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SHELL FUNDS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AT WOODLANDS SITE



Ed Landgraf (far left) and Josh Etkind (far right) of Shell Exploration and Production, present a check for \$35,000 in funds to Woodlands Conservancy's Executive Director, Katie Brasted, for Ecosystem Restoration and Volunteer Programs.

PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LA. (Feb. 18, 2013) Woodlands Conservancy announced today \$35,000 from Shell Exploration and Production for Ecosystem Restoration and Volunteer Programs. The funds will be used to remove non-native, invasive vegetation from a portion of Woodlands Trail and Park Bird Sanctuary in Plaquemines Parish. The funds for the Volunteer program will result in sponsored hands-on activities such as tree planting, hand-pulling invasive seedlings and other improvement projects at the Woodlands site.

The presentation made by Ed Landgraf and Josh Etkind of Shell followed Woodlands Conservancy's recent announcement of the acquisition of 190 acres in Orleans Parish in the same general area as the managed property in Plaquemines 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". After viewing a map of the effort to connect low-lying, forested wetlands for habitat for wildlife and protection of the community, Josh Etkind remarked, "This is such a fantastic resource for all the kids and families in the greater metro area. Having the opportunity to get out on such a well-managed, lovely nature trail so close to the city could have a real positive impact on people's lives."

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The 609-acre Woodlands Trail and Park Bird Sanctuary in Plaquemines Parish includes over 5 miles of America's Wetland Birding Trail, receiving that designation as a result of its documented habitat for hundreds of species of resident and migratory birds. Woodlands Conservancy has been working with California State University Channel Islands and Oregon State University on an ongoing basis since 2007 to assess the habitat within the 609-acre forested wetland in Plaquemines Parish and evaluate treatment and reforestation efforts. Active restoration has been conducted beginning in 2009 as funds allow. To date, 86 of the 609-acres have been treated at least once. Multiple treatments are necessary due to seed banks that germinate following the removal of adult trees. When asked why reforestation is necessary, Dr. Sean Anderson, CSUCI, responded, "not only is a native forest important to sustain the wildlife of Louisiana but during storms, it's a question of do you want your home surrounded by toothpicks or two by fours for protection from wind damage".

Woodlands Conservancy was formed as a nonprofit organization in 2001 to promote smart growth and establish greenways and trails in one of Southeastern Louisiana's last remaining coastal forests. Woodlands Conservancy's greenway and trail system allows for increased access to forested wetlands that provide an "environmental classroom" to educate users of the value of conserving, restoring, creating and enhancing wetlands in Louisiana. For more information, visit www.woodlandsconservancy.org.

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