

The BRIDGE

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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.friendsofrockbridgemp.org/>

Board News, Kevin Roberson, President – Trails, Parks, Soils and Water

Greeting fellow Park-lovers, what a time of year this is for all of us. It is a time of transition, harvest, and renewal. We are transitioning from Summer to Fall, we are harvesting our gardens or educations, and we are renewing our commitment to the betterment of the Park. All as we look forward to more activity as the temperature ameliorates to a more tolerable level for outdoor activities.

I received a call this afternoon from long-time (over 20 years) park volunteer Andy Matera. He is excited about the new park initiative to improve the trail signage in the park. The new superintendent, Sarah, is spearheading this project and deserves our support in this effort. I will be enlisting the other board members in this effort and hope that FoRB can make a significant impact on this project. I personally look forward in hearing how I may personally help out.

Another big effort that deserves our attention and support is the Parks, Soils, and Water Tax initiative. The board supports this critical issue and is looking into how we can best support it. We received some very helpful information and brochures from the Missouri Parks Association and the Committee that is supporting the success of this initiative and will be happy to forward any of this information to you, if you wish.

Best to all! Enjoy your park! Kevin, kwrcdr@aol.com

Help with Eagle Scout Project!

Hi I'm Jared Daly from Troop 10 out of Jefferson City. For my Eagle Scout project I am working on fixing up one of the fire pits in the special use area at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. My troop and I have camped there multiple times when it has been raining or has rained hard. When we get near the fire pit it turns everything into a huge mud pit and makes everything a big mess. I'll be making the fire pit area better by making a border out of cedars that we will cut down to help make other trees grow. In the border, I will be adding gravel so that when you walk in the area, you don't get muddy. There will be enough room to have a couple picnic tables and benches around the sides of the fire pit area.

In order to complete this project and make it an area that people will be able to enjoy for many years donations would be greatly appreciated. The park has set up a Project Code for donations related to the Fire Ring itself (\$205.00). So if you are able to contribute for this part of the project, please contact the park. All other donations, I will be collecting will be for materials such as rock, rebar, and wood. My contact information is dalyjared1122@gmail.com / 573-690-5845.

I will be working on this project with volunteers from my scout troop, family, and friends. I plan on going back to the area to make sure it keeps looking nice for everyone to enjoy.

FoRB Officers and Directors – 2016 Officers: President: Kevin Roberson; Treasurer: Jan Weaver, Secretary: Sara Whiting ; 2016 Directors: Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Lynne Hooper

NEXT FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday September 12, 6:30 pm, Park Office

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

A Superintendent's View of the Park, Sarah Jones – Signs, Campfires and Muddy Grins

This summer has been a great opportunity for projects in the park. Seven park lovers answered the call to help with the park Blazing and Emergency Signage project. For the next couple of months you will see them out there re-blazing and adding signage to the park's trails.

Another great project in the works is re-vamping a fire pit area at the Special Use Area. The fire ring sits in an area that gets muddy when it rains. A Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout Project has taken up the cause to improve the site. Not only will he be helping to improve the fire pit area, but he will be using invasive cedar trees from other parts of the park to use in the project. As with all great ideas, one lone person cannot accomplish them without assistance from others. Please read above if you would like to help with the project.

I am so proud of all the great volunteers that have help with the educational programing this year. It has been great to see all the looks of wonder and enjoyment coming from the children and adults participating. Seeing park volunteers and staff covered in mud with grins on their face from spending the day in the stream is amazing. It reminded me of all the adventures I have had in a stream or creek looking for creatures. It is great to know there is a place like Rock Bridge to provide this experience.

So if you haven't had your full summer dose of Nature Adventures yet, come out to the park, get your feet in the creek, and do some exploring.

Till next time, Happy Trails! Sarah

Naturalist News, Roxie Campbell – Hickam Log Cabin is Used for Children's Program

The Hickam log cabin that FoRB had reconstructed in 2014 was used for an interpretive program on 8/3/16. Twenty two children ages 9 to 11 who were participating in the Jr. Naturalist Day Camp sat on the floor of the cabin. Roxie talked about the cabin itself and then showed pictures and talked about what life was like back then. We imagined together the Mom cooking over a fire in the fire place, wool being spun to make yarn that then would be made into clothing, kids climbing a ladder and sleeping in the loft and kids playing Dominos for fun and learning math. With one crowded room and no TV or video games, the kids quickly agreed that the thing to do would be to go outside and play!



This illustration helped the children imagine living in a log cabin.

I noticed that the kids were attentive and when given the option two days later of what to share with parents at the awards ceremony, one girl offered to talk about the cabin and did a good job remembering what we had talked about. It obviously made an impression upon her!

The log cabin also served well in a practical sense as the day camp needed a location that had shelter from rain and had electricity (post just outside) and a semi-dark room for showing PowerPoints. While in the cabin, the group also learned about bats and caves through a PowerPoint presentation. While it didn't rain on that day, high water in the creeks kept us from wading in a creek or exploring in Connor's Cave. "Cabin Day" was a big success. Thank you FoRB and Wagner Construction Co. for doing such a good job of reconstructing the Hickam log cabin!

Ironically, this year, modern technology has caused many a 20-something year old to visit this log cabin that is 3 years shy of being 200 years old! This thanks to the Pokemon Go game played on smart phones!

To join FoRB, send your name, address, phone and email with a check to: FoRB, P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205.
Membership levels: \$15 park staff/volunteer, senior or student; \$20 individual; \$35 family; \$100 supporting
FoRB is a 501 (c) (3) organization and donations (but not memberships!) are deductible to the extent allowed by law

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