

# The BRIDGE

Volume 30: Issue 9 September 2017

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

### Presidents' Message, Kevin Roberson: How Can You Give Back?

Greeting fellow tree-huggers! What a glorious week. Started out with my children watching the full eclipse on Monday, left for East coast on Tuesday. I dropped my daughter off to start Rensselaer and will drop my son off at Clark University tomorrow. The whole family has been privileged to live in the Park neighborhood and get to take advantage of all that it offers.

Part of my duties as a privileged person is to recognize it and give some back. I am very pleased to say that the Park has accepted my request to assist them with invasive control and I have been fighting sericea\* when I can. I also was able to assist with mowing for parking spaces for the eclipse this week. This assistance has been very fulfilling for me and I hope to be able to continue in the future.

Have you asked yourself how you can give back? Every little bit helps. If you will contact me, park staff, or another board member, we will be able to find some task that will meet your skill set and time availability. Give it a try. It is good for all.

Enjoy our park!  
Kevin

\*sericea, scientific name *Lespedeza cuneata*, aka sericea lespedeza or Chinese bushclover.

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

**NEXT FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday September 11, 6:00 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](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov)

### News from the Park, Roxie Campbell – 2017 Total Eclipse at the Park Highlights

- Total attendance at Rock Bridge was estimated at 2,300. Picnic area – 1,100; Grassland – 525; Devil's Icebox parking lot – 350; High Ridge – 175; Karst – 125 and hike – 47.
- People came from at least 19 states and one from the Netherlands. Visitors included NASA researchers, some with telescopes, 3 buses, one home-school group and several in wheelchairs who enjoyed the view from the picnic area.
- Lots of compliments received that we were well organized and the eclipse was enjoyed.
- Viewing – the sky had some thin clouds before and after, but was clear during most of the eclipse and was clear for those 2.5 minutes of totality!
- Response of wildlife to the eclipse – night-time insects like crickets began to call; birds sang and flew more than normal. Researchers monitored for bat echolocation calls (haven't heard the results of their study yet).
- Other things enjoyed – sunset effect from Coyote Bluff, eclipse shaped sun spots through leaves of trees, a 6 degree temperature drop recorded at Coyote Bluff.
- Workers – 25 total included staff from other parks as well as RB staff and volunteers.
- We didn't have any incidents or parking problems (must have been due to all of those signs, workers and us getting maps and information out ahead of time). After the Devil's Icebox parking lot filled up, it was posted as closed and people re-directed. As one worker put it, everyone was "incredibly well-behaved and cordial to one another."
- Other – a couple was married under the Rock Bridge; another couple celebrated their 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; someone used a 100 year old Browning camera to photograph the eclipse (will have to wait on film to be developed, remember that?).



These Journey with the Sun hikers enjoyed the eclipse from Coyote Bluff.



Journey with the Sun hikers enjoyed a stop along Gans Creek.



Hike participant Adam Lee gave the park permission to use his photos. This one of the total eclipse shows red Bailey's Beads on the right side.



It's rare to see a crescent of the sun, this on the waxing side of the eclipse. Photo by hike participant Adam Lee.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hikes

#### Hike to the Hidden Treasures of Rock Bridge

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays - through December 2017 - 1:30 to 4:30**

**September 2 – Karst Trail. | October 7 – Saunder's History & Coyote Bluff**  
 Free. Reservations are required because space is limited. When you call (573-449-7402), you will be given driving directions. Recommended for ages 8 years and up. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Prefer no dogs.

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

**Save the Date! Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Park!**  
 Join us on Saturday, November 4th, 2017 from 11 am to 3 pm rain or shine.  
 Activities will include: live music, interpretative stations, refreshments and a scavenger hunt.

**Next 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hikes:**  
 September 2 and October 7

**September 2017 Issue**  
 President's News: How Can You Give Back  
 Park News: Total Eclipse at the Park

**FoRB**  
 P.O. Box 7642  
 Columbia MO 65205-7642