

# 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; Melissa Hutchens Treasurer; Jan Weaver, Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Jim Gast, Mark Hahn, Steve Ferguson Board Members.

## President's Message

Dear FoRB Members,

Another month has flown by. We have gone from too hot to cold and rainy. I expect we will miss the heat before we see it again. The moisture has been good for the land, and I expect that it will lead to spectacular fall leaf colors, so far it has.

There is some news on the Canton Estates development. The Columbia City Council did not approve the request to waive the 12-month waiting period and stated that they want to work with the Boone County Commission on ways to protect the sensitive areas surrounding the Park. If this works out, it could mean an end to this need for eternal vigilance to keep a developer from getting a project sneaked through just because "it meets the minimum specifications".

If you are looking for something fun to do next weekend, we are having the Rock Bridge Renew on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. We meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Devil's Icebox parking lot to be assigned to teams either addressing control of invasive plants (see next page for options) or picking up trash along Highway 163. I will be there, and I hope to see you there too!

Keep smiling and I will see you in the Park.

Yours in conservation,  
Kevin Roberson

Don't forget to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. If you have, thanks. You can do so on-line at <http://friendsofrockbridgemsp.org/join.html>.

November 30<sup>th</sup> is the first day of the annual CoMoGives fundraising campaign. It lasts until December 31<sup>st</sup>. CoMoGives is FoRB's annual fundraising campaign.

## Naturalist News

Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist

The following groups enjoyed field trips to the park in October:

**MU Ecology class:** I led a group of 63 University of Missouri students through the Karst area and to Coyote Bluff. They learned about the park's natural communities and management.

**Benton Elementary School:** Volunteer Steve Ferguson and I led 39 fourth graders, who hadn't had a field trip in two years (they were SO excited!), on the Devil's Icebox Trail and into Connor's Cave. They also learned about habitats on the Sinkhole Trail. At the "Peeper Pond", we quickly captured two central newt salamanders, a tadpole, two dragonfly nymphs and one water boatman insect. Three volunteers came along to receive training with an eye toward leading future school groups.

**Daisies,** Girl Scouts in K-1<sup>st</sup> grade, earned a badge with Steve hiking along the Devil's Icebox Trail.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade students** from John Warner Middle School in Columbia came on their own to practice their land navigation skills using the park's orienteering course.

Quilts on Display: The two quilts produced by Missouri State Park staff and volunteers in 2020 to help commemorate the state's bicentennial, were on display in the lobby of the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia Oct. 13-20. We're told that 6,496 people had the opportunity to see them!

Wood from Old Oak Update: A section cut from a white oak tree that had fallen across the trail in the Karst area was recently dated by the Missouri Tree-Ring Lab. It began its life in 1876 when our country

was just 100 years old! It was 145 years old. They labeled dates and varnished it. It is now on display in the office meeting room. A large section of trunk from the same tree was cut into planks at a local saw mill. It is drying now, but we have hopes of creating two benches from the wood.

**Rock Bridge Renew Invasive Plant Control Options**

Pull winter creeper vine at the Gans Creek Trailhead area with seasonal employee, Ben Albertson. We need two people. Very little walking. Consider bringing something to sit on.

Bush honeysuckle near Coyote Bluff with seasonal employee Ethan Sakach. We have spotted scattered bushes of various sizes. The method of control depends on the size of the bush: pull small bushes, root-dock medium and cut/stump treat (with a herbicide spray bottle) medium and large sized bushes. Also, you can choose which method you want to use. Enjoy the view from Coyote Bluff and find satisfaction in helping to protect the glade ecosystem present there. Ethan will share some information about the glade.



On October 9th, this group of volunteers collected and planted prairie wildflower in the Grassland area where a water line was installed parallel to Route N. It will look weedy for a few years, but we intend to mow it once next summer to give the prairie flowers an advantage. Photo by Roxie Campbell.