

Woodlands Trail and Park

Vol. 5, No. 2

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."

Riverboat History Cruise a Sailing Success



Above, Jacques Creppel shows off one of his "great finds" from the Cruise's Silent Auction.

On May 19th, guests enjoyed a pleasantly breezy, enchanting sunset cruise aboard the Creole Queen during WTP's first Mississippi Riverboat fundraiser. While listening to music by the Stargeezers, guests dined on the Mardi Gras Mambo Buffet and enjoyed complimentary beverages provided by Superior Grill and Trincherro Family Estates.

A silent auction held on the King's Deck had a wonderful variety of items generously donated by local artists, jewelers, and businesses from throughout the greater metropolitan area. Our most sincere gratitude goes to our sponsors: Chevron, Och-sner, Crescent River Pilots Foundation, Freeport-McMoRan, James Julian Coleman, and Harrah's New Orleans for making this unique event possible. Special thanks to the volunteers who gave so generously of their time to make the cruise a success. Visit www.woodlandstrail.org for a list sponsors and donors.



Above, local historian Rod Lincoln, described the cultural history of English Turn during his presentation on the cruise.

Dr. Hank Bart, (right), Director of Tulane's Natural History Museum, described the environmental history along the peninsula formed by Orleans and Plaquemines Parish.



Above, Carol Osborne Cowley and Kim Benoit check-in some of the 300 guests aboard the Creole Queen.

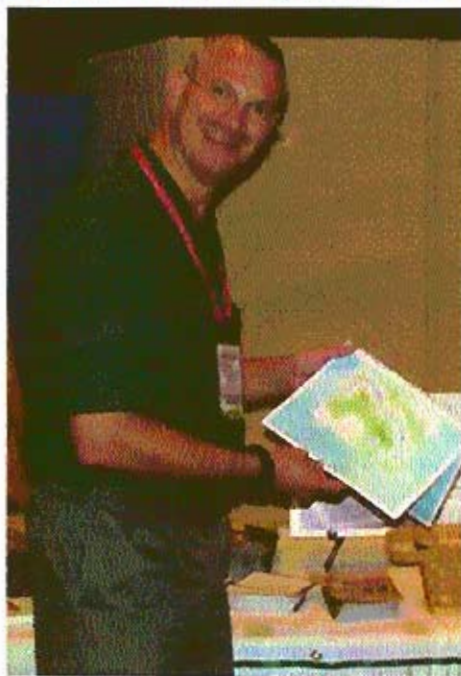


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Woodlands Represents Louisiana at Regional Trails Conference



Christopher Douwes, (above) Trails and Enhancements Program Manager, FWHA, shows astonishment at the amount of bottomland hardwoods remaining in the Belle Chasse/Lower Coast Algiers peninsula compared to the British Army Map of 1815. The map was created by Tulane City Center for Woodlands Trail and Park and was on display at the SETC conference in Knoxville Tennessee in July 2007. Mr. Douwes' first reaction to Woodlands Trail and Park's regional smart growth efforts in 2003 was describing it as a "must do" project that could provide a unique example to communities across the nation.

Woodlands Trail and Park was asked and agreed to again represent Louisiana at the Southeastern Trails Conference. The conference held on July 18-22nd in Knoxville, Tennessee was attended by representatives and individuals from 14 eastern states. The conference provides the opportunity for organizations to meet with Federal, State and Educational institutions regarding state-of-the-art design issues, current and proposed legislation and funding sources available. Woodlands Trail and Park first attended the conference in 2003 to represent Louisiana resulting in Louisiana being added to the

logo of the organization, as it had not been represented in the past. Data from the American Horse Council revealed that Louisiana showed an 82% increase in horse ownership, thus leading the nation regarding increased ownership. The Woodlands Trail and Park organization provided information to attendees on recreational trails and activities in Louisiana including Woodlands Trail and Park, Plaquemines Parish Fishing and St. Tammany Trace. Bracelets and information on America's Wetlands Campaign were available in addition to providing a "taste of Louisiana" in the form of Tabasco samples and recipes provided by The McIlhenney Company.

WTP is Chosen for Eagle Scout Projects



The Boy Scouts of America Troup 64, sponsored by the St. Andrew the Apostle Knights of Columbus Council 9107, recently completed various major projects at Woodlands Trail and Park. When four area scouts were up for consideration of Eagle Scout status, Dan Brett, Scout Master and Connell Vallette, Scout Master Emeritus suggested the scouts provide some much needed assistance to Woodlands Trail and Park.

During June four candidates for Eagle Scout, with assistance from fellow scouts, designed and completed service projects. Eagle Scout candidates had to manage their chosen project from

start to finish. This included design, calculation and purchase of materials and management of other scouts assisting with construction. Much of the construction work was first put together at the home of one of the scouts and then transported to the trails.

Jeffrey Merritt, completed building a new Kiosk that required 4-5 days of work with 16 fellow scouts and over 261 hours of labor. Ron Scheurmann, III with the assistance of 7 additional scouts worked over 130 hours to build a bridge over a drainage swale. Possibly the dirtiest task was taken on by Travis Pendergrast. Pendergrast took on the

task of cleaning a drainage swale of Katrina debris with the help of 8 other scouts. Taking over 81 hours, the debris removal stretched approximately one-mile from the newly constructed bridge to past the Woodlands Trail and Park entrance. Clearing a future equestrian trail, requiring almost 110 hours. Michael Boutte and 12 fellow scouts used weed eaters, rakes, shovels and small saws to clear overgrown foliage, branches and other debris from the beginning of the trail to the bridge. Woodlands Trail and Park was very grateful to these young men for their hard work and expert craftsmanship.

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Woodland Trail Honored as Conservation Organization of the Year

Woodlands Trail and Park was honored as the Conservation Organization of the Year 2006 at the 43rd Recognition Banquet of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF). Conservation groups, sportsmen, environmentalists and natural resource management professionals from throughout Louisiana convened at the Holiday Inn in Gonzales for LWF's 68th Annual Convention Conference.

Don Dubuc, Master of Ceremonies for the event, introduced the award by describing the accomplishments and history of Woodlands Trail and Park that earned its recognition by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation for "outstanding contributions to the wise use and management of Louisiana's Natural Resources".

Currently recognized as one of three American Heritage Rivers Initiative "Keystone" projects for Loui-



(from left) Terry Melancon, President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, WTP Board Members, Paul Richard, Katie Brasted, Clayton White, Hank Willie, Carol Osborne Cowley, Benny Rousselle, and Dr. Earl Matthew, Region 8 Director of the National Wildlife Federation.

siana, Woodlands Trail and Park has worked over the past eight years to unite the river communities of Orleans and Plaquemines Parish with

a series of educational, recreational and historical greenways in one of Southeastern Louisiana's last stands of bottomland hardwoods.

WTP Receives the Coastal Stewardship Award

On May 11, 2007, Woodlands Trail and Park's efforts in "Creating a Legacy" for future generations were honored by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Woodlands Trail and Park Board Members were present at a banquet held at the LSU Faculty Club in Baton Rouge to accept the Coastal Stewardship Award for "preserving, protecting and celebrating the natural beauty and cultural treasures within a 10,000-acre peninsula in the Metropolitan New Orleans area."

CRCL's Board Chairman, Woody Crews, presented the prestigious award that came in the form of a hand-carved Egret. Plaquemines Parish Councilwoman Lynda Banta attended the event with Woodlands Trail and Park Board members and guests.

Woodlands Trail and Park's smart growth regional efforts have gained increased National attention during the past several months. With the support of partners, Algiers Economic De-



(from left) Woody Crews, Board Chairman of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, WTP Board Members Katie Brasted, Carol Osborne Cowley, and Paul Richard.

velopment Foundation and Our Lady of Holy Cross College, the organization was nominated for the Preserve America Award and has recently re-

ceived notice of nomination for the Coastal America Award by Doug Meffert, Deputy Director, Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research.

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Mignon Faget has fashioned much of her jewelry to celebrate the natural beauty of Louisiana. A devoted advocate of Louisiana's wetlands and marshes, Faget was asked to create a special design to assist Woodlands Trail and Park. The Palmetto was chosen as it is a prominent plant found in the understory of bottomland hardwood forests. The Palmetto is available in both sterling silver and 14K Gold.

Proceeds of Palmetto sales benefit the preservation of the bottomland hardwood and native forests in Southeastern Louisiana.

Take a Hike!

Celebrate National Public Lands Day
or just come for a visit to
Woodlands Trail!

449 F. Edward Hebert Blvd.
Belle Chasse, Louisiana