



The Pines Post

Newsletter of the Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

January – February, 2011

Upcoming Events

February 10th, Special Meeting, the Friends of the Lost Pines will be the guests of our Venture Scouting Crew at 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 117A Loop 150 in Bastrop. We will have a short business meeting.

Our March meeting and Souper Supper dates will be announced as soon as we have a confirmation when the Bastrop State Refectory will be ready for use. We will get the word out as soon as we have a date!



National Historic Landmark

A quick note about our Parks

The last couple of months have been very busy for the Staff at Bastrop and Buescher State Parks with prescribed burns, restoration work, trail work, and tree plantings.

Work has really been progressing at the Parks and the payoff will be this Spring. Watching it progress over the last bit, I can tell you everyone will be very pleased with the results.

I hope the holidays have gone well for everyone and hope to see you at our February meeting (see listing to the left).

Have a Happy New Year!

John E Cobb

President

Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

Our New Trail Markers Installed

Monday, December 13th saw the first nine of our new Trail Markers being installed. The Carsonite trail markers allows visitors to enter and stay on the trails in our Parks. The Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks purchased the new Markers for both Parks.



Left: Our new all-weather Trail Markers are color coded to show the trails. This one is located at Buescher State Park.

Photographs courtesy of Jennifer Bristol, TPWD

Make time to visit the Parks and see the new Markers

Our new Venture Crew helps with Trail Work!



The Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks sponsors a Scouting Venture Crew in Bastrop. They have worked in both Parks on the trail system and planting new trees. This last year, we donated one of our older canoes and had it repaired for the Venture Crew. FoLP's Director Jon Pollard is their Leader.



Venture Crew at Bastrop State Park's Pool getting ready to Plant new trees. Photographs courtesy of Jennifer Bristol, TPWD

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 years of age OR 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade and under 21 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

Prescribed Burns at Bastrop S.P.



Bastrop State Park had several Prescribed Burns this fall season, clearing the dangerous accumulation of underbrush in several areas of the Park.



*Keeping control of the burn is a top priority for all the Staff.
Photographs courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife*

More TPWD Photos of the Burn



*Left top: burnt out roots after the fire.
Bottom left: final clean up operations.*



The payoff is twofold on these burns, one would be the control of dangerous underbrush and the possibility of wildfires and the second will be this coming Spring with new growth and wildflowers!

And, one last shot...



A very tired Complex Manager, Todd McClanahan taking a well-deserved break in this photograph by Jennifer Bristol of Texas Parks and Wildlife, Bastrop State Park Staff.



Sign shop manager Martha Gonzales was featured in the Austin American's December 28th article on Bastrop State Parks Sign Shop. Martha has been our Manager for the last four years, having joined TPWD in the mid-1980's. All of our State-wide TPWD brown and yellow signs are made in the Bastrop Shop and at this time, only by Martha as she is the only employee.

Sign Shop is featured in Austin Newspaper...

More can be found at: <http://www.statesman.com/news/texas/sign-maker-crafts-markers-for-all-the-parks-1151607.html>

Buescher State Park Gingerbread Man provided by the Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks decorated downtown Smithville this Christmas Season.



New All-Weather Bulletin Boards provided by the Friends of the Lost Pines are now at both Parks.

Restoration Work underway...

The restoration of our Parks has started. As you can see in the photographs at the right, construction is going on at the playgrounds, bathrooms, RV camping spots, and cabins. Repairs to the cabins and buildings are extensive while other areas, such as the bathrooms are being made ADA accessible.

Because of the construction, we do not know when we will be able to return to the Refectory at Bastrop State Park, but will make sure we get the word out as soon as we know anything.

