BCMS Planting Project at Woodland Plantation

Thursday, November 20th, was a picture perfect day. 167 Belle Chasse Middle School students took advantage of this beautiful weather and planted 725 trees in just 2 1/2 hours as part of the Coastal Roots program! The trees planted were cypress and tupelo gum trees raised from seeds at Belle Chasse Middle School. The program is a perpetual stewardship project that grows plants to repopulate the wetlands of Louisiana. This year's seventh graders will plant seeds for next year's seventh grade class to plant. The Woodland Plantation was chosen because of its historical significance to Plaquemines Parish as well as being an icon for the world via the Southern Comfort label. Dr. Ed Bush and Dr. Pam Blanchard are in charge of the Coastal Roots project at LSU. They had an established relationship with Foster Creppel, the proprietor of Woodland Plantation. Mr. Creppel has a specific vision for Woodland and one aspect of that is to create a bird sanctuary for migrating populations. The trees that were planted will help in making this vision a reality. In addition to planting many trees, the students also uncovered some artifacts from the former slave quarters site. A large claw, chains, and some pottery shards were unearthed. Mr. Creppel was kind enough to let the students keep these artifacts which will be brought to the historical society for closer examination and tips on how to

preserve them.

Foster Creppel laying the game plan

Teamwork

Planting by the ditch

Teamwork by the levee

Diggin' hard!

Foster Creppel supervising students

A broken arm doesn't stop this student!

Planting in front of the old sugar mill

Finding treasure

Frankie the Mascot!

Tired after all that digging and planting!