



Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc.

The mission of the Friends of Hidden Valley is to provide support to the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, Inc., in programs, development, maintenance and goals that promote and benefit Hidden Valley Camp. www.friendshv.org

Spring 2015

Pollinator Project Kick-off on Earth Day!

You may know this but without pollinators, most of the flowering plants we enjoy each spring could not reproduce. More than one-third of the staple food products that we depend on for a balanced diet, like tomatoes, squash, and beans (to name a few), are reliant on the services of a pollinator species to propagate. Pollinator species (such as bees, butterflies and moths) inadvertently perform this service as they gather nectar for food and succeed in making plants flourish and produce fruit.

Their role in our ecosystem has long been overlooked due to their size. However, as an indicator species that scientists use to gauge global environmental health, their survival is vital to our well-being. One of the major challenges faced by pollinators worldwide is habitat loss and damage from pesticides and herbicide use. There is hope, however, that as people become more aware of their important role in a sustainable world, we can help these species recover. An important aspect of supporting these pollinators is ensuring their access to the **native** plants on which they evolved, and removing or reducing the alien species gardeners often use in their home landscapes.

Increasingly, focus is on pollinator species such as monarchs and other butterflies due to their beauty but we should remember that bees are among the most important pollinators, with more than 2500 species present in the U.S. alone. Most urban areas rely on them to help community gardens, parks, and nature areas thrive. Fortunately, there is a lot that can be done in urban environments to support them, and landscapes can be managed which benefit both

Over 1,000 wildflowers representing 26 species, including seven distinct species of milkweed, will be planted.



Join us for the Pollinator Project Kick-off!

Date: Earth Day, April 22nd
Several times are available throughout the day. Please email Durand at durandi@sunflower.com to schedule your time!

pollinators and people. **Our goals for the Pollinator Project at Hidden Valley Camp are to enhance the landscape to support all pollinators, with an emphasis on monarchs, and to showcase the wide variety of native wildflowers that homeowners can use in their own gardens.**

The Hidden Valley Pollinator Project was first initiated with the idea that we could support the monarch migration with a way-station on site, for monarch migration south. Yearly, millions of monarchs migrate from the U.S. and Canada to overwinter in Mexico and California and they are severely

threatened by habitat loss. Although their preservation is important, we began to think beyond the butterfly and work on the preservation of a more diverse population. With this in mind, and complementing our already existing Memorial Butterfly Garden and Butterfly Alley, we decided to expand the acreage and diversity of plants that pollinators will find here at Hidden Valley.

After researching plant species native to our unique locale, we assessed the variable landscapes at Hidden Valley to find just the right places for new and current species of flora. We chose three locations to attract and provide food sources for local and migrating pollinators. We also discussed the growth of this project over the next several years in keeping with Hidden Valley goals and mission to provide educational opportunities for our youth. Funding for this project came from the Merc Change Program. Together with volunteer assistance clearing invasive plants from these areas, we are excited to announce that this coming April, planting is ready to begin!

New planting will commence at the end of Butterfly Alley, and in two specific locations west of the pond in Mary's Meadow. We will be planting over 1,000 wildflowers representing 26 species, including seven distinct species of milkweed. Besides preservation, it is our goal that by planting this spring, plants will be established well enough for our participation in monarch tagging events as a part of our Fall Workdays.

This will take a lot of volunteer hours and we hope you will sign up to join us!

Camp Upgrades Include New Chimney!

The camp has been busy this past year with several upgrades and repairs, many of which have been funded wholly or in part with Friends contributions. The primary Friends project was the replacement of the exterior brick chimney through the Brick 4 Bricks fundraiser. This ongoing fundraiser raised over \$2,000 from the sales of custom inscribed bricks placed in the cabin patio. Thanks to an anonymous donor contributing another \$3,000, we were able to complete this project last fall. This project was very important for the users of Ar-ca-loo-ka cabin, as the crumbling chimney had become so waterlogged that water was seeping into the cabin during heavy rains. We are very grateful for those who purchased bricks and our very wonderful anonymous donor! Please keep those brick orders coming, as we will be announcing a new "Brick 4 Bricks" project in the future. Order forms can be found on the Friends website.

Other recent upgrades include

new fencing along Bob Billings Parkway, where large hedge posts cut from the camp were used for some support posts. A leaking water line was dug up in Mary's Meadow, and repaired. Siding issues were addressed on Evelyn's Attic by adding wooden strips to the splitting seams. Friends purchased more large cedar trees for the 15th St. vegetative screening and contributed to the upkeep of the plantings there. Friends also contributed towards the removal of many large, dead trees that had become hazardous.

This winter/spring, new fencing will continue to be installed along the eastern and northern perimeter of the camp, much of which will be funded by



KU Students support the removal of honeysuckle in the camp.

Friends. Honeysuckle Warriors are busy clearing new trails and unit sites, and continue to rid the camp of honeysuckle shrubs and hazardous dead trees and limbs. A new project approved by the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee is a permanent archery range, which will be used for the first time at Day Camp this summer.

Second Annual Hidden Valley Trails Day

After the workday on June 6th (rain date June 7th), Hidden Valley will be open to the public for guided trail hikes from 11:30- 12:30. Short ½ hour tours begin at 11:30 and noon; the hour-long tours also begin at 11:30. All tours end at Redbud Shelter for snacks, exhibits and the opportunity to talk with Board Members. Please wear appropriate clothing and enclosed shoes; bug spray and sunscreen recommended. No dogs, strollers, or unaccompanied minors please. All must sign a waiver.

This is *your* opportunity to see what your membership dues provide, and to reinforce what you already know: that Hidden Valley is truly a Lawrence treasure for our youth *and* wildlife, not only now, but for future generations as well. Please help spread the word so more people will come to know, appreciate and support this 58 year legacy!



Board member Mary Swayne entertains a youngster with a box turtle at the Friends exhibit during Eagles Day in January.

Fall Workday = Fall Fun

A fantastic mix of volunteers showed up for the annual fall workday on November 2, 2014. The sunny (and very windy) day brought over 100 volunteers to work in Mary's Meadow and Dogwood Forest. The event was coordinated by Sandy Beverly and Mary Swayne. Project leaders included Kyra Flummerfelt, Cindy Riling, Jeff Bandle, Jill Baringer, Mary Beth Petr, Gwen Macpherson, Karen Lewis, Ren Liu, Mike Huslig, Mary Murphy, Marit Ehmke, Margaret Verhage, and Durand Reiber. Thanks to these fine folks for spending much of the afternoon supervising volunteers *and* engaging in real physical labor!

Volunteers from the FHV and LHVC boards working on other logistics included, Christine Graves, Margaret Townsend, Marcia West, Liz Phillips, and Carol Zhiri. Regular volunteers included Lysette Deboard, who brought her Cadette troop, Wanda Waugh and Sarah Corliss. Special thanks to David Petr and Kevin Barnes for very helpful chainsaw work. Also, big thanks to Lynne Bodle, Mary Jo Mensie, Marcia West, and Jean Martin, along with Troop #7660, for their donation of \$600 for native tree plantings, primarily in Dogwood Forest. This money represents memorial funds left in their disbanding troop that was established in 1956, the same year Hidden Valley was established!

Thanks to volunteers young and old, accomplishments included: tree, shrub and grass plantings, removal of Japanese honeysuckle vines, honeysuckle shrubs, transplanting of small cedar saplings to places where more screening is desired, collecting and spreading of flower seeds, mulching, wetland maintenance, and renovation of the wildlife blind and unit sites.

Due to high winds, we could not do the typical brush burning. However, a small fire was maintained for toasting marshmallows, as no November workday is complete without s'mores! Another thrill reported was the finding of a hibernating box turtle in the mulch,

which was carefully replaced after the work.



Tales from the Trails...

Each month several volunteers who are part of the Friends Hiking Patrol support the effort to assure that Hidden Valley is being cared for and safe from intrusion by hiking weekly throughout the property. The following are a few excerpts of observations reported from these hikes over the winter:

- ❖ “A wonderful hour away from our busy lives--what a good respite! Lots of blue jays screeching, many robins in large groups, and flickers too. We're eager to begin to see skunk cabbage, wild onions, etc...”
- ❖ “It was beautiful, the frozen streams looked like silver ribbons...”
- ❖ “Nice peaceful, invigorating and cold day (~ 17 degrees)...”
- ❖ “The kids were fascinated by the frozen creeks and spent quite a bit of time testing the ice...It was a wonderful way to start the new year...”

Come Experience the Fun this Spring

April 11th Workday, anytime between 1 & 4 pm; we'll be working on the eastern side of the camp with spring maintenance projects. Rain date is April 18. Please see our website (www.friendshv.org) for details.

April 22nd is Earth Day, and we'll be spending the whole day planting milkweed and other native plants. Calling all gardeners and nature enthusiasts! Email durandi@sunflower.com to set up a time for you or your group to help! See the Pollinator Project article for more information.

June 6th Trail Maintenance from 8 am – 11:30 am: join a trail crew clearing back brush and downed limbs, picking up trash, clearing debris from under bridges, etc. Rain date is June 7th.

Support the Friends of Hidden Valley

There are a number of ways to show your support for the Friends of Hidden Valley, including:

- Joining us on a Work Day,
- Maintaining your annual membership,
- Liking us on our new Facebook page



To view our newsletter, and all included photos, in color, please visit our website at www.friendshv.org .



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PO Box442073 Lawrence, KS
66044