

The Pines Post

Newsletter of the Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks

November-December, 2007

Upcoming Events

November 15th ...Bastrop S.P. Refectory, 7:00 PM Meeting and program on local Archeology in Bastrop S.P.

December 15th...Bastrop S.P. Refectory, "Holiday in the Bastrop Pines" 1 PM until 8 PM. "Pine Crafting Classes"

March 29th-30th, 2008...75th CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) reunion event at Bastrop State Park.

More to come...



National Historic Landmark

New Format for the Pines Post

You can receive the Post by either mail or you can get it of the internet on our website at: www.friendsoflostpines.org

If you have a computer, you will be able to get the Pines Post in color and be able to print it out if you wish. This would save us the expense of mailing and copying.



Do you have something for the newsletter? Send it to John Cobb at cobbfarm@airmail.net



Bastrop Refectory

Photographs from yesterday...



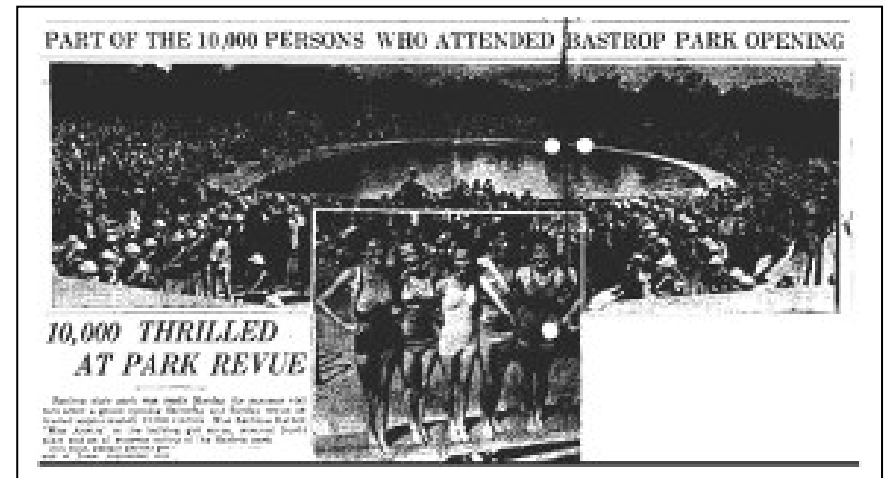
This is the entrance of Bastrop State Park in the 1950's

Do you have old photographs of the Park you would share with us? Contact any of the officers of our Lost Pines Friends group or contact John Cobb (see first page) and we will scan it in to share with everyone.



Lost Pines Tents at NatureFest, November 3rd, 2007

From our Archives



From the Austin American Statesman, April 26, 1937 covering the Grand Opening of Bastrop State Park. Two days of speeches, bands, Army Reviews, and swimming contests marked the opening weekend.

We will have articles monthly from the archives of Bastrop and Buescher State Parks. Watch for more in the months to come

Proposition 4 Passes, what it means for our Parks...

- Bastrop State Park, Bastrop, Bastrop County (TPWD) – \$3,670,193 for major repairs to several historic buildings built 70 years ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This includes plumbing repairs to save the swimming pool bath house, which is deteriorating from water rot caused by leaks, foundation and roof repairs for the golf pro shop, and various repairs for the group barracks, restrooms and kitchen.
- Buescher State Park, Smithville, Bastrop County (TPWD) – \$861,372 to repair foundation problems threatening the walls and roof of the park Recreation Hall constructed 70 years ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



Happenings from Buescher

Site Manager Jamie Hackett

Buescher has recently lost one of its long time Rangers-Kenneth Coleman. He has moved on to a position at Monument Hill and Kreishe Brewery State Historic Park after 21 years with the Lost Pines Complex. This is very exciting for him and we wish him well. We are currently working on filling this position and the Park Interpreter position.

We started active visitation counts in October and it is going well. We are learning more about the people who visit our parks. As you enter the park please be sure to stop in at the front office to let us know you are there.

We are in the midst of our busy season at the park. All campsites are full on weekends and people are enjoying the great outdoor activities. It's nice to smell campfires in the evening and hear the laughter of the children throughout the park.

Todd, Phil and I enjoyed our day with the Friends Group at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop sharing about the State Parks at the first annual Nature Fest. We had beautiful weather and a good crowd.



Come join us on December 15th between 1PM and 8PM for "Holiday in the Pines". Bring the kids and learn how to make your own decorations from scratch!

From the President...

Hi Friends, Isn't the weather great, time to get out and enjoy the outdoors! It doesn't get any better than this. I saw some of you at the Nature Fest, I hope you enjoyed it. I thought it turned out pretty good. We had a steady stream of people and I hope some of them join our friends group. Donations were slim but we handed out information about FLPSP and Prop. 4. LuAnn ran into Steve Box one of the promoters of the Nature Fest and he was very excited about it. He said he helped over 200 people launch on the river. The Parks Staff there also were busy. Todd doing his bird calls, Jamie her animal identification and Phil water safety. Thanks to our members that came out to help Tony and Kay Condit, Joyce and Steve Barrett, John and Faye Cobb, Jon Pollard, and LuAnn, Isaiah and myself. We all had a good time; LuAnn showed Faye and Joyce how to make pine needle baskets. She was demonstrating them to promote The Holiday in the Pines on December 15th. Everyone needs to come and bring kids, grandchildren, friends and neighbors! She can also use all the help she can get, so if you can help let her know.

Talking about events **Remember 7PM** this Thursday we will be hosting a presentation by Rich Mahoney about Archeology at Bastrop State Park and he will be bringing some artifacts to show also; hope you can make it! We're having refreshments so if you can bring a few cookies or drinks.

Also John Cobb will now be doing our news letter so if you have an article or information you can contact him through our Webpage www.friendsoflostpines.org. You can also receive the news letter electronically and it will be posted on our web site. If you haven't checked out the website you need to really John does a great job with it. Lots of info and pictures, and you can send him your ideas; Thanks John Cobb!!

And I know we all want to thank Ron Giles and Lisa McCormack for the years of doing such an excellent job on our news letter. THANKS SO MUCH!!

So lets here from you and get out and hike the many trails in the Parks. Happy Trails

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A Note from Todd McClanahan...

Complex Superintendent

Planned Prescribed Fires at Bastrop State Park

It is that time of year, again, when prescribed fire plans are put into action at Bastrop State Park. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff have scheduled several prescribed fires to be conducted within the Park during the Fall and Winter seasons.

Fire is a natural component of the Lost Pines ecosystem, and periodic fires are critical to restore and maintain suitable conditions for native plants and animals. These prescribed fires will be conducted under specific weather conditions, and will be carefully monitored and controlled by trained wildland firefighters with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Forest Service.

While it is not possible to notify all residents of planned burning activities, TPWD routinely notifies adjacent landowners and all appropriate authorities prior to initiating prescribed fires. So, keep your eye on the horizon, and if you see smoke above the trees at Bastrop State Park, be assured that TPWD is working to preserve the Lost Pines and its associated wildlife for generations to come.

Greg Creacy is the Regional Natural Resources Coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife and Bastrop State Park.



Notes from the Parks

Buescher: Congratulations to Jamie Hackett on her passing her Masters Degree! That's really hard considering she works full time and this was in her spare time!

The Upcoming Schedule for the Friends of the Lost Pines will not have a December scheduled meeting. We will be on hand at the Holiday in the Bastrop Pines on Saturday, December 15th instead. It will be from 1:00 PM until 8:00 PM and will highlight making decorations from Pine Needles and Pine Cones.

November 15th Friends Meeting



Left: Richard B. Mahoney currently serves as Cultural Resources Coordinator for the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department gave a presentation on Lost Pines Archeology.

We also voted to replace the four canoes at Buescher State Park because they are leaking. We will get two kayaks first and then will see about replacing the other two with new canoes.

Funding the December 15th (\$150.00) Special Project and Holiday in the Pines was passed.

There will be no meeting in December on the third Thursday, but if needed, there will be one during the Holiday in the Pines event.

We need to remind everyone if you don't have your dues up to date; we need the revenue as soon as possible. Also, if you would rather get the newsletter from the internet (in color), let Marty know so we can take your name off the mailing list. This would save us postage and copy expenses. You can also contact John Cobb with this information at cobbfarm@airmail.net or if you have anything for the newsletter, send it to the same address.