



501-C-3

WOODLANDS TRAIL AND PARK

a nonprofit, 501-C-3 corporation

“Creating a Legacy” for future generations

www.woodlandstrail.com

Vol. 2, No. 1

Woodlands Trail Edges Closer to Reality

Environmental Assessment Begins

In January, 2004, Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle signed an agreement to utilize Congressional funds for the Environmental Assessment for Phase One of Woodlands Trail and Park. Providence Engineering has been working over the past several months to plan the exact location of recreational pathways within the forested property in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. Based on information from Providence Engineering, Councilwoman Lynda Banta introduced an Ordinance to the Plaquemines Parish Council to allow the re-routing/realignment of the Woodlands Trail route. On March 25, 2004, Ordinance 04-77 passed after receiving the supporting votes of Council members Lynda G. Banta, John L. Bartholemy, Jr., Joseph Clark, Amos J. Cormier, Jr., John J. Friedman Jerry Hodnett and Mike A. Mudge. One pathway will be primarily a birding/hiking trail and the second pathway will be for horseback riding.

In the picture at right, Dr. Wylie C. Barrow, Jr., Wildlife Biologist, USGS, National Wetlands Research Center and Richard DeMay, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program analyze vegetation near the Naval Ammunition Magazines.



Louisiana Great Gulf Coast Birding Trail Designation Received

In December, 2003, Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. received notice of the trail's inclusion in the Louisiana Great Gulf Coast Birding Trail. In March, 2004, Woodlands received the draft of Woodlands Trail's description to be included in Louisiana's Great Gulf Coast Birding Trail booklets. Additionally, the Woodlands Trail has been incorporated into the new publication of the Mississippi River Road Commissions' maps to be funded by Louisiana's Travel Promotion Association.



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Glen Weber Designs Entrance to Trail



Local artist, Glen Weber, generously offered his time and artistic talent to sketch a design for the Woodlands Trail entrance. Glen, who has a studio in his home within the forest in Lower Coast Algiers, was familiar with the future site of Woodlands Trail as he often flies model airplanes with friends in the open fields nearby.

Chevron Oronite Contributes \$5000 to Birding Trail



Mike Burnside, America's Regional Manager, presents check to Woodlands Trail and Park Board Members Benny Rousselle and Katie Brasted

A long-time friend and in-kind service provider to Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc., Chevron Oronite continues to demonstrate their commitment to the mission of WT&P to leave a legacy of

green space for future generations. On April 14, 2004, Mike Burnside, America's Regional Manager, Chevron Oronite presented Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. with a \$5000 donation toward the completion of the birding trail in Plaquemines Parish. The check presentation took place in Belle Chasse near the remains of the WWII swimming pool at the future entrance to Woodlands Trail. Mr. Burnside emphasized his company's excitement about being a part of "Creating a Legacy" for future generations. Thanks to the work and masterful coordination of Rebecca Altobelli, Administrative Assistant, the event was attended by over 35 individuals including students, parents, citizens, teachers, local and regional government officials and partners of Woodlands Trail and Park.

Council Supports Nomination of WWII Munition Magazines

In February, 2004, Lynda Banta, Plaquemines Parish Council Chairwoman introduced an Ordinance to allow the World War II Ammunition Magazines in Belle Chasse to be nominated as a National Historic Site. On March 25, 2004, the Ordinance received the supporting votes of Council members Lynda G. Banta, Joseph Clark, Amos J. Cormier, Jr., John J. Friedman and Mike A. Mudge.

Woodlands Trail and Park is grateful to the Council for passing the Ordinance and to Major General James E. Livingston and Councilman Oliver M. Thomas who provided letters in support of these efforts to honor our military. The passing of this Ordinance will serve to further the efforts of Woodlands Trail and Park to obtain funding to preserve the military history

associated with the Naval Ammunition Depot property.



WWII Naval Ammunition Magazine Belle Chasse, Louisiana

LSU and Library of Congress to Assist in Preserving History

During the past several months, Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. has been working with Dr. Rob Mann, LSU, Regional Archeologist to uncover the history of the grouping of ten WWII Naval Ammunition Magazines in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. Woodlands Trail and Park has received numerous phone calls and e-mails from across the country from individuals interested in sharing their "story" of time spend on the Naval Ammunition Depot Property. It has been discovered that 5000 of the 10,000 acres formed by Orleans and Plaquemines Parish, were used by the military during WWII, the Korean War and as a staging area for the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Woodlands Trail and Park is partnering with LSU's T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History and the Library of Congress to record the oral histories of the men and women serving our country both as a civilian and through the military branches. Volunteers are

needed who are willing to be trained to collect the oral histories. The Library of Congress is funding LSU to train our volunteers. Woodlands Trail's Oral History Project will allow this portion of our region's military history to be preserved in perpetuity, not only locally but at the LSU Library and Library of Congress.



English Turn/Lower Coast/Belle Chasse Peninsula

Primary Students Enter River of Words Contest

Woodlands Trail and Park partnered with Ms. Kathy Johnson's fourth grade class at Belle Chasse Primary to enter the River of Words poetry contest sponsored by the Library of Congress. Incorporating LEAP test terminology, Woodlands Trail and Park provided the students with a presentation on Woodlands Trail and Park, focusing on the environmental and cultural history of the surrounding watershed area. The students incorporated this information into poetry. The following students wrote poems about what they learned during the presentation about their watershed area: Woodlands Trail and Park by Dominic Avallone; Woodlands Trail and Park by Karah Bergeron; Woodlands Trail by Benjamin Beshel; A Walk in the Woods by Ruth Bruhn; The Beauty of Everything by Caitlyn Butler; Woodlands Trail and Park Found by Spencer Comeaux; Exploring the Wild by Jenna DePriest; The Plants and

Beauty by Rebecca Dubois; On the Woodlands Trail by Mason Glidewell; Woodlands Trail by Nathan Hebert; Green Space by Hillary Majewski; The Woodlands Treasure by Sean Matthews; Leaves by Kasey Pineda; Watershed by Elijah Whitten; Mississippi River Trail by Joshua Woolsey. Please visit www.woodlandstrail.com to read individual entries.



Betsy Brien, Public Affairs Specialist, ConocoPhillips, Katie Brasted, Woodlands Trail and Park

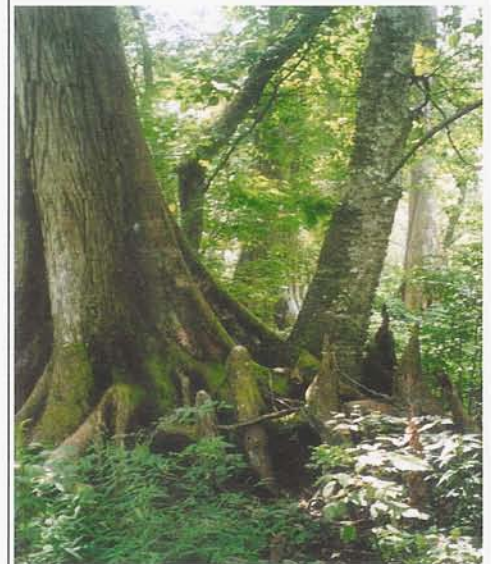
ConocoPhillips Joins in "Creating a Legacy"

On May 28, 2004, Dave Cagnolatti, Manager, State Governmental Affairs and Betsy Brien, Public Affairs Specialist for ConocoPhillips, joined Katie Brasted of Woodlands Trail and Park for a hike through the beginning of the forested pathways in Belle Chasse. After reviewing the progress of trail marking, Betsy Brien, on behalf of ConocoPhillips, presented a contribution toward the effort of preserving pristine bottomland hardwoods for future generations to Woodlands Trail and Park. The generous \$10,000 contribution was given as "seed money" to assist Woodlands Trail and Park in acquiring the necessary funds to operate and oversee the development of educational, recreational and historical greenways.

Entergy Awards Grant for Greenway Project

In June, 2004, Woodlands Trail and Park was notified of the receipt of Entergy's Environmental Stewardship Grant. Woodlands applied for the grant in an effort to receive funding to help provide the oversight for implementation of Phase One of the Woodlands Trail and Park Greenway Project and to develop additional educational materials for school children. In addition to the oversight of the development of the "outdoor classroom", Funds will be used to further develop educational materials regarding native and invasive species, wildlife, resident and migratory birds and other elements of the cultural and military history unique to this region.

Woodlands Trail is hopeful that the \$5000 in funding from Entergy can be successfully used to match a grant to Louisiana's Department of Agricultural and Forestry's Urban Forestry Grant program in order to fully implement an Urban Forestry Project for students.



Cypress trees and "knees" - a future view along Woodlands Trail

Sharing the Vision: Woodlands' Charter Membership Drive

During the past several months, Woodlands Trail and Park, with the assistance of numerous volunteers, sent out solicitations for Charter Members. These contributions will assist in moving our efforts forward to establish trails and boardwalk crossings to allow community access to one of our regions' last stands of bottomland hardwoods while preserving greenspace for future generations.

A special thanks to the following individuals as well as those who chose to remain anonymous who have generously shown that they share the vision of Woodlands Trail and Park and its mission to "Create a Legacy" for future generations.

PIONEERS

- * ConocoPhillips
- * Entergy
- * Chevron Oronite, Oak Point Plant
- Curtis Sorrells
- Wal-Mart Foundation
- Boomtown Casino

* contributions above the Pioneer level

TRAIL BLAZERS

- John W. Stone Oil Distributor, LLC
- Rob Salus
- Dan and Pat Shea
- Harry S. Kaufman, III
- New Orleans Sierra Club
- State Representative Ernest Wooton

GUIDES

- Kathy and Glen Weber
- Mark Ott and Andrea Bryant
- Ben Seale
- Robbins and Diane Claypool
- Drs. Jamie Manders and James Riopelle
- Dr. Matt and Lynn Grimm

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Walter Dupeire, III
Julia Wagner
Sharyn Martin
Mike and Marilyn Dougall



Mulberry

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Join the Legacy

Woodlands Trail is currently in need of operating money to cover expenses prior to reimbursement from grant sources as well as provide the operating costs necessary to oversee Phase One of the greenway project and plan for future phases. Please join our efforts in "Creating a Legacy" for future generations by sending your tax deductible contribution to:

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