

The BRIDGE

Volume 26: Issue 7 July 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: Financials, Fundraising and Projects

Greetings! I hope that you made it through the heat wave of the last few weeks and are enjoying this cooler weather. This is now perfect hiking weather for the park. The chiggers have just started and the ticks have been bad....protect yourself!

We had a productive board meeting in June with a strong quorum and got going to discuss issues at 6:30pm. First we discussed the taxes and financial report that was generated by Jan Weaver. We should be very proud of the financial control that we exercise over our budget and financials. Jan reported that we had ~ \$34,000 in assets, and ~\$16,400 in liabilities for a grand total of about \$17,500 in available funds. We also discussed and voted formally on her request to raise \$3,000 to help defray the costs of Nature Detectives and the UPOP program that serves to bring city youths to the park. This was passed unanimously.

The rest of the meeting was rounded out discussing the solar electrification of the Mills shelter and the Hickam cabin update. State parks has suggested changes in the solar electrification plan and Scott Schulte said he would run down some answers for us. The cabin project progress has slowed due to some personal issues with the contractor, but he maintains that the project is still a go and he can finish it.

In other big news, we voted to buy some butterfly nets for the butterfly census projects.

Take care and get out to our park!

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

Hickam Cabin Update: No Update, the Cabin Committee is waiting for a proposal (and costs) from the contractor.

Solar Project Update: State Parks has taken a close look at the proposal and suggested changes in the plan that require discussion with the contractor.

Parkside Update: The Parkside proposal has been revised and resubmitted for the council to consider at its July 1, 2013 meeting. If the city council decides the changes are significant, the proposal will go back to Planning and Zoning for reconsideration, including public comment on the changes. If the city council decides the changes are not significant, the developer must wait 12 months to resubmit. The proposal comes in at 24% impervious surface, still higher than the 20% preferred by State Parks in this case, and the 15% approved as a standard by FoRB's board.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Nature Detectives and Urban Populations Outreach Program (UPOP): Volunteers are needed for these dates

July 18 – Nature Detectives: Bats in the Cave – 9:00 am

July 19 – UPOP: Fun City Youth – afternoon

July 20 – Nature Detectives: Bats in the Cave – 9:00 am

July 22 – UPOP: Moving Ahead Youth – 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

July 25 – UPOP: Moving Ahead Youth – 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Contact Meredith Donaldson at mjdonlson@gmail.com if you can help!

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday July 15, 6:30 pm, at the **Park Office Building**, Lower Level. Agenda items include reports on the Hickam Cabin renovation, Solar electricity for Rock Bridge Mills Shelter and an update on Parkside.

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

Events

- Thursdays through August 15 – Evening Hikes – 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, DIB parking lot, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park - <http://mostateparks.com/events/park/rock-bridge-memorial-state-park>
- July 12 & 13 – Watch Bats Fly out of Devil's Icebox Cave – 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm, Devil's Icebox, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park - <http://mostateparks.com/events/park/rock-bridge-memorial-state-park>
- July 23 to 26 - Missouri River 340 Race - an endurance race across the state of Missouri from Kansas City to St. Charles – <http://rivermiles.com/mr340>
- July 25 – Mysterious Moths – 7:30 pm, Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City - <http://mdc.mo.gov/events/location/Runge/heading/Runge%20Nature%20Center>

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: Wild Week on the Katy

As you may know, besides taking care of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, staff also take care of Jewell Cemetery State Historic Site, Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site and the Katy Trail from Portland to the Missouri River at Boonville.

We already knew that the week of June 16th was going to be an exciting time on the Katy—it was the week of the 13th Annual Katy Trail Ride. Two other important events also happened—a woman fell onto the Missouri River embankment and had to be rescued by boat and two feral hogs were killed at the Rocheport trailhead by Conservation Agents.

This year's Katy Ride started in Clinton and ended up in St. Charles. The overnight stays were in Sedalia, Columbia, Mokane and Marthasville. I rode the entire thing—my ninth time doing so. The ride went very well considering the trail was under water in many places less than two weeks before the start. When the trail floods and recedes, there is a washboard on the trail surface and in some places the mud was eight inches thick—we are dealing with the “Big Muddy” after all. However, the construction crews did a good job of getting the mud off the trail. They also smoothed out a lot of the rough spots.

Rock Bridge also had some damage from the rain that caused flooding. There was lots of debris on the trails and half the Devil's Icebox parking lot was under water. The biggest damage was to the Springbrook Trail bridge spanning Little Bonne Femme Creek. The flood waters washed away dirt under the south pier resulting in the bridge leaning to one side. It is currently closed until it can be repaired and that has not yet been scheduled.

Naturalist News – Peter Hayes, State Park Youth Corps: The Busy Boardwalk

“Weekends on the Boardwalk” is back in full swing this summer for yet another year. We have had over 350 participants for the Connor's Cave tours and over 250 for boardwalk interpretive discussions in just the month of June alone. These park visitors have ranged from the regulars, to first timers, and even guests from countries abroad. Missouri Master Naturalist volunteers have been assisting with the programs alongside the State Park Youth Corps Interpretive Aides. It's great to have such a variety of people all working together to provide the public with such a great experience.

During the Weekends we point out marvels inside Connor's Cave and discuss the power of water to form caves. The water running through the cave system comes from an 8,500 acre watershed that includes hundreds of sinkholes and a losing stream. It's amazing when people understand that this water runs underground for several miles and then returns to the surface as a stream that makes its way to the Missouri river and the Atlantic Ocean. All from the rain! The boardwalk discussions give the public a chance to ask questions about our park and get an informed answer. This can range from the ecology of the park, information on bats, the details of the Devils Icebox Cave system, and even the unique pink planarian.

As naturalists on the boardwalk, we have shared many experiences with the public this June. We have seen 10th birthdays, winning Show-Me-State game teams and many first-time cave experiences. The beauty of nature and seeing the crowd get so excited about their experiences at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park has created in me even more passion for my summer naturalist job.

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 2013 Issue

President's News: Finances, Fundraising and Projects
Superintendent's News: Wild Week on the Katy
Naturalist News: The Busy Boardwalk