

The BRIDGE

Volume 25: Issue 8 August 2012

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.friendsofrockbridgemsp.org/>

President's Letter - Kevin Roberson: Alive and Growing!

Greetings! I hope this message finds you well and happy. It has been a tough summer on people, flora and fauna. The heat and drought have been extremely hard on all living things and I hope that our wildlife, trees, and bushes make it through to better days.

I have been struggling to keep my lawn from becoming nothing but a memory. At times I am tempted to just give up, walk away, and let it go. But somewhere in me there is a kernel of hope that keeps me from quitting. That keeps me dragging the tractor sprinkler around the yard and keeps me lugging buckets of life-sustaining water to the young trees.

Sometimes we all may feel like that about our effort to keep the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park viable and contributing. Sometimes it may feel like we are helpless to implement positive change and give the park and staff the support they deserve. But we must always remember the kernel of hope and expectation to keep this organization not only alive, but growing to continue to produce good works. The planned biennial work days in September and April are some of these kernels. Let's reach deep for effort to make these days successful and meaningful in helping the Park, helping the staff, and building the strength of FoRB and the volunteer group at Rock Bridge.

In other news, we anxiously await the drawings from Mr. Wagner concerning the Hickam cabin restoration. Once the board gets these, we have a volunteer architect ready to translate them into blueprints that the board and DNR can approve. This project is very achievable in the not so distant future and would allow us to demonstrate continued support of our Park and community.

Keep cool and enjoy the park.

Best regards, Kevin Roberson

FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday, August 20, 6:30 pm, at the Park Office, 5901 S Hwy 163

2012-2013 Officers and Directors

2012 - 2013 Officers: President: Kevin Roberson; V.P.: Jeffrey Friel, Treasurer: Jan Weaver, Secretary: Brennan Van Matre

2010 - 2012 Directors: Bill Hobbs, Sue Tillema

2011 - 2013 Directors: 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

Park News - Jim Gast, Park Superintendent: Hot!

Is it hot enough for you? Historically, July is the hottest month of the year, but not by much. On average, it's 1.3 degrees warmer than August. I hope August will be a lot cooler than July. Things are continuing to brown up here at the park with the lack of rainfall and high temperatures.

Despite the weather, people continue to come. I've talked with visitors who came from Kansas City just to go into Connor's Cave for our Weekend on the Boardwalk program. The dry conditions mean that the mountain bike trails have been open all summer. There have been quite a few people riding early in morning or in the evening. The Gans Creek Wild Area has also been open for horseback riding, although I haven't seen any trailers in the parking lots.

Work continues to be done around the park. Staff fixed the abutment on the bridge going over Little Bonne Femme Creek, re-decked the overlook over the Devil's Icebox and made other repairs to the boardwalk, and worked on trail maintenance.

Park Events – in the park unless otherwise noted, if registration required call: 573-449-7400

- August 11 – Who Lives in the Stream – 9:00 am to Noon, Devil's Icebox, registration required
- August 17 or 18 – Watch Bats Fly Out of Devil's Icebox – 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm, Devil's Icebox, registration required
- August 25 – Learn 2 Experience the Outdoors – registration required

Check out the Park on-line!

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has created a fabulous web portal for finding out about Missouri Parks and Historic Sites.

The Rock Bridge MSP site is at <http://mostateparks.com/park/rock-bridge-memorial-state-park> and it features a video with park superintendent Jim Gast describing the features of the park, like the cave, and the activities that can take place. For example, you can hike and even bike and ride horseback depending on the part of the park you are in. RBMSP is also one of the few parks where you can go off trail as long as you are on foot.

The website has a calendar of park events and a description of the kinds of activities the park supports. In addition to hiking, biking and riding, there is an orientation course, there are geocaches, and you can fish in the streams (with a license of course!). You can even get directions (there is an interactive map) and a weather report.

The Department of Natural Resources has similar pages for all its parks and historic sites. If you visit <http://mostateparks.com/>, you can see a list of upcoming events at all the sites, use an interactive map to find specific activities at parks in any region of the state and read stories about state parks. The July post talks about the clear, cool springs of the Missouri Ozarks.

In other OUTDOORS news....

Emerald Ash Borer found in Parkville (KC Area). University of Missouri Extension. July 2012. A single Emerald Ash Borer was identified in the Kansas City area last week by an alert arborist, near Parkville. Staff from the Missouri departments of Agriculture and Conservation and the USDA immediately joined that individual at the site. Emerald Ash Borers were also identified in Reynolds County last week through routine surveillance, adjacent to the known population in Wayne County. The Wayne County population was first identified in 2008.

<http://extension.missouri.edu/emeraldashborer/kansascity.aspx>

Mark Twain Forest Fires. Forest Service. June-July 2012. To date, this fire season is almost a thousand acres ahead of a typical fire season, covering 6,000 acres instead of the average of 5,145. It is similar to the fire seasons of the 1980's and 1950's. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mtnf/home/?cid=STELPRDB5378174>

AND.....

2nd Annual Missouri Snapshots 2012 Photo Contest. *Deadline October 26, 2012.* Missouri State Park Getaway Package worth \$500. Photo must be from one of Missouri's 85 State Park and Historic Sites. Categories include Scenic Missouri, Overnight Adventure, Playing in the Parks, Historic Missouri, ShowMe Wildlife plus a Children in Nature Category. <http://ruralmissouri.coop/photocontest.php>

National Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary Photo Contest. *Deadline December 1, 2012.* \$50. Amateur photographers who are U.S. residents, youth and adult divisions. Subjects: conservation practices, close up conservation, conservation in action, agriculture and conservation across America. <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/photo/>

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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President's News: Alive and Growing

Park News: Hot!

Portal to Parks – mostateparks.com

MO Outdoors News – Emerald Ash Borer, Fire, Photo Contests