

Woodlands Conservancy

"Creating a Legacy"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WOODLANDS CONSERVANCY HOLDS RETREAT AT SOUTHERN YACHT CLUB



(left to right) Lynda Banta, Rob Salus, Katie Brasted, Dan Dreiling, Jacob Braud, Rebecca Altobelli take a break for a picture during Capacity Building training with LANO at the Southern Yacht Club. SYC member Dr. Rob Dahmes arranged for the inspiring location for the day of training for Woodlands Conservancy.

Belle Chasse, Louisiana. Working with the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Woodlands Conservancy launched their first Capacity Building workshop retreat on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at the Southern Yacht Club. Woodlands Conservancy was a recent recipient of the Every Day Grant from the **National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)** to work with the **Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations** to strengthen their capacity. The National Environmental Education Foundation, with generous support from **Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc.**, provides funds to strengthen organizations and unleash their potential to serve their public lands. With the support of a letter

from Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser, Woodlands Conservancy met the requirements of demonstrating a positive, collaborative partnership with the local public lands site. The capacity building project is designed to contribute to the long-term sustainability and vision of the organization, strengthen the organization's effectiveness to serve the public lands site and increase volunteer involvement.

Woodlands Conservancy was formed in 2001 to promote smart growth and establish greenways and trails in one of Southeastern Louisiana's last remaining coastal forests. The Conservancy has experienced success raising funds in their current network, leading to the establishment of over 13-miles of trails and interpretive kiosks within 609 acres of forest that they support. As improvements are made, their need to increase funding sources has become increasingly apparent. Woodlands Conservancy staff and a few dedicated members will work with the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations over the next several months to develop a plan to identify and recruit additional board members and conduct board member training. The board training, led by Kellie Chavez Greene, LANO, will focus on development, and will result in the creation of a case statement and marketing package for individuals, corporations and foundations. The immediate focus of fund development will be on raising funds for the upcoming 10th Anniversary Gala – celebrating a decade of conservation to be held at English Turn Country Club on October 14. An additional focus of the fund development plan will be on raising \$30,000 to receive a \$15,000 match from the Richard West Freeman Endowment Challenge. The proceeds from the ongoing sales of the Mignon Faget Palmetto, now available in all stores and galleries, will go to the Endowment for Woodlands Conservancy housed at the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Woodlands Conservancy's greenway and trail system allows for increased access to wetlands that provide an "environmental classroom" to educate users of the value of conserving, restoring, creating and enhancing wetlands in Louisiana. For more information, visit www.woodlandsconservancy.org.