

# The BRIDGE

Volume 23: Issue 9 September 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](mailto: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 - Kiosk and Park Cleanup on the Agenda

Kudos to all who made it out to see the Perseid meteor showers. It was truly a magnificent celestial falling star show! Here's a quick recap of our group activities. We're moving forward with fundraising for a kiosk at the lower level of the park. A planning committee met with Michael Henn, an architect for DNR, and we discussed what features were important and significant for the project. Michael will join the entire board at their next board meeting the 3rd Monday evening in September to further discuss his ideas for the project.

Anyone who'd like to join the discussion is most welcome. The meeting will be at the Country Kitchen Restaurant, September 20 at 6:30. Also mark your calendars to help with a park cleanup on Saturday September 25th. This is OUR park, and all of us need to support the cleanup efforts. The days are getting shorter, so take advantage of the more pleasant weather, and get out to the park for an afternoon of adventure.

**FRIENDS BOARD MEETING:** Monday September 20, 6:30 pm Country Kitchen on north Providence. All members are welcome to attend!! Guest Speaker - Michael Henn - Park Kiosk Designer

**FRIENDS PROGRAM: "We Are All Made of the Same Stuff, That's Why We Eat Each Other" by Alice Reese, PhD Animal Science and Ruminant Nutrition. While Dr. Reese's studies have emphasized cows, she is also very interested in the interdependent relationship between plants and animals. Please join us for this interesting presentation!**

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 6:30 pm, Country Kitchen (dinner 6:30, program to follow)**

**PARK CLEANUP:** September 25, 10:00 am, Park Office - Bring Gloves!

**Summer/Fall 2010 Wild Cave Tour Season is Cancelled Due to White Nose Syndrome**

### 2010 Officers and Board Members

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

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR APPLEBEE'S BREAKFAST, SAT., OCT. 9, 8:00 TO 10:30 AM**

**BEVERAGE SERVERS:** We have one person and need one more

**FOOD SERVERS:** Need 3 people

**RAFFLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Need 3 people to help set-up, sell tickets, and announce winners

**Please contact Rosemary Stevens at [stevensr@socket.net](mailto:stevensr@socket.net)**

**FoRB Membership - as of August 2010: 145 total, 49 single, 48 family**

**New Members** - Melanie McMillian

**Renewals Received** - Greg Horstmeier

**Renewals due in September** - Roxie Campbell, Julianne Ramsey, Evelyn and John Tanner

**Renewals due in August** - none

**Renewals due in July 2010** - Mary L. & William D. Hobbs, Katheryn Holland

**Renewals due in June 2010** - John Fritz

**Renewals due in May 2010** - Annette Albin, Melinda and Eric R. Staley, Helen and William Steinman, David Webber

**DONATIONS 2ND QUARTER** - none

## 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 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)

### **Park Perspective by Jim Gast, Park Superintendent: Odds and Ends**

Governor Nixon was at Rock Bridge on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the State Park Youth Corps program with the media. He also went to First State Capitol State Historic Site in St. Charles and Cuivre River State Park, near Troy.

Steel for Phase 6 of the boardwalk reroute was delivered to the park on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Phase 6 includes building an overlook south of the rock bridge, connecting the new stairs with the existing boardwalk, building new stairs near the existing stone ones, and connecting other sections of the boardwalk that are now gravel. There will also be interpretive panels with new themes. No construction start date has been set. No decision has been made when to start the construction of the boardwalk over the creek and under the rock bridge, either. It's hard to believe that the slough off occurred a little over 4 years ago.

The Mizzou Cycling Club will be hosting a mountain bike race at the park on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The course is the same for the Show Me State Games bike race.

Our annual informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 PM. It will be held in the basement of the park office.

### **Park Natural History/History by Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist: Bats Enrich Our Lives**

The theme for the two bat programs provided this month was a quote by Thomas Lovejoy that reads, "Conservation is not a choice between wild places and people but between a poor or rich existence." Those who attended echoed that sentiment in their comments and reactions – that their lives were enriched by seeing the bats fly by in the night air out at Devil's Icebox. Several bats could be seen at any one time from the platform above the cave. Participants reported seeing about 75 bats fly by them while they explored Connor's Cave. One lady was giddy when an insect she had her flashlight shining on was swooped up by a bat – just a few feet from her.

Earlier in the evening, the group viewed PowerPoint photos and learned how we all benefit from bats in a variety of ways. Here in Missouri, several species of bats use their abilities of flight and echolocation to feed upon flying insects at night. One study recorded that each bat eats 160 insects in one hour. As the primary predator of night time flying insects, bats control the numbers of insects that would otherwise damage our food crops and harm the health and balance of natural ecosystems. The guano gray bats leave in caves is one of the few sources of energy for cave dwelling animals. Researchers have studied bats to improve our medical care and the Navy's sonar. Fruit bats that inhabit tropical areas of the world pollinate or distribute seed of fruits we enjoy such as bananas, peaches, avocados, mangos and others that are valuable economically in their regions of the world such as durian fruit in Singapore. Whether globally or locally, our existence is richer because of bats.

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

- September 19 - Trail Improvement Day\* - 8:30 am, upper parking lot, bring leaf rake, loppers, water & bug spray
- September 25 - Park Cleanup\*\* - check website for time
- October 5 - Annual Park Information Meeting - 6 pm, basement of park office
- October 17 - Trail Improvement Day\* - 8:30 am, upper parking lot, bring leaf rake, loppers, water & bug spray
- November 13 - Trail Improvement Day\* - 8:30 am, upper parking lot, bring leaf rake, loppers, water & bug spray
- December 4 - Trail Improvement Day\* - 8:30 am, upper parking lot, bring leaf rake, loppers, water & bug spray
- NO CAVE TOURS THIS FALL (DUE TO WHITENOSE SYNDROME)

\*sponsored by the Osage Region Trail Association

\*\* sponsored by Friends of Rock Bride Memorial State Park

### **Upcoming Community Events**

- September - No-Car, Low-Car and Whoa-Car Challenge - all month, Columbia - <http://www.pednet.org/programs/no-car-diet-challenge.asp>
- September 9 - Tomato Festival - Bradford Farm - <http://aes.missouri.edu/bradford/events/>
- October 2 - Mountain Bike Race - Rock Bridge MSP, hosted by Mizzou Cycling Club -
- October 9 - Race for Clean Water: A Race, Float and Festival on the Missouri River - Glasgow for the racers, Boonville for the pleasure float, ending up at FREE River Fest at Kaffish Katy's in Huntsdale featuring "Chump Change" and "Henry Clay and the Hennessy Brothers" - proceeds to support MO River Communities Network - [www.moriver.org](http://www.moriver.org)

**THE FRIENDS OF ROCK BRIDGE MEMORIAL STATE PARK  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR FALL FUND RAISER**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2010, 8:00-10:30 AM**

**BUFFET BREAKFAST AND RAFFLE\*  
APPLEBEE'S ON EAST BROADWAY**

**MENU: FLAPJACKS, BACON AND EGGS, HASHBROWNS,  
JUICE AND COFFEE**

**ADULTS: \$7.00 CHILDREN 7 AND UNDER: FREE**

**PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, OTHERS YOU KNOW**

**Proceeds will benefit the  
Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park's  
Welcome Center/Kiosk Project**

**\*Raffle Drawing at 9:30 AM**

**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/>**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to P.O. Box 7293, Columbia MO 65205

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**September 2010 Issue**

President: Kiosk and Park Cleanup

Superintendent: Park Odds and Ends

Naturalist: Bats Enrich Our Lives