

The BRIDGE

Volume 24: Issue 6 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

Dear Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, I want to share the letter below with all of you, since J.C. Kuessner was our guest speaker at our May membership program meeting, and the restoration/stabilization of the Hickham Cabin was the most significant topic of discussion -

Susan,

I enjoyed meeting with your members to discuss ways to improve our Park. It is always a pleasure to visit with folks that appreciate State Parks as much as I do. During our discussion, you asked how the contributions of money, material and labor from a source other than State Parks can be used on a project. The type of project as well as the complexity and cost of a project will determine how the donation is addressed. Although not without some requirements, we can work through each situation with ease.

Missouri State Parks is responsible for oversight of all projects. We assure that cultural and natural clearances are obtained before remodeling or a new construction project is started and the design and construction meets requirements and applicable building codes. For larger, capital improvement projects, a written agreement between the donor and Missouri State Parks would be developed that specifically designates the responsibilities and obligations of the donor and State Parks. This agreement would outline those items that are appropriate for the project such as: the financial responsibility of each party; requirements for contract or volunteer development of plans and specifications; contract or volunteer labor requirements; and project management from design through completion.

We look forward to working with you on projects that will provide quality experiences for all who visit Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

Sincerely,

J.C. Kuessner

Deputy Director Missouri State Parks

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday June 20, 6:30 pm at the Country Kitchen on Providence

FRIENDS PROGRAM: Devil's Icebox Cave and and Its Animal Life. Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist .

Many photos of the cave and cave animals will be featured in this PowerPoint presentation. Learn from park naturalist Roxie Campbell how the cave animals are doing. Also view video footage from inside Devil's Icebox Cave as you get a rare look inside this unique cave ecosystem. **Monday June 27, 2011 - 6:30 pm 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 to 10:00 am, McBaine contact Jim Gast jim.gast@dnr.mo.gov

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

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 – Boardwalk Construction Update, SPYC Workers

The in-house statewide construction crew is back in the park working on the boardwalk reroute. They were here in the fall but then got pulled off to go work on other projects around the state. Unless there is an emergency somewhere, they should be here until the project is completed. They are building stairs and two observation decks both on the upstream side of the Rock Bridge.

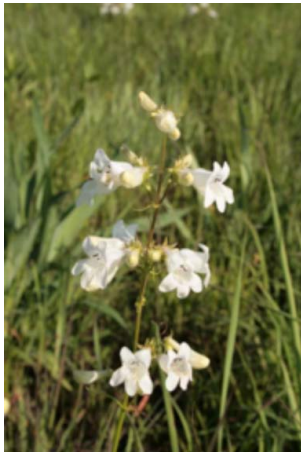
We have 3 maintenance seasonal employees working at the park this summer. We also have 7 SPYC (State Park Youth Corps) workers and hope to add two more. The SPYC workers' duties include interpretation, exotic species control and general maintenance such as mowing, cleaning and trail work. The two positions we hope to fill involve painting and roofing. If you know of anyone interested who is between the age of 18 and 21, please give me a call at 449-7402.

Don't you just love the sound of all the cicadas? I certainly do.

Park Natural History/History – Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist - Prairie Flowers are Looking Pretty

June is prime time to see prairie plants in bloom in the Grassland Trail area. Large patches of white beard's tongue flowers make it easy to find less abundance flowers – all were seeded together several years ago. Bees and a pipevine swallowtail butterfly were busy visiting the beard's tongue flowers. If you venture out around mid-June or later this summer, you may be treated to the blooms of lead plants. The purple spikes with orange stamens are striking against the background of their silvery-gray foliage. The name given to lead plant by the Omaha and Ponca tribes means "buffalo bellow plant" because it was the dominant plant in flower during the buffalo rutting season. The Lakota tribe named lead plant "zitka'tacan" which means "the bird's tree" because birds perch on its woody stems on the prairie where there are no trees. Last year's woody stems were still present despite the prescribed fire that was applied to the area last December. To find some lead plants, go straight (south) on the trail from the parking lot and at the fork, go left (you are on a mowed fireline), then walk through the tall grass just past the power line poles. My trek through the tall grass (about 45 min.) on 5/29/11 turned up no ticks.

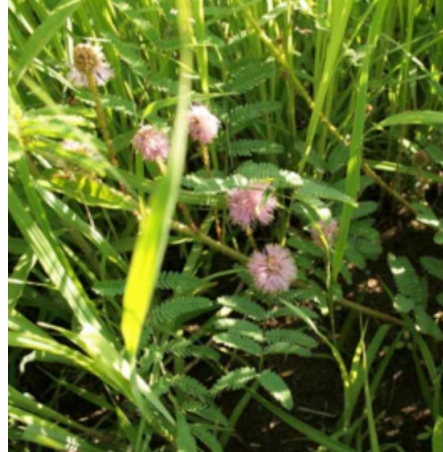
These prairie flowers aren't just looking pretty. They are a part of an ecosystem, being: pollinated by bees and butterflies, eaten by bison (back when bison roamed this area), sat on by grassland birds, cover for mice, fed upon by insects, etc. I suppose that's why the sensitive brier has two defensive mechanisms: 1) it has many cat claw shaped thorns and 2) it closes its leaves when touched. But, it is pretty too! The sensitive brier's flower is a poufy pink ball that is reminiscent of 4th of July fireworks.



Beard Tongue
Photos by Roxie Campbell



Lead Plant



Sensitive Briar

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

- 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

4th Annual NATURE DETECTIVES – for PRESCHOOLERS 3 to 6 years and a caregiver. FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: contact Meredith Donaldson, mjdonsn@aol.com or 573-443-0104. Sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and the Boone's Lick Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists –

- July 6 or 9 Forest Friends – 9:30 am to 10:30 am, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
- July 16 or 20 Bats in the Cave – 9:30 am to 10:30 am, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
- August 10 Stream Explore – 9:30 am to 10:30 am, Rock Bride Memorial State park

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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Park News: Boardwalk, SPYC
Natural History: Wildflowers
4th Annual Nature Detectives Dates

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