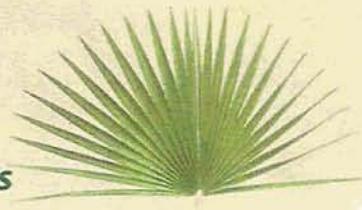


Woodlands Trail and Park

Vol. 6, No. 2

Creating a Legacy for Future Generations



Woodlands Trail and Park was founded with the mission to "establish and embellish an educational, historical and recreational greenway within the Lower Coast Algiers and Belle Chasse areas."

STUDENTS HELP RESTORE KATRINA DAMAGED FOREST

For many, college spring break traditionally means heading for the beaches of South Florida, but hundreds of students from colleges and universities across the nation chose to spend their 2008 spring break giving back to the communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina. During March, over two hundred students spent over one thousand hours at Woodlands Trail and Park in Belle Chasse working on a variety of restoration activities. Students expressed a desire to work on restoring local greenspaces that give area residents an escape into peaceful natural areas with only the sounds of birds and other wildlife. Activities included clearing trails, removing storm debris and preparing low-lying areas for a planned Wetland Tree Planting Project.

Students participating in activities at WTP came from University of Indiana, University of Maine, Boston University, University of Vermont, George Washington University, Holy Cross College, Wesleyan and Yale. Although not native to coastal Louisiana, the students quickly developed a keen eye for recognizing the non-native Chinese Tallow tree that has become more invasive, particularly along the forest edge following Hurricane Katrina's removal of the forest canopy. Students in Environmental Sciences quickly relayed to others the value of removing invasive species and replanting native trees and vegetation to the long-term livelihood of native wildlife and migratory birds.



(Top) Sixty-five George Washington University students spent one of their spring break days clearing trails, removing invasive vegetation and working on other maintenance projects along Woodlands Trail in Belle Chasse, Louisiana.

(Bottom) Student remove invasive Chinese Tallow seedlings along Woodlands Trail - America's Wetland Birding Trail.

YOU CAN HELP SAVE AMERICA'S SPONGE!



You can help the mission of creating a legacy for future generations in Louisiana's Coastal Forests by wearing the Mignon Faget designed Woodlands Trail Palmetto AND becoming a member. The Palmetto, available in both Sterling Silver and 14K Gold, was the design chosen, as it is the common understory plant in bottomland hardwoods forests. The jewelry and membership is available at:
www.woodlandstrail.org or 504.433.4000.



Printing courtesy of McMoRan Exploration

Woodlands Trail and Park

Creating A Legacy for Future Generations

CSUCI Conducts 2nd Assessment at WTP

Dr. Sean Anderson, Professor in Environmental Science and Resource Management at California State University Channel Islands returned to Woodlands Trail and Park in March, 2008 with an assessment team of fifteen students. CSUCI conducted an assessment of frequency and stem density of invasive species following Hurricane Katrina in 2007. Some preliminary treatment measures have been implemented in an effort to tackle the proliferation of invasive Chinese Tallow,

Chinese Privet and Chinaberry at Woodlands Trail and Park. Dr. Anderson's group returned this year to provide post-treatment data that will assist in evaluating removal methods. The Woodlands group was greatly appreciative of the unique opportunity to have standardized pre- and post data to utilize in grant proposals to more adequately address the eradication of invasive species.



(Top) Dr. Sean Anderson, bottom right, and his students pause for a picture at the Trailhead of Woodlands Trail and Park

Indiana Students Restore Naval Ammunition Depot Trail



On March 13, twenty-five University of Indiana students belonging to the Campus Christian Crusaders spent their day clearing storm debris and clearing invasive vegetation at Woodlands Trail and Park in Belle Chasse. The students focused their energies on the Naval Ammunition

Depot Trail, clearing debris and vegetation from the shell road that connects a grouping of ten WWII Ammunition Magazines. The students worked to restore the area to how it likely looked before being abandoned by the military in 1963.

Spring Wetland Tree Planting



On April 08, twenty-nine volunteers from Louisiana to California gathered at Woodlands Trail and Park for a wetland tree-planting project along the Naval Ammunition Depot trail. During March, volunteers spent hundreds of hours preparing the site that had not been maintained likely long before the military officially dedicated the property

to Plaquemines Parish Government in 1963. In addition to providing shirts and gloves for all volunteers, Chevron provided over one hundred native trees from the Chevron Tree Farm located in City Park. Thanks to Eddie Martin of Martin's Gardening Center, the trees were kept on an irrigation drip while awaiting the planting day.

Woodlands Trail and Park

Creating A Legacy for Future Generations

WTP Restoration Team Receives National Coastal America Award

On a recent breezy morning in November, the Woodlands Trail and Park Restoration Team of local, regional and national partners, community friends and supporting organizations gathered along the Plantar's Canal in Belle Chasse, Louisiana to celebrate the achievements of their cooperative conservation effort. In his Keynote address to the group, Robert DeHaan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Executive Office of the President, told a story of President Lincoln to accent the long connection we all have to the Mississippi



River. He brought that connection to present day in his remarks that "The Mississippi retains its role as the life blood of the region's economy. The Mississippi retains its role as an irreplaceable ecological asset and as a prime contributor to the quality of life New Orleanians hold dear so it's not surprising that the Woodlands Trail and Park team emerged as the winner of this year's Coastal America Partnership Award. The team's efforts over the past decade have embodied precisely that vision of the river."

Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed a bird watching hike led by Joelle Finley, Orleans Audubon



(Above) Woodlands Restoration Team Award Winners, for extended list please see the WTP website.

Society, receiving the added treat of the sight of a young eaglet at the close of the hike.

The greenway and trail system was recently described in the "Where the Birds Are", a travel guide released by Reader's Digest. Following the hike, Dr. Wylie Barrow, USGS National

Wetlands Research Center, provided the Woodlands group with digital imagery showing the exodus of over 2000 birds leaving the Woodlands property in the evening.

The digital imagery is available for viewing at www.woodlandstrail.org.

Team Leaders Help Channel Spring Break Energy

With calls of the availability of volunteers coming from all over the country for Spring Break, Woodlands Trail and Park joined with Bayou Rebirth Wetlands Education and Research to combine resources to harness the influx of spring energy. Team Leader Training sessions provided volunteer leaders with skills to assist in the management of volunteers to clear trails, remove invasive species and conduct other environmental restoration activities.



(left to right) Tom Campbell, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Jan Rice, Vicki Nagin and Carol Spears, Belle Chasse Primary School teachers and Rosina Philippe, America's Wetlands Corp member.

Woodlands Trail and Park

Creating A Legacy for Future Generations

BOARD MEMBERS

Katie Brasted, President
Benny Rousselle, 2nd Vice President
Carol Osborne Cowley, Secretary
Stuart Gay, Treasurer
Foster Creppel
Timothy N. Hewitt
Jan Morgan
Guy Motsinger
Paul Richard
Rob Salus, LCSW
Hank Willie

ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Henry L. Bart, Jr., Tulane University
Lynda Banta, Plaquemines Parish Council
Sharon Brannan, Plaquemines Parish School Board
Captain Brian Collins
Doug Daigle
Wynecta Fisher, Mayors Office of ED, OEA
Keith Hinkley, Plaquemines Parish Council
Richard DeMay, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary
Dr. Rob Mann, LSU Regional Archeologist
Rick Normand, J.D.
Terry Eastin, Mississippi River Trail
Dr. Bob Thomas, Loyola University
Elizabeth Williams, Ogden Museum of Southern Art

HONORARY BOARD

State Representative Ernest Wooton

PARTNERS

Algiers Economic Development Foundation
American Heritage Rivers Initiative
America's Wetland Campaign
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
Land Trust Alliance
Library of Congress - Veterans History Project
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
LSU - T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History
Mayor's Office of Economic Development;
Office of Environmental Affairs
Mississippi River Trail Organization
Orleans Audubon Society
Our Lady of Holy Cross College
Plaquemines Parish
Regional Planning Commission

*Thank you to the following
new members and continuing
contributors who are
making the legacy a reality!*

Alice Algero
Assessor Tom Arnold
Martin & Bonnie Bellanger
Citrus Lands of LA, LLC
Lynda Banta
Dr. Barbara Benson
Dr. Suzanne Chabaud
Dr. Michael Chafetz
Charley Cheffer
Jessica Cheffer
Joe Cheffer
Chevron Oronite
ConocoPhillips
Barbara Cummings
Dr. & Mrs. Patrice Delafontaine
K. Barton Farris, M.D.
Adrienne Flament & Kyle Resh
Rufus Harris
Richard & Marietta Herr
W. Keith Hinkley
Harry S. Kaufman, III
Dr. Nancy Keaton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Keaton
Jenny & Don Kennair
McMoRan Exploration Company
Dylan Madere
Dr.s Jamie Manders & James Riopelle
Curtis Sorrells
McDaniel Connection Consultants
Stewart & Cherie Niles
Glenn & Nancy Orgeron
Lynn Perkins Perez
SurgiMed, Inc.
Alice Ranatza
Michael and Terese Rachal
Villere Caliste Reggio, Jr.
Dr. Joel and Cynthia Sacks
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shaw
Ted Stacey
Edward Theriot
Rose Thurston
Elizabeth Vanbattum
Mr. & Mrs. Russell J. Touchet
Dr. & Mrs. Vincent Tuminello
Dr. & Mrs. Roy Weiner