



**Gifts
that give**

A leaf, a legacy

For eight years, Katie Brasted has been a crusader on behalf of the undeveloped coastal forest that stretches between New Orleans and Plaquemines Parish on the West Bank.

She took her grass-roots organization, the Woodlands Trail and Park Inc., to nonprofit status in 2001. Its primary mission is to preserve and protect the area's wetlands by turning them into a lush coastal sanctuary interconnected with a park, nature trails, recreational pathways and an equestrian trail for the public to enjoy.

"By connecting these low-lying areas, we're exposing the general public to the wetlands environment in an educational and recreational setting and bringing more attention to our dwindling coastline," she said.

What many people do not know about this

treasured 609-acre tract, she said, is that it is a habitat for more than 100 species of migratory birds and one of southeastern Louisiana's last stands of bottomland hardwoods.

These wetlands are vital to our survival, serving as a natural buffer against hurricanes.

"Now, more than ever, people seem to be getting it," Brasted said.

To assist Woodlands Trail in its mission, jewelry designer Mignon Faget, a devoted advocate of maintaining Louisiana's wetlands and marshes, created a new piece featuring the palmetto, offered as a pin or a pendant. The dwarf palmetto is native to the freshwater wetlands of

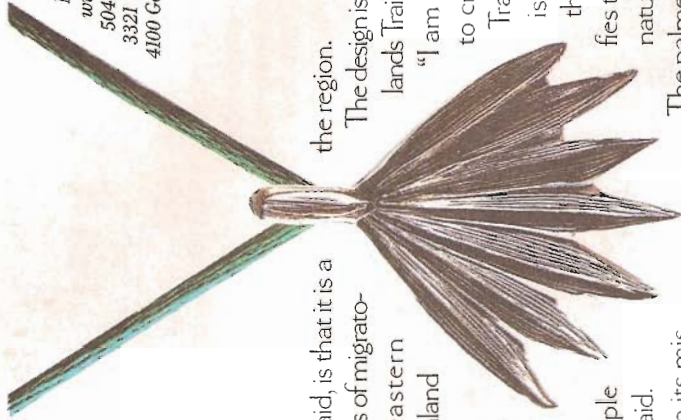
the region.

The design is underwritten by longtime Woodlands Trail supporter ConocoPhillips.

"I am honored to have been asked to create a design for Woodlands Trail and Park," Faget said. "This is an important piece of land that must be preserved; it signifies the beauty of our state and the natural protection it provides."

The palmetto is available in sterling silver (\$70 pendant; \$75 pin) or 14-karat gold (\$430 pendant; \$445 pin). All proceeds from its sales will help sustain the nonprofit organization, Brasted said.

— **Bonnie Barber**



Woodlands Trail and Park's palmetto leaf designed by Mignon Faget, available at www.woodlandsstrail.com, 504.433.4000, or at Jeff's Haberdashery, 3321 Severn Ave., Metairie and 4100 Gen. de Gaulle Drive in Algiers