

The BRIDGE

The Newsletter of the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (RBMSPP)

A membership 501 (c)(3) organized to promote understanding, appreciation, enjoyment & preservation of RBMSPP & the surrounding area
forb@socket.net /573-815-9255 /Suite 205, Outdoors Building, 200 Old 63 South, Columbia MO 65201/ <http://rockbridge.missouri.org/>

From the Friends of Rock Bridge MSP (FoRB)

News - from the FoRB President, Jan Weaver

New Newsletter Format - Welcome to the new Bridge! We will be going to a monthly electronic newsletter to save money and natural resources. Our main focus is going to be sharing the park's news and programs, though we will include information on any upcoming issues in the community that can affect the park. FYI, we will send hard copies to those who request them, and we will be contacting our members to see what they prefer. Thanks very much to Nanci Johnson, who has taken on the responsibility of producing a monthly newsletter, and Rosemary Stevens and Hazel Breitenbach who will help with getting it out.

Discovery Ridge Development - Forum Development Group, which is developing Discovery Ridge area northwest of the park, has held one public meeting and will be holding more (we'll keep you posted) to get feedback from neighbors (including the park) about the development. One of our missions is preserving the park, which includes looking out for the surrounding area, so this is something we all need to follow. Site plans and other information are posted at http://www.forumgroup.com/discovery_overview.php.

Opportunities (Volunteer & Educational)

Park Stewardship Saturday, November 1st 1:00-3:00 p.m

Join us at the Devil's Ice Box parking lot to give back to the park for part of an afternoon. Wear long sleeves and pants, sturdy shoes and gloves. We will be doing litter pick up along 163, and Rock Bridge Lane, and fence and invasive plant removal in the park.

Events

Oriented to Nature



Orienteering Meet Saturday, October 12th 9:00 – 4:00 p.m

Gather friends or family and put yourselves to the test on one of several orienteering courses at RBMSPP. Race the clock on a YELLOW, ORANGE or RED orienteering course in scenic Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

Registration 1) by mail: Fill out form, detach and send form and check to FoRB, Suite 205, Outdoors Bldg. 200 Old 63 South, Columbia MO 65201; 2) by email: Send an email with registration information to forb@socket.net, bring a check and the waiver on the day of the event; 3) by phone: Call 573/815-9255, leave a name and number if the answering machine picks up

Nature Notes:

September and October are good months for visiting the Grassland Area because the native grasses are at their full height and some prairie flowers are blooming (sunflowers, asters, goldenrods, etc.). Dragonflies will be "hawking" for other flying insects near ponds along the Grassland and Karst Trails, and Monarch butterflies will begin their 2000 mile migration to Mexico. Mushrooms will be popping up in the woodlands.



Thank You and Kudos to....

Nanci Johnson for producing and editing the Newsletter; Rosemary Stevens and Hazel Breitenbach for getting it delivered; Helen Steinman, Cammy Ronchetto and Jan Weaver for planning the O-meet; Jim Baker, Meredith Donaldson, and Don and Joan Bay for working at the Twilight Festival.

From Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

News - from the Park Superintendent, Jim Gast

Boardwalk - The Statewide Construction Crew is in the park this month dismantling the section of boardwalk that has been closed since June 2006. This area includes the boardwalk under of the Rock Bridge and the steep steps in front of it.

We are still waiting for a permit from the Corps of Engineers before we can start construction on the new bridge and boardwalk that will go _ of the way under the Rock Bridge.

Parking Lot Pavers - The pervious pavers we used on the driveway and parking lot at the new office have been fully tested this summer due to all the rain. The rain garden has several plants in bloom.

Opportunities (Volunteer and Educational)

Honeysuckle Removal - Volunteers are needed at the park to use hand tools to cut bush honeysuckle bushes and paint a herbicide onto the cut stumps. Contact Roxie (449-7400 or roxie.campbell@dnr.mo.gov) to set up a time to receive training on identification, methods and locations.

Burn Crew Training - Learn how to help with prescribed burns while enjoying the Fall colors, prairie flowers and sunset on the Grassland Trail. Practice using fire control tools. Roxie will provide training on how fire benefits some natural communities, how fire behaves, how we manage fire and how to stay safe during a burn. This rare training opportunity is available to anyone interested in considering volunteering to help with burns (conducted on weekdays Fall, winter and spring). It's being offered one time, Tues. Oct. 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (snacks provided). Contact the park to register (449-7400)

Events (reservations are usually required and open 1 month before an event - 573-449-7400)

Spider Sniff and Owl Prowl Saturday, September 27, 7-9 p.m

Learn how to "sniff" out spiders and call in an owl as you go on a guided hike in the dark. Learn to identify various spiders and owls and how their adaptations make them excellent predators. Recommended ages: 8 to adult



Know the Dark Saturday, October 4, 7-9:30 p.m

Learn about nocturnal creatures, how your night vision works and take a walk in the park with lots of fun, hands-on activities to help you explore the darkness. Recommended ages: 8 to adult

Wild Area Adventure Saturday, October 18, 12:30 –4:30 p.m

Join the park naturalist for an adventure in the Gans Creek Wild Area. Enjoy the fall colors, explore two small caves and learn a bit about forests, glades and streams. Recommended ages: 8 to adult

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, and is funded by primarily by the Parks-and-Soils Sales Tax. It is located at 5901 S. Highway 163, Columbia, MO 65203. Information about the park is at www.mostateparks.com and the park may be contacted by by email at rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov or phone at 573-449-7400

Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park



\$15 Special (park staff/vol, student, sr.)
\$20 Individual \$35 Family

Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Street _____
City _____
St, Zip _____

mail check to Suite 205, Outdoors Bldg,
200 Old 63 South, Columbia MO 65201

FoRB, Suite 205
200 Old 63 South
Columbia MO 65201