



# *The Pines Post*

*Newsletter of the Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks*

**May - June 2009**

## *Upcoming Events*

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Second Registration for Swimming Program

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Meeting at the Refectory at Bastrop State Park. Election of Officers and Swimming update.

June 8<sup>th</sup> – Swimming Program Starts

June 18<sup>th</sup> – Meeting at the Refectory at Bastrop State Park and tour of the swimming pool



**National Historic Landmark**

## *Notes from the Friends Group*

Things are really starting to move fast now with our Swimming Program off to a booming start. Thanks to everyone for their hard work.

We have several of our instructors who will be back this year. This helps us with our training and implementation of our program.

We are going to have elections for officers in our meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> and need everyone to show up and vote.

We will have several projects we will need help on in the next couple of months. Please check these out inside this edition of the Pines Post.

**John E Cobb**  
President

Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

# A Note from the Parks...

Hello Friends!



I hope spring is treating everyone well. Here in the parks, we've been seeing signs that spring is here and summer is on its way. The bloom of the flowering dogwoods has come and gone, the bluebonnets have begun to sprout their seed pods and migratory birds are quickly passing through. And with the warmer weather, we have more visitors playing in the parks as well.

This month I'm starting a new program at Bastrop State Park. It's a mid-afternoon "talk and tour" about the CCC and the park's historic structures. Called "Touch History," the program takes place on Saturdays at 2pm and begins in the parking lot by the swimming pool. We will talk about the legacy of the CCC for about 15 minutes before moving on to tour one of the CCC structures, whether it's the Refectory, a cabin or even the gatehouse at the front of the park.

School groups, scout groups and church group visits to the park are increasing as we near the end of the academic year. Just last night I took a group of Girl Scouts on a night hike at Bastrop. We observed bats feeding in mid-flight and called two types of owls – and one responded! We got to hear the coo of a Barred Owl from the trees just above our heads. It was the first time many of the girls had heard a real owl call before.

It sounds like there will be a canoe barn and playground cleanup day at Buescher in early May. I'd love to see you all there – the visitors and park staff, of course, really appreciate all that you do.

Katie

# Canoe Clean-Up

We all owe Marty and Luanne a big "tip of the cap" for taking on the clean up and repair of our canoes and kayaks at Buescher State Park.

Marty took two of the canoes with him when he left for major repair jobs. He has also noted the cramped conditions of the storage shed.

He will give us an update and explanation at our April meeting.



## Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks Hosts Texans for State Parks Annual Meeting

Texans for State Parks, the umbrella organization of the Texas State Parks Friends Groups and interested parties, met at the Refectory at Bastrop State Park on April 11th.

Legislative issues were the main topic of conversation. The main concern is the full funding of our Texas State Parks. Other presentations included an update from Walt Dabney, the State Parks Director about the improvements being made in the Parks system.

If you are interested in more information, go to their website, located at: <http://www.texansstateparks.org/>

# Swimming Lessons Start!

Our first registration was held on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Refectory at Bastrop State Park. We had several classes in our sessions filled and collected \$ 11,480.00 and still have the Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> registration to go. Our Staff looks like it has been filled with several returning from last year.

The next step will be the training and certification for our Staff. If you can come out and help us on the 13<sup>th</sup>, please do! Be there at 5:30 PM at the Refectory in Bastrop State Park

## 2009 Learn to Swim Program Bastrop State Park

Swim Lesson Registration: At the Bastrop State Park Refectory  
1<sup>st</sup> Registration - Thur. April 30<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Registration - Wed. May 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Registration forms available at [www.friendsoflostpines.org](http://www.friendsoflostpines.org) Contact 512-321-3740 or visit the pool for late registration information after May 14th. \$10.00 late fee will apply after May 14<sup>th</sup>.



Registration Fee: \$55.00  
Mom and Me: \$45.00 (Ages 2-3 years- must have parent in the pool with child.)  
Late Registration Fee: \$10.00 (Applied after May 14th)  
Lessons are 45 Minutes each

<u>Swim Lesson Dates:</u>	<u>Class Times Available:</u>
Session I - June 8-19	9 am, 10 am, 11am, 7 pm, 8 pm
Session II - June 22-July 3	9 am, 10 am, 11am, 7 pm, 8 pm
Session III - July 6-17	9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 7 pm, 8 pm
Session IV - July 20-Aug 1	9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 7 pm, 8 pm
Aerobics Class, all Sessions	8:00 am - 8:45 am

Adult Lessons, to be announced - during Session Hours above

Various swim level available. Class sizes will be 3 to 6 students.  
Students may be asked to reschedule in order to maintain class sizes.

The Learn to Swim Program is provided by  
Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks  
PO Box 1714 Bastrop, TX 78602  
[www.friendsoflostpines.org](http://www.friendsoflostpines.org)

# Time for Dues

*We need to get our dues in to keep our projects alive. If you haven't paid your dues this year, please cut out this section and send it in. If you would rather have the electronic newsletter than the mailed version, let us know that as well. It costs quite a bit to send these newsletters out.*

**CUT OUT THIS SECTION  
AND MAIL IT TO:**

**Friends of Lost Pines State Parks**

**P.O. Box 1714**

**Bastrop, Texas 78602**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Levels (Choose one)**

Student/Senior \$10/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$15/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$25/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$50/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Special \$50 or more \_\_\_\_\_

# From the Archives

## POISONOUS PLANTS AND INSECTS

THESE ARE the cause of a large part of the real troubles of those who live in the woods and mountains.

COMMON NETTLE



POISON IVY

POISON OAK



WATER HEMLOCK

Some forest plants may cause injury to the skin if touched. The worst of these is poison oak, which causes a painful itching that spreads rapidly and lasts a long time. Oak poisoning appears first as small blisters. Poison-oak is a low-growing woody plant with leaves in groups of three. Leaves are irregularly wedge-shaped, the shape varying much among those even on the same plant. In summer, the leaves are dark, glossy green, turning to deep red in the fall. Berries, present in dense clusters during the fall, winter, and spring, are small, not more than one-eighth inch in diameter, and practically colorless. Learn to recognize this plant; find out if it occurs where you are working, and avoid it carefully. If you find that you have touched it, wash the exposed skin promptly with gasoline or kerosene or laundry soap. Do not use water alone, and if soap is used, add only enough water to apply the soap.

Stinging nettles cause no serious injury but produce discomfort for a short time where they touch the skin. The stem is unbranched, usually about 2 to 2½ feet long. Narrow, wedge-shaped leaves grow on short leaf stems on all sides of the central stalk; edges of the leaves are sharply notched.

During the spring, especially in the chaparral and brush country of the western mountains, woodticks are common, and may cause spotted fever. These ticks are flat, round, reddish-brown, about one-eighth inch in diameter. A thorough search of the whole body should be made each day to see if any ticks have attached themselves. If you find any, report this promptly to the medical officer.

*This warning on poisonous plants comes from the 1938 CCC manual that was issued to all participants in the program.*

# Elections 2009

Our May 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting will be our yearly election of officers for the Friends of the Lost Pines. These are the nominations for officers:

President – John Cobb

Vice President – Roy Baldwin, Jon Pollard, Marty Goldfarb

Secretary - Faye Cobb

Treasurer - Margret Silbernagel

At large positions – Debbie Baldwin, plus the other 2 of the 3 VP candidates

Your vote counts...Please be there and vote!



We have several projects on the drawing board right now. We need to help with the trails (clean up, etc.), put down mulch in the playgrounds on each Park, repair and update our canoe fleet, and of course, our swimming program. If you can help us with any of these projects, come to our May meeting and give us a hand!



*Left: Part of the membership at our March 2009 meeting at the Refectory at Bastrop State Park*