

Youths volunteer at cemetery 3/30/2021

On March 20, over 40 local youth from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gathered, bright and early, armed with gloves, rakes, and clippers to help the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project.

"We couldn't have done this without the support of the Church," said Jon Meredith, first vice president of the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project.

The local nonprofit is dedicated to restoring and preserving the historic Black cemetery that dates back to the 1890s.

After years of researching the history of the cemetery, identifying burial sites and doing genealogical work on marked graves, volunteers began carefully removing brush and trees in the fall of

2019. Because graves are marked with plants, personal objects, or small offerings, clearing the overgrowth is slow and exacting work.

"I tell everyone, this is marathon, not a sprint," Meredith said. "It's more like an archaeology project."

But thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers, the work is progressing. Meredith hopes that more youth will get involved.

"The biggest issue is long-term. How do we keep this maintained in the future? We don't really have an answer to that. That's part of why we're trying to get young people out here. Maybe somebody will 'catch a fire' and say 'I want to keep doing this!'"

To volunteer with or donate to the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project, visit <https://cccrp.org/>



Courtesy photo

A new milestone was reached March 20 in the restoration of the Conroe Community Cemetery. The last of the brush from the cemetery was removed and chipped up. The dumpster donated by 2 A-T Services was filled and two piles of chipped debris had to be created. One hundred twenty nine volunteers participated, which is the largest number of volunteers the clean up group has had. A special thanks to J. R. Jones for managing the wood chipper, to Cindy Cheney for introducing the volunteers to the history of the cemetery and bringing about 40 volunteers, and to Just Serve and Heather Cosby with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for coordinating the large turnout. The next clean up is April 3. 3/30/2021