

The BRIDGE

Volume 24: Issue 3 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

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

FRIENDS PROGRAM: TBA Monday March 28, 2011 - 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 - *New Videos from State Parks + Boardwalk Update*

Check out the new state park website at www.mostateparks.com. Over 8000 web pages were redesigned. Videos and new photos were also added. While you're at it sign up to be a state park e-friend at <http://test.mostateparks.com/page/58221/subscribe-our-mailing-list>.

Construction is complete on the section of the boardwalk from the wooden steps (the ones built in 2007) to the boardwalk. There is also an easier access to the overlook. Visitors no longer need to walk across tree roots. There is still more construction to take place, but I don't have a schedule.

Park Natural History/History - Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist - *Watching for Metamorphosis of Various Kinds*

Metamorphosis is an amazing process that we humans don't experience personally other than to see its effects in insects, tadpoles and the like. When you see it, it seems so sudden and to result in very dramatic changes. You would think that the two are separate organisms except that you saw the animal transform, with your own eyes, from one to another. Below are photos of a lightning bug larvae and lightning bug adult taken by park volunteer Jon Rapp in the park on January 1, 2011 during FoRB's Annual Winter Hike. While they are different individuals at different stages of development, we think they are of the same species. Notice how the appearance of each differs so much, with interesting colors (which you can see on the pdf) and shapes.

While not "metamorphosis" per se, we also notice different stages of activity as we go through the seasons of the year. Now, the lightning bugs are tucked away under the bark of trees waiting out the cold weather, hoping that woodpeckers don't find them. But, later this summer, we'll notice them flashing their lights as they seek mates.



Firefly Larva - photo by Jon Rapp



Firefly Adult - photo by Jon Rapp

We're about to witness another season change. Spring seems more dramatic than the other seasons. With a burst of energy, leaves and flowers seem to leap out of the ground and leaves suddenly clothe those brown twigs that have been so lifeless all winter. And, the once quiet air, will be abuzz with insects flying around!

You don't have to go far outside to observe these wonders of nature. Just look under some tree bark, step out into your yard or walk a trail at the park.

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

- No Scheduled Events in March

Upcoming Community Events

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

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

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Park News: State Park Videos & Boardwalk Update
Natural History: Metamorphosis