

The BRIDGE

Volume 24: Issue 2 February 2011

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, Outdoors Building 200 Old 63 South, Suite 204, Columbia MO 65201

President's Message - by Susan Haines, FoRB President: New Signs

Dear Friends, I hope you've not suffered too many set backs with the recent blizzard, Mother Nature is testing our strength. The good news, the pesky groundhog didn't see his shadow. YEA!! The thrills of spring are just a few weeks away. New signs are popping up all around us.

A new sign to look for while venturing to one of our favorite parks, is a dedication sign. Through the efforts of one of our charter members, Dorothy Stoerker-Peters, the Missouri Department of Transportation will be changing the signs indicating the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park's road cleanup commitment. Originally the sign was scripted omitting 'Memorial' in the title. Since the passing of her husband, Elroy "Pete" Peters, Dottie wanted the signage corrected in his honor. We are happy to announce that the signs will be changed this spring. For anyone who is still considering giving a memorial in Pete's honor, Dorothy has indicated that she'd like for friends and acquaintances to consider donations to the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

A note to members, our steadfast volunteer member, Rosemary Stevens and her husband, are planning to move from the Columbia area. Rosemary has been a terrific volunteer for both the Friends organization and in the past year at the park office. We'll greatly miss her exuberance and willingness to share her time and talent.

I want to commend all who joined us for the wonderful programs that have been provided for us. Our latest guest speaker was Zim Schwartz from the Columbia Police Department, whose topic of interest was earthquakes and how they can affect the Columbia area and if they would have impact on the Devil's Ice Box and surrounding karst topography. Please plan to join us for dinner and a program on Mark Twain State Historic Site and Park on February 28th at 6:30 pm at the Country Kitchen, north Providence Road.

In the mean time, stay warm, and stay healthy.... spring is just around the corner.

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday February 21, 6:30 pm at the Country Kitchen on Providence

FRIENDS PROGRAM: Monday February 28, 2011 - Mark Twain Historic Site and State Park - Matt Carletti, Mark Twain State Park - 6:30 pm, Country Kitchen on north Providence - Free and Open to the Public

2010-2011 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

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

Park News - Jim Gast, Park Superintendent - State Park Youth Corps renewed for 2011

The State Park Youth Corp (SPYC) program has been renewed for 2011 and the park will be participating once again. Registration starts February 1st and is for 17 to 21 year olds who meet certain eligibility requirements. If you know someone who is interested, have him or her apply on-line at <http://thinkoutside.mo.gov/eligibility.aspx>. We will also be hosting a recruiting fair sometime soon. The date, time and place have not been decided.

Staff counted 118 deer in the park and surrounding fields giving us an estimated population of 34.8 per square mile. The threshold for deer is 25 per square mile so we will probably have a managed deer hunt sometime in December or next January. The count was done by flying over the park in a helicopter. There needs to be a minimum of 4 inches of snow on the ground to do the count—that was not a problem this year, but it was in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The last count was in December 2007.

Speaking of snow, we saw cross-country ski tracks in the Grassland, Karst and High Ridge areas while doing the deer count. If you would like a Ski Rock Bridge brochure, contact me at 449-7402 and we can either e-mail or mail you one.

Park Natural History/History - Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist - Wide Open Spaces

I think there is no time of year when I appreciate wide open natural spaces more than late winter when I am tired of being surrounded by four walls. Sometimes, everyone needs some space, some room to roam, think and feel free outdoors in a natural setting. Thus, open space is recognized as one of the values/themes that Rock Bridge Memorial State Park provides every citizen of Missouri and visitor to the state. Collectively, we all own over 2,000 acres to be used for outdoor recreation, interpretation and natural and cultural resource preservation.

Here are some suggestions for short hikes that provide vistas of wide open spaces or other wintery scenery (look for icicles, birds, branch structure of trees and geologic features not hidden by tree leaves):

- High Ridge Trail – Park at Gans Creek Trailhead at Hwy. 163 and Rock Quarry Rd. Check out Gans Creek near the parking lot and then cross the gravel road. Take the right trail fork to the top of the hill for a great view of surrounding landscape. Return for a total hike of about 2/3 of a mile.
- Shooting Star Trail – Park at Shooting Star Trailhead. See sign off of Hwy. 163 East of Pierpont. From the bulletin board, hike to the right (north) about ¾ mile to Shooting Star Bluff overlooking Gans Creek and the woods beyond. Return for a total hike of about 1.5 miles.
- Devil's Icebox Trail – It only takes a hike of about one mile and 45 min.
- Drive through the park and look out at the open space. Take side roads.

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

- No Scheduled Events in February

Upcoming Community Events

- February 8 - Got Mud? The Science and Policy of Missouri River Sediment - - 7:00 pm, Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport, Big Muddy Speaker Series - http://mostreamteam.org/Whats_Happening.asp
- February 9 - Wild and Scenic Film Festival - 5:00 pm social, 6:00 pm films, Blue Note, Downtown Columbia - <http://scienceevents.missouri.edu/event/detail/178>
- February 15 - Audubon Birding Field Trip - 8:30 am, Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary - http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110215
- February 22, 24 and 26 - TreeKeepers Classes - 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, 26th, 8:15 am to noon, ARC - <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/Opportunities/treekeepers.php>
- February 26 - Level 2 Stream Team Training - Columbia - http://www.mostreamteam.org/online_level2.htm
- February 26 - Audubon Birding Field Trip - leaving 8:00 am from Patricia's on I70 Drive SE and Keene St to Whetstone C. A. - http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110226
- **Monday February 28, 2011 - Mark Twain Historic Site and State Park - Matt Carletti, Mark Twain State Park - 6:30 pm, Country Kitchen on north Providence - Free and Open to the Public**
- February 28, March 7 and 14 - Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project - 6:00 to 8:30 pm, at the ARC - <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/Opportunities/carp.php>
- March 6 - Audubon Birding Field Trip - leaving 8 am from Hwy AC/Grindstone Parkway to Scrivner Rd C. A. - http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110226
- March 8 - Asian Carp Invasion - 7:00 pm, Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport - <http://scienceevents.missouri.edu/event/detail/180>
- March 15 - Audubon Birding Field Trip - 8:30 am, Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary - http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110226
- March 26 - Columbia Earth Hour - 8:30 to 9:30 pm all over the city, turn off lights and appliances for an hour as part of a global event - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/webcal/view_entry.php?id=2676&date=20110326
- April 17 - Columbia Earth Day - noon to 7:00 pm, MU Peace Park and Downtown Columbia - <http://www.columbiaearthday.org/>

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	Address	_____
\$35	Family	Phone	_____
\$100	Supporting	Email	_____

Mail to FoRB, Outdoors Building, 200 Old 63 South, Suite 204, Columbia MO 65201

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