



# 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](http://www.friendshv.org)

Spring Newsletter (April 2011)

## Awards are highlight of annual Friends meeting!

There's an official purpose, always, at the Friends of Hidden Valley Annual Meeting (held each September, and all Friends are invited.)

We elect new board members and hold a meeting to report on what we've done all year. At our Annual Meeting on Sept. 16, 2010, we also showed off the new Memorial Brick Pathway, and had a meal.

Then the main event, still official but also lots of fun, the Awards, presented by Durand Reiber and Sandy Beverly, Friends Board Members and members of the Volunteers and Events Committee:

\* Best New Friend: Claudette Johns, a Friends member who has taken on the daunting task of managing our database.

\* Honeysuckle Warrior: Margaret Verhage, who has been relentless in single-handedly ridding the aggressive honeysuckle shrub from the Coralberry unit site.

\* The coveted Hot Chicks Award went to Sarah Corliss and Mary Beth Petr for their fearless brush burning.

\* Haz Mat

Award: Dave Petr (for his chainsaw work) and Karen Warner (Day Camp parking & poison ivy removal).

\* Hiking

Award: Jill Giele, for frequent hikes on top of her many other contributions to Hidden Valley.

\* Behind the Scenes Award:

Jill Giele with Honorable Mention to Cris Bandle, Christine Graves and Joan Reiber.

\* Volunteer of the Year Award :

Kylee Clendenen, who spent her senior year at KU as the first intern at camp. Always smiling and very dependable, Kylee spent many volunteer hours helping with all aspects of camp maintenance.

A special award was presented to Robin Robertson for her many years of service as data base manager and



Award winners at the Annual Meeting: Back row, left to right, Christine Graves, Cris Bandle, Joan Reiber, Margaret Verhage, Claudette Johns, Jill Giele, Mary Beth Petr, Karen Warner. Front row, Kylee Clendenen, Sarah Corliss and Robin Robertson.

general "go to" phenom. The award included a collage of photos of Robin at Hidden Valley and her very own brick in the Cabin Honor Patio. We assured her that her brick would be moved to the Memorial Brick Pathway after she is no longer with us! (She is THAT great).

The ballot for board members passed with four returning board members elected: Jill Baringer, Sarah Corliss, Jill Giele, and Margaret Verhage.

## Dedication set for Memorial Brick Pathway

All of the pieces are coming together for the Dedication Ceremony for the new Memorial Brick Pathway located behind the cabin in the Memorial Butterfly Garden.

The ceremony will be held during the first week of Day Camp, at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 16. All members of Friends of Hidden Valley are invited, as well as the relatives and friends of those initial honorees who are honored with bricks.

During the ceremony, Operation Wildlife will release a rehabilitated animal, likely a bird, for all of us to enjoy. Don't miss it!



Friends members check out the new Memorial Brick Pathway.

## Surprise donations spruce up our camp!

Thanks to quick thinking by a Girl Scout leader, what could have been a large donation to the town dump was instead diverted to our beloved Arkalooka Cabin.

When Commerce Bank began tearing apart their banking center in the Clinton Parkway Hyvee, Tracy House quickly contacted camp management to see if the cabinets and countertops could be used at camp. Very nice and roomy cabinets with large, durable countertops now grace the walls of the cabin in both the kitchen and great room, accommodating a full assortment of kitchen and craft supplies. More cabinets were installed in Evelyn's Attic, containing our sprawling supplies. And, another long counterop was placed at one end of Redbud Shelter . . . a wish list item for several years.



**New cabinets in Arkalooka's kitchen.**

Volunteers Michael Eravi (owner of Crafty Michaels) and Jennifer Mayfield, a recent KU architecture grad, installed the cabinets in Evelyn's Attic. They also made a rolling boot rack for the storage shed in Dogwood Forest and they installed other shelves there, too, using some scrap lumber we had at camp.

Thank you everyone for thinking of Hidden Valley and helping us make it a better place!

## Friends contribute to Festival of Trees

The Friends of Hidden Valley sponsored a tree for the 2010 Festival of Trees, a fundraiser for The Shelter, Inc.

Our tree was called *A Happy Critter Christmas* and was decorated by Brownie Troop 7653, who made and decorated clay ornaments of various animals that live at Hidden Valley, as well as some birds. Cadette Troop 3727 helped the Brownies and also contributed a bird house tree topper and a rustic looking tree skirt that was adorned with twigs and other items found at Hidden Valley.

The tree sold for \$125 and was purchased by Beth Rundquist, MD, longtime Hidden Valley supporter.

The Friends sincerely thank the two troops for their hard work and the delightful tree!

## Some notes from Friends' Hiking Patrol members . . . .

One of the best services we Friends provide to camp is the Hiking Patrol. Board Member Sandy Beverly keeps an e-mail list of potential hikers, and each month requests people to sign up to hike once during a particular week. Hikers have found unlocked buildings, small instances of vandalism, the occasional trespasser, and, notably, a sewer leak into one of our streams, which, thankfully, was fixed quickly.

Mostly, though, hikers just get to ENJOY our beautiful camp. After hiking, volunteers report back on what they see. Following are some excerpts from these reports:

*. . . the tri-colored blackbird was still calling away near the pond. He has been there calling for a mate since May and I am feeling a bit sorry for the poor fellow as there is no female companionship to be found.*

- Jill Baringer, August

*- I caught the drama of a hawk catching a small squirrel for its meal . . . Also by the pond . . . there were several frogs talking to me. Most hopped in before I could snap a shot, but I was able to get one taking a siesta.*

- Jeff Bandle, September

*- Camp was gorgeous! Could see a little autumn color peeking out here and there and it was fun to see some blooming plants in the recently planted bioswale.*

- Jill Giele, September



*- Fall migration for birds is still in progress so I took along my binoculars just in case. There were three bluebirds, two goldfinches, a couple of chickadees and a large number of robins. . . also, a pair of Red-tailed hawks came circling the length of Hidden Valley and they were vocalizing. There was also a group (10) of cedar waxwings that I found near the cottonwood just north of the parking lot. So things were pretty active.*

- Jill Baringer, November

*- I saw tracks that I believe belong to fox, raccoon, rabbit, and deer. A highlight was following what I believe was a bobcat trail. I gave up her track when she gracefully descended a steep stream bank.*

- Sandy Beverly, January

# Fall Workday: Great weather, record numbers

Beautiful weather and great turnout made for a terrific fall workday on November 7, 2010. There were an estimated 85 adults, 72 Girl Scouts (representing 12 troops), and eight additional kids, for a total of about 165 volunteers, a record high for this workday! Previous high was 139 in 2008. Our work was concentrated at Dogwood Forest and Mary's Meadow, with a special treat at the Cabin.

At Dogwood Forest, volunteers with chainsaws trimmed trees, cut logs into firewood, and removed large honeysuckle bushes. Others used hand tools and muscles to cut and haul honeysuckle, making very visible progress toward our native wood restoration goal. More super volunteers manned the brushfire, mulched, moved firewood, collected seeds, painted, and collected trash from the stream. An older scout troop lowered the tall climbing tower so concrete blocks could be placed under the posts to help stabilize it.

At Mary's Meadow, strong and heat-resistant volunteers moved and burned giant piles of brush. Other



**Top photos: LOTS of mulch was spread around by Girl Scout troops and other volunteers.**

**Left: Employees from Old Navy cut and raked cattail to improve access to the wetlands.**

hardworking volunteers moved mulch, pulled vines, hauled logs, cut cattails, and removed honeysuckle from the perimeter of the meadow. Hot cocoa and s'mores were happily consumed.

Up at the cabin, a troop of junior scouts, led by Tracy House, began

work on their Silver Award. Girls gave tours of the cabin, plus information about how to use and clean up the cabin and toilet facilities, make reservations, be safe, and much more.

Thank you to all for making this a very productive and enjoyable workday!

## Hidden Valley "Lifetime Member" Carol Francis, ultimate Scout!

Carol Francis is a Lifetime Member of Friends of Hidden Valley. Our Lifetime Members have typically been very involved at camp and they have also donated at least \$1,000.

Carol has always been an ultimate Girl Scout, beginning in fourth grade, in 1936, at Pinckney Grade School in Lawrence. Her favorite Christmas present during those years was her Girl Scout uniform, and when she got her handbook she read it immediately from cover to cover. She still uses and cherishes the Girl Scout knife she received in sixth grade.

Throughout junior high and high school, Carol remained active and was awarded a campership to Camp Daisy

Hindman. In high school, Girl Scouts were leaders and counselors for the younger girls.

Carol established a camp at Lone Star Lake, she taught arts and crafts at Camp Prairie Schooner, and she also had the opportunity to travel to Long Island, NY for a Girl Scout experience in sailboating.



After graduating from KU with a degree in journalism in 1950, Carol became the first Council Director of Lawrence and was in that position when the small band of adult Girl Scouts purchased the land for Hidden Valley, in 1956. Carol married and had two daughters and she became a troop leader, and also a Day Camp Director and Counselor at Hidden Valley. Since then, she has served as a board member on the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee and was a founding member of Friends of Hidden Valley in 1996.

Thank you, Carol, for your dedication to Girl Scouts and Hidden Valley!

Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc.  
P.O. Box 442073  
Lawrence, KS 66044

## Hidden Valley Spring Cleanup Workday is Saturday, April 9!

Calling all Friends members, neighbors, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, students, community volunteers and outdoor enthusiasts! Join us as we prepare the camp for another year of outdoor fun, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 9 (raindate is April 16).

Adults with chainsaws are always needed, to cut trees for firewood and continue to clear out the invasive honeysuckle! Volunteers can take home cut wood!

**SPECIAL PROJECT:** clear out pockets of woods along Bob Billings to begin planting a perimeter screen of red cedar trees.

Refreshments, water, and warm fires will be provided. Most tools provided. Bring your own water bottle and gloves, wear durable clothing and enclosed shoes. Carpool when possible; arrive anytime between 1 and 4 p.m. Park at the main lot and check in at Evelyn's Attic (the garage) for your assignment.

## Anonymous donor purchases tools!

Although Hidden Valley maintains a pretty impressive supply of hand tools, we still occasionally find ourselves short on shovels, loppers and other tools during our most popular workdays. So, it was great surprise and appreciation when a Home Depot gift card arrived in the mail, with only a note to purchase more tools! A big THANKS to our mystery donor . . . we look forward to passing out the new (and SHARP) tools at our April workday!

*Trail Maintenance Workday:*  
8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 4

*Cabin and Memorial  
Butterfly Garden Cleanup:*  
1 to 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11

*November workday to be  
announced soon.*

## Friends Board Members:

Cindy Riling, Chair  
Jill Baringer, Treasurer  
Leesa Terry, Secretary  
Sandy Beverly  
Mary Burchill  
Sarah Corliss  
Jill Giele  
Durand Reiber  
Margaret Townsend  
Margaret Verhage  
Marcia West  
Flora Wyatt  
Betty Jo Miller, Presbyterian Manor Liaison