

The BRIDGE

Volume 23: Issue 8 August 2010

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. Website: <http://rockbridge.missouri.org/>, email: forb@socket.net, phone: 573-815-9255, address: Suite 204, Outdoors Building 200 Old 63 South/P.O. Box 7293, Columbia MO 65205

President's Message by Susan Haines, FoRB President - MPA, UPOP and Nature Detectives

Its been a scorcher "Out There", but the old saying "If you build it, they will come", still applies. Dedicated FoRB volunteers and DNR Park staff have spent hours building great outdoor programs that have been well attended this summer despite the heat and pop-up showers.

I want to thank everyone involved - including Meredith Donaldson and Eleanor Mitter - with the Urban Populations Outreach Program (UPOP) and Nature Detectives. These two programs have touched the lives of several hundred children, helping them to understand the importance of good stewardship for Mother Nature and our special park resources.

A special thanks also to the Missouri Parks Association for their sponsorship of the UPOP program. Their financial assistance has helped to make this program possible for the youth in our community. By summer's end there will be close to a thousand youth from the state who've enjoyed programs provided by the Friends and park staff at Rock Bridge.

With these programs I feel that we have entered into these children's lives and left footprints and good impressions, great memories and fun times, but most of all the need to preserve our inheritance of wonderful parks and recreational areas that our community and state provide.

Our August membership program will be "Out There", viewing the Perseid meteor showers The Perseid meteor shower is one of the best to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at their peak. Please join us!!

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday August 16, 6:30 pm Country Kitchen on north Providence. All members are welcome to attend!!

FRIENDS PROGRAM: Perseid Meteor Showers Viewing August 12 and 13. Contact Susan at shaine@socket.net for details

PARK CLEANUP: September 25 - Save the Date!

Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser

FoRB and Applebee's on East Broadway will be hosting a Breakfast Buffet and Raffle on October 9, 2010, 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM.

This will be a fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the kiosk/welcome center project for Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. Cost of the breakfast will be \$7.00 per person and will include flapjacks, bacon, eggs, hashbrowns, juice, and coffee. The raffle is scheduled for 9:30 AM so be sure to come early and purchase tickets at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5. Invite your friends, neighbors, church or organization acquaintances to join us. Mark your calendar now and plan to be with us—your support is appreciated.

Volunteers Needed:

- 3 Food servers who are willing to wear chef hats and dispense food to the hungry guests
- 2 To serve juice and coffee (maybe wear chef hats)
- 1-3 To organize raffle, help organize transport of items to the restaurant, set-up display, sell raffle tickets at the breakfast, and announce winners

2010 Officers and Board Members

President: Susan Haines; V.P.: Open, Treasurer: Laurel Kruse, Secretary: Katheryn Holland,

2009 - 2011 Board Members: Scott Schulte, Maggy Kirby, Rosemary Stevens

2010 - 2012 Board Members: Bill Hobbs, Jan Weaver, Sue Tillema

FoRB Membership - as of July 2010: 145 single 49, family 48

New Members and Renewals - Melanie McMillian

Renewals due in August 2010 - none

Renewals due in July 2010 - Mary L. & William D. Hobbs, Katheryn Holland, Greg Horstmeier

Renewals due in June 2010 - John Fritz

Renewals due in May 2010 - Annette Albin

DONATIONS 2ND QUARTER - none

News from Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of 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 Perspective by Jim Gast, Park Superintendent: Special Events Highlight Modes Of Travel Within The Park

The three main ways of transportation—mountain bike, foot and horse—once a person is at the park will be highlighted in special events again this year.

Mountain Biking: The Show Me State Games Mountain Bike Race was scheduled for Sunday, July 25th, but almost an inch of rain the night before led to its cancellation. The course included parts of the Deer Run, Springbrook, Grassland and Sinkhole Trails. There were beginner, sport, expert and marathon categories. There was also a single speed event in which riders only had one gear.

Foot: The Columbia Track Club will once again be sponsoring Rock Bridge Revenge. This annual cross-country meet will be held on Sunday, October 10th (10/10/10). There are 7 mile, 25 kilometer (15.5 mile) and 50 kilometer (31 mile) races. (The 50 kilometer race is almost 5 miles longer than a marathon.) The course utilizes the main trails as well as the one in the Gans Creek Wild Area.

Horses: The Cedar Creek Therapeutic Riding Center will hold a fundraiser on Sunday, October 24th. Horseback riders will be on the trail in the Gans Creek Wild Area. They get pledges for riding.

You do not need to participate in one of these special events to participate in mountain biking; running, walking or hiking, and/or horseback riding. If you wish to mountain bike or horseback ride, please call 573-442-2249, the trail condition hotline, to see if the trails are open to those two activities.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: No biking in the Gans Creek Wild Area, and check for conditions before riding in the park. Horseback riding only in the Gans Creek Wild Area, and only July to October

Park Natural History/History by Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist and Guest Columnist Noah Leutkemeyer: Fun and Learning Go Hand in Hand on Connor's Cave Tours

For the last 2.5 months I have been working as an interpretive aide at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. During this time, I have been working in the State Parks Youth Corp. The SPYC is a stimulus program established by Governor Jay Nixon to employ young adults in various positions in the many wonderful state parks around Missouri. A large part of my particular position involves giving interpretive cave programs to the many patrons of the park. I will first give a short presentation about the caves of the area and how they are formed. Then, I will lead the group of adults and children through the 150 ft. section of Connor's cave where they will get to see and experience bats, stalactites, and the cave ecosystem as a whole. And if the amateur spelunkers are feeling particularly daring I will also lead them on the Crevice Climb (a.k.a. "Mud Slide") portion of the cave, which is just as it sounds, a climb up a small muddy passage off the main channel of the cave.

If all goes well, the group leaves the cave with smiles on their faces that will last much longer than the dirt on their knees and clothes. The look on the children's faces is especially priceless, because most of them have never seen or experienced anything so wild in nature before. Personally, I couldn't imagine having a better job because, in the end, I usually end up having as much fun as the kids do.

Numbers of Connor's Cave Tours and Other Programs Provided - By Roxie Campbell

Noah's article gives you a feel for the quality and value of the Connor's Cave tour experience. Now, I'd like to share with you about the quantity of interpretive programs provided here at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park through the work of several park staff and volunteers. In June, Noah and five volunteers worked the afternoons of seven weekend days to provide Connor's Cave Tours to 583 members of the public who came out to walk the Devil's Icebox Trail. School and civic groups alone accounted for an attendance of 1,160 in May. These children experienced a Connor's Cave Tour and often also received another type of program such as a habitat hike, stream program or bat program.

Park Events - Reservations are required for all park events - Call 573-449-7400 to reserve a spot

- August 13 - Bats: Unique, Awesome, Valuable and Threatened - 7 to 9:30 pm, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park - <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/calendar/public/calendarParksSearchDetail.do?eventId=9558>

Upcoming Community Events

- August 10 - Katy Trail Merchants and Communities Summer Conference - Les Bourgeois Winery, Rocheport - <http://www.katytrailmac.com/home.html>
- August 12 to 21 - Missouri State Fair - Sedalia - <http://www.mostatefair.com/>
- August 13 - Native Pollinators Workshop - 8:30 am to 3 pm, Bradford Farm, Columbia - <http://easternmobeekeeper.com/forums/showthread.php?p=1547>
- August 15 - Managed Deer Hunt Deadline - hunt dates, locations and restrictions at - <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/deer/2010-2011-managed-hunts>

- August 20 - Missouri Prairie Foundation Benefit and Dinner honoring MPF co-founder Bill Crawford - 6:30 pm, Peachtree Banquet Center, Columbia - tickets \$45 - mail checks to MPF, P.O. Box 200, Columbia MO 65205
- August 28 - Show-Me Yards and Neighborhoods Workshop - 9 am to 3 pm, Conf Room 1A & 1B new City Hall, registration required - http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/webcal/view_entry.php?id=1968&date=20100828
- September - No-Car, Low-Car and Whoa-Car Challenge - all month, Columbia - <http://www.pednet.org/programs/no-car-diet-challenge.asp>
- September 9 - Tomato Festival - Bradford Farm - <http://aes.missouri.edu/bradford/events/>

Friends' Friends - This space is for businesses, organizations and people that support our efforts!

Applebee's on Broadway and Troy Wieberg - <http://www.applebees.com/>

Columbia Track Club - <http://ctc.coin.org/>

Columbia Daily Tribune - <http://www.columbiatribune.com/>

Donna Brunet Macro Photography - <http://donna Brunet.com>

Missouri Department of Conservation and Jim French

Missouri Wildflower Nursery and Mervin Wallace

Party Perfect - <http://www.a1partyfun.com/>

Socket Internet - <http://www.socket.net>

For other news and events, visit the FoRB website at <http://rockbridge.missouri.org/>

FoRB Membership Information - To join, *Clip and Mail* this section with check made out to FoRB

\$15 Park Staff/Vol, Student, Senior

\$20 Individual

\$35 Family

\$100 Supporting

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to P.O. Box 7293, Columbia MO 65205

FoRB

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MPA, UPOP & Nature Detectives

Modes of Travel in the Park

Learning and Fun in Connor's Cave