

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

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

I didn't appreciate budgets very much when I first started volunteering on boards, but they have really grown on me. A budget is the way an organization says what is most important to it. This year we plan to bring in \$14,500 - \$5000 from Missouri Parks Association, \$6,000 from donations, \$3,000 from membership, and \$500 from interest and fees. This is what we think is important.

- \$7,850 on our purpose - \$5000 on an Urban Population Outreach Program, \$1,500 on Nature Detectives, \$150 on Bats on Parade, \$200 on the Orienteering Meet, and \$1000 on Event Insurance.
- \$1,350 on our people - \$1000 on newsletter copying and postage, \$250 for our members' memberships in the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and \$100 on tabling.
- \$4,600 on administration - \$3,000 for office rent, \$900 for Directors/Officers, and Property insurance, \$500 for a telephone/computer line, and \$200 for supplies.
- \$700 for miscellaneous and emergency expenses.

If you divide \$4,600 by \$14,500 you get 32% for administrative costs, a little high unless you count our volunteer hours. Our volunteers average 1000 hours each year. The value of that time is \$15.00, so our annual budget of \$14,500 is almost doubled to \$29,500, bringing our administrative percentage down to about 16% - which is pretty good.

In addition to the annual budget, we have reserved funds for Long Term Planning - \$1,300; Park Account - \$669; Peckham Scholarship - \$1,070; Heidy Fund - \$231; and Stoerker Memorial Fund - \$12,993. We also have \$25,431 in carryover from last year, for which we need to determine a best use. This fall, we allocated \$1,200 from the \$1,431 Heidy Fund for bench construction. The benches have been installed and we invite you to go take a look at them at the Devil's Icebox parking lot and at the playground. We greatly appreciate the Heidy family's work in memorializing John Heidy's role as one of the group that first worked to establish Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

We hope that this year you will help us accomplish our goals, as outlined in the budget, by contributions of your time, talent and/or treasure. We need and value all three. If you have questions about this budget, or would like to help us this year, please email me at weaverjc@missouri.edu. --- Jan Weaver, FoRB President, 2008-2009

Nature Notes: Twist, Turn and Enjoy the Lay of the Land on the White Connector Trail - by Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire

Trail design makes all the difference in the world. A good trail utilizes curves, contours and sightlines to create harmony, rhythm and playfulness. The park's newest trail, which connects the Springbrook and Sinkhole trails, utilizes trail design principles to give the trail a more natural flow. Instead of the straight-line characteristic of trails built on old roadbeds, this trail twists and winds. Its narrow width is well-framed by "anchors" such as logs, rocks and trees, giving the hiker or bicyclist a reason to connect with the scenery rather than merely walk or ride past it. Rolling contours help minimize erosion. Twists in the trail give the illusion of speed while "chokes" or gateways encourage people to slow down and pay attention. Carefully planned switchbacks rock back and forth along the hillside gently cradling the visitor while reducing the impulse to create shortcuts. This trail crosses over two drainages which in wet weather flow to create a waterfall at Devil's Icebox. At a high point in the trail, watch for a woodland pond.

This trail was built by both staff and volunteers. Trail maintenance is one of many volunteer opportunities available in the park. To access the trail from the Devil's Icebox parking lot, cross the footbridge, go right at the fork (you are on the Springbrook Trail), go uphill past the boardwalk to the first intersection on the left (signed with white arrows). When the white connector brings you to the Sinkhole Trail, go left and then left at the next junction to return to the parking lot. Total distance is about 1 mile.

FoRB Membership

Thank you to these FoRB members who have recently renewed! Dolores & William Clark, Tanya Christiansen & Dan Edidin Family, Nancy Finke, Jim Gast and Donna Brunet, Don Garvin & Jean Graebner, L. D. & R. W. Jones, Jonathan McConathy, Linda & Walter McConathy, Marla Steele, Cindy & Tom Stewart

FoRB gratefully acknowledges donations from: Patrice & Kurt Albert, Tim Drennan, Krishna & Eric Fogle, Dr. Earl Lubensky, Ilayna & Glenn Pickett, Rock Bridge Men's Picnic, Marla Steele

FoRB values the support of its members and offers the following reminder to those whose membership has not yet been renewed:

Janet L. & Jeffrey R. Blunt (Wild Bird Ctr), Amelia Miner-Cottle & Brian Cottle, Meredith and Joe Donaldson, Dr. & Mrs. Denny Donnell, Cyrilla Galbreath, Linda LaFontaine, William B. Nunn, Sue & Herb Tillema, Mary Jane & James R. Wheeling, Margaret & Max Berends, John A. Eastman, Glennis Elder, Dale and Art Karr, Joanne Grady & Mark McGimsey, Mary and Hank Clark, , Eleanor Mitter and Rob Hill

From Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

News - from the Park Superintendent, Jim Gast

Park Maintenance Workers Tim Hennessy and Brian Meyer installed two benches in memory of John Heidy, who was the treasurer of the original Rock Bridge Park board. Memorial funds were donated to FoRB to honor Mr. Heidy. One of the benches is near the playground and the other is south of the Devil's Icebox parking lot overlooking the creek.

Eagle Scout candidate Chris Miller installed a new bulletin board at the Grassland Trailhead. He also placed a bench by the pond south of the parking lot.

Opportunities (Volunteer and Educational)

Volunteer Training and Public Programs.

In an effort to generate more volunteers while making the public aware of park issues, several public programs (PP) will double as volunteer training (VT) this spring. Some also include service project (SP) opportunities.

(VT) Park Aide Training (required for park aide certification)(choose one): Thursday, March 5 (6-9 p.m.), Saturday March 7 (1-4 p.m.) or Tuesday March 10 (6-9 p.m.).

(PP, VT) Lost in the Woods (Land Navigation): Sunday, March 8, noon-4:30 p.m.
Training: noon-12:45 Program and additional Training 1-4:30 p.m.

(PP, VT, SP) Help Fight the Invaders (Invasive Species): Saturday, March 14, 2009
Program/Training: 1-2 p.m. Bush Honeysuckle Removal Project 2-4 p.m.

Look for more March & April events in upcoming editions of the BRIDGE or check them out online at our newly updated Friends web page: <http://rockbridge.missouri.org/> Thank you to FoRB member Brock Bigard for his work on this task!

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. Information about the park is at www.mostateparks.com and the park may be contacted by email at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or phone at 573-449-7400.

Friends of Rock Bridge
Memorial State Park

\$15 Special (park staff/vol, student, sr.)
 \$20 Individual
 \$35 Family

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Street _____
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St. zip _____

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