

The Bridge

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The Newsletter of the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (FoRB)

P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205-7642 <http://www.friendsofrockbridgemsp.org/>

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.

Send your submissions to Jim Gast, editor at jgast@socket.net

President's Message

Kevin Roberson, FoRB President

Greeting Parksters,

Jim Gast is taking on the responsibility of editing the newsletter this month. It is a great time to thank Dr. Jan Weaver who has edited the newsletter as long as I can remember. She has been an active board member and the true driver of much (if not most) of the good things that get done in our group. Thanks for all that you do, have done, and will continue to do.

The other members are pillars also and give us the balance and critical thinking necessary to keep the ship afloat. Thanks for all the work.

As fall is fast approaching it is a good time to think about visiting the park and maybe helping with some volunteer work. Keep posted to see what is coming up in the next few months.

I hope to see you in the park soon.

Yours in service to the Park,

Kevin

Park News

Sarah Jones, Park Superintendent

Good News! We are going to start using the Rainout Line service for our trail closure information. Please Note: This service replaces the telephone trail hotline we have had in the past, but we will continue to post updates on Facebook and the State Park website. You can also download a Mobile App, subscribe to an email or text alert, and check a website for the same information. This new program will eventually be set up for other MO State Parks and Sites. One phone number, App, and website for info on all of your favorite parks and sites.

See the links below for

- Details here: <https://rainoutline.com/subscribe/notify/5733987001/0>
- Text MessOnline - <https://rainoutline.com/search/dnis/5733987001>
- Mobile App – available for iPhone and Android devices. RainoutLine.com
- Email – age – Details here: <https://rainoutline.com/subscribe/notify/5733987001/0>
- Telephone – 573-398-7001

If you have any questions, please call the Park Office at 573-449-7402.

Happy Trails!

Naturalist News

Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist

Roxie was interviewed for a podcast about caves which is now available on the MoGov website through this link: https://soundcloud.com/mogov_mocast/16-missouri-caves. Mo DNR Geologist Jeffrey Crews was also interviewed. It was posted to Twitter on 8-23-18 and on Facebook on 8-25-18. Feel free to share it with others.

On August 20th, Governor Parsons and DNR Director Comer announced two initiatives to assist farmers who are struggling to care for livestock due to extreme drought conditions. About 900 acres in 16 state parks and historic sites are being made available for hay permits. This includes 80 acres in Rock Bridge's Grassland area. Also, five parks in northern Missouri that have lakes will allow farmers to pump water for their livestock. For more information, go to <https://mostateparks.com/drought>.



In early August, 20 kids ages 9 to 11 enjoyed four days of Jr. Naturalist Day Camp. Activities included hiking in the Gans Creek Wild Area, using nets to catch aquatic life in Clear Creek, catching insects, role playing how ants communicate, learning about forests, prairies, streams and caves and their wildlife, visiting the Hickam log cabin, decorating t-shirts that they are wearing in this picture and of course, cave exploring!

Two girls play a game that demonstrates how bats use echolocation to find flying insects. This was just one part of a bat program that was held two evenings with a total attendance of 145 people. Other aspects included watching a PowerPoint about bats (using the solar power FoRB helped to provide), observing bats fly out of Devil's Icebox and touring Connor's Cave. There was a good showing of gray bats - what a special treat - to see an endangered species in the wild (and to know they are doing ok)!

Events

Friday, September 7th, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Birdwatching Columbia Audubon Field Trip. Designed primarily for beginning birders, all are welcome. Meet at the Devil's Icebox parking lot. Reservations are not needed. Contact trip leader Edge Wade at edgew@mchsi.com for more information.

Saturday, October 13, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Stream Monitoring Blitz Volunteers will partner with experienced Stream Team volunteers to catch and identify aquatic insects in several streams in the Park, recording valuable data about the health of streams in the Bonne Femme Watershed. Chemical analyses of water quality parameters will also be performed using field kits and Stream Team techniques. Afterward, lunch will be provided for those who volunteered. Registration is not necessary. Meet at Devil's Icebox Parking lot. Bring something to drink and wear weather-appropriate clothing and water-appropriate shoes.

Saturday, October 27 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Rock Bridge Renew Volunteer to help with litter pick-up along Hwy. 163, invasive plant control or taking down old fence wire. Equipment provided. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and shoes (no flip-flops) and bring water to drink. At noon, enjoy free pizza and soda. Meet at Devil's Icebox parking lot. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is not necessary. If you have questions, call 573-449-7400. This event is co-sponsored by FoRB.

December 2018 COMOGives.com campaign. Watch for Details.