

The BRIDGE

Volume 26: Issue 11 November 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: Fall Color and other Ephemeral Things

Greetings fellow FORB members. I hope that you all are enjoying the park as much as I am. This is my favorite time of the year: cool nights, crisp days, low humidity, (no ticks and chiggers), and beautiful fall colors. I have never seen the colors as pretty as they were on the 29th of October. All of the oaks were as pretty as the maples. The colors were very beautiful, but very short-lived.

Speaking of ephemeral, I look at my time on the board as I do my time on earth, a gift but of unknown duration. With this time of unknown duration it is important to decide what to accomplish and what to do. The board members and volunteers have decided to try and make their state and community a little bit better place for everyone, especially children. We have accomplished much and continue to make progress. The latest completed project is the solar electrification of Rock Bridge Mills shelter. This project was spearheaded by fellow board member Scott Schulte and shows how with concerted effort we may all make a positive difference in our community.

If you wish to work with us to improve our community and help support the park and park staff, drop me an email and we will sign you up. kwrcdr@aol.com

Enjoy!

Kevin Roberson

President, FoRB Board

Hickam Cabin Update: Restorer Clifford Wagner has received revised architectural plans and is preparing a new bid for the board to consider.

Solar Project Update: Solar installation completed!

SOLAR PROJECT DEBUT: Monday November 18, 5:30 pm, Rock Bridge Mills Shelter (just south of the Devil's Icebox parking lot. Join us for the lighting of the shelter and a cup of hot chocolate!

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday November 18, Location TBA. Agenda items include updates on the Hickam Cabin renovation

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

Support Columbia Downtown Optimists this Holiday Season!

Since 1936 when the Downtown Optimist Club was formed, over 1 million dollars have been raised and put back into youth organizations in the Columbia and Boone County area. One of those organizations is FoRB. Every year for the past several years, the Downtown Optimists have supported our Nature Detectives (for pre-schoolers and their caregivers) and our Urban Population Outreach Program (for low income and minority youth). Please help the Optimists with their fundraising projects so they can continue to help youth organizations in Columbia and Boone County.

Please consider buying your **tree** at their lot this year and/or purchasing **Koeze nuts** products for family, employees, clients, teachers, coaches and other folks. The tree lot will open after Thanksgiving at the Optimist Clubhouse at 1201 Grand (just off the business loop). You can purchase Koeze nuts products from any Optimist board member. Information is available at <http://www.downtownoptimistclub.org>



image from user DR04, Wikimedia Commons

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: Construction Update

The solar panel project is complete. We now have four lights and four outlets at the Rockbridge Mills shelter and will be doing interpretive programs there. Thanks to the Friends of Rock Bridge for donating the panels and accessories to the park and thanks to Scott Schulte, who spearheaded the effort. Come see the new lights on Monday, November 18th at 5:30 PM. The Rockbridge Mills shelter is on the Sinkhole Trail, not too far from the Devil's Icebox parking lot.

By the time you read this, the bridge project should be completed except for some landscaping work. Come check out the two new bridges on the Devil's Icebox trail. No word yet on when the bridge over Little Bonne Femme Creek will be repaired.

Two double-unit precast concrete vault toilets have been ordered to replace the current vault toilet at the Devil's Icebox parking. The delivery date is December 31st.

An additional large barbeque grill was added and the old one was replaced at the Gilbert Shelter as part of the 20 million dollar General Revenue Small and Maintenance and Repair projects that the legislature approved for all Missouri State Parks.

State Parks granted FoRB an extension to raise funds and rebuild Hickam Cabin. The new deadline is June 15, 2014. Thanks to Susan Haines for taking the lead on this project and also to the members of the restoration committee.

Naturalist News – Roxie Campbell: Hike With Your Artistic Lens On to Enjoy a Treat for Your Senses

If you look at nature with an artistic lens, you'll notice a great variety of shapes, forms, textures and colors. We've been enjoying the brilliant colors of fall which are now fading. Now is the time to pick up leaves from the forest floor and notice their different shapes and whether the edges are toothed or smooth. Do they feel smooth or rough? Is there a woody smell?

With leaves off of the trees, you may notice that the bark of trees varies a lot. Hackberry has warty bumps and ridges. Walnut has dark brown furrows. White oak is off-white and flaky. The smooth white bark of sycamore stands out along the creeks. The branch structure varies by species as well. Some, like pin oak, are very symmetrical with each side being a mirror of the other side. White oaks spread outward with large branches. Notice how some trees lean way over to reach pockets of sunshine, especially above creeks. Even though it looks wintery out, I'd encourage you to take a hike with your artistic lens on and enjoy a treat for the senses as you discover the great variety of shapes, forms, textures and colors that nature provides.

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
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Columbia MO 65205-7642

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