



The Pines Post

Newsletter of the Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

July ~ August 2011

Upcoming Events

**Thursday
July 21, 2011
7:00 PM**

**Bastrop State
Park's Refectory
Building**

**Friends of the Lost
Pines Annual Hot
Dog Supper
September
Date to be set at
meeting**



National Historic Landmark

Goodbye to one of our own...

We regret having to report that Jacquie Reeder passed away on Saturday, July 18th after a long illness.

She was an administrative Tech at Bastrop State Park.

The Friends of the Lost Pines State Park will be making a donation to help with expenses the family has undergone.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jacquie's family at this time and we will all cherish her memory.

*Our President's
Message for this issue
of the Pines Post is
inside!*

*Reports from our
Parks and updates on
the swimming
program are also in
this issue*

Hello Friends,



I'm not sure about you but I'm ready for winter already. This summer has been brutal, but then again we live in Texas right, so should we expect anything else? Yes, I expect to have at least some moisture and at this point, I'm not opposed to a tropical depression (not hurricane) to bring us some much needed relief. So far this year (Jan – June) we've only received 7.44" of rain and that's just not going to cut it. We are experiencing continued negative effects from this drought. Park rangers spend most of their time cutting dead trees and can barely keep up with them.

As July 31st approaches, so does the end of the long capital project which included ADA upgrades, swimming pool/bathhouse renovations, new electrical service/wiring at the Refectory, wastewater upgrades to 6 cabins, foundation repairs to cabin 6, renovation of CCC Pro Shop and stabilization and restroom expansion at the Buescher Recreation Hall. Both parks have been under construction since last October and we will be very glad when they are complete. However, we're not done yet. Late this summer and into the fall/winter months, more projects at Bastrop will be starting up including replacement of two restrooms, repaving of all roadways and campgrounds and roof replacements for the cabins and refectory. I am asked quite often how we (TPWD) can afford such repairs during these difficult financial times and the fact is that this funding was voter approved way back in 2008. It takes a long time for this process to finally happen. So please bear with us as we continue with the park improvements. In the meantime, I encourage you to come on out and dip your toes in the newly surfaced swimming pool. It's about the best place in Bastrop to cool off.

Hope all is well and I'll see you in the park.

Todd McClanahan

Park Superintendent

Hello Friends!

It has been a busy summer with no end in sight! Even though it's been a hot one, our visitors have been enjoying nearly everything our park has to offer.

We have had four fishing clinics, organized by the extraordinary Bill Brooks. Each event is volunteer run, and teaches kids of all ages how to handle a rod and reel. We've even had some adults come through the stations and learn the basics. The heat has not stopped all the fish from biting yet – kids are catching fish at each event, mostly sunfish and catfish.

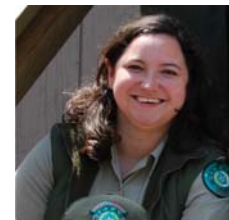
Another event that is drawing people to the pines this summer is the statewide Geocache Challenge. Geocaching is an outdoor sport where folks use a GPS unit to seek geocaches in all kinds of places: in the woods, on the roadsides, next to buildings. It's like a modern day treasure hunt! Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has sponsored a geocache in every state park, and participants are challenged to find that cache in the parks in their region. Intrepid geocachers may find the caches in more than one region, or maybe every one in every state park! Since the challenge kicked off in early July, we have had more than 200 visits to each of our parks' caches: that's 400 visits total for the complex, with each of those visits usually containing a few people. That's a lot of visitors enjoying our trails!

When each geocacher finds the cache, he or she will log their find online. One group of cachers said of Bastrop State Park, "Beautiful hike! Very clean park! Took Smokey the Bear sticker. Great pine trees. Reminded us of sweet home Alabama." Another said of Buescher State Park, "One of my absolute favorite parks! Love the smell of this park! We've had a great time seeing all these wonderful parks."

Now, that's what I like to hear! Want to learn how to geocache? We've got one more clinic this summer at Buescher before we take a break until the fall. On July 30, from 10am to 11am, come on out and learn how to embark on your own modern day treasure hunt.

See you out there!

Katie
Park Interpreter



*Right: New Friends of
the Lost Pines State
Parks Jon Pollard*



Greetings Friends,

Summer is obviously in overtime. Still, despite the heat (TX summers), the park is looking less like a construction site. Have you seen the changes? I am involved with the swimming program, so I see the difference at the pool where the water is clear, the tiles are cleaner and inside the bathhouse is new. Picnic sites throughout the park are disabled accessible (ADA) now or almost completed. Still there is a lot to be finished. Now if we can keep the park open...

Thursday, July 21 at 7:00 PM will be our next meeting. Be with us if you can. There are many agenda items, and we sure need all the input and ideas you can give us.

We had elections last meeting. The new officers are:

**President: Jon Pollard, Vice President: Jennifer Bristol,
Treasurer: Faye Cobb, Secretary: Marty Goldfarb (these 2
remaining in same positions)**

Jennifer comes to us in a switch – she was, till this spring, a Park Ranger. Now, moved to Campfire USA in Austin, she is able, without conflict, to be a Friend. Her insight into park procedure, etc., will be helpful I am sure.

Jon Pollard, that's me, is returning to the Presidency after several years of laying low. I remained an at-large board member, staying behind the scenes.

Many thanks to John Cobb for his hard work at the helm of the Friends group!

Well, see you in the park!

Jon Pollard

Our Swimming Program hits a new high...

At the time of this report, we have hit a new high for the number of students in our Swimming Program at the Bastrop State Park pool. As of right now, we have 517 students enrolled.

All the funds raised from this project goes back into the Park by the Friends sponsoring events and buying equipment for both our Parks. This year, we have had a great start to our record year and we still have one more session to go.



Students preparing for their first class



**Left: Sally
McQueen, Chief
Instructor for the
Friends of the Lost
Pines welcoming
Students and
Families to this
year's Swimming
Program.**

Lack of Rain takes a Toll



A Texas Parks and Wildlife Department crew is shown taking down a dead Pine tree in front of the Bastrop State Park Refectory. The dry conditions this year has had us under a fire ban at both Parks most of the year.



The Friends of the Lost Pines has purchased an Adaptive Swing for our Playground to help bring it up to ADA Standards. It should be installed by the time this newsletter is published.

Also, Thanks go to Marty Goldfarb and Michael Wood for repairs made to the Amphitheater Seating at Buescher State Park.

A List of Heavy Equipment at Buescher in 1936

State		Name of Area					
TEXAS		BUESCHER					
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS							
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	NO. OF UNITS	DESCRIPTION	HOW LONG NEEDED	EQUIPMENT NOW ON HAND			Owner-ship
				Ans. Yes	or No	Condition	
Cle-Trac Tractor	1	35 H.P.	6 Mos.	Yes	Good	ECW	
L. W. Grader	1	10' Blade	6 Mos.	Yes	Good	ECW	
R.R. Plow	1	No. 3	6 Mos.	Yes	Good	ECW	
Concrete Mixer	1	7 S.	6 Mos.	Yes	Good	ECW	
Chain Hoist	1	1 Ton	6 Mos.	Yes	Good	ECW	

From the CCC Records for Bastrop ~ Buescher State Parks



A furry friend checks out the new grass at the restored Bastrop State Park Swimming Pool



Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks Annual Hot Dog Supper at Buescher State Park is coming up in September. Watch for the date and time on Facebook, our Website, and the Pines Post!