



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

Summer 2014

Hidden Valley Trails Day: A Beautiful Day for Guided Hikes

Our very first Hidden Valley Trails Day did not go quite as planned due to thunderstorms and heavy rain in the morning hours, but was still considered a successful event. Scheduled to coincide with National Trails Day® on the first Saturday of June, we were forced to reschedule both our trail maintenance and our guided hikes for the public to Sunday morning. Two hikes were offered: a 30+ minute hike that covered a good portion of the camp and a longer hike lasting a little more than an hour, covering most of our trail system. Trail guides were Durand Reiber, Sandy Beverly, Christine Graves and Cindy Riling. Carol Zhiri and Marcia West set up and tended the Host Station.

Sunday was a particularly beautiful day, puffy, white clouds and blue sky, sun and not much wind. Everything was lush and green and there was a spectacular showing of daisies at Coralberry. Our twelve enthusiastic guests were able to see the camp ready

for action, with Day Camp starting the very next day. Had the event been on Saturday, they would have seen dozens of older girls learning about the skills of being an aide, while adult volunteers caught up on other day camp essentials. While walking the trails and pausing to look over many of our 15 campsites set up for the campers, guests also learned about our history and development and viewed the native butterfly garden, prairie, wetlands, and the adventures available in Dogwood Forest.

Participants offered glowing comments about the event. One mother had brought her Brownie scout to hike the camp as she was going to be at Day Camp the following day. When she saw Coralberry flush with daisies, she lit up and said, "This is going to be my camp site for Day Camp!" The two children who came with their mothers both loved the yurt, noticed the dogwood blooms painted on the floor, and were very excited about the tree house. All hikes ended at



Daisies in full bloom at Coralberry!

Redbud Shelter for trail mix, lemonade, displays, and enjoyable conversations.

We believe that the more people know what a wonderful treasure Hidden Valley is for our community as a whole, the more they will help support us in our endeavor to improve it and preserve it for generations to come.

Mark your calendars now and help us spread the word for our **SECOND ANNUAL HIDDEN VALLEY TRAILS DAY: JUNE 6, 2015!**

Save the Date for Other Activities at Hidden Valley!

Cabin and Garden Workday – Sunday, September 14, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

Annual Members Meeting – Thursday, September 18, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Fall Workday in Mary's Meadow and Dogwood Forest – Saturday, November 2, 1:00-4:00 P.M. (Rain date: November 16th)

Hidden Valley and the Significance of “Place”

During our spring workday in April, former Lawrence Hidden Valley board member Karen Lewis conducted several video interviews of board members and other volunteers for a project in KU Professor Chris Brown’s class “People and Protected Areas”. In the class they discussed how places are given significance by people and how their use weaves together the three “forces” (nature, social relations and meaning) within our existence as geographic beings. Their semester project was to identify a place of significance and share where, why, and how it has become important. Below is an excerpt from Karen on the significance Hidden Valley has for her.

“Hidden Valley Camp has significance to me for multiple reasons. As an environmental student I see the value in conserving this semi-primitive wilderness within an ever growing city covered by asphalt and structures. It offers a respite for city dwellers that need to detox from the rigidity of that world and reconnect with the fluidity of the natural ecosystems. However, this place also holds personal significance and meaning to me as I have been allowed to interact and learn from it over the years.”

It is Karen’s hope (and ours too) that others will have opportunities to share in the community we have created, and that her short film, although barely touching on the significance of this place, will help others recognize its’ importance and share in her desire to support it far into the future. We hope to have the video up and running on our website soon!

Prairie Goes up in High Flames During Controlled Burns



The tall grass prairie of Flag Pole Hill was finally burned last March after a four-year hiatus, mostly put off due to drought conditions of previous years. The crew, from left: Patty Roberts, Christine Graves, Jennifer Dropkin, Kim Bellemere, Ann Marie Boncella, Sandy Beverly, Marty Birrell (burn coordinator), Margaret Verhage, Andrea Woody, and Erika Shearer. Not pictured: Durand Reiber and Ren Liu.

Successful Work Day in April



New rock cage fence posts for the split rail fence at the entrance of Hidden Valley.

Thanks to 90 volunteers, we had a very successful work day on Saturday, April 12. A combination of KU students from the Big Event, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and adults worked at the event. All of the projects were located on the eastern half of Hidden Valley Camp and included the entrance, along 15th Street; Mulberry, Coralberry, and Osage Orange unit sites; Flag Pole Hill; the Redbud shelter; and along the stream from Evelyn’s Attic to the Wetland.

As you enter camp you will notice the first project where the KU students built rock cage fence posts for the split rail fence at the entrance. Other projects included planting cedar, sumac and redbud saplings and plugs of buffalo grass. The Memorial Garden was cleared of weeds, honeysuckle and dead stalks. The small pond there was also cleaned.

A huge thank you to all of those who helped out during the day. We depend on and truly appreciate our volunteers.

Recognition Awards 2014

The Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV) Recognitions Awards were presented at the April 21, 2014 Douglas County Service unit meeting, SU 716. Families of the awardees were invited to attend and presentations were made.

Troop Rewards

The FHV Troop Rewards for \$50 was given to Tracy Houses' teen Cadette troop 7772. The troop worked for 6 hours at the April 13, 2013 Hidden Valley Work Day. Girls from the troop wrote comments about why they loved Hidden Valley. One girl said: "I love Hidden Valley camp because we see interesting things. I love camping because we get to have a huge sleepover party and build a fire. Hidden Valley has so many cool things to do and Day Camp is one of the reasons I stayed in Girl Scouts all these years."

Another person wrote, "I love the animals at Hidden Valley. I like working outdoors, using our own skills to make a fire and then rewarding ourselves with food."

One of the girls wrote about their troop using Hidden Valley for the teen event Night Prowl this year. The troop helped to plan the event.

Mariana Remple Recognitions

There were two recipients of the Mariana Remple Recognitions Awards who each received \$150. They were Robyn Flummerfelt and Emmalee Squires, both from troop 7675, advisor Kyra Flummerfelt. Both girls were Ambassador Girl Scouts, seniors in high school, and requested award money to help pay for a trip to Europe this summer with their troop.

Both girls attended Hidden Valley work days in the past 12 months and performed service projects at Hidden

Valley. Robyn burned brush, participated in outside work days, and served as a camper/aide 6 times. Emmalee created a small garden in remembrance of a troop member when she was a young Girl Scout, helped with Junior Jamboree, and was a camper for 7 years. Both girls helped with Hidden Valley's 50th Anniversary.

Both wrote "Why I Love Hidden Valley" essays. Robyn who began Girl Scouts at age 7 wrote, "Hidden Valley is a great and beautiful place. I made many friends, and memories, that is why I am so thankful for it and love it."

Emmalee wrote, "I will always be thankful for the fun memories and the many more memories I am sure to make in the future."

Meet a Few of Our Volunteers



Ren Liu is majoring in Cellular Biology. He has been assisting the Camp Manager for the past year, helping with numerous projects and leading volunteer groups in service. He has taken a keen interest in our honeysuckle battle!



Becca Hanson has just wrapped up her Junior year in biology. She has a background in graphics, and has produced some great new plant ID & fact cards for the Friends Memorial Butterfly Garden. Check them out the next time you're at the camp!



Friends of Hidden Valley Volunteer Honored

Friends of Hidden Valley Former Board Member and Volunteer, Jill Giele, received the United Way Galluzzi Outstanding Volunteer for 2014 Award. Thank you Jill for your many years of service to Hidden Valley!

Day Camp 2014!

Torrential rain, mud, laughter, songs, balls, roly polies, campfire cooking, zip lines, camping, mud, unit chants and challenges, parachutes, poison ivy, turtles, games, chiggers, more rain, puddles, mud, bouncing balls, marbles, flag ceremonies, service projects, flowers, and oh, did I mention mud?! These words and more sum up the two one-week sessions of Hidden Valley Day Camp held the second and third weeks of June. The rain and mud could not dampen the spirit of girls and adults alike, and in fact, seemed to make it that much more exciting! In its' 57th year of Hidden Valley Day Camps, Director Erin Bird, along with Director-in-training, Lysette DeBoard and their committee did a fabulous job of mixing Girl Scout traditions of outdoor skills with modern day fun.



Hidden Valley Benefits from the Merc Change Program

Thanks to the Merc Change Program, Friends of Hidden Valley received \$3,097.27 in donations during the month of June! Each month, a nonprofit organization is selected to be the recipient of all change donated that month. The Change Program provides three methods of giving by customers: a spare change jar; the option to round up your purchase; and/or to redirect your .05 bag refund. It is incredible that this small change from individuals adds up to such a large amount, and it really shows how giving this community is. Although the timing did not allow us to advertise this to you, our members, we were able to tap the Girl Scout community during two weeks of Day Camp. Thanks to them and the many other shoppers/donors at the Merc, we definitely benefitted from the program! Thank you Merc Co-op staff and shoppers for this incredible program and support!