

# The BRIDGE

Volume 25: Issue 7 July 2012

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. email: [weaverjc@missouri.edu](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu), address: FoRB, P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205-7642 website: <http://www.friendsofrockbridgemsp.org/>

### President's Letter - Kevin Roberson: One More Friend this Month!

Greetings! I am fresh from the Rockbridge Men's Picnic last night and gearing up for the 4<sup>th</sup> tomorrow. I truly enjoyed the camaraderie of the Men's picnic and appreciate Red Leighton inviting me to attend and selling me the two tickets so that I could bring my good friend Dave Murphy as my guest. I have not been amongst that many important people since I was in Washington, D.C. I appreciate the Rockbridge Men's group and the support that they have given Forb over the many years.

Talk at the picnic went to volunteer organizations and growing their membership, definitely a challenge for the Friends group. Murphy said that the best way was to just go out and start drafting people and proceeding to show me how it was done as he lined up several people to attend the Downtown Optimist meeting and become active (again for some). I pledge to reach out and get 1 more Friend this month and I challenge the other members to do the same. We have many projects going that could use a little help and a fresh point of view. As we gear up for the fall work day and look forward to getting started on restoring our cabin, let's reach out to like-minded individuals to join us and make us stronger.

Please email me at [kwrcdr@aol.com](mailto:kwrcdr@aol.com) or phone me at 573 673-3068 if you have any ideas on how to make our park better or know of any prime candidates for membership. Keep cool and enjoy the park.

Best regards, Kevin Roberson

**FRIENDS BOARD MEETING:** Monday July 16, 6:30 pm, at the Park Office, 5901 S Hwy 163

**NATURE DETECTIVES** – A Friends sponsored program for pre-schoolers and their caregivers  
Email Meredith Donaldson to register for the upcoming programs: [mjdonlsn@gmail.com](mailto:mjdonlsn@gmail.com)

- July 11 and 14 9:30 or 10:30
- August 1 9:30 or 10:30

### Two Great Moth Programs!

- July 24 - **Photo Presentation on Moths** – 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Orr Street Studios – Photos by nature photographer Donna Brunet
- July 28 – **Attracting Moths with Bait and Light** – 8:30 pm to 10:0 pm, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Gilbert Shelter, Loop 3 parking area – join us for S'mores while watching for moths

### 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: Scott Schulte

## 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: Sprucing up the Park, Mary Toalson Remembered

The park is getting spruced up with the help of our seasonal and SPYC workers. In June, they painted and re-shingled the flush toilet building and re-shingled the Gilbert shelter. They painted several exterior doors at the office and service complex as well as for the pit latrine at the Special Use Area. We will be re-shingling the Rockbridge Mills shelter later this summer as well. They weed-whipped the trail in the Gans Creek Wild Area by hand (remember no mechanical equipment in the Wild Area). They replaced several boards on the boardwalk trail. They have also been working on invasive species control. They accomplished all of this while also helping to get the Katy Trail in shape for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Katy Trail Ride and having to work in oppressive heat the last week of June.

A big thank you goes to Alex Park. As part of his Eagle Scout candidacy, Alex led a group of volunteers in cleaning up the Karst Trail area and removed interior fence in the Grassland Trail.

In case you haven't heard, Mary Toalson passed away on June 30th. Her family owned the property where the Rock Bridge is. I always enjoyed listening to Mary talk about growing up in the area.



**Mary Toalson July 21, 1925 – June 30, 2012.** Mary Ruth Ingram Toalson was born at Rock Bridge farm, now the park, and attended Lakeview School, University High School and the University of Missouri. She was a teacher, a farmer, a food services worker, a member and deacon of Little Bonne Femme Baptist Church and a foster grandparent at West Boulevard Elementary School. She was also a long time friend of the park and an important source of stories and information about the area's past.

She is survived by five children, five grandchildren, six great grandchildren, two sisters and a brother and numerous nephews, nieces and friends.

Complete obituary at: <http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/2012/jul/01/mary-ruth-toalson-1925-2012/?obituaries>.

**Park Natural History–Chanel Daugherty, State Park Youth Corps: The Music of Nature**

As an interpretive aide here at the wonderful Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, I have learned many things while observing and leading groups of children along the Devil's Icebox Trail as well as through Connor's Cave. I expected to teach these young children about the importance of preserving our natural resources and the animals that inhabit them, however, I didn't expect to learn so much in return. I learned that children have the ability to hear music in nature that adults tend to overlook.

For example, as I was leading a group of children on the boardwalk, I was tapped on the shoulder by a small girl from the group. I asked what she needed and she replied with "Do you hear that?" Honestly, all I could hear were a few birds including a woodpecker, which didn't seem that extraordinary since we were in the woods. I asked her what she meant and she said that she could hear a bird band. This confused me, so I asked "What's a bird band?" She then explained, "You can hear the drummer beating on the wood and the rest of the band playing the song." I had to smile because only with the imagination of a child could a woodpecker be called a drummer.

She also reminded me that nature is routinely producing music that we often don't notice or we take for granted. This young girl was able to tune in to the music of the trail. This truly shows that children can indeed teach us a thing or two about appreciating nature. So, try and take some time to sit quietly and enjoy the music of nature. The park provides many opportunities to hear the music of nature, including a handy bench just past the bulletin board (shady spot by the creek) near the Devil's Icebox parking lot. Don't forget to listen for the "bird band."

**Park Events – in the park unless otherwise noted, if registration required call: 573-449-7400**

- July 24 - Photo Presentation on Moths – 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Orr Street Studios
- July 28 – Attracting Moths with Bait and Light – 8:30 pm to 10:0 pm, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Gilbert Shelter, Loop 3 parking area.
- August 17 or 18 – Watch Bats Fly Out of Devil's Icebox – 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm, Devil's Icebox, registration required

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

**July 2012 Issue**

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- Park News: Sprucing up the Park, Mary Toalson Remembered
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