.aspx
- General permit coverages issued in the last 90 days, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_gnp_issued.aspx
- Notices of Intent for coverage under a Statewide General permit received by the Environmental Permits Division, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_gnp_notice.aspx
- List of the 401 Water Quality Certifications currently at public notice, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_wqc_public_notice.aspx
- List of the compliance inspections recently conducted, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_eced_tasks.aspx
- Orders issued by the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality, http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/report_orders.aspx

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Cleome on a sandbar on
the banks of the Chicka-
sawhay River near Shubu-
ta.

Taken by James Starnes,
Office of Geology.

