

# The BRIDGE

Volume 26: Issue 3 March 2013

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: Parkside, Projects' Progress and Volunteer Thank You!

Greetings Friends! More news on the Parkside development on the North boundary of our Park: The developer asked for this to be tabled at the City Council meeting and will bring it up again at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. It may be re-submitted to the Planning and Zoning Committee, if necessary.

The Missouri State Park's staff, led by Bill Bryan, has been working with the developer to get a plan that is acceptable to the supporters of the Park. They are focusing on keeping the development as far from the Park boundary as possible, protecting the large trees, having buffer zone of appropriate plants, and keeping impervious services to a minimum. Director Bryan has stated that when they have gotten the best deal that they can, they will discuss it with the friends group and see if we can all support it. At that meeting we will decide if we accept the plan or continue to protest.

News from the Hickam Cabin Committee: architect Kimi Chinn and the project engineer met with the board to discuss the plans and the contract for development and blue-print. The board stated that they did not need to approve the plan, which was the committee's prerogative, but that we would approve the contract. We did enjoy the presentation and I personally was very pleased with the work that has been done on this project and the plan presented.

In other big news: The contract has been signed for the solar electrification of the Mills Shelter. Thanks Scott for all of your hard work in keeping this moving.

Thanks Andy, Brian, and Christine for their help in picking up trash along 163 before the blizzards struck.

The board also picked the second Saturday in April, April 13 as our second biennial Park work day. Gird your loins and let's get ready to make the park a better place to visit.

Best regards, Kevin Roberson - President, FoRB [kwrcdr@aol.com](mailto:kwrcdr@aol.com)

**FRIENDS BOARD MEETING:** Monday March 18, 6:30 pm, at the **Park Office Building**, Lower Level. Agenda items include reports on the Hickam Cabin renovation and Solar electricity for Rock Bridge Mills Shelter, planning for this spring's Rock Bridge Renewal.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**ROCK BRIDGE RENEWAL:** Saturday April 13, 8:30 am to 11:30 am, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot. Three Projects: Honeysuckle Removal, Old Fence Removal, Litter Cleanup on 163. There will be opportunities for adults, youth and families. Email Kevin at [kwrcdr@aol.com](mailto:kwrcdr@aol.com). Stay for pizza lunch afterwards!

**EARTH DAY TABLING:** Sunday April 21, Noon to 6:00 pm, Peace Park in downtown Columbia. Can you help share info about the park and FoRB? Three shifts: Noon to 2:00 pm, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Email Jan at [weaverjc@missouri.edu](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu).

### 2012-2013 Officers and Directors

2012 - 2013 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.mostatetparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov)

### Park Superintendent News – Jim Gast: Snow, Deer, Burns, Friends' Projects

Snow and lots of it. After the first storm there were people hitting the trails with their cross-country skis. Not so many after the second one—probably because it happened during the week instead of being closer to the weekend (as the first one was). When it melts, it will provide much needed moisture. As I write this on the afternoon of February 28<sup>th</sup>, it's snowing again. This time, they are calling for up to an inch.

It appears we don't have a lot of tree damage and our structures are holding up. Some of our neighbors were without power for 36 hours. The park lost power for a little bit on Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> and again on Wednesday, the 27<sup>th</sup>.

We recommended that we do not have a deer hunt this year. The snow came too late for us to conduct a helicopter count.

We're trying to conduct our prescribed burns in the Grassland, Karst and High Ridge areas. The weather has not been very cooperative.

Thanks to the Friends, work is progressing on supplying solar power to the Rockbridge Mills shelter house and restoring Hickam Cabin. Plans for both have been submitted to the division for approval.

I strongly encourage you to come see the park with all this snow. It really is quite beautiful.

### **Naturalist News – Roxie Campbell: Melting Snow Means Better Habitat for Frogs and Toads**

While we may or may not have enjoyed the snow we've received, it is welcome moisture that will benefit wildlife such as frogs and toads that need ponds for laying eggs and raising young. With the severe drought, the June, 2012 frog and toad survey had little to report ... except that is for three bats, one barred owl, six lightning bugs and the flyover of the international space station! Statewide, reports from those who monitor frogs and toads indicated fewer numbers especially for the June survey and reported species calling several weeks earlier than usual March through May.

This year's surveys may reveal more about the effects of the 2012 drought as we suspect that fewer frogs completed metamorphosis and that some adults may have died from lack of moisture and food.

Here in March, 2013, we should start hearing Northern spring peepers, Western chorus frogs, Southern leopard frogs, pickerel frogs and American toads. Each can be identified by its distinct call. Pickerel frogs, whose call sounds like a snore, are detected at only 1% of statewide survey locations, but are usually detected at several Rock Bridge ponds – probably because pickerel frogs overwinter in park caves in addition to finding suitable habitat in park ponds.

Helping conduct frog and toad surveys on three nights in spring and summer is just one task that park volunteers do. If you'd like to help, contact Roxie Campbell at [roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov) or call 573-449-7400. Or, just for fun, listen for frog calls on warm evenings (above 50 degrees °F).

### **Events**

- March 9 - Columbia Crawdads Stream Cleanup - 8:00 am to 11:00 am, Columbia - <http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/CMS/webcal/event.php?id=1747>
- March 20 - Nature Interpretation and Education, John Cuning DNR - 7:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd. Columbia - <http://columbia-audubon.org/meetings.php>
- March 21-23 - Earth Hour Events in Columbia - March 21 noon to 1:00 pm, tour of LEED Certified City Hall, Alternative Transportation on Free City Bus, Earth Hour March 23, 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm - <http://www.columbiaclimatechangecoalition.org>
- April 13 - 17th Annual Cleanup Columbia - bring friends and neighbors together to clean up an area of Columbia of your choice starting on or before 10:00 am, register and get supplies from Columbia Volunteer Programs, picnic at Twin Lakes afterwards - [http://mostreamteam.org/Whats\\_Happening.asp](http://mostreamteam.org/Whats_Happening.asp)
- April 21 – Columbia Earth Day

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

### **March 2013 Issue**

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Superintendent's News: Snow, Deer, Burns and Friends' Projects

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