

# The BRIDGE

Volume 27: Issue 4 April 2014

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/>

**Rock Bridge Renewal:** Saturday April 12, 8:30 am to 11:30 am, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes, bring water, sunscreen, hat, and work gloves. If you have tools cutting and removing plants or fencing, please bring them as well. Contact Jan Weaver, [weaverjc@missouri.edu](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu) if you are coming.

**FRIENDS BOARD MEETING:** Monday April 21, 6:30 pm, Park Office

### Officers and Directors

2014 Officers: President: Kevin Roberson; Treasurer: Jan Weaver, Secretary: Brennan Van Matre, 2014 Directors: Bill Hobbs, Sue Tillema, 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.mostatetparks.com/rockbridge.htm>, email: [rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov)

### Park Superintendent News –Jim Gast: Vernon Barr, Park News, 100 Mile Challenge

It was with great sadness that I read about the death of Vernon Barr. Vernon was 97 years old when he passed away on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Vernon and his wife, Jeanne, were very active in the Friends of Rock Bridge for many years. Jeanne is a past president.

Our new vault toilets are scheduled to be delivered on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Construction crews will be here next week to prepare the site. The new toilets will be installed south of the current building. Once the new ones are in place the old vault toilet will be removed.

Architectural plans have been developed for the new nature school that will be built in the park. Peckham and Wright are the designers. The building will have 4 classrooms and a lab and will accommodate 100 fifth graders. It is scheduled to open in August 2015.

The park hosted the Governor's 100 mile Challenge kick-off event. This is the second year of the challenge which is designed to get people exercising outside and to celebrate Missouri's being named the best trail state in the country. About 150 people attended the event which included a hike on part of the Spring Brook trail. Several dignitaries including Governor and Mrs. Nixon, DNR director Sara Parker Pauley, MSP director Bill Bryan and Columbia mayor Bob McDavid were in attendance.

### See Missouri (and a little bit of Illinois)– Jan Weaver

Just like prophets, local attractions have no honor in their own country. So we often measure the value of a trip in the miles traveled instead of in the experience gained. But necessity is the mother of invention, and these days, with gas approaching \$4 a gallon, necessity has the potential to open our minds to the natural, historic and cultural gems in our own back yards. So, here are some more or less local attractions that may not have occurred to you before as a destination. Take advantage of necessity this spring and summer, and get to know the place you live.

#### World Heritage Site

*Cahokia Mounds* - Alton Illinois (close enough to count) <http://www.cahokiamounds.com/cahokia.html>. This is the premier site of the mound builder culture in North America, on a par with Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde, Stonehenge and Vatican City. This facility has a video, an interactive topographic map, walk through and miniature dioramas, and extensive explanations of various aspects of mound builder culture - and to top it off, you can climb the mounds themselves.

#### National Parks and Historic Sites <http://www.nps.gov/>

*Lewis and Clark Trail* - Start at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and Arch on the St. Louis riverfront. Follow the river by road, or along the Katy Trail from the Lewis and Clark Boathouse and Nature Center in St. Charles through Boonville, Arrow Rock and Fort Osage (in Sibley) on up to the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence

*Ozark National Scenic Riverways* - 134 miles of the Current and Jack's Fork River and the surrounding watershed were established as the first national wild riverway in 1964. The area encompasses the world's largest collection of first magnitude springs - discharging at least 100 cubic feet of water per second, along with some of the most scenic beauty in Missouri that you can see from a canoe.

*Wilson's Creek Battlefield - Springfield area* - On August 10, 1861, the 2nd major battle of civil war, and 1st major battle west of the Mississippi was fought at Wilson's Creek. It was Union Regulars vs Missouri Guard, resulting in about 2500 casualties - The north lost the battle, but kept Missouri in the Union.

*Harry S. Truman National Historic Site, Independence* - The home Truman came from and went back to after serving as President, and where he regularly greeted the visitors who gathered at his front gate to see the "Missouri striped mule". The site includes a slide show, a tour of the Truman home and a self guided tour of Truman's haunts in Independence.

*National World War 1 Memorial & Museum, Kansas City* <http://www.nww1.org/> - Originally dedicated to the First World War's dead in the 1920's, the site also has a new museum that shares events leading to war and the experiences of the people involved in the war.

*National Historic Landmarks in Missouri* - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_National\\_Historic\\_Landmarks\\_in\\_Missouri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_National_Historic_Landmarks_in_Missouri)

Just to name a few: Anheuser Busch Brewery (St. Louis), Eads Bridge (St. Louis), Graham Cave (I 70 east of Fulton), St. Genevieve (I 55 north of Cape Girardeau), Sanborn Field (Columbia), Westminster College Gymnasium (Fulton)

### Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites - <http://www.mostateparks.com/>

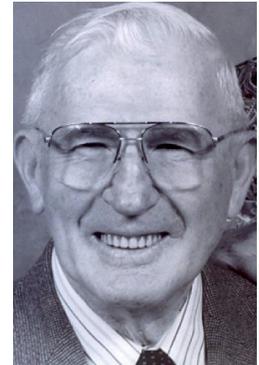
Last, but certainly not least, our own Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites have places that would seem exotic to visitors from Cairo or Shanghai or Paris. . You can see the first Missouri State Capitol in St. Charles, Mastodon fossils in Imperial, Mark Twain's birthplace in Florida, a working 1870's farm at Watkins Woolen Mill in Lawson, the house where Scott Joplin wrote ragtime in St. Louis, pink-colored elephant sized boulders from the Precambrian in Graniteville, Missouri's "Little Grand Canyon" in Thayer, a national natural landmark cave in Leasburg, a 1935 roadhouse on Route 66 in Eureka, and part of the Trail of Tears in Jackson.

### Friend of the Park, Vernon Barr, 1916 to 2014

Vernon Barr was born and raised in Hartville, and received a bachelor's degree in vocational agriculture from MU before serving in the army from 1943 to 1945. He met his wife Jeanne in college and marries her in 1944 and together they raised four children while Vernon taught science-related classes in Columbia, retiring in 1982.

Vernon was passionate about rocks and that might have been one of the things that brought him to Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. He and his wife Jeanne were founding members of the FoRB, with Jeanne serving as the first president of the organization. After retiring, Vern continued his memberships and volunteering with the Audubon Society, Central Missouri Rock and Lapidary, Friends of Rock Bridge and the Boone County Historical Society and was a lifetime deacon of First Baptist Church.

[http://www.columbiatribune.com/obituaries/vernon-barr/article\\_97feb104-b505-11e3-8ce1-10604b9f6eda.html](http://www.columbiatribune.com/obituaries/vernon-barr/article_97feb104-b505-11e3-8ce1-10604b9f6eda.html)



### Park Events

**April 11 – Spring is in the Air: Frogs, Stars and Spiders** – 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm - Experience spring and a night time visit to the Grassland Trail through three topics: Frogs: Listen to the frogs as they usher in spring. Identify several species by their unique songs. Learn about frogs and toads during a photo-filled PowerPoint presentation by the park naturalist.

Stars: Take in the sights of night as you hear a Cherokee story and learn how to identify a few constellations.

Spiders: Learn the secret of "spider sniffing" and how amazing and useful spiders can be. Due to limited space, reservations are required. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

**April 12 – Rock Bridge Renewal/Clean Up Columbia** – 8:30 am to 11:30 am, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot – Help remove litter from 162, invasive plants from the woods and fencing from the old farmsteads. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, bring water and tools if you have them. email Kevin at [kwrcdr@aol.com](mailto:kwrcdr@aol.com) to let us know if you can help!

**May 3 – Shooting Stars and other Wildflowers** – 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm - See the beautiful shooting star flowers with their white or lavender spiraling petals. Take in the view from atop Shooting Star Bluff, about 100 ft. above Gans Creek. Also, see and learn about several other spring woodland wildflowers. The park naturalist will guide you on this two mile hike in the Gans Creek Wild Area. Recommended for ages 8 to adult. Free. Reservations are required. Call 573-449-7400.

### Other Upcoming Events

April 16 – "Ecosystem Restoration and the Natural History of the CAS Wild Haven Nature Area" – 7:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd

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: Vernon Barr, Park News, 100 Mile Challenge

Special: See Missouri (and a little bit of Illinois)