

The Pines Post

Newsletter of the Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

March - April 2009

Upcoming Events

March 19th, Bastrop State Park, Refectory, Lost Pines meeting and nominations for officers

1st Swimming Registration – Bastrop State Park, Refectory, Thursday April 30th ~ 6:00pm to 8:00pm, this will serve as our April Meeting.

2nd Swimming Registration – Bastrop State Park, Refectory, Wednesday May 14th ~ 6:00pm to 8:00pm



National Historic Landmark

Notes from the Friends Group

As you will see inside this month's edition, we dodged the bullet with the Forest Fire between our two Parks. A lot of our neighbors lost their homes and our thoughts go out to them.

In our upcoming meeting on March 19th, we will have our elections for Officers for the coming year.

This will be important for us to get as many folks as possible to this meeting. So, please attend if you can.

Also, if you can help with the registration for the swimming program in April, we will need as many people as possible to lend us a hand!

A special tip of the hat to all of you who helped with the Souper Supper, It went smooth

**John E Cobb
President**

Friends of the Lost Pines State

Souper Supper 2009



Left: Some of the breads and desserts from our 2009 Souper Supper held at the Recreation Hall in Buescher State Park in February, 2009. We had a good turnout of both members and visitors. We really want to thank all of our members for the Soups, Stews, Dips, and other goodies they turned out. Nobody went home hungry!



Left and Below: Some of our visitors and members at this year's Souper Supper enjoying the meal and visiting with the Staff from both of our Parks.

We also saw a Power Point Presentation on our CCC history in our Parks as well as the Presentation of our Friends of the Lost Pines history and projects. Todd and Jamie brought us up to date on our purchases.



A forest fire between Bastrop and Buescher State Parks

The last day of February a large fire broke out between our two parks. Hwy 71 was closed both directions for several hours while firefighters from Bastrop and the surrounding area departments fought the blaze. It was started by falling power lines in high winds. Our Parks were lucky in that the fire did not get on State property, but several of our neighbors who live between the two Parks lost their homes and outbuildings. Our thoughts are with these folks.

Because of the extreme drought and our brittle underbrush, Todd McClanahan, our Complex Manager has had to implement new restrictions on even charcoal and cooking fires until further notice.



Left: the dry conditions at Bastrop-Buescher State Park have left us with a tinder-box with our underbrush. New fire ban rules have been put in place because of the danger.

Fishing Clinic Presentation at January Meeting



Bill Brooks is starting his 5th year holding Fishing Clinics at both Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. He gave the membership a presentation of his program at our January Meeting held at the Refectory in Bastrop State Park. The Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks donated \$ 250.00 to his program to help teach school aged children how to fish.



Gifts from the Friends to the Parks

In December and again in January, the Friends of the Lost Pines voted to pay for the following items for our Parks.

Trail Markers
Two GPS Units for Ranger use
A new Swing Set to replace the one at Buescher

We voted for \$3,500.00 to be spent for the Parks. We now have the GPS units in use, the Swing Set is on order and we have started replacing the worn trail markers.

A Budget for the Friends

In our January meeting, a budget was decided on by the membership for the Jan-Dec, 2009 year. The start-up funding for our year are:

Swimming Program: \$2,000.00

Fishing Program: \$250.00

Trail Run: \$1,000.00

Holiday in the Park: \$500.00

Souper Supper: \$25.00

Also, we voted to replace our two coffee makers with new ones that have a variable heat control. We use these for tea, coffee, lemonade, and other duties.

We have also renewed our website and reregistered our domain name. If you haven't seen the website, it is located at: www.friendsoflostpines.org

You will find all the issues of the Pines Post and be able to view them, or print them, in full color. It makes quite a difference in the look of the newsletter.



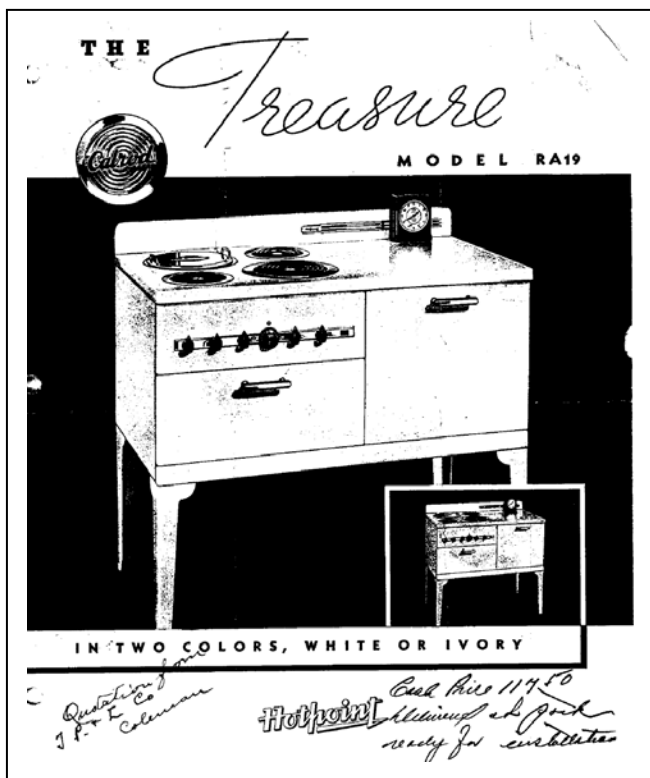
The *Swimming Program Committee*, chaired by Jon Pollard, with Kat Smith and Margret Silbernagel met at President John Cobb's house for the first planning meeting of the year. Extra classes, expanded hours and other considerations were discussed and a proposal is being presented to the Park for approval. Registration for the swim classes will be held:

1st Registration – Thursday April 30th ~ 6:00pm to 8:00pm

2nd Registration – Wednesday May 14th ~ 6:00pm to 8:00pm

We will need help with the crush of people if it's anything like it was last year. If you can help, let someone know at our next meeting!

From the Archives...



The first range and stove for the Refectory was an electric model, costing \$117.50

It was purchased from the Texas Power and Light Company in Coleman, Texas and shipped to the Park in 1935



Another view of the Bastrop-Buescher fire by Katie Raney. The fire did not reach the Parks, but as you can see was close!

Hello Friends!



Editors Note: Katie Raney is our new Park Interpreter and Volunteer Coordinator at Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. Welcome on Board Katie!

March comes with a little more excitement than in past years. On February 28th, around noon, a fire was ignited near park property by a downed power line. Luckily, neither Bastrop State Park nor Buescher State Park was affected, but many of our friends and neighbors were. Here at Buescher, we even had a couple of evacuees stay in the campgrounds. As of right now, we don't have much information on how to help those affected other than to keep them in our thoughts.

Other than our wildfire excitement, the parks have been relatively quiet through most of February. Our busy season really began on President's Day weekend. The campgrounds are full and the park is bustling every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Lots of folks are enjoying the mild weather out on the lakes— canoe and kayak rentals are beginning to pick up for the season. We've even had a couple lucky visitors catch fish!

Spring Break for most schools is March 16th – March 20th. We've got a busy schedule for that week and the weekends surrounding it. My goal is to have an interpretive program every day at either Bastrop or Buescher.

Our Spring Break programs include the following:

- Saturday, March 14th: Master Naturalist Morning Hike (10am)
- Monday, March 16th: Junior Angler Clinic (Buescher)
- Thursday, March 19th: Master Naturalist Wildflower Walk (Bastrop)
- Friday, March 20th: Evening Program (Buescher Amphitheater)
- Saturday March 21st-22nd: Texas Outdoor Family (Buescher)

...And a couple more to come! Please give us a call or check our websites if you need any details for these programs. I certainly enjoyed meeting many of you at the Souper Supper and look forward to working with y'all much more in the future!

*Katie Raney
Bastrop & Buescher State Parks
Park Interpreter/Volunteer Coordinator
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