

# 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

Hi to my loyal readers and Parkies. I am never too sure of my audience as I have never had anyone ever email me with a complaint, correction, or complement. The Board keeps insisting that I write these, so I believe that they must be important.

What a month! The temperatures have seesawed more than 30 degrees in a day and we finally got some much needed rain. I have been working from home and with my windows on the world I have been able to watch the seasons go by as time marches on. Of special interest to me this month is that the Blue Jays have come back in force in the last couple of weeks. I see them in flocks as they harvest the acorns and harass hawks and deer hunters hidden in the trees. Where have they been all summer? In the bottomlands? Up North? Mizzou Campus? I have much to learn and not as much time as needed. If you know, email me @ [robersonkw@gmail.com](mailto:robersonkw@gmail.com).

Of special note (concern) is the Big Burr Oak near McBaine. It was struck by lightning and is probably in a struggle to survive very long. One glimmer of hope from this incident is that the wash of care that covered this issue in Twitter and Facebook leads me to believe that there may somewhere be a solution to our division as a country, state, county, etc. Genuine concern for things that matter to us all. There are more of these alignments than you may know. Let's hope so!

A special thanks to Jan and the other Board members helping her with the Virtual Nature Museum. This is a great project and one that will be information and entertainment to many.

Keep on working to preserve our Park and Nation.

Yours in service to conservation,  
Kevin Roberson

## Park News

### Sarah Jones, Park Superintendent

Happy Fall Everyone!

October was a great month here at the park. Visitation went up with all the beautiful weather and great fall color throughout the park. We had a few changes as well. When Tim Hennessy retired, Handy Hosts Mary and Bill Koch and Susan Johnson along with long time seasonal staff member Anthony Orazio kept up the park maintenance this summer. They were one of the best maintenance teams the park has seen. We really appreciated all their help. As the season wound down, Anthony finished up and the Handy Hosts are heading to warmer locations to spend the winter.

As everyone was making winter plans, the park received news we could replace the full-time maintenance position Tim has vacated. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, Lane Beverlin transferred here from Crowder State Park. Lane is from the Trenton area and moved to Columbia to be with his new bride Emma. He brings skills in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, heavy equipment, and a few years of State Park experience. We are very happy to have Lane join our Rock Bridge and Katy Trail team.

One last note: Friends of Rock Bridge helped to fund a cell phone booster at the shop. Before the booster was install, it was hard to get a text message let alone a call or surf the web. This booster has let the Handy Hosts and staff make calls at the shop. It has really helped everyone stay connected. Thanks so much for your generosity.

Happy Trails!

Sarah Jones

The 2020 CoMoGives Campaign starts on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. This year we have a goal of \$4000. Please donate.

**Naturalist News**  
**Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist**



Steve Ferguson, pictured here with four Jr. Naturalists in 2019, recently received the Masterpiece Award for his volunteer service. This award is determined by a committee of Missouri State Park employees and only one award was given for volunteer service for the whole park system for the first half of 2020. Congratulations Steve! Thank you very much! (Photo by Roxie Campbell Used by Permission)

The following activities occurred in October in the park:

About 30 staff with various state agencies who are enrolled in a Leadership Academy visited the park and received tours and information. They heard about volunteer service directly from volunteer Steve Ferguson.

Three scout troops participated in invasive plant control service projects.

One scout troop and several park volunteers received training in orienteering.

Several volunteers received training on how to spray foliage of small bush honeysuckles.

See & Serve volunteer events continued.

Burn plans were finished and work on fire line preparations continued.

Cave animal records were provided as requested by staff of the Missouri Department of Conservation.