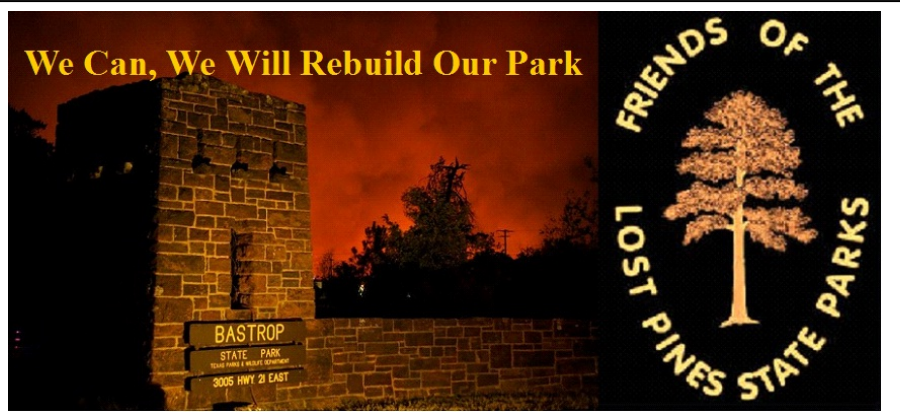




Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks
 P.O. Box 1714
 Bastrop, Texas 78602



We Can, We Will Rebuild Our Park

The Pines Post

Special Edition

In this issue:

**Updates on the Fire
 What we can do
 Our Park's Future
 Messages from our
 Parks**



National Historic Landmark

*Buescher State Park is Open
 and picking up the slack!*

*Studies are being performed to
 see how to best restore the
 forest!*

*Donations for our Park
 Restoration are coming in
 from everywhere. 100% of our
 donations will go to the
 restoration project!*

*Our President's
 Message for this issue
 of the Pines Post is
 inside!*

Todd McClanahan
Park Superintendent



Hello Friends,

First let me send out my sincerest condolences to all of those who lost their homes or were affected by this tragic event. I'm still in awe as I see the devastation this fire has caused. I was asked today by a reporter if I have suffered any personal losses. I looked him in the eye and said absolutely. My house may have been saved, but my home has definitely been affected. Bastrop is my home, this state park is my home. I'm sad, angry, tired, resentful and yet hopeful that one day this place will re-grow and we will, someday, be able to look out and once again see the beginnings of the new forest.

The outpouring of support has been a tremendous inspiration for me during these difficult days. I am amazed at the resiliency of our community. Unfortunately, the hard work now begins and people want to help now. Probably the hardest part of this recovery effort is slowing people down. This will be a very long process and we must be good stewards and restore this forest to its most natural state. We cannot do this by just haphazardly planting various types of trees and grasses. Just because something is native to Texas or Central Texas does not mean that it is appropriate for the Lost Pines. There is a reason why the Lost Pines is such an ecological icon. There is a reason why several other species of pine trees don't grow here. We are working with several other agencies within Bastrop County to formulate a plan to restore this entire forest, not just within the state park, but we must do it the right way. Some of our immediate concerns are still the many trees which will need to be cut, significant erosion problems and public safety. We are still estimating that Bastrop will be closed at least through October. This is still a very fluid date. I know people want to come and explore but we must ensure it is safe to do so. In the meantime I encourage folks to visit Buescher State Park. This magnificent park is fully open and had no direct impact from the fires. People can hike the trails and still become immersed within the lost pines.

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

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

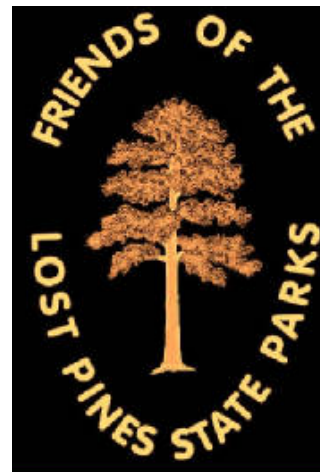
Buescher SP Alive and Open!

Buescher is open for business and fun! If you would like to enjoy a quiet fall afternoon of hiking, bird watching, fishing, or just relaxing, come on out to the park. The lake has plenty of water and some hungry fish. It was just stocked with about 900 catfish on 9/20/2011. The cooler evenings are perfect for camping and enjoying the outdoors. Hope to see you out at the park!



**Thanks,
Cullen Sartor
Site Manager
Buescher State Park**

Help Turn our Tree Green Again!!!



*All Donations to our
Friends Group will go to
the Restoration Project at
Bastrop State Park*

*You can mail donations to:
Friends of the Lost Pines
P.O. Box 1714
Bastrop, TX 78602
Or by Credit Card
www.friendoflostpines.org*

Editor's Note:

The response in our donations for the Restoration of our Park has been great so far. We need your help in getting the word out. We are a 501(c)3 and it is tax deductible. We pledge 100% of our donations will go to the Park's Projects! We will keep you up to date on this! Be watching!

Members and Park's Staff Lose Homes

We have several members of the Friends of the Lost Pines and eight of our State Parks Staff who lost everything in this fire. There are several organizations helping with this problem and if you are where you can help, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our members include President Jon Pollard, Secretary Marty Goldfarb, and many others. We are still compiling the list.

Our Parks and Wildlife folks can be helped through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, with a notation for "TPWD Employee Relief Fund" at the address below:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation
TPWD Employee Relief Fund
1901 North Akard
Dallas, Texas 75201

See the Video on the Bastrop State Park Fire at our website:

www.friendsoflostpines.org

It shows the damage, but also the new start of our future

Upcoming Schedule

October 8th, the Friends of the Lost Pines "Picnic in the Park" at Buescher State Park's Picnic Pavilion. 12 noon. Meal, short business meeting, updates on recovery, and the volunteer opportunities' at Buescher State Park.

All other meetings will be announced as soon as plans can be made. Watch for emails, Smithville and Bastrop newspapers and on the website.

Before and After the Fire



A Message from our President



Hello Friends,

Like so many others, I wish to thank, congratulate, and honor those firefighters who gave so much to save the park structures. Their heroics are commendable and leave intact a semblance of the park's founding from 1937. Once before our parks had a start, a beginning. Until now, we have enjoyed the fruits of the young men and planners who created our parks. One day others will again enjoy our parks.

We still do not know what the landscape will become; probably it will be changed for a long time. But once the land is made safe to use, visitors will come again. Meanwhile, we wait to see what the reclamation process will look like. Do we let nature run its course or do we 'do something', probably some of both. Studies are underway.

Okay, you asked for it. Now you can participate. Bastrop SP is off limits right now, but Buescher SP is going to be heavily used. Our rangers will need volunteers ready to help. By volunteering, you help Bastrop also. That's right. Helping at Buescher is what our parks and our rangers need now. Please come and use our park and enjoy our outdoors in this amazing pine forest.

See you in the park!

Jon Pollard, President
Friends of the Lost Pines State Parks



Would you have had the nerve to look the monster in the eye? Our Park Rangers did and saved our CCC buildings. Well done crew!

Fire in the Park...The Bad



**Devastation
in the Park**

**Both
Overlooks
Burned but
all other
CCC
buildings
saved!**



**About 95%
of our Park
has burned**

Hope and our Green Future



**Islands of
Green
exist and
are being
nurtured!**



**Life finds
a way to
survive
and
return!**

**Our
Playground
is safe and
note the
green
around it!**

