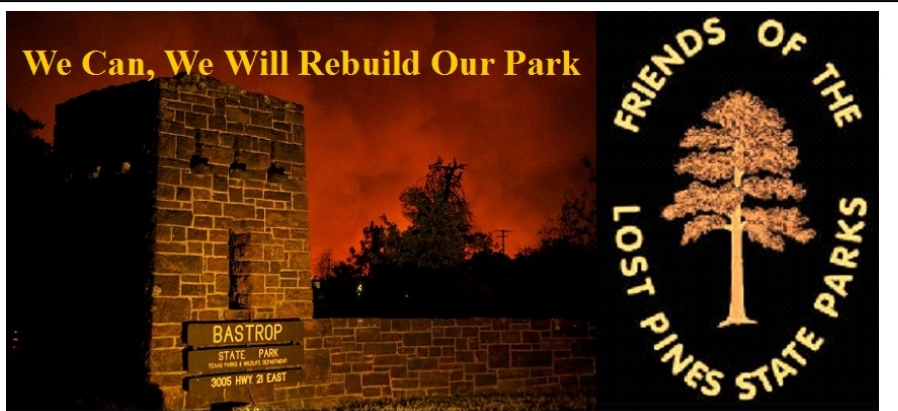




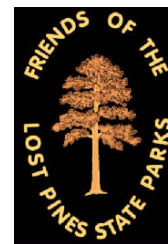
Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks  
 P.O. Box 1714  
 Bastrop, Texas 78602



# *The Pines Post*

## *November - December, 2011*

**The Next Meeting  
 of the Friends of the  
 Lost Pines will be  
 announced as soon  
 as it is scheduled!**



*Help turn our tree green again!*

National Historic Landmark

*In news about our Park  
 Employees who lost their homes,  
 John Cobb, the President of  
 Texans for State Parks, the  
 umbrella organization for all the  
 Friends groups in Texas State  
 Parks announced a \$5,000.00  
 grant to match the Texas Parks  
 and Wildlife Foundation's Board  
 of Directors donation!*

*Have a safe  
 and happy  
 Thanksgiving*



Todd McClanahan  
Park Superintendent



Hello Friends,

It's been nearly two months since the worst wildfire in Texas' history struck us. In many ways, it still looks the same but it is beginning to green up slightly. It's amazing what can grow given the little moisture that we've had. I can only hope to know what it will look like if we get any significant rain. I read a recent article from the Texas Climate News, looking at tree rings for historic one-year drought events, which stated the closest drought year to 2011 was in 1789! This is unbelievable.

We are continuing to make progress in the park but it is very slow going. Park rangers from all over the state have come to our aid. The bulk of their work consists of felling trees, chipping and hauling mulch to various areas within the park. We are also continuing to get estimates for the remaining work (contracted) which needs to take place. These are broken down into a few categories: Tree Removal/Shearing, Erosion Control, Research and Habitat Restoration/Reforestation. Some of these projects are partially reimbursable by FEMA while others are not. Regardless if some may be reimbursed, we unfortunately don't have the necessary funding up front to get them started. Two of the projects have begun, salvage timber operation and trail clearing. The logging company has begun and will be conducting a selective harvest in several tracts totaling approximately 1,000 acres. We should actually turn a small profit with this project given the timber value of the selected trees. We also recently contracted with AmeriCorps for a year to assist us with cleanup and rehabilitation of our trails and other projects as needed. This will be a great opportunity for us to get some much needed trail work completed.

I thank all of those willing donors who have contributed thus far. We will need so much more in order to tackle the enormous tasks ahead.

Hang in there, keep your head up and I will once again see you in the park soon!

## *A note from Katie...*

**Hello Friends!**

**Even though we are currently down a park, our visitors have been keeping busy. Over at Buescher, we have upped the number of interpretive programs and events. Some programs, like the CCC-themed "How to Gain Weight and Earn Money" were originally scheduled at Bastrop SP but moved to Buescher SP after the fire.**

**October was busy, with more than 250 people attending programs at Buescher, including two school groups. November will be no exception! On Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Buescher will host an informal star party. Did you know you can see the Milky Way from the park on a clear night? I'll be there to talk about stars and tell constellation lore. We may even have a telescope to look at some of the wonders of the night sky.**

**We still have a lot of folks excited to volunteer at Bastrop, and we are currently working on setting up some opportunities to help out. In fact, in November and/or December, we hope to have volunteers help us spread mulch at toad ponds around the park. This mulch will help improve the habitat for the Houston toad and other amphibians. Keep your eyes out for more information about this opportunity and more in the coming months.**

**Hope to see you out here!**



**Katie Raney  
Park Interpreter/Volunteer Coordinator**



*In expenditures approved before the fire, TxDOT has repaved our roads in Bastrop State Park. This had nothing to do with the fire, but will make it more comfortable for visitors to drive through the Park.*



*Cleanup crews from all the Parks State-wide are still working on making the Park Safe.*

## *Bastrop State Park still closed*



*Our Park will be closed until Texas State Parks has made it safe for visitors to come in. This is a slow, but very important first phase of the recovery effort!*



*Green is coming back through the ashes!*

# A Very Special Donation



*Friends of the Lost Pines member, Lynne Russell presented a check for the Friends of the Lost Pines from her niece's Montessori school in Arlington. They had a bake sale, raised \$1000 and gave the Friends \$200.00 for the recovery project.*



*Lost Pines President Jon Pollard, Member Lynne Russell and Lost Pines Treasurer Faye Cobb with the check from the Montessori School.*



**President of the Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks, Jon Pollard accepts a \$45,000.00 check from Judi Hoover of the Bastrop Film Commission for our restoration projects. This comes from the premiere of the film "Bernie" (filmed in Bastrop) held in Austin with the proceeds and donations going to several fire relief groups. This money will be used 100% over the next months and years to help restore our Park.**



*Upper Left: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Executive Director Carter Smith is shown with FoLP's President Jon Pollard and Treasurer Faye Cobb at the press conference at Bastrop State Park. The Park received \$100,000 from the Meadows*



*Foundation to replace fire equipment and vehicles lost in the Bastrop SP fire. Bottom Left: Complex Manager Todd Callahan and Texas State Parks Director Brent Leisure at the Press Conference held at Bastrop State Park.*