

# The BRIDGE

Volume 24: Issue 9 September 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 - Kevin Roberson, President – Moving Forward on FoRB Projects

The new board officers and directors were sworn-in at the August 15, 2011 Board meeting of Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. As the president, I am excited about the opportunity to lead this new group of officers and directors. There will be a strong mix of new people and ideas and more experienced members to lend a historical perspective and to guide the new members in executing their duties.

I look forward to hearing from all officers, directors, and members on their ideas for the future. I have pledged to bring decisiveness and focus to what we do as a board to allow us to be most effective and to make a difference in the future of the park.

We are nearing finalization of the memorial boulder and plaque honoring Lew Stoerker and will soon reach consensus on the Hickam cabin project.

I am also pleased that I have already received a pledge of a 10-person work-crew to work on invasive eradication in the park when we solidify a work-plan with the park staff and board. This is but a small example of what we will be able to accomplish in the near future to build on all of the great successes that are already a part of the heritage and history of this organization.

Please get out and enjoy the park in these dog-days of summer. I plan on spending a great deal of tomorrow enjoying my neighbor...Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. I hope to see you there!

**FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday September 19, 6:30 pm at the Country Kitchen on Providence**

**FRIENDS PROGRAM: Monday September 26, TBA**

### 2011-2012 Officers and Directors

2011 - 2012 Officers: President: Kevin Roberson; V.P.: Jeffrey Friel, Treasurer: Jan Weaver, Secretary: Brennan Van Matre  
2010 - 2012 Directors: Bill Hobbs, Sue Tillema  
2011 - 2013 Directors: Jon Rapp, Nick Recker, Scott Schulte

### FoRB Office Closing September 15, 2011

Due to the expense of maintaining the office and the low amount of use it gets, the FoRB board voted to close the office this year. If you donated furniture or other items to FoRB for the office and would like them back, please contact Jan Weaver at [weaverjc@missouri.edu](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu) or 573-424-9438 on or before September 15 to arrange for their return. These items will be sold or donated if they are not claimed: 2 brown folding table folding tables 6' long, 1 white folding table 6' long, 1 small tv, 1 mini fridge, 1 two drawer file cabinet, 1 four drawer lateral file cabinet, 6 office chairs, 1 carpet-covered room divider, 4 artificial plants 4' tall. The paper records, computers, printer/copiers, and sale items (t-shirts, cups, etc.) will be stored at Jan's house for the near future.

The **NEW ADDRESS** for FoRB is: **Friends of Rock Bridge MSP, P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO, 65205-7642**. Calls can be directed to Jan at **573-424-9438** and emails can go to [weaverjc@missouri.edu](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu).

## 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](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov)

### Park News - Jim Gast, Park Superintendent – Park Events, Boardwalk Update, Thanks to Susan Haines

Summer is almost over, but that doesn't mean there aren't plenty of events at the park and on the Katy Trail to keep us busy. Weekends on the Boardwalk continue in September and October. Also in October, park staff and volunteers will be involved with the Rock Bridge Revenge cross-country meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Hartsburg Pumpkin Festival on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the Cedar Creek Therapeutic Riding Center's fundraiser on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Katy Tram Tours on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The tram tours take people from Rocheport to McBaine and back.

The boardwalk reconstruction for the current phase is nearing completion. We applied for a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant for the next phase which is to construct a crossing over the creek and for a boardwalk to go partially under the Rock Bridge. Also included in the proposal is a request to replace the first two bridges on the Devil's Icebox trail after the kiosk. Money from an RTP grant is partially funding the current project.

I also wanted to say thanks to Susan Haines for stepping up and serving as president for the last two years. Without her involvement, FoRB may have become inactive.

### **Park Natural History/History – Chelsea Jeffries, State Park Youth Corps: Urban Kids Meet Park Insects**

I've volunteered at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park since the middle of July as an interpretive aide. I grew up in rural Northern Missouri and it has always been my dream to be an environmental teacher. I have already had experiences teaching kids and high school students, but the majority of these interactions have been with individuals that were considered rural. In early August, I was asked to assist park volunteer Meredith Donaldson with a UPOP Fun City program. UPOP stands for Urban Population Outreach Program, which is a program that allows under-represented urban children to experience the state parks and historic sites of Missouri.

As the program started, a butterfly glided by our group, causing a boy to scream. I walked over and starting calming him down and quietly told the group butterflies help to pollinate the flowers in the spring and they don't bite or sting, they just fly! He asked if I was sure. After telling him I was positive, he calmed down and the program resumed. A short time later, while sitting on a tarp, a little caterpillar fell off of a tree and landed in the middle of the group. All the children saw the caterpillar and ran. I picked it up and a boy asked "will he bite?" I replied, "He's very friendly, see? Would anyone like to hold him?" Everyone put their hands behind their backs. After asking someone to stick out their hand, I very lightly ran my finger across their palm. "That is what a caterpillar feels like when it walks across your palm." In that instant, I saw the fear leave this child's eyes and curiosity replaced it. After that, everyone in the group was curious. They took turns letting the caterpillar walk on their hands. Within minutes, everyone in the group experienced meeting this caterpillar up close and personally and came away with a new comfort level with insects and with the park. That program has been the highlight of my summer.

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

October 2 – Rock Bridge Revenge 7 mile – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park - <http://ctc.coin.org/calendar.html>

### **Outdoor, Nature, Environmental and Sustainability Events in the Area**

September 8 – Discover Nature Women Canoeing – 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City - <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

September 8 – Large Mammals in Missouri – 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City - <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

September 13 – Big Muddy Speaker Series – 7:00 pm, Les Bourgeois Bistro, Rocheport - [http://mostreamteam.org/Whats\\_Happening.asp](http://mostreamteam.org/Whats_Happening.asp)

September 17 & 18 – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Festival – 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Nifong Park, 2900 E. Nifong - [http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Activities\\_and\\_Programs/heritage-festival.php](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/Activities_and_Programs/heritage-festival.php)

September 18 – Sustainable Living Fair- 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Columbia College Student Commons - <http://www.slfcolumbia.org/>

October 1 – Jefferson City River Cleanup – 9:00 am to Noon, Carl Noren Access, North Jefferson City - [http://mostreamteam.org/Whats\\_Happening.asp](http://mostreamteam.org/Whats_Happening.asp)

October 1 – Harvest Hootenanny – 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Columbia Center for Urban Ag, 1207 Smith Street - <http://columbiaurbanag.org/>

---

### **FoRB Membership - To join, *Clip and Mail* this section with check made out to FoRB, P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205-7642**

\$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**

**P.O. Box 7642**

**Columbia MO 65205-7642**

### **September 2011 Issue**

President's News: Moving Forward with FoRB Projects

Park News: Park Events, Boardwalk, Thanks to Susan Haines

Naturalist News: Urban Kids Meet Park Insects

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