I would like to begin by saying how excited I am to start my term as President of the Louisiana Water Environment Association (LWEA). This is an extraordinary organization and it is a privilege to serve as President. I have been a member of LWEA for a few years and have served on the Board for the last two years. Over the past few years, I have witnessed this organization grow and prosper and I look forward to continuing to build on the legacy of past presidents who have worked diligently to move the organization in a positive direction.

The mission of LWEA is to protect, promote, and enhance the water environment through: meeting the needs of our members for professional growth and development; and sharing information, expertise and resources with our members, the public and others on water environment issues. During the past year, LWEA has made many steps towards the mission and goals of the organization. We have had regular luncheons for both members and nonmembers and discussed various water topics from Naegleria fowleri to Industrial Aeration Stabilization Basins. These luncheons have been opportunities not only to learn but to network with other professionals in the environmental industry.

We have also continued our relationship with the LA Conference and hosted both the golf tournament and Operations Challenge events in Alexandria, LA. All of these events have been very successful for our organization and have allowed us to continue to provide scholarships and increase public awareness of LWEA and water environment issues. Over the next year, we are looking forward to continuing our expansion of our technical programs and reaching out to environmental professionals in other areas of Louisiana. During my term as president, I would like to see us continue our luncheons and conference participations, along with adding a short course for both members and nonmembers, increasing activities for young professionals, and growing our membership. There are many opportunities we plan to use to meet the goals set by our organization including attracting and retaining an active and diverse membership and serving the needs of our members.

Once again, I am thrilled to serve LWEA in this capacity and look forward to working with everyone to meet the goals and follow the mission statement set by LWEA.

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ANNOUNCING THE 2015 LWEA & WEF AWARD RECIPIENTS

BY DAVID HAWLEY

BURKE AWARD RECIPIENT
CITY OF SHREVEPORT

The Burke Award recognizes a municipal or industrial wastewater facility for establishing and maintaining an active and effective safety program. This award was established in 1982 in honor of George W. Burke, Jr., for his many years of service to both the water environment field and WEF as staff manager of technical services. Mr. Burke was instrumental in developing WEF’s annual safety survey and assisting in the production of several safety training aids and promotional packets.

BEDELL AWARD
DAVID HAWLEY
CK ASSOCIATES

The Bedell Award was established to acknowledge extraordinary personal service to a WEF Member Association. The award is named for Arthur Sidney Bedell, WEF’s second president for his long devotion and service to the New York Sewage and Industrial Wastes Association, now the New York Water Environment Association. He was Chief of the Bureau of Sewage and Waste Disposal of the New York State Department of Health.

HATFIELD AWARD
CAMILLE MIZE
SEVERN-TRENT SERVICES/GOWC

The Hatfield Award is presented to operators of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism. The award was established in honor of Dr. William D. Hatfield, Superintendent of the Decatur, Illinois, Sanitary District, who was President of the Central States Sewage Works Association in 1944-45 and served as President of the Federation in 1958-59.
The John Dale Givens Award is presented to a distinguished member for their meritorious service to the Louisiana Water Environment Association. This award was established in 2003 to acknowledge the many years of distinguished service provided by J. Dale Givens as the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and his strong, untiring support of the Louisiana Water Environment Association.

The competition showcases the skills and talent of Operators who work at Louisiana’s wastewater treatment plants and collections facilities. These employees perform highly specialized tasks by treating millions of gallons of wastewater every day, keeping Louisiana’s waters safe and clean. Congratulations to all of our participants.
STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE

NATALIE BUSH
Student – St. Joseph Academy
Baton Rouge

Annual competition hosted by WEF. High school students from around the state submit papers for review. The winner attends the national competition in Washington DC funded by LWEA and WEF. Natalie’s paper is titled, Mitigation of Hypoxic Ecosystems Using Hemolymph Analysis of Callinectes sapidus and Procambarus clarkii in Relation to Spartina Grasses, Year 2.

KENNETH KEFFER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

ZACHARY ROMAINE
Student - Master of Science
Coastal & Ecological Engineering
Louisiana State University

FREDERIC G. DEILER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

MATTHEW DECELL
Student - Master of Science
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Louisiana State University

HARROLD NORMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

THOMAS EVERETT
Student - Master of Science
Coastal & Ecological Engineering
Louisiana State University

Aimee Killeen presenting Natalie Bush with Stockholm Junior Water Prize

David Hawley presenting the Frederic G. Deiler Memorial Scholarship to Matthew Decell

David Hawley presenting the Harrold Norman Memorial Scholarship to Thomas Everett

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Summers in Louisiana can be very hot and humid. We are nearing cooler temperatures, but we still have weeks (maybe months) until it starts to cool off. Whether you are working or playing outdoors, you should always protect yourself from the dangers of heat stress. Prolonged exposure to the high temperatures can cause heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat rash, and heat stroke. Heat illness can also lead to death.

The human body usually sweats to cool itself; however, sweating isn’t always enough. Precautions, such as frequent water and breaks in the shade, must be taken to prevent heat illness. To prevent heat related illness and fatalities, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) suggests you do the following:

- Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you are not thirsty.
- Rest in the shade to cool down.
- Wear a hat and light-colored clothing.
- Learn the signs of heat illness and what to do in an emergency.
- Keep an eye on fellow workers.
- “Easy does it” on your first days of work in the heat.

Other tips include using a buddy system and avoiding caffeinated beverages and alcohol when working outside.

Everyone should know the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If someone is experiencing heat exhaustion, they may be confused, dizzy, and fatigued. They also may be experiencing headaches, muscle cramps, nausea, and/or diarrhea.

Heat stroke is the most serious type of heat illness and can cause damage to the brain and other internal organs. Symptoms can be similar to those of heat exhaustion but more fatal. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, red, hot, and dry skin, muscle weakness, rapid shallow breathing, seizures, and unconsciousness.

If you feel someone is experiencing these symptoms, call 911 and while waiting, move the person to shady area. Remove any unnecessary clothing and take the person’s temperature if possible. The patient’s temperature should be lowered to 101 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit. This can be done by fanning air over the person while wetting his or her skin with water, applying ice to the armpits, groin, neck, and back, or putting the patient in a cool shower or tub.

The risk of heat-related illness increases when the heat index is over 90 degrees. Always remember to check the heat index when planning work or play outside. Preparing for the heat can save your life.

References: www.osha.gov and www.webmd.com
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Henry Graham - henry@lca.org

OPEN POSITIONS
Program • Government • Young Professionals
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New members
Please welcome the following new members, who recently joined WEF and LWEA:

Todd Guidry, Lafayette Utilities System, Lafayette, LA
John E Vigé, Water District 7, DeQuincy, LA
Diana Day, Baton Rouge, LA
Emily Gootee, GHD, Baton Rouge, LA
Louisiana Water Service, Covington, LA

Discounts
Members receive discounts on conferences, dinner meetings, and WEF publications. WEF members also receive discounts from partner organizations.

Non-members, Expired Members
For WEF/LWEA membership information, visit wef.org/JoinWEF or contact Linda McConnell at 225/292-9007 or Linda.McConnell@ghd.com. I can forward you a PDF of the current application form or can look up your expired member number for use in communications with WEF.

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