

The BRIDGE

Volume 29: Issue 3 March 2016

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 News, President Kevin Roberson – Conservation Federation of MO Resolutions

Greetings fellow park-lovers, I hope this message finds you and your family well. We have had some strange weather lately and I hope you all have taken advantage and had a chance to visit the park last weekend when the temperature was in the 70s. The timberdoodles are calling and I got a special treat last night as they continued calling all night because of the full moon. I don't know how often that happens, but it seems special to me.

FoRB is an affiliate member of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. This organization is our lobby voice to the Missouri Government. Their annual meeting is next month and I will be attending both as an individual and as an affiliate member. I have been selected to be committee chair for the Parks, Wildland and Natural History resource committee. The committee will host resolutions from members and organizations. FoRB is discussing submitting two. They are: 1) We request that the Park Rangers spend more time in the park enforcing regulations and assisting visitors and less time being traffic cops on the highway. 2) We request that the Park enforce the lease rules in the park. We have heard many complaints and I have witnessed many that treat the park as a dog park. I have seen individuals running up to six dogs off-lease at once. Many are fearful of these dogs running free and it is against the park regulations

As you can see, these two resolutions can be related. The resolutions are just now being discussed and have not been approved by the board. What do you think of these two? Do you have any resolutions that you would like to have considered?

If you wish to work with us to improve our community and help support the park and park staff, drop me an email and we will sign you up. robersonkw@gmail.com

Enjoy the park! Kevin Roberson, President, FoRB Board

FoRB Officers and Directors – 2015 Officers: President: Kevin Roberson; Treasurer: Jan Weaver, Secretary: Sara Whiting ; **2015 Directors:** Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Jim Weaver

NEXT FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday March 14, 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

Park News, Roxie Campbell – Naturalist and Interim Superintendent . Have You Ever Wondered Why?

Have you ever wondered why the American woodcock bird (males) fly so high during their courtship display in spring? They normally spend their time very close to the ground feeding on earthworms, hiding among the leaves and grass and flying just high enough to relocate when needed. But during the courtship display, they spiral upward and upward until they reach a height of not 40 or 80 or 100 ft., but 200 ft.! That must seem SO high to them! I wonder if they do it for fun of it - for the joy of flying and simply enjoying spring! Of course, we assume they do it to look studly for the female woodcocks! Now – early spring – is the time to see and hear the courtship display of woodcocks, which they do in the park reliably around sunset every night. They like small open fields like the one by the playground in the picnic area.

Have you ever wondered why park staff would be sitting in the office on a nice warm day? I have wondered that! It's because they are doing a myriad of tasks necessary to keep the parks maintained and operating in a condition and manner that facilitates the public being able to enjoy the park when they have the opportunity to visit.

Have you ever wondered why a certain wildflower grows in a certain location in the park but not in other locations? One way to find out is to attend the “Where the Wildflowers Grow” program on Sat. April 30 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

There are a lot of things one can ponder that tend to come to mind when one spends time walking or sitting in the park among things of nature. I hope you will spend some time enjoying Rock Bridge or one of the many Missouri State Parks.

Programs!

Weekly Wildflower Walks - Thursdays March 24 through May 19, 5:30 to 7 pm, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot
35th Annual W3 led by volunteer Randal Clark

Hike to the Creeks of Rock Bridge – Friday April 22 and Friday May 6, 6 pm to 8 pm, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot
Hike the 2 mile Spring Brook Trail and learn what influences water quality in the Bonne Femme watershed.
Led by volunteer Lynn Hooper

Where the Wildflowers Grow – Saturday April 30, 2 to 4:30 pm, *registration required* 573-449-7400
A 2-mile hike to Shooting Star Bluff and Gans Creek led by Park Naturalist Roxie Campbell

Water Festival – Saturday, July 16, 9 am to Noon, Devil's Icebox Parking Lot
Have fun with water and learn about animals that live in streams through activities designed for children and families. Naturalists at several stations will guide participant in: catching (and releasing) stream animals, using an interactive stream model, finding the watershed you live in, exploring Connor's Cave and hiking Little Bonne Femme Creek (hike at 10:30). Free and open to the public.

Jr. Naturalist Day Camp – Tuesday through Friday August 2-5, 9 am to 1:30 pm
registration required 573-449-7400 or email roxie.campbell@dnor.mo.gov after April 1
For ages 9 to 11. Participants will earn a Missouri State Parks Explorer patch by participating in four days of hands-on activities, including hiking, cave exploring, and wading in streams while learning about wildlife and ecology. Free.

Exploring Our Legacy: Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites – This hardback book is 400 pages of history and information about our parks and historic sites illustrated with hundreds of large format color photographs. Copies available at the park office.

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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