

# Friends of Camp Zoe

at ECHO BLUFF STATE PARK



*the* STATE of CAMP ZOE LODGE

JUNE 2016

# AUGUST 2014



Our Summer 2014 Camp Zoe Alumni reunion at Round Spring prompted Missouri State Parks to extend an invitation for an evening picnic and a look at Camp Zoe. For many, it was the first opportunity to be on the property in decades.

Seeing old friends, the grounds, the bluff – indeed, just being there made it a joyous event. We all knew that the cabins were gone, and the mess hall, too. We were prepared for all that. But it sure was a shock to see Camp Zoe's oldest structure and enduring symbol, the Lodge, in such a sad state and being called The Rock House.

Missouri State Parks Director Bill Bryan was on hand to roll out the plans for the fantastic new state park. It all sounded wonderful, until he informed us that there were no state funds available for any restoration work for the Lodge...the allocated funds were to be used for demolition and new construction only.

Director Bryan recognized the value of this unique structure, not only historical and sentimental, but as a stand-out feature for the future park. He assured us that Missouri State Parks preferred that the Lodge remain in place, but without outside donor funding, the fate of the Lodge was completely uncertain.

A few of us decided to get together after the reunion to see what we could do to help. The following is a pictorial timeline of our progress.













## MASTER PLAN PHASE 1



- STAY**
- LODGE/ CHECK-IN
  - FULL SERVICE CAMPING
  - CABINS
  - GROUP CAMPING
  - WALK-IN CAMPING

- PLAY**
- AMPHITHEATER
  - OVERLOOK
  - HIKING TRAILS
  - MEADOW
  - PLAYGROUND/ ADVENTURE PLAY
  - SPRING
  - NATURE CENTER



# August 22, 2014 – A Picnic, A Pitch, and a Price Tag.

Missouri State Parks Director Bill Bryan tells our reunion group, as well as some special local friends including former Camp Zoe owners Lois and Jack Peters, all about the plans for the new state park. He also told us that there was an urgent need for 'someone' to find a way to save the Camp Zoe Lodge.



Save the Camp Zoe Lodge  
[www.SaveCampZoeLodge.org](http://www.SaveCampZoeLodge.org)

## RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MISSOURI PARKS ASSOCIATION

### Resolution to Extend the Arbitrary Fundraising Deadline and to Encourage the Stabilization, Restoration and Preservation of the Camp Zoe Lodge and Adjoining Stone Walkway

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Parks Association on Sunday, November 9, 2014 at Montauk State Park, the following resolution was proposed and approved by the board:

**WHEREAS**, Camp Zoe was established as a summer sleep away camp in 1929; and

**WHEREAS**, the lodge and adjoining stone walkway are the only surviving original structures at Camp Zoe and are dear to the memory of campers, counselors and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the lodge is an example of the distinct Missouri vernacular architecture genre, Ozark rock masonry; and

**WHEREAS**, the preservation of the property's historical connection with Camp Zoe will contribute to the success of planned state park development efforts and likely attract additional visitors,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

The Missouri Parks Association, assembled for its Annual Meeting at Montauk State Park, offers its congratulations and thanks to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and especially to the Parks Division staff for their success and faithfulness in the stewardship of the state parks and historic sites which are under their responsibility and care; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that being advised of the consideration of the addition of the 330-acre Camp Zoe property bordering Sinking Creek to the Current River State Park, (under development) in order to preserve its natural resources and utilize its scenic areas and ecological diversity to enhance and complement the recreational opportunities of the Current River watershed;

The Missouri Parks Association encourages Governor Jeremiah W. "Jay" Nixon and the Missouri Office of Administration, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Division of State Parks:

To support the fundraising efforts of the alumni group Save the Camp Zoe Lodge in cooperation with the Missouri State Parks Foundation; and

To extend the arbitrary deadline of January 31, 2015 that was set for raising funds for the restoration; and

To make every effort possible to stabilize, restore and preserve the historic Camp Zoe Lodge and the adjoining stone walkway; and

To proceed favorably in its evaluation, with the hope that the preservation of the Camp Zoe Lodge and adjoining stone walkway will thus enhance the outdoor heritage of all Missourians for many generations to come.

Passed unanimously by the board this 9th Day of November, 2014.

Signed:

Steve Nagle, President, Missouri Parks Association



Resolution of Missouri Parks Association  
November 9, 2014

Lynn (Skip) Chipperfield, Melissa (Missy Cohen) Bock, and Kim Hohmann Good got the ball rolling within days of the reunion, and within a week's time had formed the Save the Camp Zoe Lodge organization and scheduled a conference call with Director Bryan.

Within a month, a Memorandum of Agreement with Missouri State Parks Foundation was in place to begin a fundraising effort, and our website went up concurrently.

Kim organized a local St. Louis reunion/fundraiser picnic for mid-October. Camp Zoe alumna and Missouri Parks Association Board member Shirley Wolverson attended the picnic. She was anxious to join our efforts! Also, attending was Kim's brother, renowned architect and restoration specialist (and Camp Zoe alumnus) Paul Hohmann. Paul, too, wanted to support the effort to Save Camp Zoe Lodge. He immediately made a trip to Camp Zoe to inspect the Lodge to assess the restoration needs and furnished us with the plans to complete the project.

But could we meet our \$300,000 goal within the four month deadline?

The answer was, 'No', we couldn't meet the deadline; but we were able to have the timeline extended, then extended again! Then things in the legislature got very interesting and we weren't even sure there would be a new park... so we held our breath for months.

Fortunately, we had some wonderful, generous, and like-minded people pledge to donate to Save the Camp Zoe Lodge. That helped give us the credibility we needed to continue working with Missouri State Parks.

Our Pledge Campaign Countdown... Now is the time for you to help.

To make your pledge to the Save Camp Zoe Lodge campaign ([click here](#))

**Our Pledges**

as of

3.2.2015

Lynn (Skip)  
Chipperfield \$ 5,000

Kim Hohmann  
Good \$ 1,000

Melissa (Missy  
Cohen) Bock \$ 1,000

Elie Hirsch \$ 1,000

Lynn Holden \$ 100

Lorrie Bielicke \$ 1,000

Shirley Wolverson \$ 500

Lisa Brenner \$ 100

Mary Otto \$ 1,000

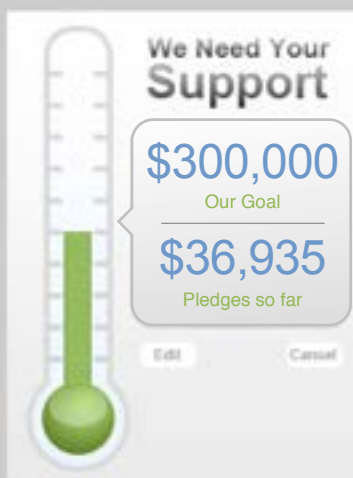
Jane Otto \$ 1,000

Nancy Wolverson \$ 100

The Taft Family  
Tim Taft  
Jill Taft Smith  
In memory of  
Helen R. Taft  
Dorothy V.  
Daniel \$10,000

Theodore  
Beringer \$ 35

Gary & Pat Fakes \$ 500



John O'Connell \$10,000

Sally & Rod Nott \$ 100

Tom Caldwell \$ 25

Barb Ostmann \$ 50

Norma Juracsik \$ 25

L. Tremaine \$ 200

Sunni Mace \$ 50

Lori Rose \$ 200

Kent Jones \$ 1,000

Steve Nagle \$ 100

Bonnie Baxter \$ 1,500

Robin Woll \$ 50

Caitlin Coley \$ 20

Jack Witte \$ 500

Patricia Lasley  
Allen \$ 500

Diana Blakemore \$ 30

Lisa Simcox  
Brueggemann \$ 250

# AUGUST 2015



By invitation from Missouri State Parks, Shirley Wolverson and Melissa Bock went to the new park to inspect the condition of Camp Zoe Lodge.

Current River State Park Superintendent (and the new park's acting Superintendent) Jim Newberry not only showed them the Lodge, but gave an extensive two hour tour of the property. They were thrilled to see how extraordinary this new park was going to be!



These are the extra stones from the lower portion of the walkway. They were removed at the steepest parts and brought up to the Lodge to be incorporated into the landscape there.



These two photos clearly show the most critical stability issue.

The right front corner of the porch is bowing outward significantly. It happened when the last owner decided to use that portion of the porch to house enormous, heavy beer coolers.







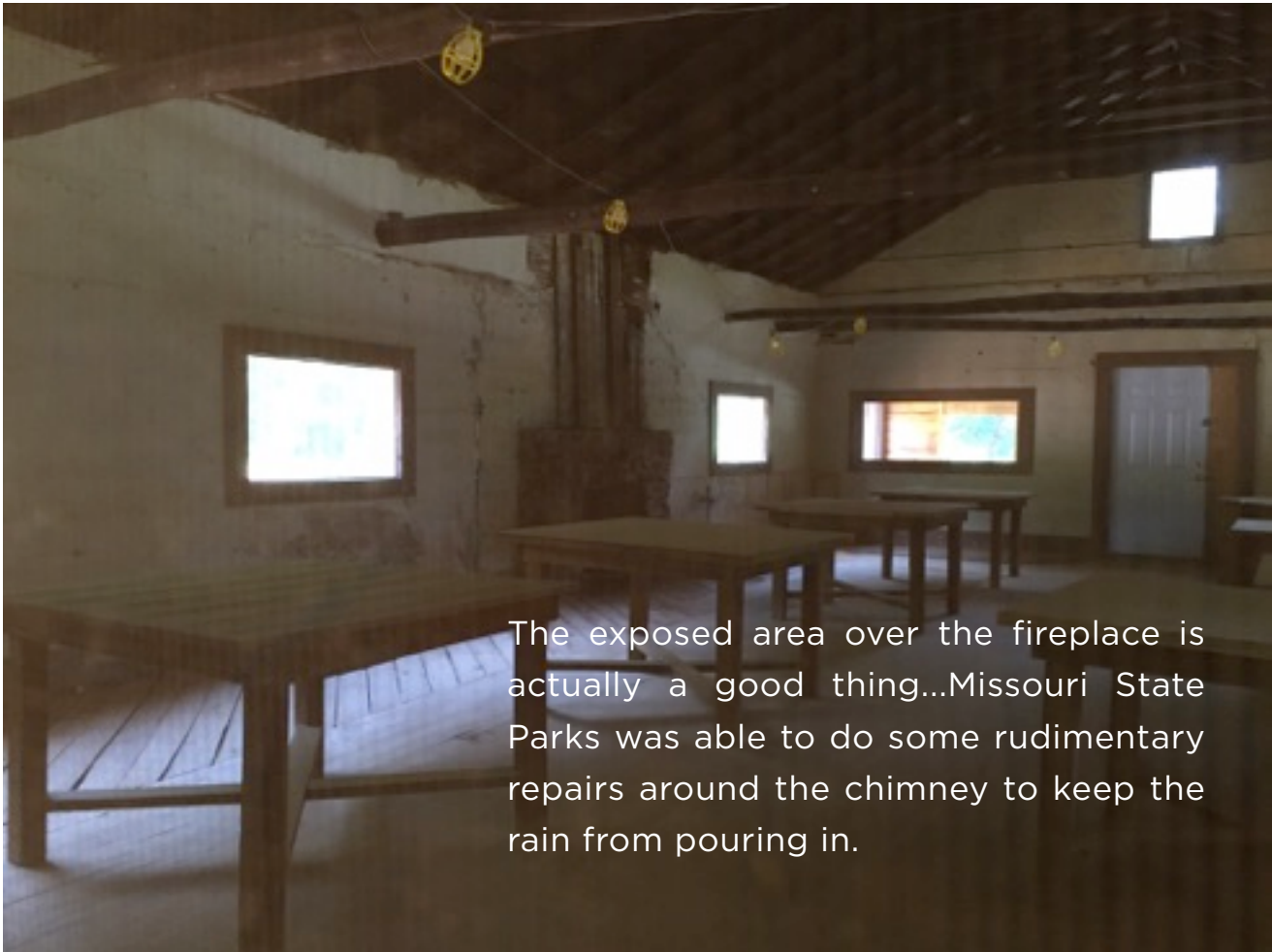








We weren't able to go inside because areas of the floor were too unstable, so these photos were taken through the screened windows.



The exposed area over the fireplace is actually a good thing...Missouri State Parks was able to do some rudimentary repairs around the chimney to keep the rain from pouring in.




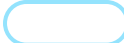
The area in front of the steps has some large patches of aggregate concrete where perhaps damaged stones had been removed or where the paved area was expanded.

These unattractive patches will be removed and the original walkway stones that were formerly used at the lower, steeper part of the walkway will be used to properly expand the paved area in front of Camp Zoe Lodge.



The footprint of the new park is pretty much identical to what was there before...

The two biggest differences are the clearing of some trees. The most noticeable ones were of those there to shade the cabins, mess hall, nurses cabin, etc. The others are generally at the periphery of the already cleared and open areas. 

Additionally, just below what was the archery range, where Cabins II and III were on the sloping hillside, they have done a more dramatic terracing and created an attractive bioswale to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water. 

All the bare dirt areas shown below have been planted with native grasses and new native trees are being planted.

There appears to have been lots of thoughtful planning that went into this new park.

For instance, In the middle of the construction area is an enormous mound of topsoil that is being saved to be reused when the construction is completed.

We also found out that there are artifacts from Camp Zoe that have been saved, stored and cataloged.

Those will be available to us to exhibit at the restored Camp Zoe Lodge.





View from the new endpoint of the original walkway, showing the now-terraced slope that will feature the new bioswale.





The new endpoint of the original walkway.

The loose stones will be re-used as pavers at the front of Camp Zoe Lodge.

MAY 2016



Shirley Wolverson and Melissa Bock made a second trip to the new park to inspect the condition of Camp Zoe Lodge.

Jim Newberry (and Camp Zoe alumna Barbara Newberry) gave an even more extensive tour of the new park.

Echo Bluff State Park will be truly extraordinary and a place we can all be proud to be a part of!



The temporary cap on the chimney to keep the rain from causing further damage.

There is still some dampness on the inside wall around the fireplace, so we need to get our work started quickly!







The above photo shows the additional grading that was done to move rainwater away from the building. There were also some new native Missouri trees planted.

At right are some of the 'recycled' walkway stones used to replace the aggregate concrete patches and to expand the paved area in front of the Lodge.

The rest of the walkway was protected from heavy equipment damage during the construction and now just needs a little weed and grass cleanup.





This is the result of the poor grading and resultant water intrusion.

Pictured here is the porch floor in the back, left corner of Camp Zoe Lodge. As you can see, the concrete slab looks curved from the settling at the back corner and outside left edge.

The large cracks formed because, of course, concrete doesn't actually bend.

Obviously, the floor still needs some attention!

Missouri State Parks has managed to do a few simple maintenance repairs on parts of the floor so we did have some limited access inside during the visit.





The dampness from the leaking chimney and roof area is creating quite a science project above the fireplace.

We are anxious to get started on the initial stabilization portion of our plans to keep the damage from progressing.





Many of the cracks in the interior walls, while alarming to see, are merely superficial,

However, some will require much more extensive repair, including the hole in the front wall where the previous owner installed a wood-burning stove.

The hole in the roof from another stove chimney will be dealt with when the whole roof is repaired and resurfaced.

Most of the trusses are in good shape. Some are damaged and will need to be replaced.



The good news...

All the original timber beams are in great shape and remain in place!









Needless to say, this one's NOT superficial.

It will require pretty extensive and skilled stonework to repair



Daylight!



This is an up-close look at the damage cause by those heavy beer coolers.

This is the point at which that whole section of the building is starting to cleave away from the rest of the structure.



The exterior view of the open-air crack.



Apparently, at some point there was a misguided attempt to patch it.





Barbara and Melissa inspect the walkway as it makes its way down the hill.

There's actually a great view from there of the rock beach and 'our' bluff at the swimming hole. Missouri State Parks cleared some of the overgrowth blocking that view that was there during our 2014 reunion.

The view now is much more like what we all remember from our days at Camp Zoe.



The new lower portion of the walkway features these beautiful natural stone steps. They really do make it much easier to get up and down the hill.

That cut-out in the trees above the bluff is in the same spot where we would view Camp Zoe from above on our early morning horseback rides.

Remember if you were lucky, and the timing was just right, you could hear the sound of reveille through the mist rising from the camp. It sure seemed heavenly!



That new road and parking areas are for the day use portion of the park. This area is particularly kid-focused, with a state-of-the-art playground and easy access for swimming in Sinkin' Creek.

Interesting that this is where they decided kids would have the most fun - exactly the portion of the new park that was the epicenter of Camp Zoe.



The bioswale looks great and will look even better as the newly planted native grass and trees mature.

These new steps go through the newly terraced bioswale area, giving it additional visual texture.

Speaking of great visuals, that's the rock beach and Sinkin' Creek down there in the background!

But the killer visual came at the last part of our park tour.

Check out the next page to see the amazing thing they've done at the top of 'our' bluff!



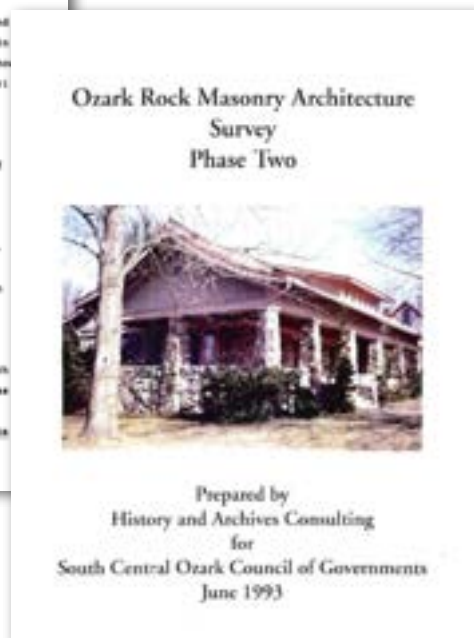


As part of the event pavilion area on top of the bluff, they've built this fantastic cantilevered walkway to capture an even better view of Camp Zoe than we used to get during our early morning horseback rides!

And there in the center of this amazing panorama, peaking through the trees, is the Camp Zoe Lodge.

# NATIONAL REGISTER *of* HISTORIC PLACES

Following the completion of the renovation process, and with the assistance of Missouri State Parks, application will be made for the inclusion of Camp Zoe Lodge in the National Register of Historic Places.



Camp Zoe Lodge was built in 1929 in the distinct Missouri vernacular architecture genre, Ozark rock masonry, when Camp Zoe was founded as a youth summer camp.

Historically significant both architecturally and culturally, Ozark rock construction expresses the high-minded principles of the Craftsman movement while at the same time symbolizing the traditional hard-working, self-reliant Ozark way of life. The stone walkway also dates to 1929.



Become a member of Friends of Camp Zoe!

Be a part of the effort to restore the Camp Zoe Lodge and sustain the very legacy of our beloved Camp Zoe!

[www.friendsofcampzoe.org](http://www.friendsofcampzoe.org)



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at Friends of Camp Zoe!