

# The BRIDGE

Volume 24: Issue 4 April 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](mailto:forb@socket.net), phone: 573-815-9255, address: FoRB, Outdoors Building 200 Old 63 South, Suite 204, Columbia MO 65201

### President's Letter - Susan Haines - Restoration of State Parks and Historic Sites

We had a very informative membership meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, with Dr. Susan Flader, as our guest speaker. Dr. Flader is the president of the Missouri Parks Association, and has taken a very pro-active role in legislative action pertaining to Missouri parks and historic sites.

Over \$200 million is needed for our state parks and historic sites' restoration, stabilization and rehabilitation. State park funding is a priority we need to bring home to our legislators. With the rising cost of fuel, more and more Missouri families will not be able to travel outside the state for vacations and entertainment, driving home the need for working utilities, infrastructure and modern conveniences at the state parks and historic sites. The safety of several of these structures has been compromised with fire, wind, tornados, and depreciation. Waste water treatment, building repairs, roads and trails, and dams, are high priority items for our state's recreational facilities.

Seventeen million visitors to Missouri state parks and historic sites intensely impacts the integrity of each location. We as friends of state parks and historic sites need to contact our state legislators and request their support of state park funding, send your communication to the state officials listed below:

Gov. Jay Nixon, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm 216, Jeff City, MO 65101  
State Rep. John Cauthorn, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm 235, Jeff City, MO 65101  
State Rep. Chris Kelly, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 106B, Jeff City, MO 65101  
State Rep. Paul Quinn, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 101J, Jeff City, MO 65101  
State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm 226, Jeff City, MO 65101  
State Rep. Mary Still, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 101H, Jeff City, MO 65101  
State Rep. Stephen Webber, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 106A, Jeff City, MO 65101

Hope to see several of you at the park this spring, and please sign up to volunteer for Earth Day, April 17<sup>th</sup>. If you have a couple hours to share, please email me at [shaine@socket.net](mailto:shaine@socket.net) where I'll be keeping a volunteer log for earth day volunteers. The April membership program will be about the tasty treats that only spring provides, More! Madness. We're hoping to have the program at the Gilbert Shelter with a back up of the park meeting space in case of inclement weather, April 25 6:30 p.m.

### FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday April 18, 6:30 pm at the Country Kitchen on Providence

### FRIENDS PROGRAM: *More! Madness* - Monday April 25, 2011 - 6:30 pm, *Gilbert Shelter*, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (rain venue - Park Office Building)

### 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

### Volunteers for Earth Day April 17, Rain Date May 1 - Shifts: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Contact Susan Haines at [shaine@socket.net](mailto:shaine@socket.net) if you can volunteers

### THANK YOU!

.....to the Rock Bridge Men's Picnic for their \$500 donation to FoRB  
.....to the friends of Elroy "Pete" Peters for their memorial donations to FoRB

## 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.mostatoparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov)

### Park News - Jim Gast, Park Superintendent - Programs, Research, Partnerships, and SPYC

Wildflower walks started March 23 and will last until May 18. They are held on Wednesdays and meet at 5:30 pm at the kiosk in the Devil's Icebox parking lot. This is Randal Clark's 29th year leading the walks. Division of State Parks director Parks' Superintendent Bill Bryan will go on pink planarian research cave trip April 23. Pink Planarian counts are held twice per year. Once in April and the other in late September or early October. Staff and volunteers will be leading programs for the Columbia WOW (wonders of wildlife) program on April 29 and 30. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.wondersofwildlife.org/Page/Conservation-Education-Wow-School-columbia.aspx>. The walking school bus program with Rock Bridge Elementary School should start up again in April. For more information see the article at [http://mostatoparks.com/press/1544/walking\\_school\\_bus\\_program](http://mostatoparks.com/press/1544/walking_school_bus_program). The park will be getting a State Park Youth Camp (SPYC)

workers this year. 2 will conduct interpretive programs, 3 will work on stewardship, 2 will work on mowing and general park maintenance and 2 will work on painting and roofing projects.

## **Park Natural History/History - Mandy Noel, Columbia College Student and Park Volunteer - Sights and Sounds of Spring**

It's that time of year again. Days are getting longer and frigid temperatures are hopefully behind us. Not only does this encourage us to come out of hibernation, wildlife are also becoming more active and some have migrated back to Missouri.

Birds are one sight and sound beginning to be more prevalent this time of year. The Eastern Phoebe, a gray-brown sparrow-sized flycatcher with a bobbing tail is returning to the northeastern and Midwest regions of the country for the summer after migrating to the southeastern states for the winter. It can be distinguished from its close relatives by its all black bill and, unlike the Least Flycatcher and Eastern Pewee, the Phoebe is missing an eye ring and strong wing bars. Be sure to perk up your ears for this little critter's well-enunciated " phoe-be " or " fi-bree " song and keep your eyes peeled near stream-sides, bridges, farms, roadsides, and even in town where the Phoebe can be commonly spotted. One has been spotted near the park office and usually one can be seen near the Rock Bridge or Devil's Icebox because they build a nest of mud attached to a shelf of rock that is protected from the weather.

Another sound that is hard to miss are the calls of toads and frogs filling the air, especially after sundown. Although the park is not open to visitors past sunset, if you happen to be driving by with your windows down on a warm, spring evening, you are likely to hear the Northern Spring Peeper's clear, high-pitched peep repeatedly or the Southern Leopard Frog's series of rapid, "quacking" laughter-like sounds. Be on the lookout for these signs of spring and others when visiting the park.

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

- April 6, 13, 20, 27 & May 4, 11- Wildflower Walk - 5:30 to 7:00 pm, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Columbia Area - <http://mostateparks.com/park/rock-bridge-memorial-state-park> RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT
- April 24 - Where the Wildflowers Grow - 3:00 -5:00 pm, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Columbia Area - <http://mostateparks.com/park/rock-bridge-memorial-state-park>

## **Upcoming Community Events**

- April 5 - Birding Trip to Rock Bride Memorial State Park - 8:30 to 10:30 am, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot, Rock Bridge MSP - [http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field\\_trips.shtml#20110405](http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110405)
- April 7 - Missouri Premier of Green Fire: Aldo Leopold - 6:30 pm, Conservation Hall, Natural Resources Building, MU, Columbia - <http://missouri.sierraclub.org/osage/events.htm>
- April 9 - Cleanup Columbia - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Columbia - <http://pednet.org/newsroom/events.asp>
- April 9 - Native Plant Field Day and Plant Sale- Bradford Farm - <http://aes.missouri.edu/bradford/events/>
- April 12 - Bats and the White Nose Syndrome - 7:00 pm, Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport, Big Muddy Series - [http://mostreamteam.org/Whats\\_Happening.asp](http://mostreamteam.org/Whats_Happening.asp)
- April 14 - Columbia Parks Birding Tour: Beginner's Special - 8:00 to 11:00 am, Hwy AC/Grindstone Pkwy/New Haven Rd/ US 63 Commuter Lot - [http://columbiaaudubon.missouri.org/field\\_trips.shtml#20110405](http://columbiaaudubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110405)
- April 17 - Columbia Earth Day - rain date May 1 - Noon to 6 ish, Downtown Columbia and MU Peace Park <http://www.columbiaearthday.org/>
- April 19 - Birding at Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary - 8:30 to 10:00 am, CANS entrance at stub of Cunningham Dr., off Bray, which is off Fairview Rd between Rollins and Chapel Hill - [http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field\\_trips.shtml#20110405](http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110405) <http://mdc.mo.gov/events/location/Runge/heading/Runge%20Nature%20Center>

**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	Name _____
\$20	Individual	Address _____
\$35	Family	Phone _____ Email _____
\$100	Supporting	

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

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