

The BRIDGE

Volume 24: Issue 7 July 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

Hope all of you are enjoying your summer with many family trips to Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. As I'm writing this, a deer just jumped over the fence into my yard, and I'm headed out to chase it back to the park. They like to eat the flowers out of my flower pots on my porch and deck.

Now onto the business side of our Friends. A memorandum of understanding was officially agreed upon and signed between FoRB and the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, Bill Bryan, Director. Also, the necessary information has been approved to place a boulder in the park recognizing the outstanding efforts of the original park board with a memorial to Lewis Stoerker.

The Hickham cabin is still a work in progress to either replace it or stabilize it. We're anticipating that those attending the Rock Bridge Men's Picnic will assess its needs and we'll be able to move forward from their input.

Red Leighton and a nominating committee has put a great list of new officers together whom we plan to install at the August meeting. Look for a ballot in the near future. Enjoy your summer and keep Cool!!

I want to sincerely thank all the Board Members for their many hours of dedicated volunteerism. Without your compassion, and love for the park, many jobs would go undone. You're all to be commended!!

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: No Meeting in July

FRIENDS PROGRAM: July 25, 6:30 pm Dinner, 7:00 pm Program, Country Kitchen on North Providence
Steve Johnson, Missouri River Relief "The Missouri River" (Park staff also take care of a section of the Katy trail, so what happens on the river is relevant to FoRB)

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

Thank You Downtown Optimists!

Downtown Optimists, for your \$1000 donation to FoRB. FoRB President Susan Haines receives check for \$1000 from Dottie Stoerker-Peters on behalf of the Downtown Optimists.



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 – Floods and the Parks

A lot of people have been talking about flooding. I can think of three parks in the system that are totally closed because of flooding. Several others experienced partial closings earlier this year. Katy Trail State Park was one of them.

Rock Bridge staff manage about 76 miles of the Katy Trail from Portland to the Missouri River in Boonville. The first place on the trail to "go under" is about ½ mile west of the tunnel in Rocheport. When the river gage is 26.1 feet at Boonville, the trail will be underwater. As the river gets higher, more places such as those near Wilton, Easley, and Claysville will be flooded. Check out <http://mostateparks.com/page/58843/potential-flood-locations> for more information.

The cross-state Katy Trail Ride is the week of June 19th (I'm writing this on the 19th because I'll be involved in the ride for the rest of the week) and we're hoping that the trail will remain dry. The predicted level for Wednesday, June 22nd, when the ride goes through Rocheport is 24.1 feet. If the prediction holds, we'll have two feet to spare.

Fortunately Rock Bridge doesn't flood from high river levels, but that doesn't mean it can't flood. I've seen the Devil's Icebox (lower) parking lot) flooded three times. Heavy rains (6 to 8 inches) in less than 8 hours were the cause.

And in case you were wondering since staff manage them as well, Jewell Cemetery and Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Sites also do not flood from high river levels.

Park Natural History/History – Roxie Campbell, Naturalist - Hairstreaks and Other Colorful Butterflies

A nice variety of butterflies inhabit Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. We've conducted butterfly surveys on four trails since 1997 in an effort to track how well park butterflies are doing. The current crew of volunteers has excelled in their knowledge of how to identify even the most difficult of species. The skippers and hairstreaks are some of those tricky to identify. Several kinds of hairstreaks have been of particular interest this year.

One found for the first time here in the park is the White M Hairstreak identified and photographed by Anthony Zukoff on 4/9/11 on the High Ridge Trail. Its food plants are oak trees. Anthony also reported a Juniper Hairstreak this spring, a species that was reported only one other time, which was on 4/21/07. On both occasions, these Juniper Hairstreak butterflies were seen near Coyote Bluff where its food plant, red cedar trees, are available. The Banded Hairstreak was first reported by Jon Rapp in 2009 and was reported again in 2010 and 2011. Its caterpillars feed upon walnut, hickory and oak trees. On 6/19/11, Donna Brunet identified a Striped Hairstreak, which had been reported on only one other occasion which was 6/14/09 by Rachel and Jeffrey Friel. Its food plants are wild plum trees. The Checkered Skipper was found for the first time on the High Ridge Trail last year and was discovered there again during the survey on 4/9/11. Its caterpillars feed only on plants in the Mallow family.

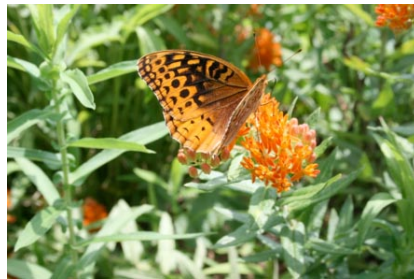
If you'd like to see some colorful butterflies but aren't so concerned about what kind they are or don't want to walk too far, there are two suggestions: Currently, the Great Spangled Fritillary has been getting nectar from the butterfly weed blooming in the rain garden at the park office. The Eastern-tailed blue is commonly seen visiting clover within the mowed trails of the Grassland and High Ridge Trails.



Juniper Hairstreak (above) and White M Hairstreak (below) by Anthony Zukoff



Checkered Skipper by Jon Rapp



Great Spangled Fritillary by Roxie Campbell

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

- 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
- August 18 - Park Information Meeting - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

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 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: Floods and Parks
Naturalist News: Butterflies

4th Annual Nature Detectives Dates

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