

Friends of Hidden Valley
Annual Report
July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

The Mission of the Friends of Hidden Valley is to provide support to the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, Inc. (LHVC), in programs, development, maintenance and goals that promote and benefit the Hidden Valley Camp.

Adopted July 14, 1999

OFFICER REPORTS

Chair: Christine Graves

Friends of Hidden Valley set several goals for the 2016 – 2017 year and were successful in either meeting them or make measurable progress. Detailed information about the following goals will be discussed in the different Committee Reports:

- Continue to help maintain Hidden Valley Camp for Girl Scouts and other youth groups
- Promote the Bricks for Bricks program
- Continue to collaborate with, and form new partnerships with other agencies and organizations
- Obtain a new digital map of Hidden Valley, and continue a trail signage project
- Continue with native woods restoration and habitat improvements
- Celebrate the 20th anniversary of FHV and its Founders and Charter Members

We were honored to be selected by Aidan Loveland Koster as her charity in the “Transformations All-Star Gala.” FHV received recognition in the Lawrence community and an opportunity to win a sizeable monetary prize. Although we didn’t win 1st place, Aidan and the group of Girl Scout performers received the only standing ovation.

The FHV 2016 Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the 60th Anniversary of Hidden Valley Camp Celebration. The attendees enjoyed a variety of activities and displays: Pollinators and Insect Display, Vintage campsite with Campfire Stew served, Monarch exhibits and tagging, Festival Of Trees ornament craft, Games and Songs, Hidden Valley history and timeline, and campfire roasted hotdogs and S’mores.

The meeting took place in the Dogwood Forest with the Annual Report presented and the outgoing Board members, Jill Baringer, Vicki Collie-Akers and Liz Phillips, thanked and presented with framed photographs taken at Hidden Valley by Jim Bresnahan. The new slate of nominees for the Board was elected. They are Lisa Barnes, Robin Robertson, Claudette Johns, and returning member Margaret Verhage. Following the meeting, The Dogwood Forest was dedicated and a new wooden sign, hanging at the entrance was uncovered.

Vice-chair: Margaret Verhage

The Vice-chair is to serve as the Nominating Committee Chair. She prepared a slate of nominees for the 2017 – 2018 Board of Directors. This ballot was sent out to all FHV members. She will count the ballots returned and present the results at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Secretary: Cindy Riling

The minutes of the FHV Board meetings are filed in a book of minutes at the home of the Secretary. Minutes for all of the monthly meetings except December for the 2016 – 2017 year were transcribed, distributed to the Board Members, approved, and filed. A meeting was not held in December 2016.

Treasurer: Robin Robertson

Friends of Hidden Valley enjoyed a successful year. The contributions from our membership were strong again at over \$12,000. This enabled us to fund several projects throughout the camp. FHV spent almost \$5,000 on vegetation renewal, hiring two companies who worked on the invasive honeysuckle. This project aims to eliminate

the invasive honeysuckle, replacing it with native plants. Each year, more of this honeysuckle disappears, allowing the native plants and trees to thrive. FHV contributed a little over \$3500 toward camp expenses. These included replacing the yurt dome and hiring a company to do extensive tree work. Other projects included creating a habitat display which is set up in the yurt and maintaining the bio-swale and the pollinator garden. FHV had a positive cash flow this year thanks to our investment returns and generous donations to our DCCF Endowment fund. The long-time treasurer, Jill Baringer, stepped down and was replaced by Robin Robertson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraising: Chair - Robin Robertson, Cindy Riling, Margaret Verhage, Marcia West

One of our on-going programs, Bricks for Bricks (B4B), offers people/troops/businesses the opportunity to purchase a brick with an engraving. The money raised by this program has been used to fix the Arcalooka cabin chimney. The next project funded by this program will be building a stone or brick fireplace and grill at the Southern Shade Shelter south of the cabin. We received seven brick orders this fiscal year. Another fundraising opportunity was offered by GroupRaise, and we received 15% of the receipts from Jefferson's on Massachusetts Street the evening of June 27th. Friends of Hidden Valley has an AmazonSmile account set up. We get .5% of eligible sales. This works with Amazon Prime as well. Users must go to smile.amazon.com, then sign in and look for FHV in the drop-down list and select. The user must shop through AmazonSmile for FHV to get the donation.

Membership: Chair: Carol Zhiri, Christine Graves, Robin Robertson, Claudette Johns (Database Manager)

The membership committee works to retain current members and to increase new memberships in Friends of Hidden Valley. The committee's annual budget covers costs of printing letters for solicitations; sending acknowledgement letters; printing renewal membership forms; mailing solicitations, and reorders for letterhead and matching envelopes.

During the year, the committee members continued their support for other committee activities. Members helped prepare for the Fall Frolic and supported the activity with posters and membership information. All the members assisted PR at Eagles Day. On Trails Day, members were active in the morning work day and supported PR during the trail's activity in the afternoon. Members helped each Work Day as leaders or support staff. A new activity for membership was the opening of a booth at Earth Day in South Park. It was very successful with lots of interest expressed by the visitors.

In November, 185 renewal letters were sent out. By February there were 95 responses from prior members. 85 more solicitation letters were sent out in March with a strong response. The committee sent 40 cold solicitations in late March. By May, membership responses were greater than last year with 15 new members.

The 2016-2017 membership results are:

New Memberships:	17
Renewed Memberships:	99
Lifetime Members:	<u>9</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS:	125

Public Relations: Co-Chairs: Durand Reiber and Lily Yu, Lisa Barnes, Claudette Johns, Karen Lewis

The Public Relations committee published three newsletters this year. In an effort to expand membership for the 20th Anniversary, the PR and Membership Committees collaborated this year to expand our newsletter distribution list. Efforts to have a greater online presence was created via Facebook postings of events and activities sponsored by the FHV.

Three events were led by the PR Committee:

Eagles Day was held on January 21, 2017 at the Free State High School. It was the 21st year for this community event. Approximately 1,000 attended this event with nearly 30 area non-profit and community programs presented and shared their programs focusing on wildlife and the environment.

Earth Day was held April 22, 2017 at South Park. Hundreds attended the parade and then came to the event in South Park. FHV Board members had a table with FHV information and shared the importance of Hidden Valley within the Lawrence community. They also invited the community to attend the upcoming Trails Day event at Hidden Valley.

National Trails Day is a nationally coordinated event designed to unite all hikers, runners and bicyclists with the goal of connecting more people to trails. FHV hosted its fourth Trails Day event on June 3, 2017. Approximately 25 volunteers assisted with trail, stream and bridge maintenance throughout the campsite in the morning, followed by guided hikes for community members and Girl Scout troops.

Recognitions: Chair – Marcia West, Lisa Barnes, Durand Reiber, Cindy Riling, Margaret Verhage

This year the Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV) Recognitions Awards for Troop Rewards and Marianna Remple Recognitions, were presented April 17, 2017 at the Douglas County Service Unit meeting, SU 716

Troop Rewards

The Troop Reward was established with the goals to seek and encourage volunteerism. Hidden Valley is a unique wildlife area and we want Hidden Valley to be here for generations to come. By having girls and adults involved in the development and maintenance of Hidden Valley, they will learn commitment, responsibility and stewardship of the camp for now and in the future. The Troop Rewards were given for participation in activities between 4/1/2016 and 4/1/2017.

Each year a troop from each age level (Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador) may be rewarded with \$50 to be used however they wish. Troops must submit an application to the Recognitions Committee no later than April 1st of each year. Applications are located on the FHV website: www.friendshv.org.

Seven Troops applied and four troops each received \$50 for Troop Rewards due to number of work days attended, special projects and number of girls participating in the activities.

Daisy Troop 5606, leader Jessica Hensley, participated in a workday and they did two independent service projects removing trash in the creek bed, tossed seed balls into the woods, pulled honeysuckle, swept Redbud shelter and sidewalks, and re-wrote the wording in Redbud Shelter. **Brownie/Junior Troop 672**, leaders Terri Chambers and Jamie Allegre, came to two work days. Some of the comments about work days were the girls liked cleaning up and planting, being in nature and helping the camp. **Junior troop 4912**, leaders Laura Rozzi and Jenny Gleason came to an event and did one independent service project working in the milk weed garden weeding, planting new milk weed, and putting a net fence around the new plants to protect them. **Junior Troop 7610**, (tied with the other Junior troop,) leader Mindie Padget, came to a work day and completed two independent projects painting two bridges with textured sealant paint and did a take action project with a motto of “Don’t leave a trace, compost your waste”! Some of their comments about Hidden Valley when doing a poetry lesson for Girl Scouts in Haiku were “I like animals”, “hear the fire fly with sparks”, “rushing water in the creek”, hiking, creeking so much fun”.

Mariana Remple Recognitions Award

This award is given in honor of a long-time Girl Scout leader, Mariana Remple. She was a founder and steward of Hidden Valley, a trainer, troop leader and mentor. She was especially interested in older Girl Scouting and left an amazing legacy of dedication to Hidden Valley camp. Each year, two awards in the amount of \$150 each may be given in her honor. These awards are for older Girl Scouts (Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors), as well as, Juliettes (Girl Scouts who are not affiliated with a troop). An application must be filled out and submitted to the Recognitions Committee no later than April 1st. Applications are located on the FHV website: www.friendshv.org. There was one application for the Mariana Remple Recognitions Award this year. Ambassador Girl Scout Alexandria Van Pelt received \$150. Alexandria is from Ambassador Troop 7535.

Her essay on “Why I Love Hidden Valley” talked about how “Hidden Valley has gotten me through many things in life...it has stayed with me through everything...it’s fun and an amazing place to be...it’s one of the best places in a Girl Scout’s life”.

Volunteer: Chair - Durand Reiber, Sandy Beverly-Hiking Patrol, Christine Graves, Cindy Riling, Margaret Verhage, Marcia West, Carol Zhiri

The purpose of the Volunteer Committee is to organize volunteer efforts at the camp, primarily through routine workdays and monitoring the camp through our Hiking Patrol. Friends-sponsored workdays and Hikers brought about 525 volunteers, representing an estimated 1,025 hours of service to Hidden Valley!

Workdays draw volunteers of all ages, including board and Friends members, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, High School and KU students, community volunteers, and families. Our spring and late fall workdays continue to bring astonishing numbers of participants, requiring considerable planning, coordination, and project supervisors.

* September 11, 2016, coordinated by Cindy Riling, with a turnout of 58 volunteers who helped thoroughly clean the cabin and outbuildings, work in the garden and other chores in the center of camp.

* November 6, 2016, led by Durand Reiber, Rhonda Schademan and Christine Graves, with 118 volunteers working at numerous projects spread throughout Mary's Meadow and Dogwood Forest. A special project was the planting of a large elm tree that is resistant to Dutch Elm disease to eventually replace the dying mulberry that shades the Gathering Place.

* April 8, led by Christine Graves, started with 12 students from the KU Big Event, who helped set up and get projects rolling, followed by a whopping 176 volunteers in the afternoon, including 15 Girl Scout troops! Once again, 75 native saplings were planted and several pounds of native grass seed and wildflowers were spread throughout the honeysuckle-cleared areas of the forest.

* June 4, a trail maintenance workday coordinated by Marcia West and several crew leaders, brought in 25 volunteers, just one shy of our record for this day. Promotion of this workday as part of National Trails Day, including guided hikes for the public, has increased interest and participation in this event.

The spreading of collected native wildflower seeds each year has resulted in striking color around the camp, increasing pollinator habitat for the insects and beauty for the human visitors.

Hiking Patrol: Sandy Beverly has continued to provide excellent coordination of hikers that provide valuable monitoring of the camp, as well as wonderful reports and pictures of wildlife and plants. We are most appreciative of Dave and Carol Kyner for their quick reporting on some vandalism in Dogwood Forest. Our most frequent hikers were Jim Bresnahan (known for his wonderful photography), Pat Kehde, Ellie Unruh, Christine Graves, Wanda Waugh, and Mary Ann Strong.

Jill Baringer, due to a semester abroad with her husband, Phil, turned the bluebird box monitoring over to board members that continued to monitor each box all season.

Friends' members continued to assist the camp manager in directing other community volunteer groups. Eleven service events representing 212 volunteers, including a week with the Summer of Service Youth Corp provided an enormous boost. As always, special mention goes to the hard-working Honeysuckle Warriors...10 volunteers who trimmed, cut, hauled and burned the invasive honeysuckle on 20 different occasions during the winter! Mike Huslig performed an incredible amount of work on his own, tackling about an acre of honeysuckle prior to our startup in January. Girl Scout troops continue to take on service projects in consultation with the Camp Manager. Thank you to ALL of our wonderful volunteers that help keep Hidden Valley a well-maintained camp and valued natural area.