

The BRIDGE

Volume 23: Issue 12 December 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: FoRB, Suite 204, Outdoors Building 200 Old 63 South Columbia MO 65201

President's Message - by Susan Haines, FoRB President: Future Projects

As 2010 wanes, and the winter holidays are being celebrated, please remember the park improvement projects that we've contemplated, and consider a donation to the projects that our group is wanting to assist with.

In the October newsletter, I asked members to contact me with their vote as to the future of the Hickam cabin. As results from the membership were received, more members were in favor of the stabilization of the Hickam cabin, than letting it decay before our eyes. A meeting was scheduled for November 29 with the director of state parks and historic sites and district managers to discuss the direction of our energies. They have located logs that could potentially be used to replace those whose integrity has deteriorated, and have taken into account the historic value of the log cabin.

Regarding the architect's design for a kiosk, they have taken into account that the current Rockbridge Mills Shelter House is in close proximity to the area where a kiosk was contemplated, and if a trail is built, and electricity provided, the shelter would be adequate for several needs. The information panels are still being discussed as to size and content, and the materials that will be incorporated. We've been informed that the information panels don't need an overhead canopy for protection because of the types of current materials that are available.

No decisions have been chiseled in stone to date, but it has been acknowledged that both projects need our attention and monetary support.

Please keep January 1 open on your calendars, and join us for a winter hike. Scott Schulte will again lead our adventures. Happy Holidays and see you on the trails!!
Susan C. Haines

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: NO DECEMBER MEETING. Next meeting will be January 17, 6:30 pm at the Country Kitchen on Providence

FRIENDS PROGRAMS:

January 1, 2011: NEW YEARS DAY HIKE, with Scott Schulte, former Park Superintendent, 1:00 pm - Park Office, Lower Level, Rock Bridge MSP. 1.5-2 hour hike, moderate difficulty, dress for the weather, *refreshments following hike!* For questions, contact: Scott Schulte, swschulte@aol.com, 573-442-2500 or e-mail forb@socket.net.

January 24, 2011 : EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR EARTHQUAKES by Officer Zim Schwartz, Columbia PD, 6:30 pm - Country Kitchen on north Providence - Free and Open to the Public

2010 Officers and Board Members

President: Susan Haines; V.P.: Open, Treasurer: Laurel Kruse, Secretary: Kathryn 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 November 2010: 141 total, 45 single, 48 family

New Members - Pat and Pete McDonald

Renewals Received - None

Renewals due in December - Margaret and Max Berends, Roberta W. Jones, Carol Squires

Renewals due in November - Robert G. Christensen, Dan Edidin Family, Nancy S. Finke, Don Garvin and Jean Graebner, Eleanor Mitter and Rob Hill, Ann and Ferd Labrunerie, Walter and Linda McConathy, Charles Shipman

Renewals due in October - Patrice & Kurt Albert, Walter Horn & Beverly Kabrick, Barbara & John Willenberg

Renewals due in September - Roxie Campbell, Evelyn and John Tanner

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS and FRIENDS!

- **Applebee's on Broadway and Troy Wieberg** <http://www.applebees.com/>
- **Socket Internet** - <http://www.socket.net>
- **FORD Restaurant Supply** - Hats for the breakfast



Woodcock



Western Chorus Frog

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 News - by Jim Gast, Park Superintendent - How Missouri Parks' Fees (\$0) Compare

A friend of mine who lives in Missouri e-mailed from Tucson where he was spending Thanksgiving. He went to a state park, and it cost him \$7.00 to get in. He commented how fortunate we are in Missouri to have free access to our state parks and historic sites. Missouri is not the only state to have free admission to state parks. However, those that do charge usually charge between \$1.00 to \$6.00 per person per day. Some states charge non-residents more.

Wisconsin is one of those states. The annual fee for non-residents is \$35, the daily fee is \$10.00 and the one-hour fee is \$5.00. At some Wisconsin state parks, there is a \$20 trail permit fee for biking, in-line skating, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and off-road motorcycling. The permit is good for one year. The trail permit is not needed for walking and hiking. Missouri does not have a fee for using trails, although two parks charge for off-road vehicle use.

As part of Governor Nixon's 2020 initiative (20 million visitors and \$20 million in non-sales tax revenue collected by the year 2020), the Division of State Parks is looking at revenue enhancements. If you have any suggestions, please send them to me at: jim.gast@dnr.mo.gov.

To learn more about state park fees, visit <http://usparks.about.com/od/usstateparks/tp/State-Park-Passes.htm>.

The Deer Run re-route project is complete. Thanks to the members of the Ozark Regional Trail Association for scheduling work days and doing most of the work. Park volunteers also assisted.

Park Natural History/History by Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist: Harvest of Nuts, Acorns and Seeds

When hiking in the park this time of year, you're likely to see a squirrel or two scampering around claiming and burying nuts and acorns in preparation for the long cold winter. Or, as winter progresses, you'll see them digging up and eating their harvest.

We have two kinds of squirrels, gray and fox (red). They are found throughout the wooded areas of the park... wherever oak, hickory and walnut trees are found. They prefer hickory nuts and walnuts, but will eat acorns if necessary. Their teeth enable them to chew right through the woody hulls to get to the meat, rich in proteins and fats. These nuts are good people food too, also being rich in omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids. Squirrels seem to have an uncanny ability to know whether a nut is good or not before going to the effort of chewing into them. The ones left on the ground very long often are not good.

With leaves off the trees this time of year, you can also see balls of leafy nests the squirrels make high in the trees. It can be a treat to watch squirrels as they jump from tree limb to tree limb, using their bushy tails as rudders to balance and guide. Their climbing ability gives them so much confidence that they tend to not worry about the nearby presence of people.

The harvest of the year's wild produce isn't just for squirrels. Deer and wild turkey feed heavily upon acorns this time of year. And, if you open some nuts, you'll eventually run into a worm or two – also feeding upon what took the trees all summer to produce.

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

- December 4 - Trail Improvement Day* - 8:30 am, upper parking lot, bring leaf rake, loppers, water & bug spray (ORTA)

Upcoming Community Events

- December 4 - Environmental Pollutants: Where Do They Come From, Where Do They Go? Keith Goynes, MU - 10:30 am, Monsanto Auditorium - http://satscience.missouri.edu/satscience_2004/schedule.html
- January 1 - New Year's Day Hike - 1 pm, Park Office - lower level, Rock Bridge MSP, sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge MSP
- January 24, 2011 : EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR EARTHQUAKES by Officer Zim Schwartz, Columbia PD, 6:30 pm - Country Kitchen on north Providence - Free and Open to the Public, sponsored by Friends of Rock Bridge MSP

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	Name	_____
\$20	Individual	Address	_____
\$35	Family	Phone	_____
\$100	Supporting	Email	_____

Mail to FoRB, 200 Old 63 S, Ste 204, Columbia MO 65201

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