



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 2019

www.friendshv.org

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

Annual Friends Meeting: Perfect weather, good Music, Food, and Friends!

The Friends of Hidden Valley Annual Meeting was held September 19 at Hidden Valley Camp, and was another memorable event. If you weren't there, you missed it! The Theme of the evening was **"Light My Fire"** thinking ahead to the new fireplace being built in Southern Shade Shelter. As always, there was a smorgasbord of appetizers, finger foods and delicious homemade desserts. The event was humming with conversation and smiles. An exhibit detailing our biochar experiments was on full display. About 33 members and guests attended as we summarized some of our accomplishments this

past year and recognized many of our volunteers and board members for their dedication. Jill Baringer, FHV Chair, gave highlights of our year and financial position, which is strong. Copies of the Annual report were made available to all interested persons attending (see abbreviated report insert). Our retiring Board Member was Claudette Johns, who will still be our database manager and assist with our many PR events. Thank you, Claudette! Gayle Sigurdson was welcomed for a 3-year term. Robin Robertson and Margaret Verhage returned for 3-year terms. The evening ended by recognizing our most valuable asset...our volunteers!



Gayle Sigurdson, above right, a long-time Girl Scout Leader who is working to revitalize the Challenge Course program for troops of all ages, is welcomed as our newest board member by Marcia West.



Center picture: Jill Giele, right, is recognized for taking on Hiking Patrol Coordinator duties and will also assist with our fundraising needs, especially with grant writing.

Right: from left: FHV board members Robin Robertson, Marcia West, Margaret Verhage, Bridgid Murphy, Lisa Barnes, and Jill Baringer.



Above, from left: Barry Barnes, with board members Lisa Barnes & Claudette Johns visit with Phil Baringer.



See page 2 for more pictures and recognitions!

2019 Honored Friend of Hidden Valley: Marcia West



Marcia West, center with family, received the Honored Friend of Hidden Valley Award, reserved for those with a long commitment supported by actions that go above and beyond typical support. Marcia was active with Girl Scouts before her daughter was even old enough to be a Scout. In 1984, she and her co-leader her husband were given the Kaw Valley Couple's Award. In 1999, she began co-leading the late Mariana Remple's "Mariner" Troop 660, where canoeing was a major focus. She has received the Kaw Valley Innovation and Leadership Award, started the "Cooking with the Merc" events, the "Iron Girl Competition" and the "Iron Chef Cookoff". She served as the Service Unit's Recognitions Coordinator and Older Girl Coordinator for many years to engage teens, and organized Brownie Play Day, "Night Prowl" and "Pizza with Pals", inspiring younger girls to stay in Scouts. (continued on pg 4: Honored Friend)

Recognizing our Volunteers!

Recognizing our Volunteers!

Rod Hoffer (left in picture to right), received the Volunteer of the Year award from Cindy Riling. Rod is a fairly new member of the LHVC board of directors, and has already been a valuable addition to the maintenance and development of the camp. With his skills and knowledge, Rod has made impressive wooden signs, devised a pulley system for raising and lowering the archery net, leads projects at workdays, helps the manager with his super strength, and much more! Rod also assists his wife Julie with their daughter's GS troop, and as Cindy said....is a "super dad"! A brick inscribed with his name will be placed in the cabin patio.



Front, from left: Marcia West, Margaret Townsend, Brigid Murphy, Gwen Macpherson & Karl Ramberg.

Back, from left: Gayle Sigurdson, Jill Giele, Jackson Clark, Kristi Teska, & Rod Hoffer

Other Volunteers recognized for their outstanding service to Hidden Valley Camp were:

Eco Award (Biochar Team)— Margaret Townsend, Gwen Macpherson, Ken Lassman, Melinda Black, Jude Black

Fill the Big Shoes—Brigid Murphy

Hiking Patrol—Jill Giele, Sandy Beverly & Nancy Jorn

Honorable Mention— Karl Ramberg

Ar-ca-loo-ka Award—Kristi Teska

Light My Fire Team—Jackson Clark, Mike Myers

Green Partners—KU Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Grad students lead by Emily Arsenault

Outgoing Board member—

Claudette Johns

Incoming Board member—Gayle Sigurdson

September Workday and lots of Butterflies...well, sort of!



Our September 14 Workday was changed to a Saturday morning in hopes of a more accommodating time period for Monarch butterfly tagging. Workday volunteers consisted of 69 total participants, including Board members, Girl Scouts, and other adults and youth, as well as some KU students. Despite the much smaller numbers (we discovered morning workdays are not attractive to many KU students!) most items on our work list were checked off, making it a successful workday. Brigid Murphy had a Monarch Butterfly tagging station in Southern Shade with information and nets, as part of the Monarch Watch tagging project. The event was overseen by long-time coordinator Cindy Riling.



We still missed the rather late migration time period, but kids and adults alike had fun trying and caught many other interesting insects.



Left: Cris Bandle, A 2015 Honor Bench Recipient, scrapes old paint off the bell pole.

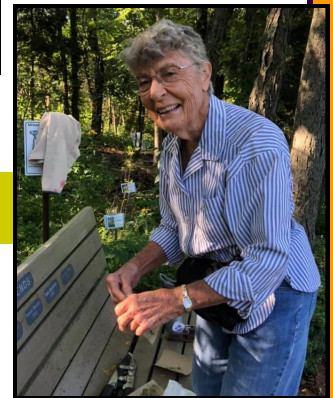


This troop worked on their "Animal Habitat" badge with native plantings and natural shelters.



Above: Dr. Phil Baringer's Honors class, a mainstay at this workday, braved the morning and helped clean our buildings and more.

Below: FHV Member & 2014 Volunteer of the Year Wanda Waugh sands mold off the Honor Bench.



November Workday Still Going Strong!

Our popular late fall workday was another raging success with over 150 volunteers! We had over nine project areas encompassing all of Mary's Meadow, Sherwood Forest, Dogwood Forest and surrounding unit sites, each with many individual projects supervised by our wonderful project leaders. Besides many Girl Scout troops and FHV members, we had a fantastic showing of KU students, including 48 very hard workers from the ATO fraternity. Too many projects were accomplished to even begin to list. Needless to say, it was a highly successful event under beautiful sunny skies! We are so lucky to have such a great volunteering community of friends. Thanks to Brigid Murphy, the coordinator, and all the volunteers that have helped make this a smooth running and fun workday!



Fall Membership Drive Under Way

Fall is the time of year when Friends of Hidden Valley works to both add new members and retain current members to our organization. In addition to the obvious benefits of belonging to the family of Hidden Valley advocates, members enjoy the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting a special place for Girl Scouts, a place where nature is appreciated and nurtured. If you know of individuals who might be interested in joining FHV, please send their names and contact information to Membership Chair Brigid Murphy at brigid@sunflower.com. Watch for your membership renewal form in the mail and thank you for returning it promptly. Keep in mind that gift memberships are also available.



More Workday Photos!

Members of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity reworked the bioswale and hydrant area at our November workday, carefully replacing the rocks. The area had been excavated to fix a water line leak.



Honored Friend, continued from pg 2:

Marcia served on the Lawrence Hidden Valley Board for 14 years between 1986 and 2006, and still serves on the Site Committee, assists planning the annual Bromelsick Party and Memorial Service, and has been active in planning many large camp celebrations. With Gayle Sigurdson, she researched and created the Low-element Challenge Course at Hidden Valley.

Marcia became a founding member of Friends in 1997, and has served continuously on the Board since 2008. On the Volunteer Committee, she coordinated the June Trail Maintenance Workday for eight years, and helps with other workdays and outreach events. She chairs the Recognitions Committee where she delights hard-working volunteers and GS leaders with her creative awards. We are delighted to recognize Marcia now, as a hard-working volunteer and true friend of Hidden Valley.

Check out our Facebook page for more wonderful pictures of our annual meeting, workdays, and fabulous volunteers!
[Facebook.com:/friends-of-hidden-valley](https://www.facebook.com/friends-of-hidden-valley)

Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc.
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SAVE THESE DATES!



Going on NOW: Annual Membership & Renewal Drive; you should have received your renewal letter in the mail. Please renew quickly and save us time and money! You can also renew on-line at www.friendshv.org. Thank you in advance!



January 18, 9-4 pm: Eagles Day, at Free State High School; visit our exhibit and many others highlighting eagles and other Kansas wildlife

April 18, 1-4 pm: Spring Workday, with a special project of planting a walnut grove!

April TBD: Earth Day: Friends will be tabling as we celebrate the earth and tell our stories of how we help this planet on a local basis.



June 6, 9-1 pm: Hidden Valley Trails Day will be even bigger and better this year, as we partner with other local nature-based organizations.



We would also like to encourage everyone seeking a Christmas tree this year to visit the **Lawrence Breakfast Optimist Club Christmas Tree Sale** lot located at HyVee on 23rd & Kasold, beginning November 29, from 2-8 pm. Hidden Valley and many other local youth organizations benefit from this and other annual fundraisers held by LBOC.



Southern Shade Fireplace and Grill Becoming a Reality!

We are very excited to see the new fireplace and cooking grill becoming a reality at the west end of the Southern Shade shelter south of the cabin. Our dreams are coming true thanks to lots of fundraising during



the past couple of years that included donations to the Brick 4 Bricks program, general funds, and a hefty grant from the KRIZ Charitable. Many thanks to the volunteer contributions of project leader **Jackson Clark**, and architect **Mike Meyers**, and to **Karl Ramberg**, shown right, for his very artistic stone carving of our tree logo, which he donated to the project! The stone will be installed above the fireplace mantel. We are hoping for completion by the end of December.



**Friends of Hidden Valley
Abbreviated Annual Report
July 1, 2018- to June 30, 2019**

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)

Board of Directors: Jill Baringer, Lisa Barnes, Melinda Black, Claudette Johns, Ken Lassman, Brigid Murphy, Durand Reiber, Cindy Riling, Robin Robertson, Margaret Verhage, Marcia West and Alex Weston

There is substantial progress on the Southern Shade stone fireplace and cooking grill utilizing a \$40,000 grant from KRIZ Charitable Fund and \$10,000 of our savings to the project. We also co-sponsored a project with LHVC for a \$5,000 grant from the Great Plains Biochar Initiative, matched by another \$5,000 from the Friends Vegetation Renewal budget. This important initiative promotes the making and using of biochar, a by-product of burning woody biomass to the charcoal stage. In addition to its use in plantings, biochar is being used in experiments for trail mulch, soil and bank erosion control and pollutant filtering in our streams. We now have a wonderful use for the over 300 hours of cutting honeysuckle that the Honeysuckle Warriors have contributed.

Day Camp this year, headed by Lysette DeBoard, hosted crowds of 307 and 272 during the two weeks in June. We continue to support the LHVC in developing, maintaining and promoting Hidden Valley Camp as a safe place for Douglas County Girl Scouts and other youth groups to learn about and explore nature.

One of our on-going programs, Brick For Bricks (B4B), offers people/troops/businesses the opportunity to purchase a brick with an engraving from which funds are currently being used to help fund the stone fireplace and grill at Southern Shade. Other ongoing fund raisers are the AmazonSmile account set up which generates .5% of eligible sales at smile.amazon.com for Friends of Hidden Valley, and we've joined the Dillons Community Rewards system. Users can help Friends by shopping at Dillons and linking their Plus card to Friends of Hidden Valley.

National Trails Day is a nationally coordinated event designed to unite and connect more people to trails. Always the first Saturday of June, FHV hosted its sixth Hidden Valley Trails Day event on June 1, 2019. This year's event had themed guided hikes with local experts and several stations with exhibits and activities. The wetland and environmental art stations were especially popular for the kids. We had 114 guests hiking our trails! We feel that getting people inside the camp is the best way to connect with the public.

Final Membership Numbers for 2018-2019

103 Continuing Members; 16 New Members; 12 Lifetime Members; 4 Gift Members; 135 Total Members

Each year a troop from each age level (Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador) may be rewarded with \$50 to be used however they wish. Troops must submit an application to the Recognitions Committee no later than April 1st of each year. Applications are located on the FHV website: www.friendshv.org. This year the following troops were honored: Brownie Troop 5606, Jessica Hensley, leader; Jenny Gleason and Junior Troop 5607, Jackie Stancil, leader Cadette Troop 7494, leader Margaret Milburn; Ambassador Troop 7579, leader Jaime Hay and honorable mention to Junior Troop 1599; leader Shari Anderson.

The full report can be viewed on our website: www.friendshv.org