

The Pines Post

Newsletter of the Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

May ~ June, 2011

Upcoming Events

First Registration, Swim Program 2011

6:00-7:30 PM Weds May 11

Second Registration Swim Program 2011

6:00-7:30 PM Thurs May 26

Friends of the Lost Pines Business Meeting

7:30 (after swim registration)
May 26th (Thursday)

All at Bastrop State Park's
Refectory Building



National Historic Landmark

A quick note about our Parks

This has been a busy couple of months this spring at our Parks. We have had Spring Break, close calls with fires, heavy traffic and visitors, and restoration projects going on at both Parks.

The Pool is ready now, having been restored, for our swimming program.



In this photo from Todd, we can see they are finishing up the pool.

We hope to see you at our next meeting. We have several things to go over plus election of officers. We also should have an update on State Park funding.

John E Cobb

President

Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

Upcoming Events at our Parks...

Moonlight Hike

When	May 06, 2011 from 08:30 PM to 09:30 PM
Where	Bastrop State Park
Contact Phone	512-237-2241

Find out what it is like to be a creature of the night. Join a naturalist to call for owls, watch for bats, listen for toads and experience the park's trails after dark. Wear walking shoes and bring water, insect repellent and a flashlight for this mile-long hike. Meet at the kiosk by the playground



Discover the Lost Pines Hike

Every Saturday, 10:00 AM. Join a Master Naturalist for a walk through the park and explore the history, flora and fauna that make this park unique. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. Meet at the kiosk near the playground.

Fire bans in our Parks



March 2011 fire closed Hwy 71 and came close to the Park

Because of the drought conditions in Bastrop County, fire bans are currently in place. We have been very lucky so far this season with fires coming up to the Park property lines, but not in the Parks.

Bastrop and Buescher State Parks -- no wood fires; charcoal and propane allowed. This is subject to change if conditions get better or worse. Check with the Park before you come.



The Friends have a new canoe at Buescher's Lake. We have also purchased new paddles for the kayaks this season. Another new canoe will be discussed at our May meeting.

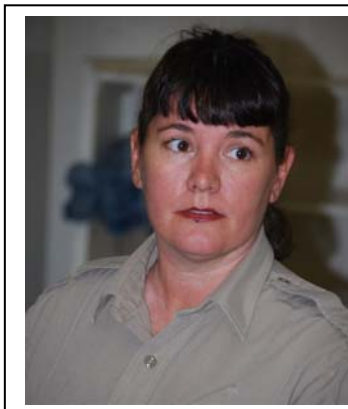


A Tip about used coffee Grounds from Texas Parks and Wildlife

Don't automatically toss those **used coffee grounds** in the trash – they have many more uses before being thrown out! Here are 16 ways to reuse old coffee grounds that you may find useful.

- 1. Deodorizer** - deodorize your refrigerator or use them to get rid of food smells on your hands.
- 2. Furniture scratch fix** – A little water and some grounds makes nice brown stain for your scratched furniture
- 3. Fertilizer** – plants will love this addition to their soil, whether in ground format or made into a “tea” spray.
- 4. Worm food** – No, not for the worms living out in your yard. But the ones in your worm-bin composter .
- 5. Insect repellent** – Tired of bugs ? Try sprinkling coffee grounds around the cracks in your foundation.
- 6. Skin exfoliant** – try lightly massaging some dried grounds onto your skin to exfoliate!
- 7. Easter egg dye** – Sure, they won't be pink or blue, but they will be dyed a lovely shade of brown.
- 8. Shoe Deodorizer** – Yep, dried grounds help to deodorize your stinky shoes.
- 9. Pet Groomer** – Mix grounds with water and you have a nice grooming solution that leaves Fido's hair shiny.
- 10. Household cleaner** – coffee grounds can also be used as an abrasive cleaning solution around the house.
- 11. Ash reducer** – Sprinkle wet coffee grounds on fireplace ashes before you shovel, helps reduce ash flyaway.
- 12. Cat repellent** – sprinkle around your garden to keep kitty from using it as their personal bathroom.
- 13. Pet flea dip** – Dried grounds can help kill off fleas.
- 14. Kitchen drain odor remover** – Boiling water and coffee grounds help to get rid of stinky odors.
- 15. Add shine to your hair** – When washing your hair, massage some grounds through your hair.
- 16. Great compost addition** – Add grounds and paper filters (only) to compost piles/bins to help balance PH.

Pool Manager Jennifer Bristol moves on...



Jennifer has taken a position with Campfire, Inc. after a great run as our Bastrop State Park Pool Manager.

She will stay with us as a volunteer in our Friends of the Lost Pines group and assist us with the Swimming Program this year.

We wish her the best in the years to come and thank her for her valuable service to our Parks.



Staff, Hosts, and Volunteers attended a lunch for Jennifer on her last day at the Park.



Left: Some of the Crowd at our annual “Souper Supper” in March. We had over 30 guests and picked up new members. Everyone had a good time and plenty to eat!

It's Swimming Season again!

Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks Swim Lesson Program At Bastrop State Park

Parents! Be sure your child has a safe and enjoyable experience in the water!
Sign up to learn to swim or to improve their swimming skills.

The 2011 "Learn to Swim" Program begins soon.



Swim Lesson Registration:
At the Bastrop State Park Refectory

1st Registration -
Wed. May 11th ~ 6:00pm to 7:30pm

2nd Registration -
Thur. May 26th ~ 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Registration forms & info also available at www.friendsoflostpines.org
Or contact 321-3740 for information. Late registration only at the pool w/swim coordinator

Registration Fee: \$60.00 (\$10 late fee after May 26th for new swimmers)

Mom & Me: Ages 2-3 years- must have parent in the pool with child.

Sorry, no refunds for bad weather or emergencies.

Swim Lesson Dates:

Session I - June 6-17

Session III - July 4-15

Session II - June 20-July 1

Session IV - July 18-29

Class Times Available:

Morning: 9am, 10am & 11am Evening: 7pm & 8pm

Lessons are 45 minutes each

Various swim levels available. Classes 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

Our instructors and life guards will start their training in a few days. The first registration will be held at Bastrop's Refectory May 11th from 6 to 7:30, and the second will be held May 26th from 6 to 7:30. June 6th will be the start of our lessons in the pool.

If you can help with registration, please contact Faye Cobb at fayemcobb@airmail.net or call 512-629-1553 as soon as possible.

Spring Break Adventure Fest

Spring has definitely sprung here in the Lost Pines. As spring break is winding down, the cedar elms are leafing out, our pine trees are pollinating and the wildflowers are beginning to bloom. We've had a busy ten days in the parks and it seems like the members of the plant kingdom have had the same.

Over the course of spring break, Bastrop State Park hosted Adventure Fest, a one-day event designed to give visitors a taste of all kinds of outdoor activities. Folks got a chance to try archery, geocaching and a variety of nature crafts. We had visitors from 1800s Texas talking about travelling and camping almost two hundred years ago. Many attendees also attended our wildlife talks, guided nature hike and outdoor cooking seminar. The Boys and Girls Club of Bastrop, whom we served last year with a three-day day camp, was able to come and enjoy all of the activities as well. A great time was had by all, and we could not have had such a fun and successful event without our park staff, volunteers and staff from other Region 5 parks.

We have several more programs going on in the complex over the next few months: star parties, owl prowls, mountain bike rides, hikes and much more! Check the calendar of events on our park websites to learn more.

See you out there!

Katie Raney



Photos courtesy of TPWD and
Katie Raney