

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.

The next board meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Park Office.

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

President's Column

Dear Friends,

Winter is here, at least around the edges. I rushed and planted 2 more pecan trees to help with my pecan tree pollination. It is nice to know that even as all is dormant and looks lifeless, that that is not the case. The dead-looking shoots that I planted will bud out and grow mightily in the Spring and hopefully for many years to come. I may have finally come to the stage of my life where I am planting trees that I will never get the chance to sit in their shade. As the other surrounding native trees, the oaks, hickories, mulberries and hackberries, lie dormant; I can still see the green of the Autumn Olives and Bush Honeysuckle taunting me as I look out my window. I am able to keep up with the Callery Pear and make a dent in the Bush Honeysuckle and Autumn Olives. I will endeavor to persevere with my invasive control with gusto next spring.

We should take time during this holiday time to think of the birth and rebirth of many good things in our lives. We all should plan to see how we may help the things we love prosper and thrive. I will be donating to the Friends group through COMOGives this year and I hope that you all will too. This money is used to bring the UPOP (with much help from Missouri Parks Association) and Nature Detectives programs that support the youth of our region.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good night. Take care and be kind. I hope to see you in the Park.

Yours in Conservation,
Kevin Roberson



Over 40 people participated in FoRB's Black Friday Hike and s'mores event on November 24th. This year's hike met at the Special Use Area and featured a history hike and a walks to Shooting Star Bluff and Coyote Bluff. Photo by Robin Rotman. Used by permission.

CoMoGives Campaign

The 2023 CoMoGives campaign is underway and lasts until 11:59 PM on December 31st. FoRB has a goal of raising \$7500. We have currently raised \$1310.

This year there will be three "Power Giving Hours" on December 10th, December 14th and December 19th, and they last from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The organization that collects the most money during each of these three events wins a \$500 incentive from the Community Foundation of Central Missouri.

To donate, please use this link:
<https://comogives.com/product/friends-of-rock-bridge-memorial-state-park-6/>.

Thank you for your continuing support

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