



# Woodlands Trail and Park

a nonprofit 501-C-3 corporation

**"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."*

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## Vision Becoming a Reality

### Mississippi Riverboat Cruise



**J**oin Woodlands Trail and Park aboard the Cajun Queen on May 19, 2007 for a stunning historical sunset cruise along the Mighty Mississippi River. The cruise will feature the famous Mardi Gras Mambo Dinner, complimentary wine, door prizes, silent auction and live music. The sunset cruise will sail from the Poydras Street Wharf along the Woodlands Trail – Mississippi River Trail corridor and back for a 3-hour tour. Dr. Hank Bart, Director of Tulane University's Natural History Museum and local Historian, Rod Lincoln will unveil some of the little known history along this section of the Mississippi River. The trip will feature southern rock music by "The Stargezzers". Boarding will begin at 5:00 p.m. Sailing time will be 5:30 p.m. and will return to dock at 8:30 p.m.

\$50 per passenger.

Tickets are available at:  
[www.woodlandstrail.org](http://www.woodlandstrail.org) or  
504.433.4000

### Navigate Our River Cruise

Help us raise funds to develop a parking area and construct bridges to expand trail access by becoming a sponsor for the Mississippi Riverboat Cruise. Opportunities include sponsorship, donation of items for the Silent Auction, donation of beverages or purchase of tickets for your family and corporate friends.

For more information:  
visit [www.woodlandstrail.org](http://www.woodlandstrail.org) or call 504.433.3000

### Trails Cleared

Clearing of debris from Woodlands Trail was finalized in early February with funds provided by FEMA. Thanks to the understanding of FEMA contract Engineers, the work order allowed the

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*Printing courtesy of Freeport-McMoRan*



fallen trees to be placed off of the cleared trails to naturally disintegrate, thus providing nutrition to the next generation of native vegetation and trees.

Over 13 miles of trails are now cleared! Currently, there are over 2 miles accessible from the entrance; a 1.1 mile loop to the right of the entrance and a 1.1 mile path that leads in along the Plantar's Canal. Once three bridges are constructed, the entire trail system will be accessible. Entrance to Woodlands Trail is located at 449 F. Edward Hebert Blvd. in Belle Chasse.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Woodlands Trail Classic - A Grand Success!

Despite heavy rainfall for the days preceding the 2nd Annual Woodlands Trail Classic, the event was a grand success! 132 individuals registered to participate in the New Year's Eve event held on Woodlands Trail in Belle Chasse. McDonalds, General DeGaulle arrived early to provide



*Photo courtesy of Phil Casper, Ghost Images Photography*

breakfast before the race. Following the race, participants listened to music provided by "The Stargeezers" and enjoyed food and beverages provided by Abita Brewing, Algiers Kiwanis Morning Edition, Boomtown Casino and Whole Foods Market. Benny Rousselle and Katie Brasted gave out 35 awards in various categories.

The 2nd Annual Woodlands Trail Classic was presented by ConocoPhillips and sponsored by West Jefferson Fitness Center, Freeport-McMoRan, Chevron Oronite, Fidelity Homestead, Computers, Communication &



*Alex White (left) and Paul Richard (right) assist runners through water during 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Woodlands Trail Classic*

Controls. Despite the rustic conditions of the trail, race organizers received nothing but positive feedback of the experience such as a comment from Mark Schafer, Baton Rouge participant, "we had a blast, nothing like we have ever ran in before. We are looking forward to making it an annual run for us". With funding recently received from the Governor's Office of Community Programs, Woodlands hopes to have bridges and trail improvements in place for next year's race!!

## Local Artist Captures Spirit of Regional Effort



Local artist, Debbie Kraemer, DK Clay and Pottery on Magazine Street, created unique designs for Woodlands Trail and Park to be used at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Woodlands Trail

Classic held on New Year's Eve in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. Debbie utilized the shape of the upper portion of the Barataria-Terrebonne Basin to serve as the background of the unique awards representing the regional focus of Woodlands Trail and Park. The center of the award contained the Palmetto, a plant common to the understory in the bottomland hardwood forest.





Although rushed with filling holiday orders, Ms. Kraemer easily accepted the additional creative challenge of designing a free-form bowl for

Woodlands' Board Members to present to Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle on his last day in office and in gratitude of his long-standing support. The bowl was designed of earthen tones representing the regional effort of Woodlands Trail and Park to connect low-lying greenway corridors in the peninsula formed by Orleans and Plaquemines Parish. The outside of the bowl contained Palmetto images, the logo of Woodlands Trail and Park.



*Dr. Barbara Benson (left) and ULL students view aerial and property maps in preparation for site visits to Woodlands Trail*

## ULL Students to Conduct Site Assessments

**D**r. Barbara Benson of University of Louisiana Lafayette and her students in Naturalist and Docent Practices have again volunteered their services to Woodlands Trail and Park for the Spring Semester. During the previous spring semester, students received some real "hand-on" experience utilizing GPS equipment to locate the trail system that was

essentially indiscernible following Hurricane Katrina.

During Spring Semester, 2007, Dr. Benson's class will be assisting the Woodlands Trail and Park effort move their vision forward by conducting some site assessments. Katie Brasted of Woodlands Trail and Park visited the class at ULL on February 14, 2007 to provide an overview of the Woodlands Trail and Park effort and aerial and property maps with the students. Under the direction of Dr. Benson, the students will spend two weekends at the Woodlands Trail and Park site in Belle Chasse this semester to conduct a site assessment for parking areas and entrance area amenities. Woodlands Trail and Park is one of two sites for which an Interpretive Center was recommended in the study conducted for America's Wetland Birding Trail. In addition to providing a site for educational information on wetland habitat and wildlife, the center would also allow a location to house artifacts and information about local cultural and military history. As land has not been acquired for an Interpretive Center, the ULL students will evaluate potential sites for an Interpretive Center in Belle Chasse near Woodlands Trail and a potential site in Lower Coast Algiers.

## Palmetto Design Released on World Wetlands Day

In recognition of World Wetlands Day on Friday, February 2nd, Woodlands Trail and Park board members unveiled the new design for Mignon Faget-Woodlands Trail and Park Palmetto Earrings at Jeff's Haberdashery. Brasted expressed appreciation to ConocoPhillips, a long-time corporate sponsor, for underwriting the current Palmetto design. Gratitude was also expressed to Jeff Chouest who joined Woodlands Trail and Park in "Creating a Legacy" for future generations by selling the Palmetto jewelry in both his store in Aurora Village on the West Bank and on the East Bank on Severn. Betsy Brien, Public Affairs Director for ConocoPhillips, attended the event to emphasize the company's support for the regional effort of Woodlands Trail and Park to establish greenways and trails in the peninsula formed by Orleans and Plaquemines Parish. Brasted acknowledged that it is such partnerships

of nonprofit organizations, artists such as Mignon Faget, corporations such as ConocoPhillips,



(left to right) Plaquemines Parish Councilman Anthony Buras, Carol Osborne Cowley, Woodlands Trail and Park Board Member, Betsy Brien, ConocoPhillips, Katie Brasted, Woodlands Trail and Park, Jeff Chouest, Jeff's Haberdashery, Hank Willie and Clayton White, Woodlands Trail and Park Board Members.

family businesses such as Jeff's Haberdashery and governmental agencies working together that will bring quality of life efforts such as Woodlands Trail and Park to fruition. The Palmetto earrings are being sold now through May, America's Wetlands month at a below retail cost.



**NEW!**  
**Palmetto Earrings**



Clip Earring



Dangle Earring

Reserve your pair today at [www.woodlandstraj.org](http://www.woodlandstraj.org) or call 504.433.4000

In stock April 01, 2007 -

Just in time for Mother's Day!



**Woodlands Trail and Park  
Palmetto**



The Mignon Faget - Woodlands Trail and Park Palmetto is available in both Sterling Silver and 14K Gold as a Pendant, Lapel Pin and the newly released Dangle or Clip Earring.

The Palmetto collection is available exclusively through Woodlands Trail and Park at:

- Jeff's Haberdashery - 4100 Gen. DeGaulle
- Jeff's Haberdashery - 3321 Severn
- Woodlands Trail and Park - 504.433.4000
- online at [www.woodlandstraj.org](http://www.woodlandstraj.org)

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Algiers Economic Development Foundation  
American Heritage Rivers Initiative  
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program  
Land Trust Alliance  
Library of Congress - Veterans History Project  
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
LSU - T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History  
Mayor's Office of Economic Development; OEA  
Mississippi River Basin Alliance  
Mississippi River Trail Organization  
Orleans Audubon Society  
Our Lady of Holy Cross College  
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Regional Planning Commission

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