

# Nikolas Reznik Wins 5th Annual Hike-a-Thon

Dozens of community members and outdoor enthusiasts from ages six to eighty-seven took to the trails for Woodlands Conservancy's 2024 Hike-a-Thon.

These champion hikers raised funds and increased awareness for local land conservation, while accepting the challenge to walk, hike, or run the distance of a marathon (26.2 miles) in the month of October.

The fifth annual Hike-A-Thon began with our Open Woods Celebration, hosted at Woodlands Preserve, which included prizes, food, an interpretive hike, and a look at Woodlands' preservation progress.

Thomas Klotz, Agent, New

York Life, Ochsner West Bank Campus, 89.9 WWNO and Woodland Plantation were our amazing 2024 Hike-a-Thon Sponsors, along with thirteen hikers that donated additional funds while acquiring miles. Participants in the Hike-A-Thon logged their own mileage as they walked, ran, and hiked; both exploring Woodlands Preserve or choosing to hike any trails of their choice. In addition to participants from Louisiana, the Hike-a-Thon had participants from California, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The impressive winner of this year's Hike-A-Thon was Nikolas Reznik, who completed an in-

credible 205 miles. Along with the fame and glory, Reznik received a Two-person outdoor hammock, a set of Mignon Faget Palmetto Glassware, a Woodlands Conservancy tote bag and a one-year membership to Woodlands Conservancy.

The top five milers also received a set of Palmetto glassware, a tote bag and membership. Everyone who successfully finished the marathon received a membership card and a tote bag.

These individuals, beginning with the second-place miler are; Zana Curley 180.56, Laura Kelly 152, Emily Leitzinger 136.48, Hannah Bassett 134.14, Elizabeth Larose 120, Lisa Sirgo

114.16, Dawn Bassett 108.58, Patricia Kidd 106, Greg Abdelnoor 98.25, Ken Cohen 86.99, Jim Escoffier 68.95, Noelle Reznik 66, Charlene Hebert 61, DeAnne Dupont 61, Judy Austermlleer 51, Katie Brasted 49.4, Alix Vargas 48.9, Dayton House 39.89, Tiffany Hall 34.61, Melissa Pate 31.84, Joshua Patnoad 28.11 and Jonathan Olson 26.2.

Woodlands Conservancy is a 501(c) (3), nonprofit land trust organized to preserve and restore forested wetlands and other ecologically or historically significant lands in Louisiana. The vision of Woodlands Conservancy is to be the regional model for the conservation of hardwood forests, and a leader



Nikolas Reznik holding his winnings for the 5th Annual Hike-a-Thon.

in the advocacy and preservation of Louisiana's coastal ecosystems.

## The Lane Shark Takes a Bite Out of Trail Maintenance



Robbie Robinson, Chevron Oronite corporate affairs representative, gets a first hand look at the Lane Shark funded by Chevron Oronite.

"Thanks to support from Chevron Oronite's Oak Point Plant, our trail maintenance activities got a big boost," said Katie Brasted, executive director for Woodlands Conservancy.

A lot of trail maintenance activities at Woodlands Preserve are completed with hundreds of volunteers providing hundreds of hours on an annual basis to trim back woody vegetation from the edges of trails. According to Brasted, a major challenge has been finding a way to clear the overhanging limbs that are too high to reach on foot or too thick to trim with loppers from the sides of the trail.

During one of the Chevron Oronite volunteer outings, a discussion arose about how to make the trails more user friendly for the over 26,000 annual visitors. When Chevron Oronite heard about the challenge, they offered to fund the acquisition of the Lane Shark attachment to use with Woodlands Conservancy's tractor on the trails at Woodlands Preserve.

"The Woodlands Preserve is a tremendous natural asset for this region and the many visitors that spend time walking the trails. The Lane Shark not only enhances the aesthetics of the trail pathway, but it ensures a safer and more enjoyable experience for all," said Robbie Robinson, corporate affairs representative for Chevron Oronite.



## LNG

CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

continue a testing process, Venture Global Bayou's journey marks the first time the facility was able to actually deliver LNG to one of its customers. While Venture Global Bayou was carrying its LNG to Germany, it was reported that a second LNG carrying vessel had departed from the Plaquemines facility.

Up until now, the Plaquemines LNG facility—which has a capacity of 20 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) at full build-out—has been taking steps towards actually exporting LNG since its first phase was confirmed for development back in May 2022 and the second phase confirmed back in March 2023. Now that Venture Global has actually begun transporting LNG, it's clear that the facility is rapidly approaching the point where it'll be fully operational rather than just in development.

This is exciting for Plaquemines officials who, for several years, have been touting this project as a major economic boon to the parish—one that will bring back the economic prosperity lost when the oil and gas industry collapsed. For local taxing bodies, especially the Plaquemines Parish Government (PPG), it also means that some difficulties might be coming in the near future.

Due to the heavy amount of construction oc-

curing as a result of this project, PPG and other taxing bodies have seen a major uptick in sales tax revenues. It has been repeatedly observed by PPG officials that this has allowed the parish government and council to fund a significant number of initiatives and positions they may not have been able to otherwise.

Venture Global is currently operating under Louisiana's Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP), with the company being the last in the state to receive a 100% 10-year industrial tax exemption. This means that as construction starts to wind down and the facility starts to become more focused on its operations, sales tax numbers will dip while benefits from Venture Global paying property taxes won't be felt for several years.

The council created a surplus fund meant to save some of the current sales tax revenue coming in right now to address this incoming financial problem.

During the 2025 budget hearings held in November 2024, the need to have a significant amount of savings for the coming decline of sales was heavily emphasized by council members.

For now, PPG will continue to benefit from the increased sales tax, but the effectiveness of the council's current saving strategy will be tested as the Venture Global LNG facility really begins its operations.

**The Plaquemines GAZETTE**

Published every Tuesday in Belle Chasse, Louisiana

Subscription Rates:  
In Parish - \$26 | Out of Parish - \$36  
E-Edition Only - \$26

PLAQUEMINES NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING, INC.  
7962 Highway 23 • P.O. Box 700  
Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037

(504) 392-1619  
www.plaqueminesgazette.com

Editor, Co-Publisher & Marketing Director..... Norris Babin, norris@printall.net  
Co-Publisher..... Dale Benoit, dale@printall.net  
Bookkeeping..... Janie Scarabin, bookkeeping@plaqueminesgazette.com  
Graphic Designer..... Amber Prattini Wallo, copy@plaqueminesgazette.com  
Reporter..... Justin Walton, reporter@plaqueminesgazette.com  
Public Notices..... Brandi Rollo, publicnotices@plaqueminesgazette.com  
Advertising..... Amber Prattini Wallo, ads@plaqueminesgazette.com  
News Submissions & Obituaries..... copy@plaqueminesgazette.com

Member of the Louisiana Press Association and the National Newspaper Association. Represented nationally by American Newspaper Representatives. Advertising rates are available upon request. POSTMASTER, send address changes to P.O. Box 700 / 7962 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037. This publication is a periodicals postage paid publication at Belle Chasse, LA. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. Submissions will be edited for style and libel only. (USPS 420-120)

**Your Plaquemines News Source.**

**WE ARE YOUR COMMUNITY BANK**

*Community Involvement*

Mississippi River Bank has earned the title of "your community bank". We are your friends, family and neighbors.

*Your money stays in your community, helping it to grow and prosper*

**We have a lot more than banking invested in your community.**

*Big Enough To Be There. Small Enough To Care*

**Mississippi River**  
Division of Merchants & Marine Bank

504-392-1111

<b>Belle Chasse</b> 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Friday	<b>Port Sulphur</b> 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon - Thurs 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday
<b>Drive-Ups Belle Chasse</b> 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Friday	<b>Port Sulphur</b> 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Mon -Thurs 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Friday