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Chasing the News

Woodlands Trail gets award for preserving nature

Kiosk with map built by Boy Scouts

Thursday, June 28, 2007

By **Patty Mattison**

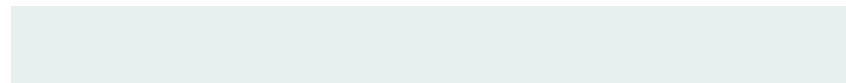
The Woodlands Trail and Park is a very peaceful little piece of nature that has been preserved for your enjoyment. There you will find more than six miles of trails to walk through. Recently, it was given the Coastal Stewardship Award from the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana for preserving and protecting the natural beauty of the area.

Woodlands Trail and Park Board members Katie Brasted, Carol Osborne Cowley and Paul Richard accepted the award, a hand-carved egret, from CRCL Board Chairman Woody Crews at the LSU Faculty Club. Also present for the festivities was Plaquemines Parish Councilwoman Lynda Banta.

Brasted and I went for a walk on the trail and saw the work members of Boy Scout Troop 64 had been doing as an Eagle Scout project. They cleared a piece of land and built a kiosk, which will house a map and information on the trails.

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Jeffrey Merritt organized the work party and those helping him were Michael Varney, Lyles Kirwin, Neil Ponthier, Kelly Griffin, Daniel Merritt, Kyle Briscoe, Michael Boutte, Ron Scheuremann III, Travis Prendergast, Zack Hudak and Ray Kleefisch Jr. under the adult leadership of Dan Brett, Greg Merritt and Ray Kleefisch.

Other trails with damage from Hurricane Katrina were cleared by the Scouts as a part of their badge work and service hours.

Because of their association with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Conoco Phillips is helping the Woodlands to get consideration for a grant, but matching money is needed. Anyone who would like to help can call Brasted at (504) 433-4000.

This is a great project that will leave a legacy for future generations.