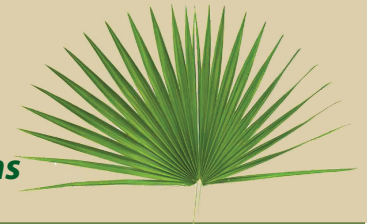


Woodlands Trail and Park

Volume: 7
Number: 1

Creating a Legacy for Future Generations



Woodlands Trail and Park was founded with the mission to "establish and embellish an educational, historical and recreational greenway within the Lower Coast Algiers and Belle Chasse areas."

LSU SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE BEGINS DESIGNS FOR WTP

A new partnership for Woodlands Trail and Park with the LSU School of Architecture, OCDD has led to Marsha R. Cuddeback, AIA, LEED AP, and her students taking on the task of providing assistance for preparing conceptual design illustration for the proposed Woodlands Trail and Park Interpretive Center and River Pavilion. Under the direction of Cuddeback and consultation from Frank Bosworth, PhD., Lizzy Williams, project designer, will work

with Jonathan LeJune, research assistant, to develop a pictorial, marketable vision for Woodlands Trail and Park.

The planning was funded by a grant from the Plaquemines Community Foundation. Preliminary design work shows construction blending with nature and includes state-of-the-art green building techniques.



Above: Interpretive Center conceptual design by LSU includes incorporating learning opportunities into both the outside and inside of the structure.

WTP's History Cruise - a splash on the Mighty Mississippi!

Great music by The Stargeezers, a warm, breezy evening, a wide range of coveted silent auction items and the traditional "River Ritas" contributed to the success of Woodlands Trail and Park's Mississippi Riverboat History Cruise fundraiser. The major sponsors for this year's event were **Chevron Oronite, AEP River Operations, Associated Branch Pilots, Walmart Foundation and Winn-Dixie.**

Buddy Stall, local historian, added to the magic of the event with his unique stories of the local region. As the Creole Queen sailed downriver into the sunset, Stall began with a story of how the creation of the Greater New Orleans area was the result of sediment from 31 states traveling down the Mighty Mississippi to form the delta region.

Near the close of the evening, local guests from Louisiana, as far

West as California and as far east as Washington, DC joined together for a "Toast to the Coast" sponsored by **Trinchero Family Estates.**

A cheer echoed along the river at the end of the following toast given by Katie Brasted: "as our 'safe season' ends and we enter hurricane season, our hope is that the powers that be have the strength to look beyond themselves and expeditiously do the right thing to save our coast and coastal forest."

Proceeds from the Mississippi Riverboat History Cruise help Woodlands Trail and Park continue its efforts to establish



and enhance greenways and trails in one of the regions' last remaining coastal forests on the west bank of New Orleans in the English Turn-Lower Coast Algiers and Belle Chasse communities.

Woodlands Trail and Park, LLC.
(504) 433 4000
www.woodlandstrail.org

BEWARE OF ALIEN INVADERS!



CHINABERRY

Beware of invasive species in your community. No, we are not talking about aliens from outer space but alien plants that are introduced into new areas in which they are not the native flora and fauna. Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and Chinaberry (*Melia azederach*) have been identified as to being concentrated on the edges and along canopy openings associated with trails of the 609-acre bottomland hardwood forest known as Woodlands Trail and Park Bird Sanctuary. These invaders were first introduced into this region of the Gulf Coast several decades ago, but have expanding exponentially in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Without intervention, native habitat that provides the vital sustenance to over 100 species of Migratory birds, as



CHINESE PRIVET

well as Louisiana native resident birds and wildlife, is threatened. In addition to the value to birds and wildlife, native trees in low-lying areas serve as a wind-storm buffer and a natural sponge to protect the surrounding community.

What is Woodlands Trail and Park doing? California State University Channel Islands has documented the frequency and density of invasive species at Woodlands Trail and Park beginning in 2007. With the assistance of local, regional and national partners and corporate friends, methodology has been developed to eradicate invasive species. With recent contributions from the **Change Happens**



CHINESE TALLOW

Foundation, Entergy and the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, a pilot treatment project will be conducted to remove invasive trees. Afterward, volunteers will assist in reforestation with native trees. The resulting post-treatment data will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment and help efforts to obtain the financial support need-

What can you do?

- Plant only native species in your yard.
- Remove invasive species from your land and replace them with native, non-invasive species that compliment your regional ecosystem
- Help educate community and other gardeners in your area through personal contact, and in such settings as garden clubs and other civic groups.

LSU Agriculture Center and OLPH plant trees on Arbor Day

For over 100 years, environmental stewards gather on Arbor Day to plant trees for the same reasons that J. Sterling Morton recognized in 1854, wind-breaks to keep soil in place, shade and food for wildlife. The day was celebrated in Plaquemines Parish with Alan Vaughn, LSU Agriculture Center demonstrating correct planting techniques to students from Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Woodlands Trail. Shannon Wigley of OLPH brought the following students to learn proper

tree planting techniques: Nikki Lopez, Heather Giordano, Marisela Varela, Morgan Ancar, Elisa Kravet, Josie Bridges and Deanna Cheatham. Following the demonstration, Ms. Wigley's class, planted Mulberry trees along the Upland Trail at Woodlands Trail and Park. Vaughn noted the great food source Mulberry trees provide to birds and invited others to get involved in planting native trees at Woodlands Trail and in their own yards.



Camp group learns forest values

The Freret Neighborhood Center's summer camp of 8-12 year old children had the opportunity to learn about coastal forests at Woodlands Trail and Park. For several of them, this was their first time in a forest. The Woodlands Trail was the first in a series of wetlands field trips that are being facilitated by Bayou Rebirth Wetlands Education and Research Project.

The students learned the value of coastal forests in protecting a community from flooding by envisioning the forest as a sponge that lies in the center of a bowl. The group discussed what happens when water is added to that bowl and what happens when we remove the



sponge from the water and replace it with solid rocks. The group hiked the trail and later did water quality testing projects and evaluated the local habitat.

Current park status

Several miles of hiking trails are accessible from the park entrance at 449 F. Edward Hebert Blvd. in Belle Chasse. A 2.2-mile hike along the Naval Ammunition Depot Trail leads to a grouping of World War II Ammunition magazines nestled in the forest with adjacent wetlands. The North Trail bypasses canals and drainage swales that provide abundant opportunities to view resident and migratory birds and other wildlife.

Help conserve coastal forests!



New Orleans' legendary designer, Mignon Faget designed the Palmetto exclusively for the nonprofit organization, Woodlands Trail and Park. Proceeds benefit the establishment of educational, recreational and historical greenways and trails in one of Southeastern Louisiana's last stands of bottomland hardwoods. The Pal-

metto is available as a pendant, lapel pin and clip or dangle earrings in both Sterling Silver and 14K Gold.

To join Woodlands Trail and Park in creating a legacy for future generations by wearing or giving the Palmetto as a gift, visit www.woodlandstrail.org or call 504.433.4000 to make an appointment for pick-up or delivery on the West bank. The Palmetto is also available in the Riverwalk at the Southern Food and Beverage Museum.

AEP joins trail efforts



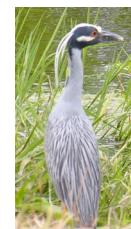
The generous donation of \$10,000 received from American Electric Power River Operations helps Woodlands Trail and Park bridge gaps in funding needed for special projects. The Board of Directors is extremely grateful to our friends at AEP River Operations for sharing the vision of Woodlands Trail and Park in establishing and expanding greenways and trails in one of Southeastern Louisiana's last stands of bottomland hardwoods. Thank you for being a part of our regional cooperative conservation effort.

How can you help?

Please consider volunteering for a committee and spreading the word of the value of preserving native coastal forests for the quality of life they provide the community in terms of recreational outlet, windstorm protection, natural sponge qualities as well as the birds and wildlife that live within.

Wish List:

- Funding for full-time volunteer coordinator
- Electric typewriter
- Secure storage building for maintenance equipment
- Water access to trailhead



**Help us create
a legacy!
Join today!**

To begin helping to save our coastal forests, go to:
www.woodlandstrail.org
for more information!

Woodlands Trail and Park

Creating A Legacy for Future Generations

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who are working to make this legacy a reality!**

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