



# *The Pines Post*

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

May-June, 2008

## *Upcoming Events*

May 15<sup>th</sup>...Working meeting with registration for the swimming classes at the Refectory at Bastrop State Park. Everyone is invited to help. Starts at 6 PM for first registration. Second will be 6 PM on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.friendsoflostpines.org](http://www.friendsoflostpines.org) for more information.

June 19<sup>th</sup>, Meeting with a Picnic in the Park at Buescher State Park pavilion. Starts at 6:30 PM. Bring sandwiches and pot luck!

*More to come...*



National Historic Landmark

## *A note from the President*

As your new President, I would like to thank Marty Goldfarb for his leadership and hard work over his terms as our President. It makes things so much easier when you are following someone who worked as hard as Marty has done.

Also, we need to thank everyone involved in the 75<sup>th</sup> CCC Reunion. It went over great with everyone's help.

We are going to start having our meetings at various places in both Parks. How can we sell our Parks without using the various facilities? It gives us a chance to see everything first hand.

Our canoe and kayak rentals are doing great. Marty has made us some great donation boxes and they are being placed in the Parks now.

See you at the next meeting!

**John Cobb**

President

Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks



# Notes from Bastrop State Park

Spring has arrived at Bastrop and Buescher; the dogwoods have bloomed, the toads have been singing, and the trees are covered with a bright green canopy of leaves. Spring seems like the best time to get to know the park as the new interpreter. I get to experience the annual journey of the plants and animals from start to finish.

I had the joy of spending about four absolutely beautiful days on the back of a tractor helping to finish machine plant the loblolly pine seedlings. With my background in forestry, I should know what I am doing. We will soon discover the truth when we calculate the percentage that survived. Let's hope for an abundance of rain to help our new forest along.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) celebration was very successful thanks to everyone's teamwork. We had a much larger crowd than we expected, but that's a good thing.

Swimming season is upon us and I appreciate the effort everyone is putting in to get the swim lessons organized. With our awesome new pool manager, Jennifer Bristol, things should roll along smoothly.

Thanks to Kat and Marty for getting the details of the fall fun run together. It sounds like it will definitely be a possibility to kick off this event. I love the idea of doing it as a trail run because our trails need more use and more publicity. I am also excited to see everyone stepping up to the challenge of asking the community for donations.

For those of you whom I still have not met, I hope to see you at the next meeting!



Zaina Farrar  
Park Interpreter/Volunteer  
Coordinator  
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## Next Meeting of the Friends

**May 15<sup>th</sup> Registration for Swimming Classes  
at the Bastrop State Park Refectory.**

**If you can be there to help, it will be greatly  
appreciated!**

# From the Archives

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY  
NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION  
FOR TEXAS

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Old Post Office Building  
Austin, Texas

December 12, 1941

Mr. Paul R. Roesle, Chief Architect  
Texas State Parks Board  
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Roesle:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 9, to which you have attached four copies of NYA Job Order form, requesting fabrication of twenty-three pieces of furniture for the San Jose Mission.

I am attaching one approved copy for your file and have forwarded approved copies to the shop at Bastrop. In the event you care to give this order priority over some other orders which you have now under construction in the shop, I would appreciate it if you would get in touch with me.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Birdwell, Jr.  
NYA Area Director

Since the beginning of Bastrop State Park, first under the CCC, then under NYA, and finally under Texas Parks and Wildlife, we have manufactured signs and furniture for all the Parks and Historic Sites in Texas. This 1941 order receipt from the NYA to Texas State Parks shows an order for 23 pieces of furniture for the San Jose Mission. This included desks, benches, and other pieces of furniture.

The shop at Bastrop still makes furniture and signs for the Agency.

Lumber, Hardware, Paint, etc., as per attached Bill of Materials	\$105.00
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The Total Cost for the furniture

## Meet our Staff

Memorial Day weekend is the official opening of the pool at the park; however the excitement has been building since mid-April. The entire park staff has pitched in this year to ensure that 2008 will be a great year at the pool. The community has a long history with enjoying the pool's cool water during the hot summer months and this year we want to provide them with the best we have to offer.

So far we have had to make some adjustments to accommodate the longer school year by changing the dates of the swim lessons, but so far that change has been well received. Thank you to Jon Pollard, Kat, John Cobb and Margaret for all your help with getting the flyers printed, lessons posted on the web and all the positive feedback on our almost daily phone calls.

As a recent member (two years) of the Bastrop community, I have gained a greater appreciation for the diligent work that the community pours into its various volunteer groups. Though they might not all be perfect, there is certainly never a lack of willingness to try!

We have a great team assembled this year with our swim lesson coordinator, Sally McQueen, swim instructors; Wren, Arial, Anna, Kaci and Karen. (The swim lesson life guards have yet to be identified.) John Pollard and myself are working on creating a swim program that will be both informative and fun. I look forward to all the challenges and rewards that this summer has to offer.

When summer fades to fall and the summer guests have all gone home, I will take a deep breath and start the second part of my adventure at the park with participating in natural resource management and controlled burns. In the mean time I will continue to enjoy the park as an employee, but more importantly as a citizen walking the trails with my faithful side kicks Chief and Cosmo (my dogs).



**Jennifer Bristol**  
Park Specialist, Pool manager

Jennifer is one of our new hires at Bastrop State Park and has taken on the chore of managing the Swimming Pool and Swim Programs. She has hit the site running and has already made a difference in the look of the Pool.

## Notes from Buescher

Spring has brought many visitors to the park...the birds, the baby animals, and the people. On Fridays, the Buescher staff watch as the campgrounds come alive with excited children ready to explore all that nature has to offer. The canoes and kayaks, offered by the Friends Group, are rented first thing Saturday morning for a full day of lake exploration and fishing. Campfires are alive in the evenings with all gathered around for stories and s'mores. Sunday morning offers one more opportunity for a bike ride or walk before heading home from a rejuvenating weekend. By Sunday evening the park is quiet and Buescher staff watch as the fields throughout the park come alive with rabbits, deer, and birds.

This year, Greg and I have had the unique opportunity to watch the life that spring brings, as a pair of red-bellied woodpeckers have been nesting in a cedar tree in front of our house. We first noticed the diligent work the birds were putting into forming a hole in the tree. Our excitement grew as we realized they planned to use it to house this year's clutch. As we continued to observe, we noticed that the pair was switching in and out of the hole about every hour. One morning, one of the birds was late getting to the hole and the other called it in. This drew our attention to the nest and we joked about who needed a break from incubation duties. Then one day we got nervous. We noticed the pair coming and going frantically from the nesting cavity. This could mean only one of two things; either the eggs hatched and mom and dad were trying to keep up with the voracious appetite of growing baby birds, or the eggs had been preyed upon and mom and dad were confused and looking for their eggs. The tension grew for a couple of days as we searched for our own clues to solve the mystery, but couldn't find any. At last, one day as I came home from the office and walked past the tree, I heard a tiny little noise. I stopped and confirmed – it was the sound of baby birds calling to be fed. We have watched now for a couple of weeks as mom and dad come with insects. As to just how this passing of spring will end, we are unsure. We expect the babies to fledge this week and then their own journey begins.

I hope you, too, have had an adventurous spring. It is always one in the park.

Jamie Hackett  
Buescher State Park Manager

## Notes from the Friends of Lost Pines

We are starting our busy time of the year now. Coming up:

I. Swimming Program Registration and Classes. Our May 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting will be registering students for the classes. We will need help getting the registration done and classes scheduled. We have our instructors hired and are ready to start our classes.



II. We are hard at work setting up our fall running event. This first year, we will have a trail run and a shorter kids run on October 25<sup>th</sup>.



*Draft of the Trail Run Logo*

III. We will be repeating our Christmas in the Park event again this year.

IV. We have redesigned the website, [www.friendsoflostpines.org](http://www.friendsoflostpines.org), and invite you to see it. We have all the news about our Parks as well as registration forms for swimming and the October Run.

V. We will be moving our meetings site around and taking advantage of the facilities at both Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. Our June meeting will be a picnic in the Park at Buescher.

VI. We are planning for new programs available through both Parks and Wildlife and others in our meetings to come. If you have suggestions, contact John Cobb ([cobbfarm@airmail.net](mailto:cobbfarm@airmail.net)) with your requests.

## 75<sup>th</sup> CCC Reunion at the Lost Pines

We had over 77 CCC'ers at March 29<sup>th</sup>s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the CCC and Lost Pines State Parks. We also brought in a great number of visitors to the site. The preparation work went well and we hosted CCC'ers and visitors from Friday through Saturday. The oldest CCC'er 95, with several in their 90's.

We furnished the Saturday noon meal and things went very smoothly.

After Dinner on Saturday, E-Corps swore in their newest members. Demonstrations on the use of tools and rock work were shown on both days.

Thanks to everyone for their hard work in getting this project successfully accomplished.



75<sup>th</sup> CCC Anniversary and Reunion Staff and CCC'ers



*Left: We had a FDR actor on hand for the participants at this year's event. Presentations were done by him, Texas Parks and Wildlife Staff including our new Executive Director Carter Smith and our State Parks Director, Walt Dabney along with many others. The weekend went great!*