

# The BRIDGE

Volume 26: Issue 10 October 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Semi-Annual Rock Bridge Renewal

Greetings! I have the pleasure to report that we have had another successful Rock Bridge Renewal on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. We worked on trash removal, invasive plant removal, and old farm fence removal. 400 invasive plants were cut-off and herbicided by Eric Bohle, Linnaea Roberson, Patrice Albert, SPYCE worker Darayle Jackson and Jan Weaver. Kristen Veum and her children removed trash around the parking lot by Devil's Icebox, and 400 feet of fencing was removed by Jim Weaver, Brian Cottle, Eric Seaman, Darwin Roberson, and Kevin Roberson. Christine Roberson volunteered with the folks putting on Rock Bridge Revenge, an annual footrace through the park. The pizza for lunch was donated by Shakespeare's by Kurt Mirtsching and the drinks were donated by the Roberson family.

Thanks to all and good work!

We are looking for ways to increase the number of volunteers next spring, so let us know if you have any good ideas. I know that I will remember this activity for a long time to come; at least as long as chigger bites last!

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather in our park.

See you in the park!

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

### Rock Bridge Renewal – September 2013



Photos (left to right) 1. Volunteer Kristen Veum and kids picking up trash; 2. SPYCE Intern Darayle Jackson lopping off honeysuckle, 3. Volunteer Linnaea Jackson pulling up honeysuckle; and 4. Volunteers Eric Bohle and Patrice Albert putting honeysuckle with berries into the dumpster to reduce new sprouts

**Hickam Cabin Update:** Waiting on new bid from restorer

**Solar Project Update:** Waiting on Solar Cell installation

**FRIENDS BOARD MEETING:** Monday October 21, 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.

### 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

### Nature School Planned for the Park

Columbia Public Schools and State Parks are joining together to establish a nature themed school in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. The school would serve four 5<sup>th</sup> Grade classes of 20 students each, with interested students being selected by lottery from throughout Columbia. The curriculum will use nature as a way to explore, learn about and master 5<sup>th</sup> grade requirements in math, English, and social studies as well as in science. The building will sit in the existing footprint of a barn (that will be taken down) in the upper park, near Hickam Cabin. Classes are expected to open sometime in 2014.

## 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.mostatoparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov)

### **Park Information Meeting Tuesday October 22, 5:30 pm Gilbert Shelter (upper entrance) at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park**

The informational meeting will address Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Jewell Cemetery State Historic Site and Clark's Hill/ Norton State Historic Site. The meeting is part of an ongoing effort by Missouri State Parks to ensure the public has input and knowledge on services provided in parks and historic sites.

### **Fall Color Hike – Saturday October 19 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Gans Creek Wild Area - Coyote Bluff – Shooting Star Bluff**

A 2 mile guided hike – ages 10 and up - registration required 573-449-7400 or email [roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov)

### **Park Superintendent News – Roxie Campbell for Jim Gast: Two New Foot Bridges Under Construction**

The first two foot bridges of the Devil's Icebox Trail are being replaced. The work is being done by the Missouri State Park's construction crew. Efforts were made to minimize damage to nearby trees. Culverts and gravel were used to create a way for heavy equipment to cross the creek without damaging the creek banks. That material will be removed when the work is completed. We're looking forward to having new bridges. Until the new bridges are finished, visitors are being asked to take a detour that involves crossing the creek using stepping stones.

### **Naturalist News – Roxie Campbell: Watching Out for Bats**

One of the trees that the construction crew needed to remove in order to build the two new foot bridges was a dead tree with loose bark. Because bats sometimes roost under loose bark, I went out at sunset and watched to see if bats would emerge from the tree after their daytime sleep. There were none, so authorization was obtained to bring the tree down.

During late summer and early fall, bats tend to congregate and migrate to locations close to where they intend to hibernate even though they continue to feed on flying insects at night. Around mid-October, most bat species will move into caves and begin their hibernation, which will continue until spring. A few species don't hibernate in caves including the red bat, which continues to feed on warm winter evenings. Winter surveys of the first 1.5 miles of Devil's Icebox Cave typically find about 2,000 hibernating bats including a few hundred of the Federally-endangered Indiana bats. Our gray bats, also Federally-endangered, raise their young here in the summer, but choose to hibernate in cooler caves of Southern Missouri. Guano pile measurements indicate that several thousand gray bats used the cave this summer.

Devil's Icebox Cave remains closed to protect bats and prevent the spread of White Nose Syndrome to the cave. Connor's Cave and the Rock Bridge Alcoves will be closed as of October 14 for the hibernation season. The Rock Bridge Tunnel remains open year round.

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

### **October 2013 Issue**

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