

Chevron Donates To Woodlands Trail

Chevron Oronite Co. in Belle Chasse recently made a \$1,000 donation to the Woodlands Trail project that was hit hard by Hurricanes Katrina.

Michael Burnside presented the donation to Katie Brasted, founder of the Woodlands Trail and Park, Inc. Burnside is America's regional manager for Chevron Oronite.

The Woodlands Trail project is designed to preserve the beauty and character of the Lower Coast Algiers and Belle Chasse region and to provide recreational attractions, such as a nature trail; a jogging, hik-

ing and bicycle pathway; and an equestrian trail.

The preservation and development effort was launched several years ago, and the first section of the 13.6-mile project was opened last July, just prior to Hurricane Katrina in late August.

The storm left at least 60 percent of trees down in the identified trail area, Brasted noted. "You cannot get in the forest, ..." she said. "It's just massive trees down, ... and some of those trees are 250 years old."

Work on the damaged area

is beginning, and Brasted said volunteers are needed for the first week of February, especially those who can provide chainsaws. Persons may call 433-4000 for details.

Despite the storm damage, the project continues, and the first Woodlands Trail Classic run was held on New Year's Eve. Brasted said the event drew more participants than any other inaugural run event in the area.

The \$1,000 gift from Chevron Oronite represents a continuation of past efforts by the company to support the trails project, Burnside said.

Brasted emphasized the importance of continuing the project in the wake of the recent storms. "It really does seem more important at this point that we do move ahead, ..." she said. "To me, it seems that before we have exponential growth in the West bank area that we put some of these quality-of-life features in. You can't have a good pot of gumbo without all the essential ingredients, and we're part of the quality of life for the area."

Persons who wish to contribute to the Woodlands Trail project may do so by calling 433-4000 or visiting the project Web site at www.woodlandstrail.com. For more information, persons may e-mail woodlandstrail@aol.com.



DONATION--Chevron Oronite Co. representative Michael Burnside presents a \$1,000 donation to Katie Brasted, a leader of the Woodlands Trail project in the Lower Coast Algiers and Belle Chasse area.