

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. email: weaverjc@missouri.edu, address: FoRB, P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205-7642 website: <http://www.friendsofrockbridgemsp.org/>

President's News, President Kevin Roberson – Spring, the Superintendent and New Beginnings!

Greeting fellow tree huggers! I hope that you are well and have your gardens in and growing. It has been a hectic time with visits, parties, and graduations. My oldest child, my son, has just graduated from the high school named after our Park. Even though it has been hectic, I have been enjoying the late spring near the Park. Trees fully leafed, at their finest, birds all singing, Gray Tree Frogs calling, and Barred Owls hooting. This time of new-beginning is a different thrill each day...What new flower will pop open, what plant has returned to our Wild Field?

It is a time of renewal at the Park also. We have a new Superintendent and I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know her. Her experience and passion should serve the Park and its staff well. I wish Sarah all the success possible and pledge to assist her as I can. I have already ascertained that we share a concern for the care of the park and its rules, an auspicious beginning.

Enjoy and protect the Park.

All the best,

Kevin

If you wish to work with us to improve our community and help support the park and park staff, drop me an email and we will sign you up. robersonkw@gmail.com

FoRB Officers and Directors – 2016 Officers: President: Kevin Roberson; Treasurer: Jan Weaver, Secretary: Sara Whiting ; **2016 Directors:** Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Jim Weaver

NEXT FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday June 13, 6:30 pm, Park Office

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

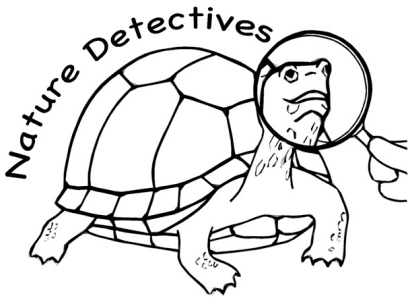
Naturalist News, Naturalist Roxie Campbell – Turning Tragedy into Triumph

I was invited to come to the Barnes and Noble store for the children's story time on Saturday. A sales person read the book Our Great Big Backyard by Laura Bush and Jenna Bush Hager. I followed up with telling the story of Carol Stoerker and how Rock Bridge Memorial State Park came to be and also showed them pictures of ways children can play in the park. The National Park Service is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. Missouri State Parks (MSP) is only one year younger. Next year, MSP will be 100 years old and RBMSP will be 50 years old!! I recently watched a documentary about the founding of many of the national parks. There is a shared theme of people who saw how easily development destroys wildflowers and wildlife and their ecosystems and those people worked tirelessly and sacrificially to prevent that tragedy from happening and by doing so, protected those special lands for many, many years and for many, many people to enjoy.

Here, it was the Ingrum family who knew how special the Rock Bridge and Devil's Icebox were and thought those features should be shared with everyone, not kept to themselves, so they willingly, eagerly sold their farm so that it could become the centerpiece of RBMSP. This prevention of tragedy met with another actual tragedy when 9 year old Carol Stoerker was struck and killed by a car. Her father, Lewis Stoerker, didn't let that tragedy keep him down, rather he worked long and hard and turned tragedy into triumph, by creating a lasting and living memorial to his daughter. Of course, he didn't do it alone. It was successful because many people saw the value and joined in. That's what Missouri State Parks are about – our society collectively placing value on special places and preventing or redeeming tragedy so that we and our descendants many years from now can continue to enjoy these special natural and cultural resources.

Lew Stoerker summed it up quite well in an article in 1984 when he said: "I'm just thrilled that the land is going to be kept for other young people to play in. Carol would have loved it. I feel we saved a portion of some of the most beautiful and unique land in Boone County for our children to enjoy."

Nature Detectives – FREE – Registration beginning June 1



Enjoy the beauty of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and learn about nature with your preschool age child (3-6 yr. old). There is also a concurrent program for 7 to 8 year olds if your pre-schooler has older siblings.

9:00 am or 10:30 am on these dates:

Forest Friends Wed., June 22 or Sat. June 25

Bats in the Cave Wed., July 20 or Sat. July 23

Critters in the Stream Thurs., July 28 or Sat. Aug. 30

Online Registration (preferred) - www.signupgenius.com. Sign up under *naturedetectives2016*
Phone Registration - 573- 443-0104, only if you do not have computer.

Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park,
the Missouri Department of Resources, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, and Downtown Optimists

Programs!

Water Festival – Saturday, July 16, 9 am to Noon, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot
.Have fun with water and learn about animals that live in streams through activities designed for children and families. Naturalists at several stations will guide participant in: catching (and releasing) stream animals, using an interactive stream model, finding the watershed you live in, exploring Connor's Cave and hiking Little Bonne Femme Creek (hike at 10:30). Free and open to the public.

Jr. Naturalist Day Camp – Tuesday through Friday August 2-5, 9 am to 1:30 pm.
Registration Required 573-449-7400 or email roxie.campbell@dnor.mo.gov after April 1. For ages 9 to 11. Participants will earn a Missouri State Parks Explorer patch by participating in four days of hands-on activities, including hiking, cave exploring, and wading in streams while learning about wildlife and ecology. Free.

To join FoRB, send your name, address, phone and email with a check to: FoRB, P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205.

Membership levels: \$15 park staff/volunteer, senior or student; \$20 individual; \$35 family; \$100 supporting

FoRB is a 501 (c) (3) organization and donations (but not memberships!) are deductible to the extent allowed by law

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President's News: New Beginnings
Naturalist News: Turning Tragedy into Triumph
Nature Detectives Registration Opens!

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