

# The Bridge

Volume 36 Number 1 January 2023

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).

**The next board meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Park Office.**

FoRB Officers: Kevin Roberson, President; Mark Lee, Secretary; Melissa Hutchens Treasurer; Sue Tillema, Scott Schulte, Jim Gast, Steve Ferguson, Meredith Donaldson, Robin Rotman, Board Members.

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

A **BIG** thank you to everyone who donated during the CoMoGives campaign. We raised \$10015 through the on-line campaign, which exceeded our goal of \$7500. This amount does not include Jan Weaver's \$500 match so the final total is \$10515. These donations will allow us to continue providing nature programs to area youth as well as helping with stewardship, water quality monitoring and park infrastructure.

I hope that you all are snug in your homes and are able to weather the extreme weather. Below zero temps are not the norm here in mid-Missouri, but they do happen. So far, we have kept warm and were able to protect our property and our animals. These extremes definitely stress the native birds and mammals of our area. Once again, I think how lucky we have been for our founders to have had the foresight to set aside the Park land that provides food and habitat to the animals that we love. This weather makes survival a struggle, but the Park at least gives these animals and plants an opportunity to survive. All the work that Roxie and her team have put in to keep the invasives at bay pay benefits now during this stress time. There have been several studies that show that our native plants support the natural communities much better than the invasive species with their numerous bright red berries.

I hope you had a great holiday, and I hope to see you in the Park.

Yours in Conservation,  
Kevin Roberson

## Naturalist News

Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist



*Seasonal employee Devin Savage holds a privet that he just cut. Privet is an invasive species that has spread beyond the yards where it was planted. Photo by Roxie Campbell. Used by permission.*



*Volunteers collect wildflower seed in the Grassland area to plant where we've cut some invasive trees. Photo by Roxie Campbell. Used by permission.*

Staff worked on the following in December:  
Preparing firelines: Plans include burning parts of the Grassland and Gans Creek Wild Area

sometime before the end of March, weather permitting.

Gearing up for First Day Hikes, preparing for training in January and for leading a National Association of Interpreters hike in February.

Meeting with the Bonne Femme Watershed Project members and conducting water-related communication.

FORB  
P.O. Box 7642  
Columbia, MO 65205