

The BRIDGE

Volume 23: Issue 2 February 2010

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

President's Message by Susan Haines, FoRB President: Year End Overview

Dear Members, We made it through the 2009 challenges and here's a year-end overview. Great board members were elected and rolled up their sleeves to keep FoRB in operation. The UPOP and Junior Naturalists' programs were successfully administered during the summer with support of a Missouri Parks Association grant. FoRB support was present at the Rock Bridge Revenge bike race, and we were the recipients of a \$500 donation from the Columbia Track Club. The Rock Bridge Men's Picnic group donated \$500 in support of FoRB projects. We had great programs by Jim Rathert and Val German, meteor shower viewings and great fall and winter hikes, along with a very successful benefit breakfast at Applebee's in December. We're still calculating the year end reports for volunteers' hours, and it looks like we've had another great year there as well. If any of you have volunteered at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park during the course of the year, please contact Rosemary Stevens (stevensr@socket.net) and let her know how many hours you've committed.

February 24th marks the 43rd anniversary of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

Our sincere condolences go out to our board member Greg Horstmeier, who lost his father over the holidays.

2009 Officers and Board Members

President: Susan Haines; V.P.: Scott Schulte, Treasurer: Don Bay, Secretary: Kathryn 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 February 15, 6:00 pm Country Kitchen. All members are welcome to attend.

FoRB Membership - as of January 2010: 119 (27 single, 46 family)

New Members - None

Renewals Received - Susan Melia- & Denis Hancock, Suzanne Pautler, Marla Steele

Renewals due in February 2010 - Sheila and Robert Bailey, Hazel Breitenbach, Dona Sue Cool, Sandra Hild, John Larkin and Maggy Kirby, Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Leighton, Scott and Lynn Schulte, Marcia Walker

Renewals due in January 2010 - Dolores and Bill Clark, Meredith & Joe Donaldson, Donna Brunet and Jim Gast, Paul Hayden, Linda LaFontaine, William B. Nunn, Sue and Herb Tillema, Mary Jane and James R. Wheeling

Renewals due in December 2010 - Kelly and Greg DeLine, L.D. and R.W. Jones

COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

The Friends of RBMSP are seeking members interested in serving on a committee to share ideas and enthusiasm about items to sell in the Park gift shop. If you are interested, please contact Maggy Kirby at 573-814-1290.

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.mostatateparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov

Park News by Jim Gast, Park Superintendent: What Do You Do At Work In Winter When It's Too Cold To Be Outside All The Time?

I always get a chuckle when I'm asked this question because it implies that I'm outside all the time when the weather is warm. In fact (and unfortunately), I'm probably outside only 15% of the time. I wish it could be more.

To answer the question, here are some of the duties that I'm working on this winter. I have to produce performance appraisals for staff. Once appraisals are completed, it's time to develop performance plans. I'll be working on the budget for fiscal year 2011. The budget includes small maintenance and repair requests, equipment replacement items, new equipment desires, stewardship projects, and cultural resource projects. I've submitted a list of capital improvement projects for the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget cycle. All of the four parks and sites we manage with the exception of Jewell Cemetery have their own budget. I continue to pay the bills.

I'm developing six interpretive panels for the info depots at Portland, Mokane and Tebbetts. Each town has a panel dedicated to its history, and the other three panels will deal with Missouri River geology, a history of the Katy Railroad and the bluffs and islands near Portland. I've been researching these topics for the last several weeks.

If it ever dries out, we'll be conducting prescribed burns in the Grassland, Karst and Wild Area sections of the park. We completed our burn of the High Ridge unit. So, there is always lots to do outside **and** inside for a park.

Park Natural History/History by Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist: Service Learning Opportunities

Several of the programs that the park is offering to the public this spring are designed to provide in-depth education on a subject and training in how to accomplish work the park needs done. They combine service and learning. A program about butterflies and their identification will be followed by conducting a butterfly count. After learning about frogs and toads, participants will visit ponds to identify frogs and toads by their calls. A program about land stewardship will provide both the theory and the practice of controlling invasive plants, of conducting prescribed burns and other management activities. The Lost in the Woods program



Travis Smith at a prescribed burn



Kathy Christensen after leading a cave tour

will help participants gain the skills to read a map – valuable for both trail patrol and going off-trail. A session on interpretation and cave geology, biology and hydrology will equip volunteers to provide Connor's Cave Tours to the public on summer weekends. This only begins to list the many ways that people can volunteer at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

Volunteers are valuable members of the Rock Bridge team. In 2009, they contributed 3,079 hours – equivalent to 1.5 full time employees! Nineteen volunteers served 40 or more hours each. The highest amount (278.5 hrs.) was served by Jon Rapp.

The first program of 2010 is an introduction to the park and volunteer opportunities that are available. It's called "Volunteer at Rock Bridge 101" and will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on both March 9th and 18th (a person need attend only one). It's open both to those interested in volunteering and those who simply wish to understand more about the park's history, mission, policies, volunteer opportunities and significant resources. It's free, but spaces are limited, so call 449-7400 to sign up.

Park Events - Reservations are required for all park events - Call 573-449-7400 to reserve a spot

March 9 or 18 - Volunteer at Rock Bridge 101 - 6 to 9 pm at the park office - training to be a park volunteer

March 13 - Land Stewardship 101 - 1:30 to 4:30 pm - land management and invasive species

March 13 - A Frog's Serenade - 6:30 to 7:30 pm

March 13 - Frog and Toad Survey - 8 to 10 pm - volunteers only

March 24 to May 19 - Randal Clark's annual wildflower walks - 5:30 to 7 pm, meet at the Devil's Icebox lot

March 27 - Make-up for Stewardship and Frogs and Toads

April 11 - Lost in the Woods and Land Navigation for Volunteers - 12 to 4 pm, learn map and compass skills

May 5 - Where the Wildflowers Grow - 1 to 4 pm

May 15 - Butterflies - 10:30 to noon program on butterflies; 12:30 to 4:30 butterfly count

May 16 - Make-up for Butterfly training and count

May 22 - Weekends on the Boardwalk Training - 1 to 4 pm

Upcoming Community Events

- February 8 - Spring Master Naturalist Training Orientation - classes Mondays 6 to 9 pm, March 1 thru May 10, at the Boone Co Extension Center, Columbia with 3 Saturday field trips \$75, contact Kent Shannon, shannond@missouri.edu, <http://extension.missouri.edu/masternaturalist/>
- February 18, 25 and March 4 - Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods Workshop - 6:00-9:00 pm Thursdays at the University of Missouri General Services Building - free, but registration is required - <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/PublicWorks/Forms/showmeyards.php>
- March 1, 8 and 15 - CARP: Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project - Mondays 6:00 to 8:30 pm at the ARC, 1701 W. Ash - learn about lake and pond ecology then assist city horticulturalist with organized projects - <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/Opportunities/carp.php>
- April 4 - Kite Flying Day - noon to 2 pm, Douglass Park Ball Field, kites available for kids who don't have one - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Activities_and_Programs/special_events.php
- April 5 - Bike Ride - Coopers Landing, Katy Trail in the afternoon - contact Greg Leonard 573-443-8263 or greg.leonard@missouri.sierraclub.org - <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/osage/>
- April 24 - Cleanup Columbia - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/Opportunities/clean-up_columbia.php
- April 25 - Columbia Earth Day - noon to early evening, MU Peace Park and Downtown Columbia (rain date May 2) - <http://www.columbiaearthday.org/>

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

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

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

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, St., Zip _____

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/>

Columbia Daily Tribune - <http://www.columbiatribune.com/>

Party Perfect - <http://www.a1partyfun.com/>

Applebee's - <http://www.applebees.com/>

Donna Brunet Macro Photography - <http://donnabrunet.com>

FoRB
P. O. Box 7293
Columbia, Mo 65205