

The BRIDGE

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The Newsletter of the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (RBMSPP)

A membership 501 (c)(3) organized to promote understanding, appreciation, enjoyment & preservation of RBMSPP & the surrounding area
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From the Friends of Rock Bridge MSP (FoRB) News - from the FoRB President, Susan Haines

Greetings, and welcome to summer, the perfect time of year to be enjoying our Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. I encourage all of you to keep a close eye on the many programs being offered in the park these next weeks. Hopefully the weather won't be too extreme and we'll meet on the trails.

I've not been too active since 2005 when my elderly father came to live with me, as it took all my energy to keep my businesses open, tend to his physical and legal issues, get a life time of his belongings moved across the state for him, worry and fret about my military daughter being deployed to Iraq, not to mention that we were planning her wedding when she returned and were in the process of remodeling our home to accommodate my handicapped father. All these issues had a way of demanding my undivided attention, energy and spare time. My daughter is home from Iraq and is married to a wonderful military career man. My father's life journey ended this spring.

I met with some of the board members to discuss pending issues of concern. There are operating funds to carry us through another fiscal year, and to invest in selected park projects. So let's regroup!! I'll be contacting you to serve on committees and work on special projects. I invite you to enjoy the upcoming park programs in one of Columbia's greatest family recreation areas and look forward to setting the pace for special events, membership programs and fundraisers to help fulfill our park's needs. A big 'Thanks' to Bill Clark for his article in the Columbia Daily Tribune. His and your support is greatly appreciated!!

2009 Officers and Board Members

President: Susan Haines
Vice President: 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
July Newsletter Editor: Jan Weaver, weaverjc@missouri.edu

FoRB Membership - June 2009 151 members (31 single, 60 family)

Thank you to Members who have recently renewed! Sheila & Robert Bailey, Jeanne Barr, Tom Bass, Lina & Harry Berrier, Nancy Boon, Paul Hayden, Sandra Hild, Marcia Walker, Scott Schulte, Susan Haines, Ginger and Otis V. Wheeler

Welcome to new Members! John M. Fritz, Kathy Holland, Greg Horstmeier

Time to Renew! Dee Dokken, Susan Melia-Hancock & Dennis Hancock, Deb Harmon, Lea Langdon, Marci Lower, Mark Morgan, Jim Rathert, Pat and Phil Sachs, Melinda Staley, Helen & William Steinman, David Webber

What to Look for in the Park this month

Flowering plants - sunflowers, golden rod, American lotus, coneflowers, milkweeds, southern blue flag;
Insects - grasshoppers, dragonflies, stinkbugs, leafhoppers, tiger beetles, mud dauber wasps, lady bugs;
Birds - eastern meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow, turkey vultures, goldfinch, summer tanager.

From Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

News - from the Park Superintendent, Jim Gast

A big thank you to Susan Haines for agreeing to run for President of FoRB, and welcome to all the new board members. Please say yes when Susan calls you for help with FoRB's projects.

Work continues on the Deer Run trail reroute. We started near the intersection of the Deer Run trail and Paxton Passage and will be working toward the pipeline crossing. Several groups and individuals, including an Eagle Scout candidate, have expressed an interest in helping with the project. If you'd like to help, please let me know. A portion of the Deer Run trail near Little Bonne Femme Creek had to be rerouted because flooding caused the bank to wash into the stream.

Flooding also caused damage to parts of the Springbrook Trail as well. Flood waters covered the long metal bridge over Little Bonne Femme Creek and moved a small wooden bridge about ten feet. There were numerous washouts that needed to be repaired.

Plans are still in place to build the boardwalk ¾ of the way under the Rock Bridge. No construction date has been set.

The Spring/Summer 2009 issue of *Missouri Resources*, the Department of Natural Resources magazine, mentions the park in three articles. The first is in an article on the Division's Leave No Trace program. The second is article on Stream Team 2748 who monitors Gans Creek. The last one is an article on the pervious paver parking lot. The magazine is available at the park office or on-line at: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/magazine/2009-summer.pdf>

July 1st is the start of our new fiscal year and there are cutbacks in our operations, seasonal labor and small maintenance and repair budgets compared to the fiscal year that just ended.

Wild Area Trails are Less Travelled---and That Makes All the Difference **By Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire, Interpretive Resource Technician**

This June, I led 19 Explorer Program kids aged 10-12 on a hike starting at Shooting Star Trailhead. We saw old foundations from the Cunningham homestead near the trailhead, and identified invasive plants such as bush honeysuckle and autumn olive, and native ones such as persimmon and sassafras. About halfway between the trailhead and Shooting Star bluff, we took the right fork (the road less traveled), which I have not hiked in years. The kids enjoyed the sounds of nature, the open woods, the May apples and horsemint, the intermittent bluff top views, and the gentle slope that leads down to Gans Creek just as much as I did.

We were hoping to hike in the creek, which is usually a crystal-clear slow-moving shallow stream, but which that day was a muddy torrent, rushing by and two feet deep. So instead, we forded the creek and climbed up the hillside to Shelter Cave to eat our lunches while the kids took turns exploring the small crevices in the back of the cave. This is a wonderful hike for many ages whether you choose to continue along the trail to Wagon Wheel trailhead (where you could leave a second car if you're traveling with a companion), or take one of several ways back to Shooting Star Trailhead, as we did, and enjoy the variety of mushrooms growing in the Wild Area, brave the narrow path between the stinging nettles in the bottoms, explore Little Dome Cave, hike alongside Waterslide Creek, make a pit-stop at the Special Use Area, and then finish along flatlands to the trailhead.

Park Events and Opportunities - reservations are required for park events - call 573-449-7402

July 11; 18; or 24 - The Devil's Delight: Bats in Flight - this free family event focuses on the awesome abilities of bats, see live bats that are being rehabilitated, play a bat game, watch the bats emerge. Seven to adult.

July 17 - Bats: Living on a Wing and a Prayer - US Forest Service Bat researcher Sybill Amelon will bring live bats being rehabilitated and share research on the relationships between bats, insects, caves and people. 12 to adult.

July 22 - 24 - Explorer Days - Kids nine to 11 can earn a Missouri State Parks & Historic Sites Explorer patch by participating in three days of hands-on nature activities: hiking, wading, wildlife, habitats and a service project.

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

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

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, St., Zip _____

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

FoRB
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