

The BRIDGE

Volume 23: Issue 11 November 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, phone: 573-815-9255, address: FoRB, Suite 204, Outdoors Building 200 Old 63 South Columbia MO 65201

President's Message by Susan Haines, FoRB President - Thanksgiving Thoughts

Much of the credit for the adoption of an ANNUAL national Thanksgiving Day may be attributed to Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale, the editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*. For thirty years, she promoted the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day, contacting President after President until President Abraham Lincoln responded in 1863 by setting aside the last Thursday of November as a national Day of Thanksgiving. Over the next seventy-five years, Presidents followed Lincoln's precedent, annually declaring a national Thanksgiving Day. Then, in 1941, Congress *permanently* established the fourth Thursday of each November as a national holiday.

Lincoln's original 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation came at a pivotal point in his life. During the first week of July of that year, the Battle of Gettysburg occurred, resulting in the loss of some 60,000 American lives. Four months later in November, Lincoln delivered his famous "Gettysburg Address. As Americans celebrate Thanksgiving each year, I hope they will retain the original gratefulness displayed by the Pilgrims and many other founding fathers, and remember that it is to those early and courageous Pilgrims that they owe not only the traditional Thanksgiving holiday but also the concepts of self-government, the "hard-work" ethic, self-reliant communities, and freedom of religion. As each of you gather for your respective Thanksgiving celebrations, know that if you've over indulged in rich and delicious foods, that a brisk walk or hike through the park will have you feeling great, and the freedom to stroll there is a significant blessing in itself. Happy Thanksgiving!!

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday November 15, 6:30 pm Country Kitchen on north Providence.

FRIENDS PROGRAM: Monday November 22, 6:30 pm, Country Kitchen (dinner 6:30, program to follow)

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

FoRB Membership - as of October 2010: 148 total, 50 single, 49 family

New Members - None

Renewals Received - Jean Crowson, Susan Haines, Sandra Hild, Katheryn Holland, Peter Holmes, Julianne Ramsey, Melinda and Eric Staley, Helen & William Steinman, Ruth & Russell Thompson, Mary J. Wheeling, Mr. & Mrs. David Webber THANKS!

Renewals due in November - none

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

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

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS and FRIENDS!

Applebee's breakfast: Our Optimist Volunteers: Jim Beckett, Mike Hatchett, Travis Kempf, Mike McKernan, and Jake Jolly for the chef hats donated by Ford Restaurant Supply Co. and FoRB volunteers: Susan Haines, Katheryn Holland, Maggy Kirby, Laurel Kruse, John Larkin, Melanie McMillian, Dottie Stoerker-Peters, Rosemary Stevens, Sue Tillema

Rock Bridge Revenge: Sheila and Bob Bailey, Susan Haines, Darlene Londeree, and Rosemary Stevens

Park Clean-up: Susan Haines, Amelia Cottle, Lynn and George Montgomery and the Park neighbors.



Applebee's on Broadway and Troy Wieberg - <http://www.applebees.com/>

Socket Internet - <http://www.socket.net>

FORD Restaurant Supply - Hats for the breakfast

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

Park News - Guest Article by volunteer Rosemary Stevens: A Volunteer's View

How am I needed? Let me count the ways. Little did I know when I started volunteering at the RBMSP Office last March that I would become involved in such a wide range of experiences. I knew I wouldn't be of much help concerning outdoor, interpretive activities so decided I could help by offering to do simple office tasks. Yes, I do that but it only scratches the surface of what the Park Office must accomplish in a day, a week, or a month – and I get to help.

After six months, I have seen the dedication and cooperation of the staff and volunteers accomplish the gathering of information on frogs, butterflies, cave species and bats; the consistent providing of weekend interpretive programs to Park visitors; and the planning of public programs and scheduling of special group programs. The items listed above are some of the more visible activities of the Park but it does not cover what happens administratively to make everything work or the responsibilities of maintaining other sites the Park oversees or the day-to-day questions that come in that must be answered. They have ranged from a recent call asking if I knew what color the trees were turning on the Boardwalk Trail (red, yellow, orange) to do we have a record of what is carved into the rock below the platform at Clark's Hill Historic Site (somewhere we did).

The staff make it look easy but, in reality, their experience shows and I know I have only seen a small part of the whole.

Park Natural History/History by Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist: The Complexities of Life

Attending the National Natural Areas Conference held at Lake of the Ozarks in October reinforced within my mind the conclusion that life is truly amazing and complex and that we only know the half of it. While I knew hellbenders were our largest salamander in Missouri, seeing one in person was impressive. The one a biologist pulled out from under a rock on the bottom of the Niangua River was about 18" long and 4" wide! Their numbers have declined by about 75% since the 1970's to about 1,200. Most are older ones (they typically live about 35 years). There are many potential reasons for why they aren't reproducing or young aren't surviving.

Another biologist told us about mussels – those animals that live in clam shells in our rivers. Their bodies are made up mostly of digestive and reproductive organs and lack a brain, but somehow they came up with ingenious ways to attract fish. One species produces tissue that looks like a small fish. When a large fish approaches with the intent of getting a meal, instead he gets a face full of the mussel's young, called glochidia. Mussels have a complex life cycle with glochidia living harmlessly in a fish's gills for a time period before dropping to the stream bed, the size of a grain of sand. Mussels live in one location their entire lives, which can extend as long as 200 years! Many species of mussels are listed as endangered.

During the conference, I made a presentation about the animals that live in the stream of Devil's Icebox Cave, the 2009 decline and recovery of isopods and amphipods, and the decline of pink planarians that we have witnessed since fall of 2009. Lack of research leaves us simply unaware of the complexities that probably exist within the environment and relationships of these cave invertebrates.

What hellbenders, mussels and cave invertebrates all have in common is that they live in streams and are affected by water quality. Biologists have to deal with the complexities of the animals themselves and also with the multitude of conditions affecting their environment in order to try to determine what exactly is causing a problem for the animals.

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

- November 13 - Trail Improvement Day* - 8:30 am, upper parking lot, bring leaf rake, loppers, water & bug spray (ORTA)
- November 17 - Fall Color & Geology Tour - 2:00 - 3:30 pm, Springbrook & Devil's Icebox, how chemicals and chemical reactions make fall color, medicinal plants and the Rock Bridge, 6 to adult
- December 4 - Trail Improvement Day* - 8:30 am, upper parking lot, bring leaf rake, loppers, water & bug spray (ORTA)

Upcoming Community Events

- November 9 - Life in a Missouri River Chute - 7:00 pm, Les Bourgeois Bistro (lower level), Rocheport, Big Muddy Sessions speaker series - <http://www.riverrelief.org/>
- November 16 - What's for Dinner, Missouri by William Stolz - 7:00 pm, Friends Room Columbia Public Library
- November 17 - Pressure Cooker (film) - 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Columbia Public Library
- November 17 - "Well-Equipped Birder: Essentials, Extras and Fluff - 7:30 pm, UU Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd, Audubon Soc
- December 4 - Environmental Pollutants: Where Do They Come From, Where Do They Go? Keith Goyne, MU - 10:30 am, Monsanto Auditorium - http://satscience.missouri.edu/satscience_2004/schedule.html

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 _____

Mail to FoRB, 200 Old 63 S, Ste 201, Columbia MO 65201

November 2010 Issue

President: Thanksgiving Thoughts

Park News: A Volunteer's View

Naturalist: Complexities of Life