



# 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.

Fall 2020

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

[Facebook.com:/friends-of-hidden-valley](https://www.facebook.com/friends-of-hidden-valley)

## September Work Day

Friends of Hidden Valley held a socially distanced Work Weekend September 12 and 13, 2020. Many came out to enjoy the beautiful weather, participating safely to follow Covid-19 guidelines while working to keep Hidden Valley the beautiful destination it has become for Girl Scouts for over 60 years. We had 108 volunteers over two days. Saturday's event had 18 Girl Scouts with 8 adults from six troops, one non-Scout child, and 13 other adults, eight of them from the Friends of Hidden Valley Board. Sunday's event had 33 Girl Scouts with 17 adults from five troops, two additional non-Scout minors, and 16 adult volunteers of which seven were Board members. The workday volunteers were incredible in the amount of work completed over the two days.



Two wonderful additions to our workday were the presentations by two Girl Scout Troops. Shari Anderson's Troop 1599 gave a presentation to all Girl Scouts and adults about their thorough research of invasive plants at Hidden Valley as part of their work on the Bronze Award.

Eleanor Paget and Ellie Trummel with Troop 7610 gave a presentation for their Silver Award Project showing the other Girl Scouts and volunteers their work on a large bee condo in the Memorial Garden. They also provided materials for the girls to make their own mini bee condos.



Goats are very agile and some can jump over 5 feet.

### Friends! The November Work Day will be

Sunday, November 8, 11 am - 5 pm. We would love

to see you there! Please sign-up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49a4a92aabfcce9-nov1>

or send an email to [gwendolyn.macpherson@gmail.com](mailto:gwendolyn.macpherson@gmail.com)

with the approximate time of day you would like to arrive.

We are staggering arrivals to be Covid-Safe,

so Gwen will communicate with you about a

time you can arrive closest to your

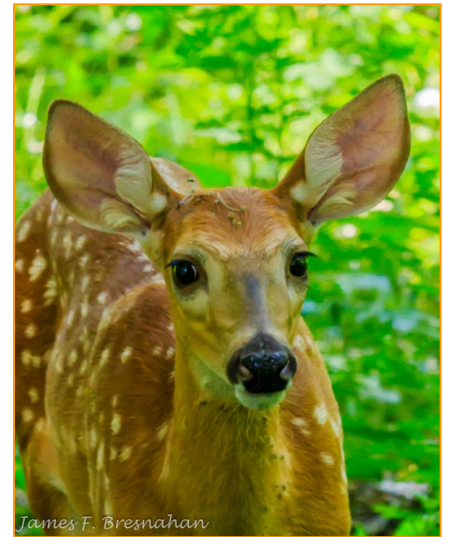
preferred time.



## Fall and Winter Hiking at Hidden Valley

As days grow shorter and cooler, it becomes even easier to appreciate nature on your hikes at Hidden Valley because you don't have to worry about all of the bugs and other distractions of the other seasons that require you to shower after your hike. Plus it's easier to see critters when the last of the leaves fall off in early November, making it easier for you to spot wildlife or hear them crunching around in the newly fallen leaves. Some sure-fire observations and possible surprises await you including:

- Deer. Maybe it is indirectly through their cloved footprints, scat, bark stripped tree saplings from antler rubbing, or ground litter clearing or "rutting" behavior of the bucks. Maybe you get lucky and spot the deer bounding away with their white tails flashing. Any way you cut it, deer are a presence at Hidden Valley this time of year. Jim's fine photo shows a young fawn still with spots beginning to fade, with "stick tight" seeds in its fur, taken in late summer/early fall. See if you can get your own picture either with a camera or in your memory by taking a hike this fall and winter.
- Squirrels! (of course) See what they are eating: dismantling an Osage orange "hedge apple", nibbling on berries or lichen or winter mushroom, opening a walnut, or burying food for later.
- "Winter flocks" of mixed species of songbirds who are spending the winter here, joined together to comb the woods, looking for food in the leaves, tree bark and other areas where insects hole up for the winter.
- Larger animals such as coyotes, bobcats, possums, raccoons if you're lucky, and the itinerant neighborhood cat or dog. It's a great time to learn to identify their tracks, especially around water.
- If you look up you might catch some beautiful sights as well: eagles return to the area, as well as flocks of geese, various ducks, migratory blackbird flocks, seagulls and the like. If you hear a flock of noisy crows, most likely they are giving grief to a nest-raiding owl who is trying to ignore them, and in addition to overwintering songbirds, the newly bared tree limbs might provide a perch for one of many hawks and raptors looking for their next meal. At the bottom of trees you can see piles of sticks, bark, seed pods and leaves piled up by packrats who are quite adept at building their weather-proof nests that not only hold stored nuts and berries but often hold other species of mice, voles, snakes and others seeking protection from the cold. Any way you look at it Hidden Valley is a great place to hike this time of year.



James F. Bresnahan

Coffee was first discovered by goat herders when they noticed the animals having an unusual amount of energy after eating coffee beans.



## Friends receive Grant from Cans for the Community



Bruce Nightingale, Honeysuckle Warrior and board member of Cans for the Community shared news of the vandalism at camp this summer with the organization and they stepped up to help. Bruce and Linda Klinker presented a \$1,000 check to FHV in August. This fine group was recently named in the Best of Lawrence Top Five Local Nonprofit Organizations. Their charitable efforts stay with non-profit groups in Douglas County.

We encourage FHV members to recycle aluminum cans at the drop-off locations around Lawrence because we know both large and small acts of generosity benefit our organization. The August financial report noted over \$150 collected from Amazon Smile, Dillon's Community Rewards and Network for Good (Facebook fundraiser). Other recent donations include

the Alice Lassman Memorial (Mary's Meadow Donor); Miller family (Dogwood Forest Adventurer) and a \$500 donation from First Hand Foundation in honor of Cris Sherman a 30 year employee of Cerner.

Goats do not have teeth in their upper front jaw, but goats have 24 molars. They do NOT eat tin cans, clothing, or garbage.





## Board Updates

The annual meeting often marks changes on the board as current members move on and new members join. This year was no exception as we welcome Gwen McPherson, Mary Murphy and Karen Lassman and say goodbye to Brigid Murphy.

**Gwen Macpherson** served on the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee Board years ago and has been a member of the Site Committee since. She attends work days at the camp and has assisted with special projects such as the Biochar Grant Project. Gwen retired from KU in summer 2019, where she was professor of geology with a specialty in hydrogeology (groundwater) and is now restarting a career abandoned in college, that of a poet.

**Mary Murphy** grew up as an active Girl Scout, including community work, camping, backpacking, canoeing, and sailing. Her high school troop was a Mariner's Troop and she earned her First Class Award. As an adult Mary has been involved as a leader and a volunteer since her daughter (now 25) joined Brownies. Her roots with Hidden Valley include troop camping, day camp, work days and six years on the Hidden Valley Board. Mary enjoys cooking, reading, sewing, cardmaking & other artwork.

**Karen Lassman** started running the trails at hidden valley as a toddler "tag along", later to earn the Weaver Campership and her first class award there. In HS, Karen canoed and sailed with Mariana Remple then organized one of the 5 days of "Kansas What's that?" Wider Opportunity. Karen was a troop leader for each of her 3 daughters and organized day camps in Springfield MO. Karen spent 3 yrs in Kenya with Habitat for Humanity and has also gone on several medical mission trips to Nicaragua. Karen just moved back to Lawrence and is an occupational therapist working for Lawrence public schools. Yes, she is Ken's little sister.

Our best to **Brigid Murphy** as she leaves the board. Brigid chaired the membership committee and was an important part of work days as coordinator, project leader and manager of the Monarch Watch tagging station. Brigid had a creative response to every project; the delightful Environmental Art Station at Trails Day, slide show of Hidden Valley highlights produced with her daughter and as an entertaining and informative trail guide. With Brigid it was always about interacting with the girls so we will continue seeing her at camp and events.

"Don't let the cat out of the bag!" was the directive for the board as plans were made for a surprise party marking Durand Reiber's years of service to the board. As Durand prepared for the monthly meeting on Zoom, friends and board members gathered in her driveway. When she stepped outside, (thanks to husband Martin for help coordinating) the party began! Speeches were made, stories were shared and Board President Cindy Riling announced that the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee approved our request to name the new fireplace in Southern Shade after Durand. Durand's importance to Friends of Hidden Valley was recapped in the annual report— but the story isn't over yet. Durand still serves as camp manager and will continue to share her skills and knowledge for the foreseeable future, as a search for her replacement begins.



Handmade thank you cards lined the driveway



A socially distanced celebration



## Goats at Hidden Valley? Why Not?!

One sunny spring day, Hiking Patrol member Nancy Jorn suggested goats as a quiet and environmentally sound way to control brush, spurring board members Ken Lassman and Durand Reiber to research and arrange for a pilot project. Our goal was to test the effectiveness of using goats as another tool in our battle against honeysuckle and other undesirable vegetation. On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the *Barnyard Weed Warriors* arrived in force, all 71 of them! The goats, large and small, spent most of their day time hours eating away for three full days. The temporarily fenced area they worked over was mostly the hillside south of Flag Pole Hill, encompassing nearly 3 acres.



The goats were fun to watch, and owner Mary Powell, from Longton, KS, was eager to educate anyone that would listen about her goats. Some fun facts are scattered throughout this newsletter. Their work was amazing and light on the land, quickly stripping off leaves of just about everything they could reach, including honeysuckle, poison ivy and even thorny briars. Although they did not eat other invasive plants such as cedar saplings and woolly mullein, once the area was cleared, it was easy to see and get to these plants to remove the tall seed heads. We were also able to see the lay of the land and its possibilities. With selective clearing and maintenance, this area could become a new "destination" spot featuring an open like meadow of wildflowers and scattered trees.

Unfortunately, the stripped vegetation quickly began forming new leaves within weeks, especially the honeysuckle, and poison ivy has returned with a vengeance. Although we knew it would take three years of goat weeding to actually wound the honeysuckle enough to kill it off or at least set it back, the results at this time do not seem to justify the expense. However, we will continue to evaluate the area and compare it with other treatment methods over the next few years.



The female goat is called a "doe" or a "nanny.". The male goat is called a "buck" or a "billy." Both can have beards.

### Looking Ahead

**Membership Renewal time.** Watch for your notice in the mail.

**Save The Date–** FHV Spring Work Day will be held on Saturday, April 17



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