Day Hike
Bastrop State Park, TX

Schedule:

Saturday, February 20th, 2015
8:00 AM: Meet at the Outdoor Adventure Center
8:15 AM: Depart for Bastrop SP
10:30 AM: Arrive at Bastrop SP
10:45 AM: Hit the trail! (Lunch on the trail)
4:00 PM: Finish hiking
4:30 PM: Depart for campus
6:45 PM: Arrive back on campus

The Lost Pines loblollies represent the westernmost stand of loblolly pine trees in the United States. Because this pine pocket was separated from the East Texas Pineywoods by over 100 miles, this area is known as the “Lost Pines.” Scientists believe that glaciers long ago carved the land to separate the Bastrop area loblolly stand from East Texas. Over time, the area’s climate became drier and the region covered by pines shrank. The local sandy aquifer-laced soils provided conditions for these “Lost Pines” to survive. In fact, the pines have become genetically unique, having adapted to 30% less rainfall than loblollies from East Texas and adjacent states.

This 7 mile trail wanders through forested hills and grasslands. Hikers can expect to see swaths of ground exhibiting how the local ecology is recovering from recent forest fires.
Packing List:

Required:
- Sturdy hiking shoes (hiking boots, trailrunners, or sturdy tennis shoes)
- Backpack/day pack
- Two 1-liter water bottles (e.g., Nalgene)
- Long sleeve shirt for layering - Synthetic clothing preferred
- Rain jacket/poncho
- Sunglasses
- Hat

Optional:
- Camera
- Medications, if any taken
- Additional snacks
Alcohol, tobacco, and recreational drugs will *not* be tolerated on any trips led by ROPE. If you have such items, *do not* bring them!