



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

Volunteers honored at Friends Annual Meeting

We celebrated another year of Friends of Hidden Valley at our Annual Meeting on Sept. 17.

Thunderstorms forced us inside Arcalooka and we had to cancel our plans to hike and look at the Bob Billings Parkway planting project but, still, about 20 Friends and Board Members gathered for dinner, the annual meeting and awards.

During the quick annual meeting we re-capped the accomplishments of the year. We also announced the election of our three new board members (Susan Cary, Liz Phillips and Vicki Collie-Akers) and the re-election of Jill Baringer and Margaret Verhage.

Durand Reiber and Marcia West then led the presentation of our volunteer awards, including:
 - **Girl Scout Leader Awards**, which went to Lysette DeBoard, Troop 7535, who received the **Green Thumb Award** for organizing her Cadette-age girls to work at almost every Friends workday.

Also, Erin Bird received the **Arcalooka Award**. She has been involved with Hidden Valley for many years, including as co-director of Day Camp for the past several years. The day campers do service projects each year during camp, which means hundreds of girls are helping make our camp better in just a few days.

- Carol Zhiri was named **Best New Friend**. She joined Friends

in 2012 and indicated she would like to be on a committee (which we love) and she has been a huge help to Debby Francisco and the Membership Committee.

- **The Bird's Eye View Award** went to Jill Baringer (Friends board member), who has been involved with Hidden Valley for many years. We appreciate all she does, but honored her with this award for her hiking reports, which are informative and funny.

- Susan Iverson received the **Hiking Award**. She has become a regular on the hiking patrol, which is such an important job.

- Claudette Johns and Cris Bandle received the **Sticking With Us** award. Claudette took on our membership database a few years ago, and she does such a great job. Cris has not been involved on the actual Friends Board for several years, but she still maintains our website and we appreciate her so much.

- Judy Inverarity won the **Hot Chick Award**. She has been around Hidden Valley for many years, and is a regular at our Friends workdays, and is especially great at starting and maintaining our hot, hot brush fires.

- We gave Debby Francisco the



Some of the awardees at the Annual Meeting were, back row, from left, Claudette Johns, Debby Francisco, Jill Baringer, Jill Giele, Lysette DeBoard, and Bob Topping. In the front row are Melissa and Jamie McCoy.

Fill-The-Shoes-Award for taking on the big job of Membership for the Board, after long-time Membership Chair Flora Wyatt moved away. Debby has filled Flora's shoes beautifully!

- The **Eco Award** went to Wanda Waugh. She is a regular at our workdays, a regular Hiking Patrol member and she has been instrumental in helping us in our native woods restoration efforts.

- The **Behind The Scenes** award went to Sarah Corliss, who has done some great work on our public relations – events and publications - for us, during her time on the Friends board.

- Bruce Nightengale and Bob Topping were honored with **Honorable Mention** awards for tree cutting. Bruce has been on the

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Our spring planting effort was a community event!

If you drove down Bob Billings Parkway the weekend of April 13 and 14, you may have noticed the hillside dotted with busy-bee workers of all ages, from first grade Daisy Scouts, High School Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, KU students, families, Friends of Hidden Valley and other members of the community.

Approximately 210 volunteers showed up over the weekend to plant and mulch nearly 500 bare-root saplings inside our fence where extensive woods clearing had occurred for the new overhead Westar utility lines. Our numbers were boosted by 50 students as part of the KU Big Event, a community service outreach that just happened to coincide with our big planting event.

Along the back border, we planted Eastern red cedars, the only native evergreen, to provide a dense vegetative barrier for our camp. Red cedars are also considered to be the best wildlife tree around, and are pretty hardy too, once established.

In front of the cedars, we planted an intense scattering



Two scouts plant and water a sapling near Bob Billings Parkway, at our April planting effort, the biggest ever at Hidden Valley Camp.

of native shrubs (fragrant sumac, golden currant, American elder, and chokecherry) and small trees (redbud, Chickasaw and American plum, persimmon, and pawpaw), alongside the existing dogwood and coralberry. These shrubs will grow into beautiful flowering thickets, and provide food and nesting sites for our native wildlife.

The biggest challenge now will be to keep the invasive honeysuckle away, and to water during times of

drought. An above ground, temporary watering system was installed to assist us. Luckily, this years' weather has been good to us, and we are pleased with our success rate thus far. Many organizations, from private schools to KU groups have helped us maintain the plantings.

Thanks to all who helped us with the biggest planting event in the history of Hidden Valley Camp!

Mariana Remple award goes to senior scout/camp supporter

The Friends of Hidden Valley Board awarded a Mariana Remple Recognitions Award in the amount of \$150 this past spring, to Sandra Fangohr, a graduating Ambassador Girl Scout from troop 7675.

The committee particularly enjoyed the essay Sandra wrote as part of her application, "Why I Love Hidden Valley."

Sandra started camping at Hidden Valley as a very young scout, then she worked as an aide at Day Camp, helping the younger girls. But what she loves most about Hidden Valley, she wrote, "is the community of campers, parents, and Girl Scouts and through helping with the service projects and day camp there is a bond that cannot be broken . . . it is a great place with a lot of love put into it and a lot of love given back."



Sandra Fangohr

Senior Center visitors have tour and cookout

On a late spring morning in early June 15 eager members of the Douglas County Senior Center program gathered at Redbud Shelter for a tour of Hidden Valley Camp.

Among the participants were several people who previously had been unaware that the camp even existed! We also welcomed a number of interested neighbors to the south.

Trail guide Jill Baringer led the group on a tour devised by Du-rand Reiber to showcase Hidden Valley's major attractions. Hikers followed the Osage Orange Trail through the newly green and fragrant forest down the hill and over to Arkalooka Cabin and the still-sleeping Butterfly Garden. From there it was down the stone steps to The Gathering Place where Karen Warner patiently coaxed a stubborn campfire to life while Carol Zhiri and Debby Francisco set out the fixings for an old-fashioned

hot dog roast topped off by s'mores.

Before stopping to picnic our guests hiked west past the Wetlands, through Mary's Meadow and our Challenge Course and also past a glimpse of the newly reforested area along Bob Billings Parkway, and finally to points north and our exotic yurt and Dogwood Forest.

We couldn't have asked for a lovelier morning or more gracious visitors. All expressed their surprise and delight at this unique and charming valley hidden right in the



Senior Center visitors hiked the camp, joined by a few camp neighbors and also Friends.

center of our city.

And we, in turn, appreciated the warmth and generous support that the Seniors showed us. We are thrilled that we opened up new vistas for them and we are grateful for the new friendships this adventurous morning brought to us.

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Fence Crew for the past two winters and Bob joined the crew this past winter. Bruce has also helped cut up the long logs from the Bob Billings Parkway clearing project. Bob is a professional arborist who was curious about the camp and found us. He has been very helpful, volunteering his knowledge and services to take down some huge dead trees at camp.

- Two plumbers who have given so much time and materials to camp, Kyle Buerman (All-Star Plumbing) and Kenny Johnson (Johnson Plumbing) received the **Green Business Friends** award.
- Our three new board members

were presented with Friends of Hidden Valley t-shirts, to wear at workdays (or any other time!) - Our **Volunteer of the Year** award went to Jill Giele, who has served on the Board since 2004 and is taking some time off the Board, promising she will be back. She was involved in starting the Friends endowment fund at the Douglas County Community Foundation (which has grown to more than \$50K) and has also worked with public relations on two major events (the 50th anniversary celebration of the camp and then of Arcalooka), and as editor of our newsletter.

Fall Workday Nov. 3

Our most interesting and well attended workday of the year is our fall workday in Mary's Meadow and Dogwood Forest.

We have scheduled the workday for Sunday, Nov. 3 from 1 to 4 p.m., with a raindate of Nov. 10.

Although billed as the "Fall Woodcutting and Support" workday, there are dozens of other tasks, from wetland management to native woods restoration, fire ring cleanup, woodpile stocking, debris removal under our bridges, picking up litter while streamwalking, and more.

And, of course, the campfires will be blazing with hot cocoa and s'mores on the menu!

We are lucky to have so much support!

Some of the people and community organizations that have helped us at Hidden Valley Camp over the past year include:



(left top photo) Friends member Bob Simpson (far right) answered our call for volunteers to split the wood cut from the utility clearing along Bob Billings. He recruited fellow Optimist Club members to split wood with a donated splitter from Anderson's Rental, while David Reber and others cut the logs into fire wood length.

(right top photo) A new water line and hydrant was recently installed to service the well-used Gathering Place in Mary's Meadow. Kyle Buerman (pictured) of All-Star Plumbing, and Kenny Johnson of Johnson Plumbing, donated all their time and materials for the project!



The Friends nominated Margaret Townsend, left, and Karen Warner, for the 2012 Volunteers of the Year presented by The United Way Roger Hill Volunteer Center.

The Celebration of Volunteers Party took place on April 23 at the Carnegie Building. Karen was recognized for "Lifetime Service" to Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee and Friends of Hidden Valley. Margaret was recognized for Leadership/Board Service to Friends of Hidden Valley, and was featured in the Lawrence Journal World.



These KU Masters of Accounting students spent a hot August afternoon weeding and mulching the Bob Billings planting. These hard-working students are an annual volunteer group from KU, and we are always excited to work with them.



Alex Houston, of Troop 55 and a FSHS senior, designed and built a great new sign and gateway into Hidden Valley Camp at the Redbud Shelter site. The Eagle Project is beneficial to Hidden Valley and also Presbyterian Manor residents who visit the camp.