

The BRIDGE

Volume 26: Issue 8 August 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: Parkside Development Developments and Fall Work Day

Summer is finally here and we definitely felt the heat at the August 7 Columbia Planning and Zoning committee meeting. After impassioned discussion on both sides of the issue the P and Z Commission voted unanimously to support the Southside development on the North West border of our park. The Friends group and many others were against this based mainly on the density of development and impervious surface percentage. We think that impervious percent should be 15% and this development currently has 24-26%. This is without the allowed addition of 5 more homes and the concomitant increase in impervious percentage.

The proposal still needs to go before city council for final approval. FoRB will be meeting with other parties concerned about the development to discuss how to make their case about the development's impacts on the park to the council.

In more positive news, the Park's 3rd biannual Rock Bridge Renewal work-day will be held on Saturday September 28th. See below for details.

Take care and get out to our park!

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

Hickam Cabin Update: The contractor submitted a bid above the board's expectations, The board asked the committee to review items in the bid to see if the cost can be brought down and then asked them to submit a revised proposal for a new bid. The board and committee also had more detailed discussions about fundraising to clarify expectations about fundraising.

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 city council allowed the developer to resubmit the proposal to the P&Z commission. The commission approved the proposal, feeling that the developer had made substantial changes to the proposal. An ad hoc committee will be meeting to discuss a presentation before council on the development.

3rd Biennial Rock Bridge Renewal Saturday September 28, 8 am to 1 pm, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot, RBMSP

8:00 to 8:30 – Sign-in for an activity (Invasive Plant Removal, Old Fencing Removal, Trash Pick-up)

8:30 to 11:30 – Work time!

11:30 to 1:00 - Volunteer Lunch at Rock Bridge Mills Shelter

Volunteers should bring a filled water bottle, hat, insect repellent and sunscreen and wear long pants and sturdy closed toe shoes. If possible, it will be helpful if each volunteer brought the following: for Invasive Plants – gloves, loppers, shovel; for Old Fencing – gloves, wire cutting tools; for Trash Pick-up – gloves

FoRB will provide these: for Invasive Plants – gloves, loppers, shovel, rope, herbicide, brushes; for Old Fencing – gloves, wire cutting tools, pry bars, rope; Trash Pick-up – gloves, safety vests, trash bags

If you would like to come and help, email Jan at weaverjc@missouri.edu, we need a head count for tools and lunch!

If you can help lead a work team email Kevin at kwrcdr@aol.com, we need experienced folks to lead work teams!

Any volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. We will have kid-level stewardship projects for families.

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday August 19, 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, the September workday 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

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:

Our annual Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5th, beginning at 6:30 PM. We will meet at the Gilbert Shelter. The meeting gives people an opportunity to comment on the operation of not only Rock Bridge, but also Clark's Hill and Jewell Cemetery. A separate meeting will be held for the Katy Trail during the Hartsburg Pumpkin Festival, the second weekend in October. A specific date and time have not been decided at this time. I'll let you know.

We received a phone call from Anna McFerrin, the archivist from Kansas City Parks and Recreation, about a plaque she found while cleaning out one of their buildings. The plaque she found was the original Carol Stoerker/Park Dedication plaque. We are working on getting it back to the park for safe-keeping. A Big thank you to Anna for calling the park when she made the discovery.

Is there some place in the park that you've always wanted to go to, but didn't want to go by yourself? In the next few months, we'll be making plans for the First Day Hike 2014. If you have any suggestions, send them to me at jim.gast@dnr.mo.gov.

Naturalist News –

A bird that is a rare summer resident in central and southwest Missouri has been consistently seen and heard in the Western part of the Grassland Trail area this spring and summer. This is the first time in the park's history that this species has been recorded for the park! The park's new resident is the Henslow's Sparrow, a short-tailed and flat-headed sparrow with a pale bill, striped olive-colored head and reddish wings. It prefers dense grass of 1-2 ft. in height with slightly taller song perches of briars or shrubs. Its flight is low and jerky and its song is a weak "tsi-lick." We were unable to determine if a breeding pair raised young or not.

Members of Columbia Audubon Society made these observations and alerted park staff to the presence of the Henslow's Sparrow. Audubon members from around the state record bird data from Missouri State Parks in a database called SPARKS stored on their website: www.mobirds.org. This is a great example of how volunteers can help. In this case, the data tells park staff that management efforts had the desired effect and that the Grassland Trail area is fulfilling its role as habitat for prairie and grassland birds.

The RBMSP list is at <http://www.mobirds.org/CACHE/AreaChecklist.aspx?site=1130>. There are 170 birds on this list compiled by visitors to the park.

Many grassland species of birds have been in decline around the state due to habitat loss. The presence of this sparrow demonstrates the value of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park as a wildlife refuge.



Henslow's Sparrow, photograph by Carl Gerhardt. From the Audubon Society of Missouri Photo Gallery

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

August 2013 Issue

President's News: Parkside, Work Day

Superintendent's News: Park Info Meeting, Plaque Found!

Naturalist News: Rare Bird!