

# The BRIDGE

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## *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**

If you have not heard or read by now, the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park will be dissolving due to the lack of volunteers with the time or interest to serve in a leadership position. If anyone at all is interested in serving as President to at least serve as a voice for the park - please contact me!

This is the last Bridge you will receive. For those of you who joined or renewed in the last 9 months, we will be returning a pro-rated portion of your membership dues. We will also be returning any donations that have not been used for their stated purpose to the donors if they can be located. If there are funds remaining after all our bills have been paid and members and donors reimbursed, the board will determine which non-profit group shall receive them once FoRB is finally dissolved. I welcome any suggestions you may have about where these funds (if there are any) should go.

FoRB's first meeting was on August 26, 1991, and featured a talk about the effects of city growth on the park. The first officers were Jeanne Barr, Glennis Elder and Susan Haines. I want to thank those volunteers and then park Superintendent Scott Schulte and park naturalist Roxie Campbell for their work in establishing the group and their commitment over the last 18 years. I would also like to thank the current board members, Scott Schulte, Don Bay, Nanci Johnson, Helen Steinmann, Jim Rathert and Jim Baker, and office volunteers Rosemary Stevens and Hazel Breitenbach. In between, key players were Meredith Donaldson, who served as our director for 5 years, and Dottie Stoerker Peters, who tirelessly promoted the need to educate children in the wonders of nature. Eighteen years is a long time for a non-profit group (most don't make it to ten!) so FoRB had a good run.

Our most significant impact has probably been speaking on behalf of the park when it has been threatened by inappropriate development. We spoke against development in the area between Providence and Rock Quarry in 1992, and again in 2000, against development in the Little Bonne Femme watershed above the park in 2001, in 2003 and again in 2007. Most recently, we have weighed in on plans for a parkway connecting Providence with Gans Road. In each case FoRB, added to other voices, was able to slow down, mitigate or prevent development impacts from affecting the park. My hope is that if new plans threaten the integrity of the park or its watershed that you all will be willing to speak on its behalf.

Many of you are Park Aides. I have been through the training myself, and was able to participate in a frog survey this past month. I had to stay up past my bedtime, it was cold, and I didn't wear the right kind of shoes, so I was tired, and my feet were freezing. But weeks later, I still feel really proud of my ability to recognize five different kinds of frog calls. If you still want to help support the park, then take the training (if you don't have it) next time it is offered and in the meantime, participate in the monitoring and programs the park offers. This will help ensure that there is a nucleus of trained folks who understand how important this island of nature is in a rapidly urbanizing area.

Goodbye and Good Luck!

Jan Weaver  
President  
Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

### **From Rock Bridge Memorial State Park News - from the Park Superintendent, Jim Gast**

My college English literature professor divided the information in his lectures into "nice to know" and "need to know." This same principle can be applied to the Friends of Rock Bridge. There are categories that this Friends group provides that are "nice to have" and one major category why we "need to have" a Friends group.

The nice things are items such as the highway clean up, fence removal, the O-meet and assisting with programs.

The need to have is informing others of park's mission and purpose. FoRB provides a vital role by going to meetings (P & Z, City Council, etc.) and writing letters expressing views that are beneficial to the park. The park needs FoRB to do this because we are unable to go to these meetings or write letters and speak on our own behalf. While individuals

may continue to speak up for the park, their impact may not be as great as having an organization doing the same. FoRB also attends community events and helps promote the park. While park staff attend some of the same events, we cannot attend all of the events. This is why FoRB is important.

The members agree. A recent poll of FoRB members showed that speaking on behalf of the park was the number one priority for the function of FoRB.

I was surprised and saddened when Jan Weaver announced at the ice cream social that no one had stepped up to be president of the Friends of Rock Bridge and that the organization was looking to disband. This should not happen.

If the Friends would only concentrate on the “need to have,” the time commitment would not be very much. I strongly encourage you to consider becoming president of the Friends of Rock Bridge.

The park needs the Friends of Rock Bridge.

**Upcoming Park Programs**

Explorers Leave No Trace <b>(Reservations Required)</b>	June 10-12	9:00am to 3:00pm	Ages 10-12 Earn Mo State Parks & Historic Sites Explorer Patch
Gans Creek Adventure <b>(Reservations Required)</b>	June 13	12:30-4:30pm	Recommend ages 8 and up. Hike 2.5 miles along Gans Creek
Kids Go Batty <b>Bats on Parade</b>	June 14	1:00 to 4:00pm	Ages 5-12, must have an adult, Enjoy bat programs and bat related games.
Flicker, Flicker Firefly <b>(Reservations Required)</b>	June 20	7:00 to 8:30 pm	Ages 5 to adult, learn about fire flies, go for a hike, maybe catch a few
Bats: Living on a Wing and a Prayer <b>Bats on Parade</b> <b>(Reservations Required)</b>	July 17	7:00 to 9:00pm	Ages 12 to adult, program presented by Sybill Amelon of U.S. Forest Service
The Devil’s Delight: Bats in Flight <b>Bats on Parade</b> <b>(Reservations Required)</b>	July 11, 18, 24, or 25	7:00 – 9:00pm	Ages 7 to adult, see rehabilitated bats, a short video and view Connor’s Cave
Explorer Days <b>(Reservations Required)</b>	July 22-24	9:00am to 3:00pm	Ages 9-11 Earn Mo State Parks & Historic Sites Explorer Patch

**Call the Park Office at 573-449-7400 for more details**

**Visit us on the WEB at: <http://rockbridge.missouri.org/>**

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](http://www.mostateparks.com) and the park may be contacted by email at [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov) or phone at 573-449-7400



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

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