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CONTINUE STORY

The Westbank Women's Connection will sponsor a ladies' luncheon June 14 at Timberlane Country Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The price is \$15. The guest speaker is Glenda Alford, "Queen of Questions," and the vocalist is Mimi Crabtree. For reservations, call (504) 394-7862. Free child care is provided with reservations.

WOODLANDS TRAIL

University of Louisiana Lafayette students, studying under the direction of Barbara Benson, state Department of Renewable Resources, returned to Woodlands Trail in Lower Coast Algiers in April to begin construction on an interpretive kiosk.

During a visit in March to conduct site assessments for parking areas, an interpretive center and other potential project amenities, the students insisted that they be allowed to come up with a hands-on, permanent project to help the Woodlands Trail move forward. They settled on the construction of an interpretive kiosk near a grouping of 10 World War II ammunition magazines along the trail.

Travis Trahan, a student in Benson's class, secured donations for the construction project from Lowe's Home Improvement in Lafayette. He organized all necessary tools and supplies necessary to function in the forest without electricity. The students are preparing interpretive materials to post on the kiosk to inform others of the history of the former naval ammunition depot property.

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On May 11, Woodlands Trail and Park's efforts in creating a legacy for future generations were honored by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Woodlands Trail and Park Board Members Katie Brasted, Carol Osborne Cowley and Paul Richard were present at a banquet held at the LSU Faculty Club in Baton Rouge to accept the Coastal Stewardship Award for "preserving, protecting and celebrating the natural beauty and cultural treasures within a 10,000-acre peninsula in the Metropolitan New Orleans area."

CRCL's board chairman, Woody Crews, presented the award, which is in the form of a hand-carved egret. Plaquemines Parish Councilwoman Lynda Banta attended the event with Woodlands Trail and Park Board members and guests.

Woodlands Trail and Park's smart-growth regional efforts have gained increased national attention during the past several months following the award for the 2006 Conservation Organization of the Year from the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation.

With the support of its partners, the Algiers Economic Development Foundation and Our Lady of Holy Cross College, the organization was nominated for the Preserve America Award and recently received notice of nomination for the Coastal America Award by Doug Meffert, deputy director, Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research.

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Send news for Community Report to The Times-Picayune West Bank, 2520 Belle Chasse Highway, Gretna, LA 70053. Fax to 826-3790 or call 826-3781. Send e-mail to: mmorris@timespicayune.com, kgritter@timespicayune.com and ydeshazier@timespicayune.com.

University of Louisiana Lafayette students studying under the direction of Barbara Benson returned to Woodlands Trail in April to begin construction on an interpretive kiosk. In back row, from left, are: Rhett Hebert Joshua Brumfield and Justin Lemaire; center row, Ty Guidry, Gabriel Giraldo, Andrea Venable, Jeanne Lestelle, Barbara Benson and Cody Oliver; and front, Ben Dabadie and Rusty Laviolette.

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