

The BRIDGE

Volume 23: Issue 4 April 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 - Elections, Clean-up and Earth Day

Dear Friends, It's that time of year again when we ask you to select the officers for the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. A Nominating Committee met and determined vacancies and those willing to serve this year are:

Officers (1 year term May 2010-2011)

- Susan Haines - President
- Scott Schulte - Vice President
- Katheryn Holland - Secretary
- Laurel Kruse - Treasurer

Directors (2 year term May 2010-2012)

- Bill Hobbs
- Sue Tillema
- Jan Weaver

Write in: _____

Please cast your vote by placing an **X** before the person's name, and return your ballots to Scott Schulte @ E-mail Address: swschulte@aol.com or mail to him at Scott Schulte 2001 Gans Road, Columbia, MO 65201 by April 30, 2010 for a May 17, 2010 Installation of Officers.

April is a busy month. Greg Horstmeier has volunteered to chair a park clean-up crew for Sat. April 24, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Rock Bridge Memorial State Park Office for instructions that morning. Greg will need 15 to 20 volunteers to successfully complete the park project. Contact Greg at: dirtwriter@aol.com

Sunday April 25th is Earth Day. We're planning to have a booth at the Earth Day event downtown Columbia. We will be handing out a children's cave diorama 3-D project and setting up the inflatable cave for kids to go through.

Even as we speak I am working on an enlarged version of the cave diorama and am excited about the activity. We will also be selling a number of items at the booth and handing out FoRB information, looking for donations to the Kiosk Project, and hoping to interest people in membership. All this makes for a full agenda. We still need volunteers to help with the booth. Please let me know if you'll be able to spend an hour or so at our booth. Contact me at shaine@socket.net or call me at 356-3093. Thanks again for all you do to keep our park such a special place in Columbia!!

FRIENDS PROGRAM: *Mushrooms in Mid-Missouri: Let's Have Some Fun with Fungi*

MONDAY APRIL 12, 6:00 PM - Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, 5901 S. Highway 163

Learn to identify mushroom groups and some of the common and poisonous types. Free & Open to Public

RANDALL CLARK'S SPRING WILDFLOWER WALKS: Every Wednesday through Mid-May, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., meet at Devil's Icebox Parking Lot, Free and Open to the Public, No Reservations Required. Led by volunteer Randal Clark.

VOLUNTEERING

- **PARK CLEAN UP:** Please join FoRB on **Saturday April 24** from 9 am to Noon to clean up the road through the park. Meet at the Devil's Icebox Parking lot. Be sure to wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Contact Greg at: dirtwriter@aol.com. Lunch at Twin Lakes at noon for volunteers
- **CALL FOR EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS:** 15 Volunteers are needed to work at FoRB's Earth Day booth **Sunday, April 25** (Rain Date Sunday, May 2). We will need help setting up the booth from about 10:00 – 11:00 AM with shifts from 11:00 AM to 1 PM, from 1 PM to 3 PM, and 3 PM to 5 PM with the last shift requiring help to take-down the booth. The booth is located on the north side of Elm between 8th and 9th, three booths east of the Elm and 8th corner (A-3). Any information you need to know will be distributed before April 15. This is an important part of our outreach to the community and hope you will consider our Earth Day needs. Please email or call Susan Haines to participate: shaine@socket.net or 356-3093. RBMSP will also have a booth located on Circle Drive.
- **SAG (SUPPORT AND GEAR) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR KATY TRAIL RIDE:** Contact the park if you can volunteer on **June 23** from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM when the riders stop at the McBaine trailhead. Call 573-449-7402 or email jim.gast@dnr.mo.gov.

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, Sue Tillema
2009-2011 Board Members: Greg Horstmeier, Maggy Kirby, Rosemary Stevens

Next Board Meeting - Monday April 19, 6:00 pm Country Kitchen. All members are welcome to attend.

FoRB Membership - as of March 2010: 146 (single 44, family 51)

New Members - Eric Seaman WELCOME!

Renewals Received - Joan and Don Bay, Lina and Harry Berrier, Anita and David Cox, Jeannette and Jerry French, John Larkin and Maggie Kirby, Dorcas and Red Leighton, Joye Patterson & William B. Nunn THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO RENEWED!

Renewals due in April 2010 - Jack B. Beckett, Nancy Boon, Ginger and Otis V. Wheeler

Renewals due in March 2010 - Tom Bass, Anita and David Cox, Peter Holmes

Renewals due in February 2010 - Sheila and Robert Bailey, Dona Sue Cool, Sandra Hild, Scott and Lynn Schulte, Marcia Walker

Renewals due in January 2010 - Meredith & Joe Donaldson, Paul Hayden, Mary Jane and James R. Wheeling

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 1/2 of 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.mostateparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov

Park Perspective by Jim Gast, Park Superintendent: The Problem With Vandalism

The Vandals were an East-Germanic tribe who sacked Rome in 455 A.D. I doubt they knew their name would be used to describe people who willfully destroy something.

One of the most frustrating aspects of my job is dealing with vandalism. It is especially exasperating in this economic downturn because fixing the problem takes labor and money, both of which have been cut in recent years.

This problem exists in all four parks and historic sites we manage. Some, such as ripping the toilet paper holder off the wall, are easy to repair. Others, such as breaking tombstones at Jewell Cemetery, take special training and materials to fix. In my 18 years working for state parks, the most expensive to restore was the Perche Creek bridge on the Katy Trail. Someone set it on fire and burned the deck. The bridge was closed for several months disrupting trail users. The deck is now concrete.

People come to state parks to enjoy what they have to offer. In order to continue to give our visitors a good experience we need to deal with vandalism as soon as possible. Unfortunately, depending on the severity, we may not be able to.

Park Natural History/History by Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist: Spring Wildflowers

Not only do our spring wildflowers have a great variety of colors and shapes of flowers and leaves, they also possess a variety of chemicals with different characteristics. Historically, some have served as medicines, such as digitalis that helped heart rhythm (now it's made synthetically). The woodland wildflowers found within a few feet of one another on the hillside just past the footbridge (Springbrook Trail west of Devil's Icebox parking lot) illustrate this variety. Bloodroot (white flower) contains chemicals that the Native Americans used as a dye. Toothwort (small white flower) has a root that tastes peppery, similar to horseradish. Meanwhile, those who have tasted the root of Bellwort (twisted yellow flower) have found it to be bitter. The root of Jack-in-the-Pulpit (canopy over a spike, green and purple striped) contains calcium oxalate that causes a prickly/burning pain in the mouth when eaten raw. Native Americans discovered that when dried, it is edible with a cocoa-like flavor. Keep in mind that state law prohibits digging or collecting plants in any Missouri State Park. Usually, you can count on seeing bloodroot in bloom early-mid April, the others mid-late April. To learn more, attend wildflowers walks advertised elsewhere in this newsletter.

Other Park-Related News

- Jon Rapp and Stan Hudson have been nominated (by Roxie Campbell) for the Education (Jon) and Protection (Stan) HERO Awards. The award ceremony will be April 20, at 4 pm at Stoney Creek Inn.

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

- April 11 - Lost in the Woods - 12 to 4 pm - rain date May 16
- May 1 - Where the Wildflowers Grow - 1 to 4 pm
- May 15 - Butterfly Survey - 12:30 to 4:30 - rain date May 16

Upcoming Community Events

- April 20 - "Local Food, Local Flavor" - 7:30 pm, Hillel, 1107 University Avenue
- April 24 - Clean Up Columbia 2010 - groups can organize their own clean up (see FoRB clean up above) then gather at Twin Lakes for Lunch following your clean up - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/Opportunities/clean-up_columbia.php
- April 25 - Columbia Earth Day Festival - Peace Park and Downtown Columbia

Friends' Friends - This space is for businesses, organizations and people that support our efforts!

Applebee's on Broadway and Troy Wieberg - <http://www.applebees.com/>

Columbia Track Club - <http://ctc.coin.org/>

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

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

Missouri Department of Conservation and Jim French

Missouri Wildflower Nursery and Mervin Wallace

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

Socket Internet - <http://www.socket.net>

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 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 to P.O. Box 7293, Columbia MO 65205

FoRB

P. O. Box 7293

Columbia, Mo 65205

April 2010 BRIDGE

Elections, Park

Clean-up, Earth

Day, Katy Trail Ride,

April Program:

Mushrooms,

Vandalism Impacts,

Spring Wildflowers