

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, Robin Rotman, Board Members

CoMoGives Update

Jim Gast, CoMoGives Chair

We had a goal of \$7500 and raised \$7540. A big thank you to everyone, both donors and members, who continues to provide us support. You are greatly appreciated.

President's Column

Greetings Friends!

I hope that you have had a great Christmas and are preset to have a great New Year in 2024. This time of year is great to look back at the preceding year and forward to the New Year coming. What have we accomplished and what will we plan to do in the future.

We have had two successful Rock Bridge Renew this year for the first time in several years, so double the trash pick up and double the stewardship of the Park, (invasive plant removal).

Our Keystone projects: UPOP and Nature Detectives were very successful this year and we helped many children and families learn to love nature and support the Park. Our relatively new Black Friday s'mores and hikes were even better attended than last year, thanks Robin! I hope you all have noted the vast improvement of our website, [Friendsofrockbridgemsp.org](http://www.friendsofrockbridgemsp.org), thanks to mainly the efforts of Board Member and volunteer extraordinaire: Steve Ferguson.

Next year we will do all of this and more. Do you have any good ideas? Ideas that support the Park or help with stewardship, education of regional youth and protection of our special environmental gem that we all love.

Please take care of yourself and help others that need assistance. I hope to see you in the Park this winter and all of next year.

Yours in Conservation,
Kevin Roberson
President, FoRB Board

Naturalist News

Roxie Campbell, Park Naturalist

Below is a list of recent activities we've been working on at the park:

Staff and volunteers controlled invasive plants by spraying foliage when bush honeysuckle was still green and native plants dormant. We cut and treated stumps of larger bush honeysuckle and other woody species.



Snow fell on December 29th. Photo by Roxie Campbell. Used by permission.

Prepped fire lines for three units we want to burn at Rock Bridge sometime before spring.

Ben and I helped other staff conduct a prescribed burn of the 31-acre natural area burn unit at Graham Cave State Park.

Ben and I participated in the Christmas Bird Count, citizen science project, conducted by Columbia Audubon Society.

Prepared for the First Day Hikes on January 1st.

Communicated with park volunteers to get signed up for 2024.

Communicated with Devil's Icebox Cave Institute volunteers about upcoming training and a hibernating bat survey trip.

Worked on publication of Edward Jacobs's 1891 Diary.