

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

[August 23, 2019](#)

Too Much of a Good Thing is

If a bit of something is good for you then surely a lot of it has to be even better for you right? [Nope](#), at least when it comes to nutrition where both people and natural systems can succumb to the “too much of a good thing is a bad thing syndrome”. That is certain the case for the Mississippi River and nutrients where the MoaGTiaBTS is on full display. The connections between hypoxia in the Gulf and the River nutrient loads are well known. This year’s long highwater season on the River has been linked to algae blooms, displaced fisheries, and beach closures in Mississippi, so much so that the State of [Mississippi’s Secretary of State is asking the Army Corps of Engineers to consider new ways of managing floods](#) on the River to keep polluted river water away. Top that off with a new study published in the journal *Restoration Ecology* that suggests that the elevated [nutrient levels in river water can actually weaken coastal wetlands](#). Yes, that is the very same river water that many of the plans for saving (to the extent it can be) Louisiana’s coast depend on and that [some local governments are losing confidence in](#). Before jettisoning coastal restoration and flood control due to pollution concerns, perhaps some serious attention should be given to actually making the river clean enough to use. Just an idea, and not even a new one. Since [1997 EPA has been leading voluntary multistate task force](#) aimed at reducing nutrient levels in the Mississippi River and Gulf. In the ensuing 22 years, it has not made a dent and until Louisiana and Mississippi insist on improvement that won’t likely change. [Louisiana’s latest proposed nutrient management strategy](#) does not get there, as this [Institute’s comments](#) point out. The only thing in shorter supply than time to act has been the will to act. Maybe it will be different this go round.

This Explains So Much, Mom

Admit it, you have wondered if guys have lost a step or two in the game of life since the days of [real men doing big things](#). On the other hands, it seems obvious our smiles have gotten much nicer compared to the mid-20th Century. Maybe there is connection and maybe it is fluoride in drinking water, which started being added to public water supplies in 1945. According to [study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association \(JAMA\)](#) there is evidence that when women drink fluoridated water during pregnancy it can lead to lower intelligence (more than 4 IQ points) in their sons. Sons, not daughters. Needless to say this is a controversial study, indeed the controversy is not new. There have long been questions about the impacts of mass fluoridation and the ethics of non-consensual dosing and the JAMA study will only fuel those. In the mean while one has to

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

ABA: [Landrights in Myanmar](#)

August 26, 2019 Webinar

[LSU Science Café: Coastal Voices](#)

August 27, 2019; Baton Rouge, LA

[Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Planting](#)

September 5-7, 2019; Slidell, LA

[State of the Coast Session Proposal](#)

[Deadline](#); September 13, 2019

Water jobs:

[Consortium Administrator](#)

LUMCON; Chauvin, LA

[Deputy Director](#)

Audubon Louisiana; New Orleans, LA

[Executive Director](#)

Network of Oregon Watersheds; Salem, OR

[Research Engineer](#)

ULL Watershed Flood Center; Lafayette, LA

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wonder if there is a connection between Flouridation Man and [Florida Man](#). While you ponder that, would you mind holding our beer?

Fore!

Golf can be a dangerous game, [unless you're Lee Trevino \(that guy's got moxie!\)](#), but the Boulder Creek Golf Club in Belmont, Michigan has taken things to a whole new level [according the Michigan Department of Environment](#). The MDE has [demanded that the Club stop irrigating the golf course](#) because it has linked the Club's groundwater pumping with the migration of contamination ([PFAS](#)) into residential wells. The Club may have gotten the letter but it did not create the problem, that would be Wolverine Worldwide, which made water-proof Hush Puppy shoes that were made water proof by applying PFAS based [Scotchgard](#), at a tannery in the community. Maybe the pollution was done legally, maybe it wasn't. [What is clear is that the people of the community and now Boulder Creek Golf Club have to deal with it](#), including no longer having safe source of water. Sadly, [they are not alone](#) and there is no federal regulatory standards for PFAS. No matter [what Maui County says](#), all water sure seems to find a way to be connected.

And the Winner is...

Forget the [VMA's](#), it is the ABA everyone is watching! And the big award on everyone's mind this fall is the American Bar Association's 2019 Lifetime Achievement in Environmental, Energy and Resources Law and Policy. Which we are delighted to report is going to....[Beyoncé Knowles](#)! No wait, we meant [Tulane Law's own Professor Oliver Houck](#). [Well done!](#) Rumor has it even the [Queen Bee](#) and [Kanye](#) are excited.