

The BRIDGE

Volume 24: Issue 1 January 2011

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: FoRB, Outdoors Building 200 Old 63 South, Suite 204, Columbia MO 65201

President's Message - by Susan Haines, FoRB President: Passages

Dear Members,

The holidays brought us a mixed bag of events to deal with this Christmas. As many of you know Dottie Stoerker-Peters' husband, Elroy Peters, known to his friends as Pete, passed away. Dottie has asked that in lieu of flowers, that memorials can be sent to the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. Only a short time later Roxie Campbell's father, William J. Peveler also died. Please remember these families in your prayers, as well as our dedicated troops who couldn't be home for the holidays.

I am very thankful for the new communication capabilities, as we visited my daughter in Texas for Christmas, we were able to skype with our son-in-law in Iraq. Of course that computerized world couldn't replace his hugs, but we got to see him face to face and talk with him.

The Winter hike scheduled for January 1 was quite a success, with over 45 outdoor enthusiasts enjoying the hike led by our former park superintendent, Scott Schulte, and Lilly and her dog Maddy. The weather was crisp, the wind sharp, and the walk brisk. But we enjoyed a great hike to the remains of Saunder's cabin. Hope that those of you who venture out yet this winter enjoy your hike as much as this group did.

Happy New Year to all, and hope you'll join us for our January program with Zim Schwartze who will share with us tips on disaster preparedness.

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: January 17, 6:30 pm at the Country Kitchen on Providence

FRIENDS PROGRAM: January 24, 2011 : EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR EARTHQUAKES by Officer Zim Schwartz, Columbia PD, 6:30 pm - Country Kitchen on north Providence - Free and Open to the Public

2010-2011 Officers and Board Members

President: Susan Haines; V.P.: Open, Treasurer: Laurel Kruse, Secretary: Kathryn Holland
2009 - 2011 Board Members: Scott Schulte, Maggy Kirby, Rosemary Stevens
2010 - 2012 Board Members: Bill Hobbs, Jan Weaver, Sue Tillema

FoRB Membership - as of December 2010: 141 total, 45 single, 48 family

New Members - None

Renewals Received - Patrice and Kurt Albert, Don Garvin and Jean Graebner, Roberta W. Jones, Charles Shipman

Renewals due in January - Meredith and Joe Donaldson, Martha and Denny Donnell, Donna Brunet and Jim Gast, Linda LaFontaine, Lea and Dennis Langdon, Joye Patterson and William B. Nunn, Marla Steele, Sue and Herb Tillema

Renewals due in December - Margaret and Max Berends, Carol Squires

Renewals due in November - Robert G. Christensen, Dan Edidin Family, Nancy S. Finke, Eleanor Mitter and Rob Hill, Ann and Ferd Labrunerie, Walter and Linda McConathy

Renewals due in October - Walter Horn & Beverly Kabrick, Barbara & John Willenberg

Donations and Sponsorships

Pat and Pete McDonald - Thanks very Much!

Socket Internet Services for web hosting - Thanks very Much!

News from Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Missouri State Parks, and is primarily funded by 1/2 of 1/10 of a per 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 News - State Park Youth Corps Back for 2011 - from Office of the Missouri Governor

...The Governor said that the 2011 State Parks Youth Corps will employ Missourians between ages 17 and 21, and will run between April 1 and Nov. 30. Applications will be accepted online beginning Feb. 1; a link to the application and information about the program will be provided on the state of Missouri website, mo.gov.

"The State Parks Youth Corps was a tremendous benefit for our state parks and historic sites," said **Bill Bryan**, director of the Division of State Parks. "They brought a new energy to our state park system and, most importantly, they helped us enhance and improve our facilities for everyone to enjoy."

In 2010, State Parks Youth Corps members did a variety of tasks from routine maintenance work and trail construction to interpretation and social media efforts. Examples include painting buildings and repairing roofs and windows; planting trees and maintaining landscapes; building and maintaining trails; inventorying historic artifacts and native plant species; assisting in offices and visitor centers and providing seasonal interpretation.

Throughout the year, SPYC workers put in more than 187,500 hours at the parks, including roofing 25 buildings; painting structures using 2,000 gallons of paint; signing and blazing almost 650 miles of trail in 58 parks and sites; and developing 145 videos for the state park website.

Full article is at: http://governor.mo.gov/newsroom/2010/State_Parks_Youth_Corps_Program_Will_Return_in_2011

Park Natural History/History - by Jan Weaver - Seeing Animal Signs in Winter

Even if you cannot always see an animal, you can sometimes see animal signs. Tracks are the first thing most people think of. The best place to see them will be in soft soil that takes an impression. Along a stream bank is an ideal place because animals will come there to drink.

You can also look for trails made by animals. Deer will make narrow trails in woods or fields traveling between food sources, water and places to bed down. Voles, lemmings, mice and shrews will make or use tiny trails in the litter layer of grassy areas or forests. In a grass land, you can find vole or lemming trails by gently separating and lifting grass stems, and looking for tunnels at ground level. In the forest, you can find the trails of shrews by gently peeling back the layers of accumulated leaf litter.

You can also find signs of feeding and droppings. Deer feed by nipping off the tips of branches, and they leave piles of 50-100 dark finger tip-sized pellets. Mice, voles and lemmings have droppings that are roughly the size and shape of rice grains. Rabbits have rounded, slightly smaller than marble-size droppings packed with plant matter. Carnivores have thumb-sized or larger, compact droppings packed with hair, fur and bones. Omnivores like Raccoons will have the remains of berries in their droppings, and Muskrats will leave piles of clam shells and scattered droppings on the logs where they feed. Squirrels will leave piles of chewed acorns at their favorite feeding spots. Woodpeckers, Flickers and Sapsuckers will drill holes in dead and dying trees for the insect larvae that live under the bark.

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

- No Scheduled Events in January

Upcoming Community Events

- Through March - Charles Schwartz Exhibition, An Artist in Nature - Historical Society, Ellis Library
- January 8 - Woodpeckers of Missouri - 10:00 to 11:00 am, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City - <http://mdc.mo.gov/events/location/Runge/heading/Runge%20Nature%20Center>
- January 11 - Owl Prowl - 6:30 to 8:00 pm, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City - <http://mdc.mo.gov/events/location/Runge/heading/Runge%20Nature%20Center>
- January 17 - MLK Day Stream Clean-up - 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Twin Lakes Recreation Area, 2500 Chapel Hill Road - <http://columbianativeplants.missouri.org/activities.shtml>
- January 18 - Biomass Energy and the the Missouri River Floodplain - 7:00 pm, Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport, Big Muddy Speaker Series - http://mostreamteam.org/online_level2.htm
- January 22 - Missouri Votes Conservation 9th Annual Statewide Environmental Summit - 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Anheuser Busch Natural Resources Building, MU, Columbia - <http://movotesconservation.org/MVCEFsummit.aspx>
- **January 24, 2011 : EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR EARTHQUAKES by Officer Zim Schwartz, Columbia PD, 6:30 pm - Country Kitchen on north Providence - Free and Open to the Public, sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge MSP**
- January 27- The Next 50 Years on the American Land by Wes Jackson, Land Institute - 6:00 pm, 106 Pickard Hall, part of the Food and Society Series - <http://maa.missouri.edu/classes-tours/foodseries.html>
- January 29 - Eagle Adventure - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Runge Nature Center, <http://mdc.mo.gov/events/location/Runge/heading/Runge%20Nature%20Center>
- February 8 - Got Mud? The Science and Policy of Missouri River Sediment - - 7:00 pm, Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport, Big Muddy Speaker Series - http://mostreamteam.org/Whats_Happening.asp

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	Name _____
\$20	Individual	
\$35	Family	Address _____
\$100	Supporting	Phone _____ Email _____

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