

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RECOVERY OF FORESTED WETLANDS – 10 YEARS POST-KATRINA
AN OVERVIEW AND GUIDED HIKE
WOODLANDS TRAIL
449 F. EDWARD HEBERT BLVD., BELLE CHASSE, LA
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
9 A.M. – 11 A.M.



The overview and guided hike, led by Katie Brasted, Executive Director of Woodlands Conservancy and Dr. Sean Anderson, California State University Channel Islands will take place at Woodlands Trail, one of the region's last stands of bottomland hardwood forests. The event is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, August 15, from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Woodlands Conservancy will host an introduction and overview of the history of the forested wetlands known as Woodlands Trail Bird Sanctuary, the impacts to the forest from Hurricane Katrina and our decade-long, systematic assessment and ecosystem restoration work to restore the forests' ability to provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds while improving the hurricane protection qualities of one of the largest forested storm buffers between open water and the city of New Orleans. The discussion will be led by Katie Brasted, Executive Director of Woodlands Conservancy and Dr. Sean Anderson, Associate Professor, Environmental Science and Resource Management, California State University Channel Islands.

About the discussion and hike

The interactive discussion will be held at the Daybrook Pavilion located near the entrance to Woodlands Trail. Following a presentation of the decade-long ecosystem restoration and service learning work of Woodlands Conservancy and their partner, California State University Channel Islands, a guided, interpretive hike through restoration areas will be held. The hike will include areas in which non-native, invasive vegetation has been successfully removed after multiple

treatments and later reforested as well as areas that are still in the recovery process. Our presentation and hike will afford ample opportunity to view both on-going impacts to our coastal wetlands from Hurricanes of 2005 and examples of our response and management of this ecosystem in the wake of those storms.

About Woodlands Conservancy

Woodlands Conservancy manages one of the region's last bottomland hardwood forests, comprised of the 609-acre Woodlands Trail in Belle Chasse and the 190-acre Delacroix Preserve in Lower Coast Algiers. The properties managed by Woodlands Conservancy are home to more than 35 native wildlife species and provide vital habitat for 163 species of resident and migratory birds. With 13 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, Woodlands Trail is brimming with natural beauty waiting to be explored. For more information, visit www.woodlandsconservancy.org

About Dr. Sean Anderson

Sean Anderson is a broadly trained ecologist who has tackled environmental questions from Alaska to the South Pole. While pursuing his Ph.D. in marine population biology at UCLA, Sean became increasingly interested in restoration ecology. Sean joined California State University Channel Islands in 2005 as an assistant professor of Environmental Science and Resource Management. Since then, he has created a unique restoration curriculum at CSU Channel Islands. His novel approach to teaching and research emphasizes service learning and includes a service course wherein students from across the west coast of the U.S. travel to southern Louisiana each spring to examine drivers of wetland loss and associated policy failures, conduct post-Hurricane Katrina (and now post-Deepwater Horizon) environmental impact assessments, rebuild homes, and install community food gardens. Dr. Anderson conducts small- and large-scale wetland restoration projects across North America and the Middle East. He and his students have been actively working at Woodlands Trail since 2007. He has been quoted lately in the Associated Press, Huffington Post, the Washington Post, Time, U.S. News and World Report, NPR, ABC, CBC and NBC news, the Los Angeles Times and dozens of other national, international and local media outlets. See nola.piratelab.org and oil.piratelab.org for some of his recent work.

Directions

From downtown New Orleans, take the Crescent City Connection to the Westbank. Take the General DeGaulle East exit (9B). Merge onto General DeGaulle and travel 2.9 miles, continuing on the bridge over the Intracoastal Canal. Enter the traffic circle at the end of the bridge ramp and exit left to go under the bridge. Drive 0.6 miles on Highway 406/Woodland Hwy to the caution light. Turn left at the caution light onto F. Edward Hebert Blvd. Continue 0.6 Miles. The entrance is on the left. Drive on the unpaved road along the canal to the parking area at the trailhead.

For more details or questions, call Katie Brasted at 504.433.4000.

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