

The BRIDGE

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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/>

In Memory of Jeanne Barr 1922-2018

By Jan Weaver

In summer 1991 a small group of people, including then Park Superintendent Scott Schulte, began planning the formation of a Friends' group. At the first meeting in August 26, 1991, Jeanne Barr signed on as the first president. Together with the new board, she crafted a mission statement that still informs our efforts: protecting and enhancing Rock Bridge Memorial State Park by encouraging use of the park for recreation and education, supporting community efforts to maintain low density development, and the acquisition of adjoining geological features.

Jeanne Barr was born in Kansas but moved to a farm just outside Columbia when she was 13. She graduated from Hickman High School in 1940 and from the University of Missouri in 1943 with a degree in Education. She earned a Master's Degree in Spanish from MU in 1960.

Jeanne's teaching career spanned 26 years, 19 of those years were spent teaching Spanish and Latin at Hickman High School. She was also in charge of producing Hickman's yearbook, the "Cresset", for eight years. She retired from teaching in 1979 and started a second career in volunteer work.

FoRB wasn't the only local group she served. Jeanne was a 30-year member of the Columbia chapter of the Audubon Society, serving as president, secretary and newsletter editor over the years. She served as the first president for the Nature Plant Society of Boone County. She was an active member of the Boone County Historical Society and a board member for several years in Columbia's chapter of Planned Parenthood.



Thanks to Sara Whiting! Thanks to Lynne Hooper!

Sara Whiting is stepping down as FoRB secretary and from the board to welcome her second child. Sara joined the board in March of 2015 and took on the role of secretary shortly after. She also set up and will continue to maintain our Facebook presence.

FoRB Officers and Directors – 2018 Officers: President: Kevin Roberson; Treasurer: Jan Weaver, Secretary: Lynne Hooper ; 2017 Directors: Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Jim Gast

NEXT FRIENDS BOARD MEETING: Monday April 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

Management and Monitoring, Volunteers are Key

By Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist

Two units were managed with prescribed fire on 3/22/18: Grassland East (47 acres) and Wild Area Prairie Remnant (60 acres). The wild area unit, west of the Special Use Area, included 42 acres of woodland, 5 acres of glades (Saunders Glade and Coyote Bluff), 10 acres of prairie remnant and 3 acres of old field. Staff and volunteers put in about 80 hrs. preparing the fire lines. Weather and conditions were favorable and the burns were successful. Part of that equation is having enough people to fill the roles needed in a burn crew. With only a few local staff available, we rely heavily upon

volunteers especially those with burn training and experience. In addition to Rock Bridge volunteers, we had several MU students who serve in a group called SAFE (Mizzou Student Association for Fire Ecology). I encourage you to walk these areas especially as the Grassland greens up and when wildflowers bloom on the glades (late April to early May is prime time).

Part of taking care of the park is to monitor and know how our flora and fauna are doing. Often it is as simple as spending time in the park, identifying and recording observations. For example, during fire line preparation, I saw four spotted salamanders spending the winter under some heavy bark. But for some species and for abundance information, we often use standardized survey protocols so that the same methods are used over time. That's the case for woodcocks (birds that do their courtship display now in early spring as they migrate through our area), frogs and toads (identified and numbers estimated through listening to their calls) and butterflies. All of these are in the works currently. I train volunteers and then volunteers take over doing the surveys and coordinating among themselves. For many years, we have been fortunate to have Rachel and Jeffrey Friel coordinating and leading the butterfly survey, woodcock survey and the woodland route of the frog and toad survey. They moved to Florida and we miss them. However, Becky Bolmeyer is filling the role for butterflies, several are learning the woodland route of the frog and toad survey and Master Naturalists are doing the woodcock survey. Also, Glenn Pickett continues to serve as the main surveyor and coordinator for the frog and toad survey. It's a great win-win-win situation: volunteers enjoy wildlife, wildlife are monitored and the park is managed/maintained for the sake of both wildlife and visitors. Thank you volunteers!

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

Spring Wildflower Walks
led by Randal Clark
Thursdays, March 15 – May 10
from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Devil's Icebox Parking Lot

Callery Pear Field Day
Friday April 13, 2:00 pm
551 E. Southampton Drive
Callery Pear Work Day
Tuesday April 17, 5:30 pm
Rock Bridge MSP 573-449-7400

Rock Bridge Renew
Saturday April 14, 8:00 am to Noon.
Meet at the Devil's Ice Box Parking Lot

Rock Bridge Informational Meeting
Saturday April 14, 12:30.
Rock Bridge Mills Shelter

Callery Pear Field Day April 13 / Rock Bridge Renew April 14

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