

The BRIDGE

Volume 26: Issue 4 April 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, address: FoRB, P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205-7642 website: <http://www.friendsofrockbridgemsp.org/>

President's Letter - Kevin Roberson: Making Noise for Rock Bridge

Greeting members! Spring is upon us and the excitement is in the air after a long winter. Each morning I walk the dog before sunrise and hear the timber doodles penting and giving display flights as the other birds are waking up and starting to give their first calls in the morning to establish their territories. At night I hear the spring peepers calling and a few chorus frogs and even some leopard frogs calling. It seems like everything is making noise and showing off to get what they want and need.

Friends, we are the same. We need to make noise and show off to get what we want and need. The development North of the Park is set to go before the Columbia City Council on Monday the 15th and as of now the developer has not been willing to get the percent impervious to a level that we can support. Please plan on attending the council meeting on the 15th and please contact the council members before the 15th to let them know what we need and deserve.

The board also picked the second Saturday April 13 as our second biennial Park work day. We will meet in the Devil's Ice Box parking lot at 9:00am for a three hour stint at Park improvement. We will work on invasive eradication and fence removal and maybe a few odds and ends. Come on out and support your park.

Best regards, Kevin Roberson - President, FoRB kwrcdr@aol.com

Hickam Cabin Update: At the February meeting, the board approved payment for architectural and engineering plans for the cabin's refurbishment. With these plans FoRB can get a bid on the full costs of refurbishing. Once we have that information the board will decide if the project is one that it can afford to carry out given our fundraising capacity. Stay tuned

Solar Project Update: At the February meeting the board approved payment for the solar cells for Rock Bridge Mills Shelter. With the batteries and the solar cells in the bag, the next step will be arranging a time for the actual installation. Once solar power is installed, the park will be able to hold evening programs at the Shelter.

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday April 8, 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 Earth Day.

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. 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.

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.mostateparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov

Park Superintendent News – Jim Gast: A Wild Spring

What a wild spring we're having so far. Nine inches of snow, lows in the mid-teens, highs nearing 70, enough overall precipitation that we are no longer in a drought. Things are greening up, but the wildflowers seem to be taking their time emerging this year. We haven't had to mow yet. Last year we were mowing in mid-March. Looks like we'll be staying above freezing.

On the March 29th frog and toad survey, we had spring peepers, southern leopard and western chorus frogs as well as eastern American toads. The survey is done by listening to the calls. You can find the calls at <http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/types/reptiles-and-amphibians>. Select the frog or toad you want to hear. Thanks to the volunteers who completed the survey. If you are interested in helping in future survey, please contact Roxie at 449-7400.

We'll be working with the State Park Youth Corp (SPYC) again this summer. This is the fourth year of the program. SPYC workers assigned to the park will be working on stewardship projects and interpretation.

Connor's Cave will open on April 13th this year. We still won't be conducting Wild Cave Tours of the Devil's Icebox cave due to White-nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS was found in three new counties in Missouri this winter. That brings the total to seven.

Naturalist News – Weekly Wildflower Walks Begin Again

Naturalist extraordinaire Randall Clark will be leading his Weekly Wildflower Walks on Thursday evenings in April and early May from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Meet at the Devil's Icebox Parking Lot.

What can you expect? Typically these species bloom in April: Tickseed coreopsis, Spring beauty, Spiderwort, Bellwort, Rue anemone, Bloodroot, Celadine poppy, Wild sweet William, Shooting star, Toothwort, Fire pink, Wild ginger, Pussytoes, Jacob's ladder, Bird's-foot violet, White trillium, Wild hyacinth, Dogtooth violet, Wake robing, Dutchman's breeches, Columbine, Wild geranium, Virginia bluebells, Shining blue star, Crested iris, Downy phlox, May apple. You can find pictures of these and other flowers at <http://www.missouriwildflowerguide.com>.

Events

- April 4 through May 16 – Weekly Wildflower Walks with Randall Clark – 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
- April 13 - 17th Annual Cleanup Columbia - bring friends and neighbors together to clean up an area of Columbia of your choice (**CHOOSE ROCK BRIDGE!**) 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
- April 21 – Columbia Earth Day – Noon to 7:00 pm, Peace Park, Downtown Columbia and MU Campus

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

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Superintendent's News: A Wild Spring

Naturalist News: Spring Wildflower Walks Start Up