



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 2018

www.friendshv.org

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

21st Annual Friends Meeting: Where Music, Food, Friends and Fun Come Together!

The Friends of Hidden Valley Annual Meeting on September 20 was a fun evening of looking to the future, acknowledging accomplishments and honoring those who make it happen. Well, there also was good music and food! Guests feasted on a large smorgasbord of appetizers under Southern Shade Shelter while listening to live music and socializing. Some guests toured the latest additions to the Yurt Nature Center, which now includes large posters created by KU students depicting life in the prairie, wetland, streams and woods.



Tommye Sherwood, left, and Barry Barnes of Zydeco Tougeau performed lively music to the enjoyment of all present, and especially for this fan club below! From left: Fritz Reiber, Joan Reiber, founding board member Suzanne Collins and Karen Lenzen.



A presentation of the Friends next great Brick for Bricks' goal was presented by Cindy Riling, pictured right. The grand project is to install a large stone fireplace with a grill, work space and drinking fountain at Southern Shade shelter. The board is applying for grants to support this endeavor and seeking donations from our Friends' members via contributions and the purchase of engraved bricks to be installed in the Ar-ca-loo-ka cabin patio (see insert article).



Our Annual report of activities and financial position was made available and is on the Friends of Hidden Valley web-site. Outgoing board members Lily Yu and Christine Graves were recognized and new board members voted in. We welcomed Cindy Riling (renewing a term), Jill Baringer (returning after two years off), and new member Alex Weston. Alex was a GS leader and is the Technical Director for KU University Theatre and free lances at other local theatres. Jill Giele, also a returning board member, had to reluctantly resign shortly after the elections, for family reasons we can all relate to. Ken Lassman was later appointed to fill this term.

The fun part of our evening was the awards ceremony to recognize our amazing volunteers and Community Partners (see Recognizing, page 2). The evening ended with fellowship, congratulations and group pictures.



Ken Lassman, forward, listens to the awards presentations. Ken was recognized for his initiative with the yurt project, and, is our newest board member!



Board member Marcia West, right, visits with long time supporters Ellyn Owen, left, and Lynne Bodle. Ellyn was the 2005 Honor Bench recipient and a founding member of Friends.

Recognizing our Amazing Volunteers!

Friends of Hidden Valley recognized many valued volunteers at the Annual Meeting. Without all of our wonderful volunteers, Hidden Valley would not be the lovely and fascinating place it is today. Marcia West, Durand Reiber, and Cindy Riling took turns introducing and talking about each person or groups special contributions to Hidden Valley and giving them a small gift of appreciation.

- * **Hiking Award** : **Melinda Black; Sandy Beverly** was recognized as our longtime hiking coordinator;
- * **Eco Award** : **Olivia Childress**, our fabulous camp intern last year;
- * **Honeysuckle Warriors**: **Mike Huslig & Jim Bresnahan**, representing ALL our warriors (**Dan Lonquist, Bruce Nightengale, John Bialek, Bob Oakes, Robin Robertson, Margaret Verhage**);
- * **Behind the Scenes**: **Jim Brenham and Ken Lassman**, for their artistic work in the yurt; Nature Center;
- * **Hot Chick**: **Lisa Barns**: the coveted award & title for tending our blazing HOT fires;
- * **Hazmat award**: **Liz Phillips** for traffic and parking duty—a challenging job!
- * **Girl Scout Ar-ca-loo-ka Award**: **Jessica Hensley**, for all the amazing ways she gets her troop to the camp;
- * **Honorable Mention**: **Kyra Flummerfelt** for what would be too numerous to mention!
- * And last but not least, two community partners were recognized for their support of Hidden Valley Camp: **Cans for the Community and the Breakfast Optimist Club**. Thanks to these and ALL of our wonderful volunteers and supporters!



Pictured front, left to right: Christine Graves, Kimberly Williams (representing Breakfast Optimist Club), Kyra Flummerfelt, Jessica Hensley, Melinda Black and son Jude; back row: Robin Robertson and Lysette DeBoard. Other award recipients escaped before we could get their pictures!

2018 Volunteer of the Year: Lysette Deboard!

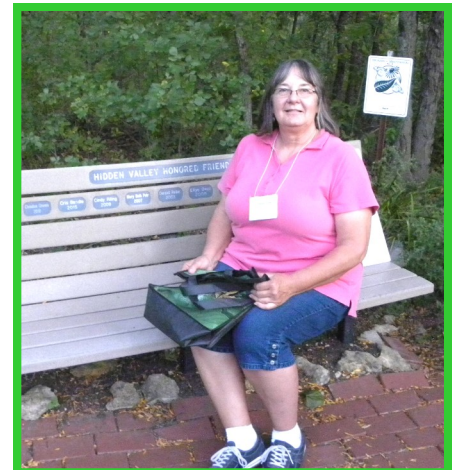
Our Volunteer of the Year award for 2018 goes to **Lysette DeBoard**. Lysette is an enthusiastic, dedicated, inventive, fun-loving volunteer. Lysette started out as an Assistant Director for Day Camp in 2014. The theme was the *Ballapalooza*. From there she became the director of Day Camp with amazing and fun activities based on themes like *Once Upon a Day Camp* and *Blast from the Past*. In 2016, Lysette implemented the Hidden Valley Archery Program, researching and procuring equipment and coordinating training, which has been a big hit for the girls. We can never thank her enough for her continued involvement with Hidden Valley and the Girl Scout program.



2018 Honored Friend Christine Graves

Christine Graves received the Honored Bench Award, the highest award given to Hidden Valley supporters and volunteers. 2012 Honor Bench recipient Karen Warner made the presentation. Her time with Hidden Valley is extensive, reaching back to 1988 as a GS leader for both of her daughters. She has served on both Hidden Valley boards, chairing many committees, and was instrumental in several large camp celebrations. She coordinated the big April Workdays for the past several years, has assisted at numerous service events, gave guided tours of the camp, and is a frequent hiker for the Hiking Patrol. For the past several years, Christine has been a mentor for the older Girl Scouts working towards their Gold Award.

Christine has been the FHV board chair for the past four years, providing steadfast leadership during some very busy and productive times! Christine is planning a move to Washington State to be near her new grandchild. We will miss her, but wish her the best! Her name plate has been added to the Honored Bench in the Friends of Hidden Valley Memorial Garden.



Workday Brings Record Number of Volunteers!

Our **September 16 workday**, centered around the cabin and butterfly garden, brought in a record high of 202 volunteers for this day, nearly doubling our previous record of 112! WOW! Offering a chance to tag monarch butterflies definitely brought in the GS troops and families, although the time of day made catching them pretty hard. But never mind...they still enjoyed trying, and were able to catch and examine many other insects. In order to have a better tagging event, we are looking at changing to a more suitable time of day when the butterflies are more active...stay tuned! Right: A young GS troop reseals stepping stones from the garden.



Our **November 11th workday** also experienced a nice turnout of 123 volunteers, in spite of extreme cold and blustery wind, rain and snow leading up to it! One special project was the installation of new wooden signs for our two sheds, Sherwood Shed and the Dogshed, handcrafted and installed by Rod Hoffer, assisted by GS. Girl Scouts also had the opportunity to create nature ornaments for the Friends Christmas tree donation to the Festival of Trees, organized by Margaret Townsend. Many other projects were completed, thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers and supporters that ensured a smooth running event!



Gwen Macpherson, left, & Robin Robertson pose as they oversee the dismantling of the bridge in Mary's Meadow. The bridge was deemed too unsafe for passage. Right: volunteers haul off a support pipe from the bridge.



The day ended with s'mores and hot cocoa, of course, served up by Vicki Collie-Akers, left. Her son, Andrew, far left, proved to be one of our most industrious workers!

Right, Lisa Barnes (2018 Hot Chick Awardee) works the hot fire at The Gathering Place with Mary Beth Petr, a long time supporter and Founding Friend.



Thoughts From Out Going Chair – Christine Graves

I became a Friends of Hidden Valley member because I knew what a treasure Hidden Valley Camp was and wanted to be a part of ensuring that it would be available for generations to come. After helping out at work days, I was asked to be placed on the nomination slate for the FHV Board of Directors. I accepted and served two three year terms. During that time much was accomplished! All of the committees worked to make the public more aware of the camp, thereby increasing volunteers, donations and membership. They approached like-minded organizations interested in protecting the environment and providing outdoor spaces for young people. These committees are so enthusiastic and dedicated to HV Camp! The Camp Manager, Durand Reiber, provided expert environmental and biological guidance for the restoration and preservation of the site. It was exciting to be involved in the creation of Dogwood Forest, eradication of the invasive honeysuckle, creation of two new campsites — Paw Paw and Emerald Forest, and the many maintenance projects.

As I prepare to leave Lawrence, many fond memories and experiences have come to mind. The feeling of peace and tranquility that I experienced each time I came out to HV Camp to hike or work, the friendships I have made from Girl Scouting and FHV, and the sense of pride when new people come to camp and express their surprise and appreciation of the camp. I always enjoyed bragging about it while taking visitors on tours.

There are so many dedicated caretakers of HV Camp that I am confident it will continue to be maintained and even flourish. I would like to encourage some of you members to take a more active role — join one of the FHV committees or consider becoming a Board Member. Everyone has a talent, a skill or knowledge that would be valuable.

I will be excited to return and see the new Southern Shade Fireplace/Grill, the new meadow bridge and the maturing of the native trees, shrubs and grasses that have been planted to replace the invasive honeysuckle. I have appreciated being part of the Hidden Valley Camp family! ~Christine Graves

And from the Friends of Hidden Valley Hiking Patrol: Today was a golden, mellow, cool Autumn afternoon. The woods and fields were silent except for the crunching of fallen leaves underfoot. The smell of the Fall leaves brought forth ancient memories of adolescent Autumn hikes in the woodlands and swamps of my home. With less foliage I could admire the bizarre, gnarled, twisted trunks of many of the old hedge trees and their rough, shredded bark; some with wood rat stick nests at their base. The perfect Halloween trees. The bur oaks, American elm, red elms, hackberries, maples and sycamores were turning yellow and orange. The rough-leaved dogwoods are turning chartreuse and maroon. I wish I had brought my landscape lens. The creatures that moved were subdued. A house wren foraged in the brush piles by the storage shed at Butterfly Alley, robins hid in the trees and shrubs, two pileated woodpeckers flew by the archery area followed by the red-bellied woodpecker foraging at a great distance. Grey squirrels were busy. But all was very quiet and peaceful. I have always loved this serene time of the year and today was the perfect Autumn afternoon.

Jim

Calendar of events...



November 30: Festival of Trees—check out the Friends tree “Waterfall of Seasons”, made by local Girl Scouts during the workday!

Breakfast Optimist Club Christmas Tree Sale at 6th St. Hy-Vee. Support the Club, and you support Hidden Valley Camp and other local youth organizations.

January 19: Eagles Day at Billy Mills (South) Middle School. Visit our table as we share the importance of Hidden Valley Camp as a community asset for youth and wildlife.

Honeysuckle Warriors will soon begin their weekly attack on the invasive honeysuckle! January through April, weather permitting. Email durandi@sunflower.com for more information or to get on the email list.

Are you looking for the perfect holiday gift? Relatives, friends and co-workers might appreciate a personal membership to *Friends of Hidden Valley*.

You will soon receive your annual membership solicitation letter. Watch for an enclosed letter explaining our popular gift membership. Gift memberships are available in any amount you wish and will provide all the benefits of membership. You and your recipient will also experience pride in knowing you have not just bought more “stuff” but have contributed to the long-term security of Hidden Valley for our community. **Don't forget to renew your membership**, and thanks to those who have already done so.



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



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Condensed Annual Report July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

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

2017-18 Board of Directors: Lisa Barnes, Christine Graves, Claudette Johns, Karen Lewis, Brigid Murphy, Durand Reiber, Cindy Riling, Robin Robertson, Marcia West, Margaret Verhage, Lily Yu, Carol Zhiri

Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV) continued providing support to the Hidden Valley Camp through our four regular workdays, several other special projects and fundraising during the 2017-2018 year. The FHV 2017 Annual Meeting was held on September 21, 2017. Copies of the Annual Report were provided and ballots were counted for the election of the slate of new Board Members. The returning members elected were Karen Lewis, Durand Reiber and Marcia West for 3 year terms; Lily Yu for a 1 year term and new member Brigid Murphy for a 3 year term. The 20th Anniversary of the founding of the FHV was celebrated in conjunction with the meeting. Founding and Charter members were invited and those attending were recognized. Mary Beth Petr awarded Gwen Macpherson as an Honored Friend and unveiled her name on the Honor Bench.

The contributions from our membership were strong again at over \$12,000. The Membership committee reports a total of 130 members. Other income came from the Brick 4 Bricks program, Cans for the Community donation, the Breakfast Optimist donation, and AmazonSmile donations. This enabled us to fund several projects throughout the camp. One major project was the removal of invasive honeysuckle and vegetation renewal, for which a little over \$6,000 was spent. Another \$1,800 was spent on the camp through volunteer and camp expenses to maintain the camp.

The Public Relations committee serves to spread awareness about Hidden Valley Camp and the Friends organization through public outreach, social media and newsletters. Three outreach events that FHV participated in were Eagles Day, Earth Day and National Trails Day.

FHV recognize Girl Scouts and Troops by presenting the Troop Rewards and the Mariana Remple Recognition Award. These recognitions are given to encourage volunteerism, commitment and responsibility for the stewardship of Hidden Valley Camp for now and in the future. The Troops honored this year were Daisy Troop 3008, Brownie Troop 5606, and Cadette Troop 7611. The Mariana Remple Recognition Award was given to Ruby Hoffer of Cadette Troop 7611.

The Volunteer Committee organizes volunteer efforts at the camp, primarily through routine workdays and the Hiking Patrol. FHV provide planning, tools, oversight and refreshments for workdays, which draw volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life. This year the 4 workdays and the Hiking Patrol brought in about 380 volunteers, resulting in an estimated 1,050 hours of service.

The goals for FHV for the 2018-2019 year are:

- Continue working with the LHVC Site Committee to fine tune the plans for the Southern Shade Fireplace/Grill and procure funding for it
- Contribute to funding of the major bridge in Mary's Meadow which was recently closed for safety reasons
- Continued native woods restoration
- Adding contributions to the Yurt Nature Center displays

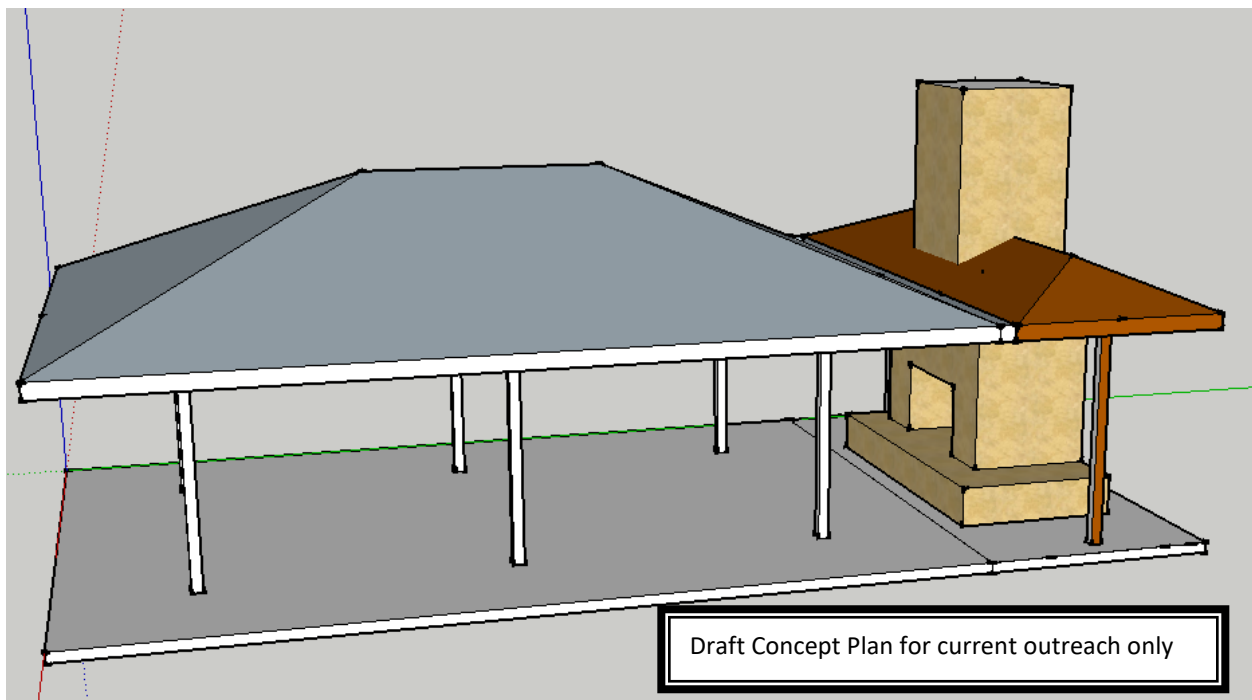
More detailed information can be found in the complete FHV Annual Report on the FHV website www.friendshv.org

Southern Shade Fireplace & Grill Project

Imagine, Think, Ponder...

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a fireplace in our open-air shelter, Southern Shade? *Imagine* the glowing, inviting flames of a fire warming Hidden Valley guests on chilly nights. *Think* about groups of Girl Scouts working together to build a fire and cook under the protective roof of the shelter. *Ponder* the possibilities of gathering with other Hidden Valley friends while roasting marshmallows or cooking for a large event. A sub-committee from FHV and LHVC has taken on this long-range goal and has begun working on a plan to build a fireplace at one end of an expanded Southern Shade Shelter. The project would include an 8 x 20' concrete slab, a fireplace with grill, and a fire-retardant roof structure. Depending on funding, the old, existing roof of wooden shakes could be replaced and incorporated into a new roof encompassing the entire structure. It is also hoped that additional improvements to Southern Shade could include a water source with spigot, drinking fountain, a sink/preparation area, and new seating, to complement the new fireplace and provide a convenient place for prepping and serving food, as well as cleanup.

A fireplace at this shelter would be especially useful during summer day camp, when inclement weather oftentimes prevents campers from building fires and cooking their planned meals. The proposed 4' wide firebox would allow several people to cook safely at one time and thus prepare meals for large groups.



We are now in full fund-raising mode to make this a reality! We are in touch with local architects and contractors that can help us through the design and construction process, and are in the process of applying for grants. Individual donations for this project are also greatly needed and appreciated!

There are two ways you can help! One is by purchasing a custom brick through our Brick for Bricks fundraiser. The order form is in the enclosed brochure. You can also donate any amount directly towards the project, by sending a check to Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc., with "Fireplace Project" in the memo line, and mail to: Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc., PO Box 442073, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Thanks for any financial support you can provide to make this fireplace project a reality!