

GROWTH AT WOODLANDS

On January 18, Woodlands Conservancy announced the purchase of 190 acres of important bottomland hardwood wetlands in Orleans Parish. This completes a multi-year effort initiated by the Conservancy and supported by The Conservation Fund.

The acquisition will provide additional hiking, wildlife viewing, and outdoor education opportunities to local citizens. "This is a monumental day for our city and the entire region," stated Councilmember Kristin Gisleson Palmer.

Funding from the Coypu Foundation, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Martha Gunther, Jackie Leonard, Curtis Sorrells, Orleans Audubon Society, the New Orleans Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Crescent Bird Club and the Louisiana Ornithological Society was used to evaluate and appraise the property over the past couple of years. The land acquisition by Woodlands Conservancy was made possible through a generous donation from a local businessman and his wife who value the mission of Woodlands Conservancy to preserve contiguous low-lying areas for storm protection and provide educational and recreational access to the public in their community.



GET INVOLVED

If you would like to get involved with Woodlands Conservancy by making a contribution of your time, talent or treasures, please contact us at:

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SHELL FUNDS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Shell Exploration and Production has granted \$35,000 for Ecosystem Restoration and Volunteer Programs. The funds for the Volunteer program will result in hands-on activities such as tree planting, hand-pulling invasive seedlings and other improvement projects.



Ed Landgraf and Josh Etkind of Shell presented the donation shortly after Woodlands Conservancy's acquisition of 190 acres in Orleans Parish. Landgraf said, "Investing in projects such as this is consistent with Shell's objectives around Sustainable Development, which simply means enhancing and protecting the environment and communities in which we operate is just the right thing to do. I am proud to work for a company like Shell who supports initiatives like this."

“It is vitally important that we work to protect and preserve this wetland area.”

*~ Mayor Mitch Landrieu,
City of New Orleans*

BUZZING WITH ACTIVITIES

A grant received from the National Environmental Education Foundation, funded by Toyota Motor Sales has contributed to increased activities at Woodlands Trail. Woodlands Conservancy was provided the grant to offer a variety of special events at Woodlands Trail in an effort



to reach out to new user groups. The series kicked off in October with local artist and botanist, Jennifer Blanchard, who lead an interpretive hike, titled Botany Bonanza, informing participants about what species they were viewing along Woodlands Trail. Other special events held were: Whittle Away the Day with Mike Biguenet, the Woodlands Wildlife hike with Dr. Bob Thomas, and Ceramic Leaf Prints with Jennifer Blanchard.

Mark you calendar for the Birding Hike with Joelle Finley, Saturday, March 23, 9 -11 a.m.

Visit our website at www.woodlandsconservancy.org to find out about other upcoming events. Woodlands Conservancy's Program Director, Melanie Morgan, facilitates regular hikes with local experts to teach visitors all the forest has to offer. She also schedules volunteer work days and a variety of other educational field trips and interpretive hikes available by request. Call Melanie for more information.

HARRAH'S CONTRIBUTES

Thanks to a recommendation from New Orleans City Council Vice President, Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Woodlands Conservancy was the recipient of a \$500 contribution from Harrah's New Orleans Casino Community Support Grant program.



The funds were placed in the Woodlands Conservancy Endowment Fund at the Greater New Orleans Foundation to ensure Woodlands Conservancy's efforts in creating a legacy for future generations will continue in perpetuity.

If you would like to contribute to Woodlands Conservancy's Endowment Fund directly or through your planned giving, please contact us at 504.433.4000.

MARINE RESERVES REMOVE DEBRIS

Marine Reserves and their family members and friends came to Woodlands Trail on Saturday, February 2, World Wetlands Day, to remove Hurricane Isaac debris. Their heroic efforts cleared over 5 miles of trails. Lt. Col.



Andy Shinskie was certainly right when he said, "the amount of work a group of Marines can accomplish in a day's time can be pretty impressive." Thanks so much for your help!

A TULANE FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, November 10, 2012, a group of Tulane students in Professor Keith Silverman's Environmental Ethics Philosophy class came to Woodlands Conservancy to learn about invasive species removal. Their volunteer work helped to remove damage from Hurricane Isaac, protect native saplings, and beautify our Bicentennial Cypress Tree.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION



A school group from Edna Karr High School tests water quality in Plantar's Canal during their field trip to Woodlands Conservancy.

*"Earth and sky,
woods and fields,
lakes and rivers,
the mountain and
the sea, are excel-
lent schoolmasters
and teach some of
us more than we
can ever learn from
books."*

~John Lubbock

WOODLANDS CONSERVANCY CONTRIBUTOR SPOTLIGHT

*Thank you to those who have made contributions since
out last newsletter publication.*

We deeply appreciate your support!

Rebecca Altobelli
Andrew Brooks
Jennifer Coulson
Damon M. Dietrich
Lee & Nancy Dupont
Lawrence & Tatjana Eustis
Janice Faust
Joelle J. Finley
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Thank you to those who
generously responded to our
Annual Appeal:

Timothy Chauvin
Capt. Al Christian
Thomas Coleman/IMTT
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Linda Deane
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Dr. Frank Parker
Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Fierro
Mark Leopold
SurgiMed
Glenn & Nancy Orgeron
Roy & Marjorie Weiner
Whitney Bank
Andrew & Lucie Whitley
Arthur & Mary Ellen Wynne

SUCCESSFUL OPEN HOUSE



On Saturday, September 29, 2012, Woodlands Conservancy hosted an Open House celebration on National Public Lands Day.

In spite of the rain, more than forty people gathered to take a look at the improvements made to Woodlands Trail over the past several months and acknowledge the contributors that made these changes possible. After a guided hike, the celebration began with the presentation of colors by the Honor Guard from the NASJRB. Woodlands Board President Heidi Poche, acknowledged the long ties the military has had to the Woodlands site beginning with its use as a Naval Ammunition Depot during World War II. Katie Brasted expressed the group's gratitude to the Plaquemines Parish Government stating that, "without the government's recognition of the value of this great wilderness area to the public, none of the day's celebrations would be possible."

This year's National Public Lands Day theme of "helping hands for America's lands" seemed a fitting recognition for those who contributed to the recent park improvements. Corporate champions honored for their contributions included: AEP River Operations, BP, Chevron Oronite, ConocoPhillips, Daybrook Fisheries and, McMoRan Exploration.

PARTNERS

Algiers Economic Development Foundation
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
California State University Channel Islands
Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries -
Louisiana Natural Heritage Program
Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs

Mississippi River Trail Organization
Oregon State University
Plaquemines Parish Government
Regional Planning Commission
The Conservation Fund
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