

# 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](mailto: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 April 2020 board meeting is canceled.**

## President's Message

### Kevin Roberson

Dear Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park: This message comes at a time that I fear is the quiet before the storm. We are waiting to see how the COVID-19 creeps or blasts across our State and does its damage. We all should hope for the best and prepare for the worst. I am happy to see that the staff is taking steps to protect themselves and I pray and hope that that is enough. I have been working from home for a couple of weeks and am glad for that option from my employer. We are considered an essential business and have been keeping open to support the medicines that the public needs. This work even includes some help in manufacturing diagnostic kits in concert with the University.

Back to Park news. I went to the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) Annual Meeting a few weeks ago and had a smashing time. I got to interact with many like-minded tree-huggers and learn about other Affiliates. One of special note is the Missouri Parks Association (MPA), <http://missouriparksassociation.org/>. They do a great job of supporting our State Parks and have supported our UPOP program for years. Christine and I are members and I urge you to think about joining also. I have put their link in so that you can read about them and join on-line if you wish. Take care of yourselves and get out in the Park and keep your proper social distance.

Yours in Service to Conservation,  
Kevin

While April wildflower walks have been cancelled, plans are underway to post some signs at wildflowers along the Springbrook Trail and post instructions on the bulletin board at the Devil's Icebox Trailhead so that people can find and enjoy our native wildflowers as spring unfolds. If you are a Facebook user, you can also log into Randal's wildflower Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/209287696973178/>.

## Park News

### Sarah Jones, Park Superintendent

Life! What an adventure it is! You never know what will get thrown at you. Wouldn't you know, Spring weather is going to be here any day now and I hope you get a chance to be outside. The staff at the park has been working hard to provide a safe place for visitors to come and enjoy being outside during this time of social distancing. In light of public safety, the playground has been closed. The rest of our day-use areas and trails are operating as normal. If you're heading to a park this weekend, remain diligent in taking steps to make your visit as safe and enjoyable as possible, please take the following actions:

If you have been sick in the last two weeks, please stay at home for your health and the safety of others.

Travel in a small group with a maximum of 10 people.

Avoid popular areas where people may congregate. Areas to avoid may include scenic overlooks, shelters, crowded parking lots, etc.

Please maintain distance between you and other park visitors with at least a six-foot distance between you and others.

Be sure to pack water, extra soap and/or hand sanitizer. (We have limited amount of hand sanitizer due to the demand)

The Devil's Ice Box Vault Toilets are open. As a safety measure, we are working to clean them twice a day.

The Upper Picnic Area restrooms and water fountains are closed. They are scheduled to open April 13th, but they may be delayed in until May.

The office is closed to the public, but we are still available during business hours to answer the phones for questions or concerns. *(continued on page 2)*

Please check out MO State Parks Response Page for latest updates on our response to COVID-19. <https://mostateparks.com/response> Things change daily and sometimes hourly. Check out the Park's Facebook Page for the latest updates and things to do if you can't make it to the park. If you have a neat picture from the park and would like to share it on our Facebook page, please send it to [Sarah.jones@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:Sarah.jones@dnr.mo.gov) Please add a few words as to what it is, who took it, when, and where you found it in the park. I'm looking for positive content to share while many of us are stuck at home.

Take care, and I wish you Good Health and Happy Trails!

### **Naturalist News**

#### **Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist**

Have you experienced an “ah-ha” moment when you realize that two seemingly unrelated things actually are related? Also, sometimes when our focused detailed thinking and our global thinking meld, revelations result. That's how it was for me during the March 7th Bonne Femme Watershed Project's Landowner Workshop. It was one of those “why didn't I think of that, of course... it seems so simple now.” For years, we have been promoting good land stewardship with goals of retaining a healthy quality and quantity of water within streams, caves and groundwater for the well-being of aquatic life and humans alike. Well, it turns out that if those same goals were accomplished globally, we would likely see improvements with the global climate change problem! What is good for the small scale of our watershed is also good for the whole world and the problems caused on a small scale have accumulated into a large problem on a global scale. My knowledge is quite limited on this subject, but I'd like to share my notes from speaker Doc Kinkead on the book: *Water for The Recovery of the*

*Climate – A New Water Paradigm* authored by Michal Kravcik et al. A free download is available at (<http://www.waterparadigm.org/indexen.php?web=./home/homeen.html>).

Carbon is not the problem with global climate change. The problems are:

1) overgrazed or bare ground because it is 16-20°F warmer on a hot day and 5-10°F colder on a cold day. Concrete and other impervious surfaces that we try to minimize locally, behave in a similar fashion. Collectively, these temperatures make a difference, plus heat and cold can kill soil microbes. Worldwide, a lot of land is no longer well-vegetated.

2) lack of vegetation because the evaporation of water from plants seeds rain and results in more frequent lighter rains within a land mass (the small water cycle). Usually, 50-65% of precipitation onto land keeps getting cycled into more precipitation over land. Without this, winds drive water vapor away and we get more intense ocean-produced rains that cause flooding (the large water cycle).

3) disruption of vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizae (VAM) which in its symbiotic relationship with plants in the soil, enables plants to absorb more water and absorb nutrients in usable forms and aids in the formation of organic matter which helps the soil hold more water. Tillage and fallow fields do not support VAM; living plants do. Doc raises cattle and promotes mob grazing and cover crops and says that cows foster more VAM. In short, we need more healthy soil full of VAM covered by living plants to moderate temperatures and maintain the small water cycle, both locally and globally.