



## Mission

*The Mission of Texans for State Parks is to preserve and enhance the State Park System for the benefit of the people of Texas and their guests.*

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## Texans for State Parks

*Citizens working to preserve and enhance our great state park system*

## *The Voice*

*September, 2010*

- Texans for State Parks Annual Meeting Scheduled for February 2011
- P&W Submits 2012-2013 Appropriations Request; LBB Requests More Cuts
- 'Sacred land' saved near San Jacinto Battlefield
- Caprock Canyons Bison Herd to be More Visible

### From the President:

There are two items I would like to pass along this time in our newsletter.

The first is to welcome Brent Leisure as our new Parks Director. We all know he will do a great job of leading us through our upcoming Legislative Session and will work to improve our Parks.

The second thing is about the upcoming Legislative Session. Right now is the time for us to contact our Members of the House and our Senators expressing our concern about the upcoming budget and how it will impact our Parks.

We know that there will be cuts, we just want to make sure they are equal and reasonable. By contacting your Legislature Members now, instead of waiting for the session to start, you have a better chance of being heard.

Also, keep in mind our upcoming General Membership Meeting coming up in February at Buescher~Bastrop State Parks.

We will have input from everyone about our Parks and the Legislature. This is a good place for your group to network within our family of Parks!

*John Cobb, President*

### Texans for State Parks Annual Meeting Scheduled for February at Buescher State



### Park

Texans for State Parks will hold the 2011 Annual Members Meeting February 11 and 12 at Buescher State Park.

Buescher SP is located 2 miles northwest of Smithville on State Highway 71 to FM 153, then north on 153 for .5 mile to enter Park Road 1, or from Bastrop SP, you can go for a leisurely drive along Park Road 1C between Buescher and Bastrop State Parks. This scenic 12-mile drive will take you through the beautiful Lost Pines of East Central Texas. The scenic park consisting of 1016.7 acres was part of Austin's colonial grant, and the original park improvements were made by the Civilian Conservation Corps. For more about the park, see [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/buescher](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/buescher).

For those arriving Friday evening, a 'meet and greet' reception will be held at the recreational hall, with time for groups to talk about their activities. The business meeting will be held at the Buescher recreational hall.

If you would like to spend the weekend in the Piney Woods, overnight facilities at Buescher SP include screened shelters and campsites as well as limited use cabins (each sleeps 4 with 2 sets of bunk-beds), a table, chairs, AC/Heat, microwave, ceiling fan and refrigerator.

The Bastrop State Park cabins are on **temporary** hold until November 1 for TfSP members that would like to reserve one of the CCC built cabins for the weekend. However, the hold is only effective until November 1. Reservations will require a deposit for the 1<sup>st</sup> night's amount, per cabin by November 1 with the balance to be paid upon arrival to the park; If you can make plans now to join us for the weekend and want to be assured of a cabin in Bastrop State Park, call Parks and Wildlife's **Customer Service Center (512) 389-8900 and select option 4**, or you can make **e-mail reservations**, **fax reservations** or **phone reservations** before November 1, 2010.

The annual meeting will provide an opportunity to meet Brent Leisure, the new State Parks Director, as well as some time for Parks Partners and other volunteer groups to showcase their activities and events, so begin planning your programs now for the Friday evening and Saturday 'show and tell' sessions! Also, the legislature will be in session at that time and we will be able to have a better idea of just how the State's budget shortfall will impact State Parks.

Watch your newsletters and the TfSP website, [www.texansstateparks](http://www.texansstateparks) in the coming months for more information about the program and other activities as they develop. But, be sure to go ahead and make your reservations by November 1 if you want to be assured the opportunity to stay in one of the CCC built cabins in Bastrop State Park!

### **Parks & Wildlife Submits 2012-2013 Appropriations Request; LBB Requests More Cuts**

Parks and Wildlife submitted its Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2012-2013 biennium to the Legislative Budget Board last Monday, Aug. 23. However, at a meeting with TPWD leadership last week, Legislative Budget Board staff asked the department to explore additional possible budget cuts for the 2012-2013 biennium. This would be additional budget reduction beyond the 10 percent schedule of budget cut options TPWD presented as instructed alongside its 2012-2013 Legislative Appropriations Request. Department leaders have asked all divisions to explore additional possible savings and provide suggestions for the executive team to consider. TPWD will respond to the latest LBB request by Oct. 4.

As estimates of the state's budget deficit continue to increase, there is a real possibility that Parks and Wildlife will sustain serious reductions in the next budget cycle. Recent estimates put the deficit at approximately \$18 billion, and Governor Perry has recently acknowledged that "somewhere between 21 and \$10 billion's probably right", according to the Austin American Statesman.

A brief summary of the 2012-2013 LAR presented to the LBB in late August is on the Publications/Doing Business Web page, [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/business/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/business/).

TfSP will continue to monitor the budget situation to ensure that any budget reductions result in the least amount of impact to park operations and services possible. You can help by continuing to work with legislators and local officials to raise awareness of the value of state parks to local economies and the physical health of Texans.

### **Caprock Canyons Bison Herd to Become More Visible**

Caprock Canyons State Park near Quitaque is home to the bison in the Texas State Bison Herd. The Wildlife Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has recently shifted management of the Caprock Canyons herd to TPWD's State Parks Division.

The herd, which currently numbers 78, will remain under the care of herdsman C. L.



Hawkins, who transferred to the Wildlife Division when the herd came to the park in 1998 and has managed the herd ever since will transfer back to the Parks Division along with the bison herd.

Park employees say the shift will bring about some exciting changes, including expanding the grazing range of the official Texas

State Bison Herd from a half-section enclosure to eventually the whole state park over time and thus increasing viewing opportunities for park visitors.

For more about Caprock Canyons State Park and the bison herd, see

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findeadest/parks/caprock\\_canyons/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findeadest/parks/caprock_canyons/)

*TPWD News Releases are available online:*

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/releases/>

See a calendar of park events at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/)

**Texans for State Parks** invites you to join in protecting Texas treasures.

Texans for State Parks is a statewide, not-for-profit organization that works exclusively in support of the preservation and enhancement of the state parks, state historic sites, and state natural areas of Texas.

Whether you are an individual, organization, school group or represent a small business or a major corporation, membership categories provide a way for you to become involved.

Your tax deductible dues help fund advocacy and education efforts, and contributions to special parks activities as funds are available.

**Please *Join Today* if you aren't already a member!**

Click on [John, please insert link to the form on the web to easily move them over, just in case someone has an impulse to join]

For more information, see [www.texansstateparks.org](http://www.texansstateparks.org) or e-mail [leevans@texas.net](mailto:leevans@texas.net).

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