

The BRIDGE

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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

FoRB President, Susan Haines: Just A Little Recognition for Years of Service and TLC....

Several years ago I raised my hand to volunteer with a newly formed group. As I looked around at the small band of enthusiasts gathered, I realized that I was a beginner when compared with the years of experience that showed in the eyes of those surrounding me. There was retired geology professor Vernon Barr and his wife Jeanne (one of the Friends' first Presidents), retired ornithology professor Bill Elder and his wife Glennis, and retired drama professor and city council member Lew Stoerker and his supportive and enthusiastic wife Dottie (also a Friends' President). Their combined years of teaching and community service had undoubtedly touched the lives of hundreds and thousands of eager students.

It seems as though I only met these 3 couples yesterday, but in fact it's been 18 plus years ago. This year the retired geology professor, Vernon and his lovely bride, Jeanne, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, a beautiful life accomplishment in itself. The rocks they collected on their various trips now decorate the entryway to their retirement home. Congratulations Vernon & Jeanne! Glennis Elder lost her husband Bill (Columbia naturalist and ornithologist) in 2006, but she's still a very special member of the Friends. We'll never forget the warm tantalizing cinnamon rolls that she served on a cool summer morning as we gathered at the Park to watch the Perseid Meteor showers. Dottie and her late husband Lew, have given so much over the years to the park and FoRB.

Several of us gathered again at the Park in the wee hours of August 12th to watch the Perseid Meteor showers, and I have to be the first one to say that I really missed Glennis' hot rolls. But, I do have to thank Dottie Stoerker- Peters for sharing with her many civic groups that we were gathering again this year....We counted over 50 falling stars while being distracted by a very bright moon. I'm sure that if Vernon and Jeanne, or Glennis and Bill, or Dottie and Lew were present that morning we'd have heard them humming "Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket...save it for a rainy day".

I close this month's note to you with my signature line..."Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take; but rather by the moments that take our breath away!!" Watching those falling stars was totally awesome!! Thanks Scott for a great program.

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 September 20, 6:00 pm Country Kitchen. All members are welcome to attend.

FoRB Membership News - August 2009 135 members (29 single, 53 family)

Thank you to Members who have recently renewed! Darlene and Ben Londeree, Melinda and R. Eric Staley, Ruth and Russell Thompson

Welcome to new Members! Matthew B. Smith

Time to Renew! Roxie Campbell, Julianne Ramsey, Evelyn and John Tanner, Twana and Todd Ware, Tim Drennan, Mr. and Mrs. George Montgomery, Suzanne Pautler, Ilyana and Glenn Pickett, David Sapp, Judy and Jerry Schermer, Carol and Michael Trendle, Susan Melia-Hancock and Dennis Hancock, Deb Harmon

In Thanks - Our long time volunteer bookkeeper, Mary Hayden is assuming greater responsibilities in her job and is resigning from her bookkeeping responsibilities. The Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park extends its sincere and grateful thanks to her for all her work the last several years.

Congratulations - Long time members Jean and Vernon Barr celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this August!

In Memoriam - Marci Lower, 1937-2009. The Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park would like to acknowledge the passing of one of our long time members, Marci Lower, this past month. Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Friends of Rock Bridge September Members Event

Monday September 28 - Val Germann, Central Missouri Astronomical Association - *METEORS!*

Join us at 6:00 pm at the Country Kitchen on North Providence for dinner (on your own) and an enjoyable program by CMAA's President Val Germann. on those Messengers in the Night - *METEORS!*

Call for Volunteers! Columbia Track Club's Rock Bridge Revenge, October 11, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, needs help with their aid stations for the runners. Two aids per station are needed. **PLEASE email FORB@SOCKET.NET OR CALL 815-9255** to volunteer (before September 10 if possible to help the Columbia Track Club plan their event)

White-Nose Syndrome Alert - info from the US Fish and Wildlife Service

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is an infection that covers affected bats with a white fungus on their muzzles and other parts of their coats. It was discovered in February 2006 in a cave near Albany NY and is currently found in the states of NY, NH, VT, CT, MA, NJ, PA, VA, WV. In some hibernacula, 90 to 100 percent of bats have died. The US Fish and Wildlife Service asks that all caves inside WNS and adjacent states be closed and that people outside WNS areas follow these procedures to prevent the spread of infection:

- 1) Do not handle bats. If you come across live or dead bats with WNS contact email whitenosebats@fws.gov or contact the nearest USFWS field office (in Columbia, it is the Ecological Services Field Office, Supervisor Charlie Scott, email ColumbiaES@fws.gov or 573-234-2132).

2) Prior to outings check <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/wnscavers.html> for updates on procedures and closings.

3) Upon exiting a cave - scrape and brush off dirt and mud from clothes, boots, gear and place in a sealed container or bag till they can be disinfected off-site; remove or change outer clothing before getting in your vehicle and use sanitizer on exposed skin; wash all clothing and washable gear on your machine's hottest cycle (Woolite is best surfactant), then rinse and soak for 10 minutes in a 1part bleach to 9 parts water solution then rinse and air dry; for submersible gear, soak for 10 minutes in bleach solution, then rinse and air dry; for non submersible gear, apply disinfectant (like Lysol all purpose professional cleaner or antibacterial Formula 409) for 10 minutes, then rinse and air dry; for boots, rinse and scrub so all soil and organic matter is removed, then apply bleach solution or other disinfectants for 10 minutes, rinse and air dry; ropes and harnesses should be dedicated to one cave or not used at all- decontaminating vertical equipment has been recommended, but may compromise its integrity. For more comprehensive containment and decontamination protocol, visit http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html

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. Website: <http://www.mostateparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: rock_bridge_memorial_state_park@dnr.mo.gov, and phone: 573-449-7400

Park Superintendent, Jim Gast: Underground Beauty

Many people appreciate the beauty that they see in the park. Spring wildflowers, autumn leaves, prairie restoration, karst topography, riparian zones and majestic bluffs are just a few. There is another area of the park that fewer than 500 people see each year—the Devil's Icebox Cave. The cave is full of wonderful speleothems such as stalactites, stalagmites, curtains, rimstone dams, flowstone, cave pearls, bacon rind, columns, soda straws, popcorn, and one of my personal favorites: helictites. Each of these formations is created by flowing, dripping or standing water plus calcite (calcium carbonate). Each takes hundreds to thousands of years to develop. Many of the ones in the Devil's Icebox are still "growing" today. Another rare formation in the cave is boxwork, a speleogen created by erosion instead of by deposit. To learn more about all of these formations, visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speleothem> or <http://www.goodearthgraphics.com/virtcave/> which has pictures). Speleothems and speleogens are not the only things that are beautiful in the cave. Different minerals also create different colors. Iron oxide produces a rusty color; hausmannite, which is a manganese oxide, is black, and glauconite is greenish. Something as simple as light reflecting from tiny water droplets on the limestone is also stunning.

The Devil's Icebox Cave is restricted. To enter, one must go on a park-led Wild Cave Tour. To find out more, go to: <http://www.mostateparks.com/rockbridge/cave.htm> or call the park office at 449-7422.

Park Volunteer, Jon Rapp: Mushrooms of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Take a walk at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, and they're there. Do you see or notice them? Maybe not. They are there at your feet and up in a tree. Who or what are they? They are the members of the amazing fungi world, and there are hundreds of different kinds of all shapes, sizes and colors.

Our Native Americans knew much about them, as they made it their business to know about so many things around them. Like the rest of the natural world of trees, wildflowers, animals and insects, mushrooms and fungi quietly do many different things for us. Without them, we'd be lost.

So maybe the next time you're out and about enjoying the chance to be outdoors, you'll notice some. Your curiosity may kick in, and then they have your attention. You may wonder "What is that neat little red-capped mushroom with a white stalk?" You may go home and look it up to see if you can learn more about it. That's what happened to me, Jon Rapp, and Stan Hudson, Rock Bridge State Park volunteers. Along with other volunteer activities, we've enjoyed countless hours exploring the park's many different areas finding and identifying some of the many different mushroom and fungi that are right here.

We've put together a park program that will be held on Saturday, September 26 in which we will describe some of the mushrooms that we've found. This includes some that are edible and some that are poisonous, some that are very common and some that are somewhat rare. The program will include beautiful pictures, some basic identification tools, a brief hike and follow-up discussion. Why not join us? It's a great excuse to get outside and enjoy yourself, and we'll have some "Fun with Fungi".

Park Events - reservations are required for all park events - call 573-449-7402 to reserve a spot

September 5, 12, 20, 26, October 3 -Devil's Icebox Wild Cave Tours - Day-long, adventure-style wild cave tours of Devil's Icebox Cave requiring good physical condition, ability to travel 3.5 to 5 miles round-trip, carry a 65-pound canoe 1/4 mile, and paddle 1/2 mile underground, possibly crawl through tight spaces. You must provide cave-appropriate headlamps, footwear and clothing (extra change a good idea). Fees \$25 - \$40.

September 8 - Annual Park Information Meeting - Gilbert Shelter House, 6:30 pm

September 26 - Let's Have Fun with Fungi - 10 am to noon, identification workshop, 1 pm, an optional short hike to look for mushrooms in the wild. Free. 12 to adult.

September 27 - Lost in the Woods - Noon to 4 pm, Orienteering, map and compass skills, then hiking through woods and across creeks to practice land navigation skills. Bring water and snacks, wear sturdy hiking shoes, long sleeves and pants. Some compasses available for loan. Free. 12 to adult.

October 17 - Know the Dark - 7 - 9:30 pm - Learn about night creatures through hands-on activities. Free. 8 to adult

October 24 - Fall Color Hike - 12:30 -4:30 pm - Hike the scenic trails of the Gans Creek Wild area (about 3 miles) with the park naturalist. Free. 8 to adult.

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 Contributing

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

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

Street Address _____

City, St., Zip _____

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