

# Woodlands Tackle Invasive Species

Woodlands Trail and Park recently organized a hike and working lunch to get advice from partnering organizations on the development of plans to address the increasing growth of invasive species in the forested property dedicated to Woodlands.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Chinaberry, Chinese Tallow and Chinese Privet were identified along the edges of the Plaquemines Parish forested property. Although the forested property served as a buffer to protect the surrounding residential and commercial properties from further wind damage during the past hurricane season, over 70 percent of the trees sustained damage. Without the canopy of some of the old growth areas, invasive species are beginning to flourish. Removal and treatment of the invasives by fall will give the native species an advantage by taking away the competition for sunlight and give them a jumpstart on becoming the dominant species.

Following a hike in the woods to review the extent of the damages, ConocoPhillips, a long-time corporate friend to Woodlands, sponsored a work-

ing lunch to assist in the development a grant proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. A separate hike was conducted the following week with Joan Exnicios, Army Corp of Engineers, American Heritage Rivers Initiative and Tom Campbell, Louisiana Department of Agriculture, to get further input.

The organizations have partnered together in the submission of a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, entitled "Woodlands Invasive Species Project" to address treatment of 200-acres of forested property. Over 100 species of Neotropical Migratory birds and abundant wildlife depend on the native habitat for their survival. The Woodlands group is faced with raising \$100,000 in order to match the requirements of the grant and implement the treatment protocol.

For contributions or further information, visit [www.woodlandstrail.com](http://www.woodlandstrail.com) or call (504) 433-4000.



*Taking a closer look at the post-Katrina Woodlands Park, those wanting to remove the invading foliage are (left to right) Doug Daigle, Mississippi River Basin Alliance; David Muth, Orleans Audubon Society; Betsy Brien, ConocoPhillips; and John Rapp, National Oceanic Atmospheric Association.*