The Bridge

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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 FriendsofRockBridge@gmail.com
FoRB Officers: Kevin Roberson, President; Mark Lee, Secretary; Jan Weaver, Treasurer; Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Jim Gast, Mark Hahn, Board Members. **The next board meeting is Monday, February 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the park office.**

President's Message
Kevin Roberson

Dear Friends! Happy Winter to you all.

I must say that this type of weather is what I remember from the 1970s and 1980s when I lived in Columbia; cold (not too), gray (very much too), and moderate snow. It is an excellent time to get out and see where the animals are tracking in the winter. I am going out this afternoon and have high hopes of making many discoveries. Last year I was able to track a bobcat for quite a ways, next to the park. Get out in the Park the next snow and see what you can find.

I want to mention the major success that we have had again this year with the COMO Gives program. We raised almost $5000, which was more than we raised last year. I want to thank all of the people who gave of their money and/or time in this effort. I don't know all of who worked on this, but I do know that Jan and Jim played a big part. Thank you all.

I am currently working on resolutions submitted to the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) Public and Private Lands Natural Resource Committee. A lot of good ideas that I hope to speak more about in the coming month.

Enjoy your Park!

In Service to you and the Park,
Kevin

Park Programs

Randal Clark will be leading weekly wildflower walks again (his 38th year) on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m to 7:00 p.m. starting March 26th and ending May 14th. No reservations needed; just arrive at Devil's Icebox parking lot.

Naturalist News
Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist

In 2019, Missouri State Parks issued a research permit to Kathleen and Virginia Trauth of Infiltronics Environmental LLC for a project that park staff saw as beneficial both for reducing erosion occurring in the picnic area and for developing technology which we hope will someday be used in urban settings to manage stormwater in a way that benefits nearby nature areas such as the park.

Virginia Trauth installed data collectors at the second site. Photo by Roxie Campbell. Used by permission.

(article continued on the next page)

The first site, located above the Deer Run Trailhead, was installed in July. It handles stormwater runoff that originates on the parking lot and roadway. This water picks up a lot of speed while running down the steep slope. The quickly moving water can damage the hillside and trail as it comes down. To avoid this, a variety of berms slow down and catch the water and our installed stormwater management units, placed in the trench on the uphill side of the berm, take that water and redistribute it throughout the soil. Mimicking nature, the units are geotextile fabric filled with a special mix of aggregate designed to redistribute and maximize water infiltration into the surrounding soil.

The second site, located in the drainage ditch by the playground, was installed in December. It manages stormwater that is piped in from the playground and that runs off of the pavement. It's different from the first site in that the water is concentrated into a ditch. The stormwater units installed are fed from a collection box in the ditch. The same goal applies: redistribute a large quantity of water throughout the soil to maximize infiltration.

Soil moisture data is being collected at both sites so we can "see" how water is moving throughout the soil around the installations. Additional data gathered will help demonstrate that this system works and help develop a design tool that others can use to implement this stormwater technology on their development projects.

Getting water back into the soil allows it to be absorbed by vegetation, replenish groundwater and provide a longer release of water to streams. It also reduces soil erosion and reduces runoff toward the goal of preventing flooding and the deposition of sediment and pollutants in streams. Managing stormwater helps protect water quality, streams and wildlife habitat.

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