

# 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.

## President's Message

### Kevin Roberson

Greetings! I hope this message finds you and your family well and peaceful. We are blessed to live in an area that so far has missed out on the worst of the pandemic and our protests against racial bias have been almost entirely peaceful. I hope this keeps up.

We are in the dog-days of Summer and it has been so hot and humid that anybody that can get out and hike the park is young, in good shape and likes ticks and chiggers. I have been over in the park a few times in the last month. It can be done if you just take it slow and protect your clothes with insecticide. I did get to mow the hiking trails in the Karst Area a couple of weeks ago. I also was able to mow most of the fire-lines in that area. It is nice to be able to socially distance and be contributing to supporting the Park, the Park's staff, the visitors. In this time of near isolation for many people, it is good to be able to connect in some way to giving back to something that we love.

I expect that we will be getting back to semi-normal in 2021 and look forward to meeting people in person, and dare I hope, without a mask? We have a group of very good people on the Friends of Rock Bridge Board and I look forward to seeing them soon. I hope that we will be able to Zoom to meet next month and plan how we can continue to support our Park and make it a better place for all. See you in the Park!

Yours in service,  
Kevin

## Naturalist News

### Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist

Volunteers are very important to Rock Bridge Memorial State Park during normal years and are even more essential this year because the pandemic has caused Missouri State Parks to have a hiring freeze on both full-time and seasonal staff.

Volunteers often work independently, but also enjoy projects led by park staff where they have the opportunity to see and learn about park features and get to know other volunteers. I have been leading weekly outings with park volunteers called "See and Serve." It's been rewarding to see that we have been successful at practicing social distancing which has enabled us to see and serve in this park that we all enjoy. To join in, contact the park office at 573-449-7402.



Several volunteers participating in a "See and Serve" enjoyed prairie flowers in bloom such as the pink sensitive brier Cindy Hestir is pointing to. This tour in the Grassland included cutting black locust sprouts. Photo by Roxie Campbell. Used by permission.

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