

# Creating a Legacy for Future Generations

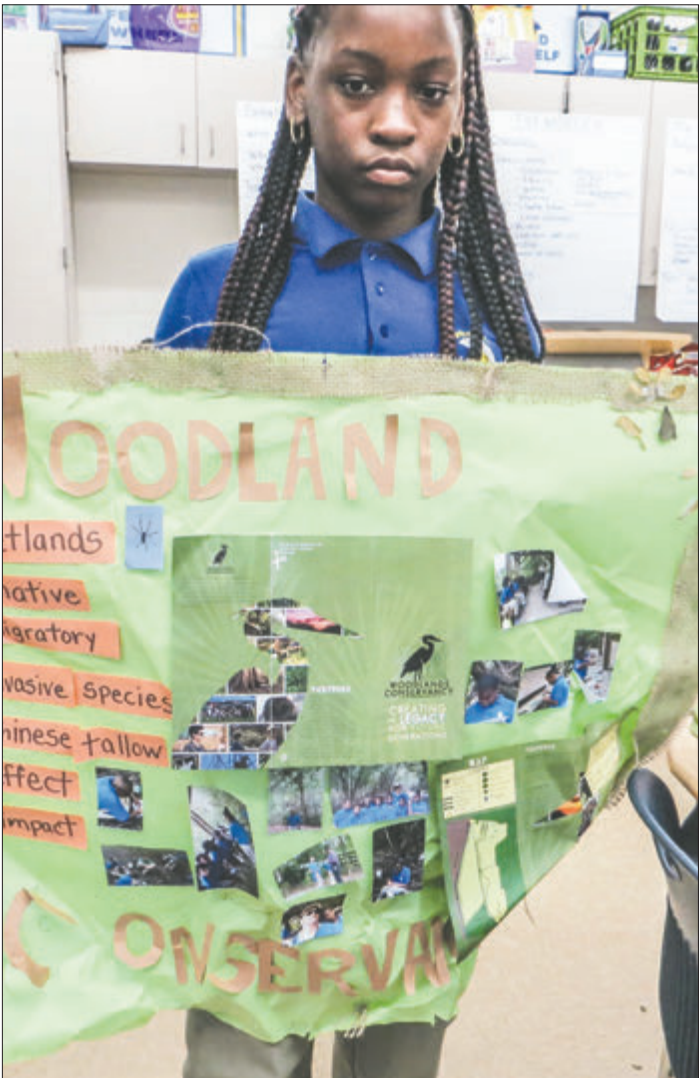
## Plaquemines Parish Students Help Restore The Forest



Teachers, parents, relatives and volunteers stopped for a photo at the Woodlands Trail entrance kiosk after a morning of planting native seedlings in restoration areas along Woodlands Trail.



Greg Abdelnoor, CFO at Chevron Oronite and President Amos Cormier (left) and Councilman Beau Black (right) pose with the students from Erin Cosse's and Melissa Andrew's fourth grade classes.



Phoenix students created a poster to document the topics they covered in the Seeds to Saplings program.

Thanks to the generosity of Chevron Oronite and The Brown Foundation's Service Learning Program, Woodlands Conservancy was able to expand the "Seeds to Saplings" program to six classrooms in Plaquemines Parish schools during the 2015-2016 school year. The program involves seven service learning lesson plans spread over the school year. The lessons include fourth grade benchmarks in Science, English, Language Arts and Social Studies. Woodlands Conservancy work with the fourth grade classes of Mary Beth Newchurch, Lisa Rodriguez, Melissa Andrews and Erin Cosse at Belle Chasse Primary and Liz Tadlock and Rebecca Barnard at Phoenix School.



Belle Chasse Primary students planted over 400 trees along Woodlands Trail, placing tree protectors around each seedling.

This was the first year that Erin Cosse's Science class participated in the Seeds to Sapling project that she described as giving her students "an opportunity to give back to the community. Fourth graders learn about how an ecosystem must stay balanced for all living things to survive. Going to Woodland Trails was a great hands-on experience. They learned how an invasive species has affected this ecosystem and how we can help protect this ecosystem and the living organisms that live there by planting native trees. Seeing my students so involved in this program and connecting what they have learned in class to a real world problem was one of my favorite and most memorable moments as a teacher."

Lisa Rodriguez noted that in addition to the value of the experience to her as a science teacher, the students "are able to get a taste of how to involve local officials that can help our environment by writing letters to them and

inviting them to a planting ceremony. Once there, students can talk to them about what they've learned will help, and what hurts our environment." The students saw the direct effect of their efforts to engage their local elected officials as President Amos Cormier, Councilman Beau Black, Councilman Irvin Juneau and Councilman Benny Rousselle attended the planting event making an extra effort to speak directly to students who had sent an invitation to them.

"Once the students are aware of what is happening around them, they can become those citizens that do something and make a difference. The students become the next generation helping preserve our environment. It is a learning opportunity that truly educates our students for the future" said Mrs. Rodriguez.

"The Woodlands Conservancy's Seeds to Saplings project provides Plaquemines Par-

ish students with a fun and interactive way to learn about the environment," said Greg Abdelnoor, Finance Manager at Chevron Oronite's Oak Point Plant. "Introducing students to projects like this at early age can help foster an interest in science, as well as technology, engineering and math, which can lead to good paying jobs and a rewarding career."

Due to inclement weather on the date scheduled for the Phoenix classrooms to do their planting, the service learning project was rescheduled from March to May. The students from Phoenix visited the Port Nickel site where they learned about native plants and animals commonly seen there. The Port Nickel site has ongoing restoration activities and is certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council. After a guided hike and lunch provided by Freeport McMoRan, the students planted Willow Oak trees provided by Woodlands Conservancy.



Students from Mary Beth Newchurch's and Lisa Rodriguez's fourth grade classes were excited to see elected officials attend their planting at Woodlands Trail.

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