



## *Drainage Workshop Highlights*

Thursday June 23, 2011

- **Know the Problem:** *Jennifer Roberts with The Bayou Land Resource Conservation and Development Council* reminded attendees that the water in storm drains is often not treated before rejoining lakes and rivers, so be sure to **look for**:
  - Leaves, dirt, soil, trash, and more often clog storm water drains
  - Things like dog waste, fertilizer, and car oil near drains contaminate the water with bacteria and chemicals
- **Know How to Report a Problem:** *Jeff Dauzat with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)* advised attendees to watch for sediment building up in drains near construction sites, as well as to watch what people illegally dump into drains:



- If you see or suspect a **construction site** is not keeping streets and drains clean, please call: 1-888-763-5424 or report online at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/)



- If you see or suspect an **individual of dumping illegal contents** (which mean *anything but water!!*) into drains, please call:

(SPOC ) at 225-219-3640 or

Toll Free 1-888-763-5424

l or online reporting at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/>

When calling to report an incident to either number, you will need to provide a) the address of the complaint, b) a description of the complaint, c) a name of the party you think is responsible.

Anonymous complaints are accepted, but providing your name and number is highly encouraged.

- **Know How to Prevent the Problem:** *Steve Picou of the LSU Ag Center* finished off the workshop with some suggestions for what residents can do to prevent flooding and runoff:
  - **Spread gravel around the foundation of your house** to redirect rain away from the foundation, which prevents settling and flooding.
  - **Make sure rain spouts are not leaking** and causing mildew on your house. Also, make sure water from the spout is being directed away from your foundation or driveway, and into a garden or lawn instead.

- **Do not pave** more than 40% of your property. In addition to being illegal, too much pavement prevents rain from naturally soaking into lawns and gardens, which increases the rate of flooding and runoff.
- **Plant rain gardens.** Trees and plants soak up water and prevent flooding and runoff. Native plants are perfectly suited for rain gardens and very easy to care for.

For more information, please contact Steve Picou at 504-736-6519 office and visit the following sites:

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/lahouse>

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/rebuilding/>

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/disasterrecovery/>