

The BRIDGE

Volume 24: Issue 5 May 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 Letter - Susan Haines

The Hickham cabin is in need of stabilization and/or restoration, and we're looking for monetary support from the community to help. On behalf of the entire Friends' membership, I want to thank the Rock Bridge Men's Picnic group for their generous contribution toward this project, and to invite others who have fond memories or a love of the park to follow their example. One can take a look at the cabin and realize that it's weathered several years of hail, tornados, ice storms and heavy snow falls and it is showing signs of great stress and duress.

When you're out at the park enjoying the spring wild flower hikes, or picnicking with family and friends, see for yourself, and please plan to help us with this stabilization project. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated today and for years to come.

Donations: Checks can be made out to FoRB with Hickam in the memo line. Then mail the check to FoRB, Outdoors Building, 200 Old 63 South, Suite 204, Columbia MO 65201. If you would like to discuss a donation, please contact Susan Haines at shaine@socket.net. FoRB is an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday May 16, 6:30 pm at the Country Kitchen on Providence

FRIENDS PROGRAM: Monday May 23, 2011 - 6:30 pm - JC Kuessner, Deputy Division Director for Administration for State Parks, 6:30 pm for dinner, 7:00 pm for program at the Country Kitchen on Providence

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

2010 - 2012 Board Members: Bill Hobbs, Jan Weaver, Sue Tillema

Volunteer Opportunities

Katy Trail Bike Ride SAG Stops - Wednesday June 22, 7:00 am to 10:00 am, McBaine

contact Jim Gast jim.gast@dnr.mo.gov or Mary De la Guerra mary.delaguerra@dnr.mo.gov if you can help

- Support and Gear (SAG) volunteers maintain SAG stops (water coolers, table and chairs, bike supplies, first-aid kit, trash bags, bananas and sports drink mix). SAG supplies will be delivered to the SAG location just prior to the opening time. Make sure you know where you can refill water and get additional ice if necessary. Notify the day coordinator if you require additional supplies well before they run out.
- Make sure water jugs are filled with ice and water, and have them ready before the first riders are expected to arrive.
- Meet and greet riders as they pass through. Provide encouragement and assist with questions on route and services at the trail heads and communities along the trail.
- Serve as a point of contact for the Ride Sweeps, Day Coordinator and ride staff.
- Break down SAGs when the ride sweeps release you. Wait for ride staff to pickup SAG supplies before departing.

Frog Surveys (for park aids)- Friday June 10 8:45 pm, with make-up dates of Saturday June 11 or Saturday June 25

contact Roxie Campbell at roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov if you can help

THANK YOU!

....The Conservation Federation of Missouri awarded FoRB \$875 for Nature Detectives this summer!

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 - It Only Took 19 Years

I finally found all of the orienteering markers in the park. It only took me 19 years. Of course, there were some years that I didn't have the opportunity to look for them at all.

For those of you who don't know, there is a permanent orienteering course set up in the park. There are 30 markers. Orienteering involves finding one's way through various kinds of terrain using a compass (or GPS unit), topographical map and land navigation skills. Orienteering courses can either be permanent or temporary. The orienteering fundraiser that FoRB sponsored for several years utilized both kinds.

To me, the enjoyment of orienteering not only comes from finding the marker (I usually just use the map to find the markers, I don't like using a compass or GPS unit—it's more challenging that way), but also from getting out a seeing areas of the park that are "off the beaten path". There are a lot of sinkholes, ponds and other natural features that most people never see. Orienteering is a good way to learn the park and also to get some exercise.

Maps are available at the park office. Liquid-filled orienteering compasses are available at stores throughout Columbia. Why not come out and give orienteering a try. Who knows, you may be able to find all of the markers in less than 19 years.

Park Natural History/History - Anthony Zukoff, Park Volunteer: Floral Fireworks on the Glades of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Those of us not distracted by the promise of spring-time morels have no doubt noticed that the woodland is bursting with color. Spring Beauties and Wild Sweet William have made their presence known across the forest floor. Trout lilies and Dutchman's Breeches have made their appearances. The Bellwort have burst open and the Trillium are still going strong. The colorful assortment of violets underfoot sure makes it hard to take your eyes off the ground.

An entirely different cast of wildflowers is waking up on top of the scenic bluffs at Rock Bridge Memorial State park. Glades, one of several unique Missouri natural communities, occupy most of the spaces on top of the bluffs. Glades can be particularly harsh environments for plants. Thin soil, full sun exposure, and high rates of erosion pose significant challenges to plant establishment and survival. However, there are a great variety of plants that can survive, and actually thrive on glades. As the spring show is beginning to wrap up in Missouri's woodlands, things are just getting started on the glades. Bright yellow Fragrant Sumac flowers and snow white Service Berry blossoms are the first splashes of color upon the glades. An eye-catching carpet of Birdfoot Violets and Pussytoes cover the rocky ground; if you look closely you may even be able to find the beginnings of Widow's Cross, one of Missouri's native sedums. And of course, the grand finale of Spring, Shooting Star, is about to fire things up.

But don't worry, that won't be the end. Summer will bring even more color to the show on the glades of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. So next time you visit the park, be sure to take a hike out to Coyote Bluff and Shooting Star Bluff and experience the beauty of Missouri glades firsthand. Maps and directions available at the park office.

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

- Wednesdays, May 4 to May 18 - Weekly Wildflower Walk - 5:30, 7:00 pm Devil's Icebox Parking Lot
- June 17 and 18 - The Bats of Devil's Icebox - 7:15 to 9:45 pm, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot
- June 18 - Dragonflies and Damselflies of Missouri - 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, meet at Park Office, 12 and up, pack a lunch
- July 12 to 14 - Explorer Day Camp - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, 9 to 11 years, registration required
- August 5 and 6 - The Bats of Devil's Icebox - 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot

Upcoming Community Events

- May 10 - Tales from Overton Bottoms - 7:00 pm, Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport, Big Muddy Series - http://mostreamteam.org/Whats_Happening.asp
- May 14 - National Migratory Bird Day Count - contact Laura Hillman 442-3703 if you would like to participate in the Columbia area - http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110405
- May 16-20 Columbia Bike Walk Wheel Week - <http://www.pednet.org/programs/bike-walk-wheel-week.asp>
- May 17 - Birding at Columbia Audubon Nature Sanctuary - 8:30 to 10:00 am, CANS entrance stub of Cunninham Drive, or Bray, which is off Fairview between Rollins and Chapel Hill - http://columbia-audubon.missouri.org/field_trips.shtml#20110405
- October 2 - Rock Bridge Revenge - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Rock Bridge MSP - <http://ctc.coin.org/calendar.html>

FoRB Membership - To join, *Clip and Mail* this section with check made out to FoRB, 200 Old 63 South Ste. 204, Columbia MO 65201

\$15	Park Staff/Vol, Student, Senior	Name _____
\$20	Individual	Address _____
\$35	Family	Phone _____ Email _____
\$100	Supporting	

FoRB is a 501.c.3 organization. That means your donations to us are tax deductible!

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

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For other news and events, visit the FoRB website at <http://rockbridge.missouri.org/>