

# Lafayette Students Clears Woodland Trails



David Bathel, lead environmental engineer, Chevron Oronite, Oak Point Plant (second from right), visits with University of Louisiana at Lafayette students during Woodlands Trail Work Weekend.

Bathel volunteered to speak with the students Saturday morning to provide information and answer questions regarding job opportunities they may pursue in their field of study. The ULL Students in Naturalist and Docent Practices accompanied

their instructor, Dr. Barbara Benson (third from right) for a weekend of working and camping out at Woodlands Trail.

With four GPS Trimble units on loan from Navigation Electronics in Lafayette, the students, accompanied by members of the Louisiana Hiking Club, were able to mark and clear over a mile of trails within the area dedicated for Woodlands Trail-America's Wetland Birding Trail.

With University of Louisiana at Lafayette students leading the way with

GPS units, the Louisiana Hiking Club and area volunteers were able to clear fallen trees from the pathway in an effort to assess the condition of the WWII ammunition magazines. The group of more than 30 volunteers were successful in clearing the pathway to one of 10 WWII magazines.

Excited about the future of Woodlands Trail and with a sense of ownership, both the ULL students and Louisiana Hiking Club have committed to returning in March to assist in clearing before spring

growth makes the effort even more challenging.

Woodlands Trail and Park members are anxious to move forward as they are faced with losing funding in June 2006 that was awarded three years ago for trail construction. They have not been able to moved forward with trail construction due to waiting for final permitting that was not acquired until August, 2005. For more information or to contribute to the Woodlands Trail effort, visit [www.woodlandstrail.com](http://www.woodlandstrail.com).