

The BRIDGE

Volume 22: Issue 12 December 2009

The Newsletter of the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

News from the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (FoRB)

Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park is a membership supported 501 (c)(3) organized to promote understanding, appreciation, enjoyment and preservation of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and the surrounding area. Website: <http://rockbridge.missouri.org/>, email: forb@socket.net, phone: 573-815-9255, address: Suite 204, Outdoors Building 200 Old 63 South/P.O. Box 7293, Columbia MO 65205

2009 Officers and Board Members

President: Susan Haines; V.P.: Scott Schulte, Treasurer: Don Bay, Secretary: Kathy Holland,
2009-2010 Board Members: Melinda Staley, Jan Weaver
2009-2011 Board Members: Greg Horstmeier, Maggy Kirby, Rosemary Stevens, Sue Tillema
Next Board Meeting - Monday January 18, 6:00 pm Country Kitchen. All members are welcome to attend.

FoRB Membership - December 2009: 136 (30 single, 53 family)

New Members - Robert G. Christensen

Renewals Received - Roxie Campbell, Jean Crowson, Nancy Finke, Ilyana and Glenn E. Pickett, Julianne Ramsey Evelyn and John Tanner

Renewals due in December 2009 - Kelly and Greg DeLine, L.D. and R.W. Jones

Renewals due in November 2009 - Tanya Christiansen & Dan Eddidin, Don Garvin and Jean Graebner, Ann and Ferd Labruerie, Jonathan McConathy, Walter and Linda McConathy, Charles Shipman, Pat Timberlake

Renewals due in October 2009 - Patrice & Kurt Albert (2), Beverly Kabrick and Walter Horn (2)

Renewals due in Sept. 2009 - Twana & Todd Ware (2)

Applebee's December 5, 2009 Benefit for the Friends of Rock Bridge MSP

Come join us at Applebee's Restaurant on East Broadway, Sunday, December 5, 2009 from 8:00 to 10:30 A.M. for a breakfast FEAST. Included are: flapjacks, bacon and eggs, hash browns, orange juice and coffee. Children under 8 free with adult entree. PRICE: \$5. Three dollars from each meal will be donated to our KIOSK project. Applebee's will keep two dollars. SANTA CLAUS will be there. Bring your relatives and friends to this exciting event. If this is a success, Applebee's promises to do it again.

Donna Brunet Macrophotography - December Benefit for the Friends of Rock Bridge MSP

Longtime FoRB member Donna Brunet is opening up a studio for her nature and insect photos at 106 Orr Street (the new downtown "Arts District"). Her work has been published by the Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Animals Animals/Earth Scenes Stock Photography and the Entomological Society of America. To celebrate the opening, she will donate 10% of the purchase price of any item purchased by a member to FoRB - just bring a newsletter to show you are a member. Donna has greeting cards, trading cards for kids, and framed and unframed prints from \$3 to \$120. She will be at her studio from NOON to 3 PM Dec 4, 12 and 18 or you can call 573-999-2178 to arrange a visit, or you can go to <http://donnarbrunet.com> and download and mail an order form. Just be sure to indicate you are a FoRB member!

Annual New Year's Day Hike - Friday January 1, 2 pm - Wagon Wheel Trailhead.

Take Grindstone, Nifong or Gans Road to Bearfield, head south til the road deadends at the Trailhead. The hike will be somewhat rugged and off trail, at least for sections. So participants should be in reasonably good shape, and should wear sturdy shoes with ankle support, and clothing appropriate for the weather.

News from Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, and is primarily funded by a 1/10 of 1 cent State Parks-and-Soils Sales Tax. It is located at 5901 S. Highway 163, Columbia, MO 65203. phone: 573-449-7400; Website: <http://www.mostatetparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov

Park News by Jim Gast, Park Superintendent: Volunteering to Meet the Mission

By now you have probably read or heard about the layoffs in the Division of State Parks. We lost our Park Maintenance Worker I position, and our Interpretive Resource Technician position was cut to three-quarter time. This position is responsible for clerical duties as well as interpretive programs. Our seasonal labor budget was cut by 50% before the fiscal year began in July.

We still have the task of making sure that visitors have a great park experience, and we need to keep up with our stewardship efforts. How can we make these happen? The simple answer is volunteers. Through October, volunteers have contributed almost 2400 hours to the park this year. (This does not include any of the hours contributed by FoRB members). In order to continue to do what we've done in the past, we will need to increase those hours from volunteers. Currently, volunteers assist with invasive species control, fire line construction, prescribed burns, interpretive programs, Wild Cave Tours, trail construction and maintenance, litter clean up, updating bulletin boards, mowing, pink planarian and stream critter counts, stream health surveys, butterfly surveys, frog and toad surveys, bird counts, garden bed weeding, and assisting in the office.

Please consider donating your time so that we may continue fulfilling our mission. Contact the park at 449-7402 for more information.

Park Natural History/History by Kathryn DiFoxfire, Interpretive Resource Tech: Ski Rock Bridge

Winter is almost here, and forecasts are calling for snow. Rock Bridge Memorial State Park offers more than 11 miles of designated trails suitable for cross-country skiing if there is sufficient snow cover. The trails vary in degree of difficulty and scenery. Some portions of the 8.5 mile Gans Creek Wild Area trails are also suitable for cross-country skiing.

Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are two of the best ways to experience the silence and solitude of the park in winter while watching for wildlife and animal sign in the snow. Trails are marked with colored arrows on posts and/or colored plastic blazes on trees. White trails are shortcuts on a loop trail. Recommended trails for beginners include the **Grassland Trail (2 miles, blue)** and **Karst Trail (1.9 miles, red)**. Both trails offer gentle terrain through fields and woods and pass by many excellent sinkholes. Some mowed firelines that intersect these trails may be used as trails but will not be marked.

Intermediate to advanced skiers may wish to venture onto the **High Ridge Trail (2 miles, blue)**. Trail is primarily along a grassy ridge which offers a good view of the surrounding countryside. Two long hills offer exciting downhill runs for the experienced. Part of the western wooded section parallels Clear Creek.

Stop by the park office and check out our Cross Country Ski Trail Guide for additional information and a map.

Park Events - Reservations are required for all park events - Call 573-449-7400 to reserve a spot
No Events scheduled for December

Upcoming Community Events

· December 11 - The History and Future for Bears in Missouri, Jeff Beringer (MDC) - 3:15, 123 Anheuser Busch Natural Resources Bldg, MU Campus, Columbia

For other news and events, visit the FoRB website at <http://rockbridge.missouri.org/>

FoRB Membership Information - To join, and Mail this section with a check made to FoRB

\$15 Park Staff/Vol, Student, Senior
\$20 Individual
\$35 Family
\$100 Supporting

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, St., Zip _____

**Clip
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Mail check to P.O. Box 7293,
Columbia MO 65205

Friends' Friends - This space is for businesses and organizations that support our efforts!

Columbia Track Club <http://ctc.coin.org/>



FoRB
P. O. Box 7293
Columbia, Mo 65205