

## 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](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu), address: FoRB, P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205-7642 website: <http://www.friendsofrockbridgemsp.org/>

### President's Message: Rock Bridge Renew October 28!

Greetings! I hope that you are enjoying the cooler and less-humid weather like I have. I do hope we get some rain later this week. The bees did well this summer, just the right amount of rain when needed and they stayed healthy. The first harvest in 4 years for us. Our garden did well also. I hope that all were successful in your outdoor endeavors. Hopefully I will be able to get into the park without getting a dose of chiggers soon. Those are the days I love.

The reason that we have a place to go to enjoy the days we love is because of the giving and vision and stewardship of those that have come before us and those that continue that stewardship. We have an opportunity to practice that stewardship coming up on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. That is the date for our Rock Bridge Renew. This is the biannual fortuitousness that allows us to be part of the continuing chain of stewards to the park. Make time, mark it down, put it on your calendar! I want to see you all down at the Park on Saturday morning the 28<sup>th</sup> to help up support the Park for a few hours and then eat Shakespeare's pizza with your fellow tree huggers.

The best in outdoors to you, Kevin Roberson

**FoRB Officers and Directors** – 2016 Officers: President: Kevin Roberson; Treasurer: Jan Weaver, Secretary: Sara Whiting ; 2016 Directors: Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Lynne Hooper

### NEXT FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday October 9, 6:00 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](mailto:rock.bridge.memorial.state.park@dnr.mo.gov)

## A Brief History of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Moved by the tragic death of nine-year old Carol Louise Stoerker in a car accident, a group of concerned Missouri citizens led by Carol's father, Lew Stoerker, began to work together to provide a safe place for children to play and experience nature. Starting with \$10 raised by two of Carol's young friends selling brownies and potholders door to door, and a generous donation of \$10,000 by Dr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Middlebush, a community wide effort, including \$25,000 each from the Columbia City Council and the Boone County Trustees raised \$180,640 by 1962. This amount was matched by the Federal Park System allowing the Missouri Division of State Parks to acquire 1300 acres of land that included the Rock Bridge and the Devil's Ice Box. The park formally entered the Missouri State Park system in 1967.

**Original Board** – Lewis W. Stoerker, James C. Denninghoff, Mark A. Foreman, John Heidy, Hilda Petri, Forrest E. "Red" Leighton, and Esther Griswold

**Additional Board Members involved in Fundraising** – Dell Cornell, Harold Riback, Paul Matthews, A. D. Sappington, Raymond Young and Harold Schrage

The Missouri State Park system establishes parks based on significant historical, recreational or natural value. **Rock Bridge Memorial State Park was selected as a striking example of karst topography.** The underlying limestone has been dissolved by millions of years of rainfall percolating into the rock, creating and enlarging cracks, channels and holes to form underground streams and rivers. Some of these channels eventually grew large enough to form underground caves. The Devil's Ice Box Cave is one of the park's nine known caves, and the sixth longest cave in Missouri. It has more than seven miles of mapped passageways, is the only known home of the Pink Planarian, a species of flatworm, and is a major maternity colony for the endangered gray bat. Karst topography also accounts for the large number of sinkholes, sinking streams and the **natural rock arch from which the park takes its name.**

In addition to its historical, geological and biological significance, **the park is also an important recreational resource for one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the midwest.** There are more than eighteen miles of trails open for hiking, jogging, bicycling, and equestrian use. Visitors can find picnic, playground, group camping and orienteering trails and the park staff and volunteers provide guided hikes, cave tours and wildlife excursions in addition to their regular educational programs.

**Water Quality Monitoring Blitz! Saturday October 14, 8:30 to Noon, Devil's Icebox**

No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers will assist with collection of chemical and macroinvertebrate data on streams in and near the Park. Please wear weather appropriate clothing and shoes that can get wet. Lunch will be provided for volunteers after the event. For additional information, please contact Lynne Hooper at lhooper@boonecountymmo.org or 573-886-4491.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hikes**

**Hike to the Hidden Treasures of Rock Bridge**

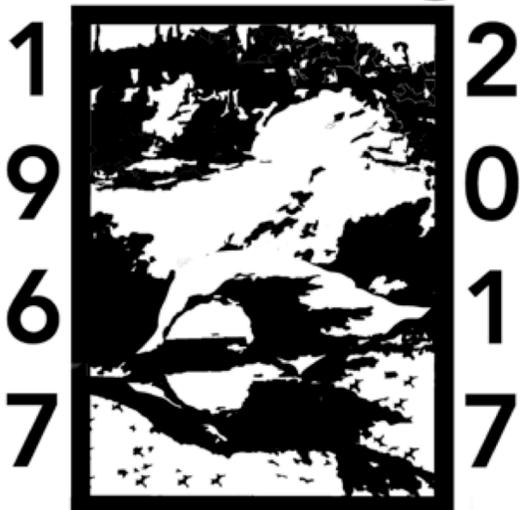
**1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays - through December 2017 - 1:30 to 4:30**

**October 7 – Saunder’s History & Coyote Bluff**

See fall color on certain vines and trees that turn early, while also enjoying wildflowers such as asters and goldenrods. This hike will take you to Coyote Bluff glade overlook and to the chimney of the Saunders’ log cabin. Learn about what life was like for the Saunders’ family as told by Ray Saunders, who grew up there in the 1920s-30s. During the short service project, learn how to identify and treat invasive bush honeysuckles. Event is free and open to the public. Reservations are required because space is limited. When you call (573-449- 7402), you will be given driving directions. Recommended for ages 8 years and up. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Prefer no dogs.

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

**Rock Bridge**



**Memorial State Park**

**Celebrate RBMSP’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Saturday November 4, 11 am to 3 pm Devil’s Icebox and Other Locations**

Connor’s Cave Tours, Hikes to Coyote Bluff, Interpretive Presentations on Plants, Animals and Park History along the Icebox Trail and at Hickam Cabin, Scavenger Hunt, Bench Dedication to the Park Founders, Souvenir Drink Cups, Music by Local Artists – Pippa Letsky, Anna Duff, The Calvin Street Band, Banastre Tarleton and His Band, Food by Big O Tires, Beverages by McDonalds. Free and Open to the Public. No reservations required.

October 2017 Issue  
Rock Bridge Renew: October 28  
Park 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: November 4  
Next 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hike: October 7

FoRB  
P.O. Box 7642  
Columbia MO 65205-7642