

Woodlands Trail Celebrates Wetlands Day with Mignon Faget

Woodlands Trail and Park celebrated America's Wetlands by introducing a piece of jewelry designed with inspiration from the park.

Noted New Orleans artist and designer Mignon Faget was commissioned to create a Palmetto design exclusively for Woodlands Trail and Park in "Creating a Legacy" for future generations.

The Palmetto was chosen as the image for the park. It is a prominent plant found in the understory of bottomland hardwood forests.

"I'm an old trail person,"

said Mignon Faget who was on hand to dedicate the palmetto jewelry. Faget spoke briefly of the palmetto's history in Louisiana, from its Native American users to present day.

The union of Woodlands and Mignon Faget has been positive on both sides, those involved with the partnership say. Katie Brasted, Woodlands representative, said the notoriety of Mignon Faget has helped promote the park. Mignon Faget said that being connected to the park has elevated her credibility.

The park consists of 600

acres that has been set aside by the Plaquemines Parish government. Over 70 percent of Woodlands' trees and bottomland forest was lost as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Brasted said two miles have been cleared. Skilled volunteers able to use chainsaws are needed to help clear the remaining 10 miles of trail before it is reopened to the public.

"Nature will renew itself if we allow it to," said Parish President Benny Rousselle as he warned future elected leaders of the danger of the Belle Chasse area becoming a concrete jungle of suburban sprawl.

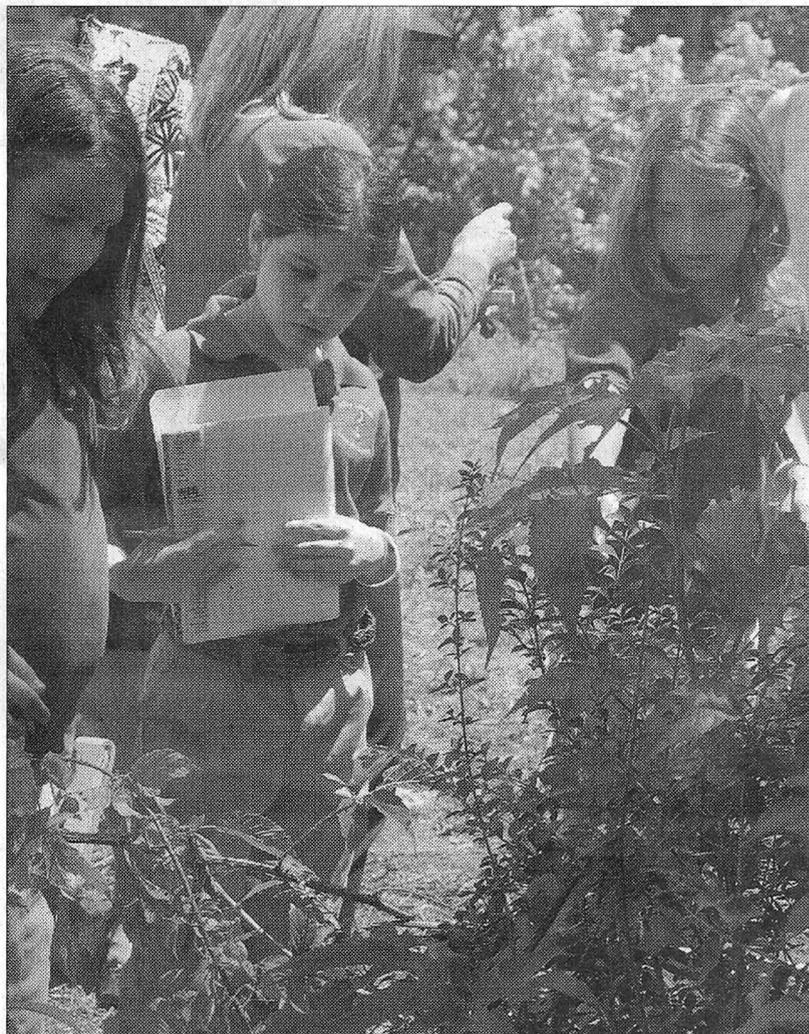
Woodlands Trail and Park features the Mississippi River Trail. It is part of a 2,552 mile bike pathway starting at in Lake Itasca, the beginning of the Mississippi. There is an equestrian trail along the river levee and through the forested area.

Woodlands Trail and Park has also been declared an American Wetland Birding Trail. Its open space is critical habitat for wildlife and over 100 species of neo-tropical migratory birds.

There is a historic side to Woodlands Trails. The ruins of Stanton Sugar Mill and Plantation, World War II ammunition magazines and Fort St. Leon are within the park boundaries.

The Palmetto design is available in sterling silver or 14K gold as a pendant or stud pin. Currently, 100 percent of proceeds go to Woodlands Trail and Park. This is made possible by an underwriting from Chevron Ornite.

For information about



Children were involved in the celebration of America's Wetlands at Woodlands Trail and Park. Students from Belle Chasse Primary School (above) used the opportunity to identify indigenous plants within the park.

Woodlands Trail and Park or
about the Palmetto jewelry,
persons may visit www.woodlandtrail.bizland.com or
www.mignonfaget.com.