

The Newsletter of the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (FoRB)

P.O. Box 7642, Columbia MO 65205-7642 <http://www.friendsofrockbridgemsp.org/>

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.

Send your submissions to Jim Gast, editor at [jgast@socket.net](mailto:jgast@socket.net)

FoRB Officers: Kevin Roberson, President; Jan Weaver, Treasurer; Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Jim Gast, Mark Hahn and Mark Lee, Board Members. The next board meeting is **Monday, October 14th, at 6:00 p.m.** at the park office.

## President's Message

### Kevin Roberson, FoRB President

Dear Affiliate members,

I am harping on the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) again this month. I am feeling blessed with all of the good things that have happened for me and the Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park over the years and think I will rail on how important the CFM can be to Friends members and the park.

Through the CFM Public and Private Lands Natural Resource committee (Parks) and the resolution process, we have a very strong voice with the state legislature and departments such as the DNR and Conservation. We are currently collecting our thoughts for resolutions for next year and are kicking around: Control of dogs in the park, DNR and MO State Parks mission for Park Rangers and how it serves the park and the public, clean water and how it affects the park and our lives, climate change and what it has to do with the park and our lives.

What do you think of these topics? Do you have any topics of your own that you would like to have submitted for discussion? Let me know if you do and we would love to discuss it at our next board meeting or before.

Don't forget to come to the **Rock Bridge Renew on Saturday October 26th starting at 8:30 a.m.** at the Devil's Icebox parking lot. Help with litter pick up or invasive plant control. It is a good time of making a difference, visiting with like-minded tree-huggers and eating Shakespeare's Pizza. I hope to see you there.

## Opportunity to Help the Park and Get Involved Sarah Jones, Park Superintendent

Don't like participating in Rock Bridge Renew or want to help the park in an additional manner? FoRB members can work in the park office. We need volunteers to work weekdays year round and Saturdays and Sundays from April to October. Normal shifts are either four or eight hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Duties include answering the phone and directing the call to the correct person; answering questions about the park and surrounding areas; taking messages; responding to emails that ask questions about the park; assisting park staff with data entry, flyer creation, sign making, letters for events; taking reservations for the shelters and Special Use Area; selling souvenir items to the public; greeting park visitors and answering their questions; and covering the park office when staff is away. Knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, and Publisher is helpful. If interested, please call me at 573-449-7402.

## Upcoming Events

**Stream Critters and Health. Saturday, October 12th, 8:30 a.m. to noon.** Meet at the Devil's Icebox Parking. Contact Lynne Hooper, 573-886-4491, for more information. Co-sponsored by Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, Boone County Stormwater Management and Missouri Stream Teams. Participants will catch aquatic animals, conduct chemical tests of the water quality and check on the health of park streams. Bring something to drink and wear weather-appropriate clothing and boots or other water-appropriate shoes. Free lunch afterwards.

See President's column for information on Rock Bridge Renew.

## Naturalist News

### Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist

Enthusiasm has been running high as 28 new members of the Devil's Icebox Cave Institute have been going into Devil's Icebox Cave as trainees and assistants on several research trips. There are so many highlights. One said, "It was absolutely amazing, one of the coolest things I have ever done in my life." I enjoyed seeing several get so excited over seeing a pink planarian for the first time. We saw 3 pink planarian during a timed count at the Boot Hill plot. Another institute member has already learned to recognize "Meander Cutoff" on just his second trip into the cave. We all learned a lot from Mick Sutton who helped us spot and ID little invertebrates on bat guano and a dead mouse. On that trip, we didn't make it to the big guano pile because about 4,500 gray bats were still hanging out above it! We retreated in order not to disturb them; still about 400 flew in the passages around us! We identified 5 little brown bats. We had fun exploring challenging passageways like the Snowbank and Wormhole.

Side passages that had been no more than a dotted line or arrow on the original cave map, were sketched, measured and added to the map, including the Northeast Passage and Boxwork Heights. Data loggers have been installed for monitoring temperature and humidity. Water samples have been collected. Here in September, 2019, it's been great to focus on the cave and introducing new people to it.



Volunteers look closely for invertebrates on a bat guano pile. Photo taken by park staff.