



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

Summer 2015

## Day Camp: Memories to Treasure

The fearless Lysette DeBoard directed throughout the two one-week sessions and teen aides and 135 adult volunteers. Along with the usual camp traditions of outdoor cooking, campers made pirate the Pearl, geocached for treasures, and pirates. Each unit painted their own sites. A new activity this year was

been carved into the woods, and aptly named Sherwood Forest. Two new unit sites also debuted this season, carved out by our Honeysuckle Warriors over winter, and finished off by Girl Scout troops. Emerald Forest features moss covered hedge logs cut down decades ago, and a mossy vernal pond, while Paw Paw features a large native Paw Paw Patch!



Day Camp this year, with a pirate theme held from June 15-26. Over 350 campers helped make this session a great success! chants, challenges, hikes, songs, and crafts, “walked the plank”, played Capture learned some knot tying skills essential for pirate flags to proudly display at their unit archery! A permanent archery zone has





# Spring Cleaning!

It was a beautiful day at Hidden Valley as we gathered for the April 11<sup>th</sup> Work Day. Over 120 people participated, including Girl Scouts, KU students, Hidden Valley board members from both boards, and Friends members. Volunteers were greeted by Marcia West and Carol Zhiri at the check-in tables, and jobs were assigned by Margaret Verhage and Jill Baringer.

The emphasis this time was on the eastern portion of the camp. Durand Reiber and Nancy Smelser directed painting the front gates, creating a new walk-in gate for Day Camp, and planting trees. At the Mulberry campsite, Kyra Flummerfelt and her crew burned brush and planted some cover plants in the area. On Flag Pole Hill, many helpers joined in with project leaders Mary Swayne and Ren Liu to rearrange the Oginali campsite so that it took advantage of more shade and gave it a bit more privacy. It looks great! Down at the Redbud shelter, more painting and planting was taking place under the watchful eyes of Karen Lewis and Karen Warner. This was also the location of the refreshments, so all the volunteers made a stop there and were aided by Margaret Townsend. Down at the Memorial Garden and Cabin area, Mary Murphy was busy directing garden cleanup and re-mounting a bluebird box. An excellent job was done, as this box was subsequently chosen by a very large family of house wrens (seven babies)! Also down in the Cabin area, Diane Church led GS troops in cleaning up seven unit sites, involving stacking up the wood piles, fixing up the fire rings and repelling moles from tunneling through the fire rings. Finally, along the eastern fence line, several self-directed volunteers did a marvelous job of reattaching the litter fencing to the barbed wire fence and picking up an impressive amount of litter.

We want to thank everybody who came out to spend some time cleaning up our camp and making it beautiful after the winter. We couldn't do it without our volunteers!



*KU Alternative Break students added lots of muscle to the April Workday!*

## Muddy Trail Maintenance...Ewww

The June 6, 2015 Trail Maintenance Work Day was a dark and cloudy start. We crossed our fingers that the very dark sky and cloud over-hang would not develop into unmanageable rain.

Coordinated by FHV Board Member, Marcia West, eleven people, six hard working Crew Leaders, and a few volunteers, tromped through periodic rain drops, and lots of mud, to be our Hidden Valley heroes. They gave trails a shape up for day camp and installed some much needed drainage tubes on some of the worst trails. Thank yous to Ren Liu, Cris and Jeff Bandle, Kyra Flummerfelt and Mary Murphy, and Durand Reiber for their hard work.

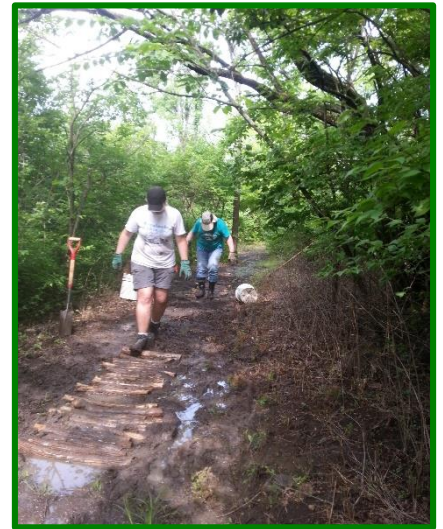
Thank yous go to Daniel Lonnquist and Helen Park, volunteers who helped with some of the work day projects. Other important volunteers were Mary Beth Petr, who volunteered as our first aide provider, and Margaret Verhage who assisted at check-in.

## National Trails Day at Hidden Valley

American Hiking Society's National Trails Day® (NTD) is a celebration of America's magnificent Trail System, occurring annually on the first Saturday in June. NTD features a series of outdoor activities, designed to promote and celebrate the importance of trails in the United States. Individuals, clubs and organizations from around the country host National Trails Day® events to share their love of trails with friends, family, and their communities. NTD introduces thousands of Americans to a wide array of trail activities: hiking, biking, paddling, horseback riding, trail running, and bird watching and more. For public and private land managers alike, National Trails Day® is a great time to showcase beautiful landscapes and special or threatened locales as thousands of people will be outside looking to participate in NTD events.

In celebration of National Trails Day, the Friends of Hidden Valley invited the public to help us with trail maintenance and/or enjoy one of our guided hiking tours. We had 12 volunteers show up for trail maintenance as well as 30 hikers from the Lawrence community (ranging from ages 4 to refined age). Even a few old scouters who had been in town for a visit came for a hike (Janice Scribner, trainer and leader ... & Diana Brown, former service unit leader).

Hikers enjoyed their guided tours over the 40 acres of urban wilderness with several trails crossing streams, prairie, hills, meadows and through woods. The youth enjoyed our native butterfly gardens and viewed our efforts in honeysuckle eradication. Trail guides gave tidbits of history, some plant identification, and explained a few of our new projects.



*Kyra Flummerfelt, left, and Mary Murphy work on laying logs in the muddy trails during the June Workday.*

# Pollinator Project Keeps Growing

The Hidden Valley Pollinator Project kicked off on a perfectly sunny Earth Day, with participants planting, mulching and watering throughout the day. By June, a total of 117 volunteers had planted nearly 1,000 wildflowers representing 17 species of nectar plants and 6 species of native milkweed.

Although the majority of planting occurred around the wetland and swale that directs runoff from the hillside to the wetland, more sun-loving plants were added to the Flag Pole Hill prairie and other sunny locations, while several species of shade tolerant wildflowers were planted along trails and in the woods where the invasive honeysuckle has been cleared out. For educational purposes, a milkweed display garden was planted at the north end of Butterfly Alley. Unfortunately, the bunnies and/or deer like to keep those plants groomed to the ground! Hopefully they'll move on soon so the plants can flourish. We are currently certifying our camp as an official Monarch Way Station and have received designation as Certified Wildlife Habitat.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that the monarch butterflies will find these plantings attractive enough to hang around and lay their eggs on the ample milkweed now growing around the camp. If we're lucky, we'll be able to host a monarch tagging event in conjunction with our September 13 workday. Educational signs, plant lists and exhibits will be on hand, exploring the world of pollinators and the plants they depend on. We hope you and your family can join us.

Thank you to all the volunteers, and to the Merc Change Program, including everyone that rounded up their change for Friends of Hidden Valley, for making this possible.

## Annual Mariana Remple Recognitions and Troop Rewards Awarded

Earlier this spring, several awards were distributed to Girl Scouts in Lawrence and Douglas County. Girl Scout Ambassador Aimee Neilson received \$150 from Friends of Hidden Valley. Aimee is from Troop 7675, Kyra Flummerfelt's troop. In her essay on "Why I love Hidden Valley," Aimee wrote. "My absolute favorite part of camp is the actual campsite. It's a rural setting in town where younger girls can experience the outdoors with their friends and without their parents. I like teaching the skills I have learned to Girl Scouts who come after me." Aimee maintains membership in both Girl Scouts and 4-H, and will be using the award to take a 4-H Focus trip to Washington D.C. The trip allows members to meet with their senators and representatives.

Three outstanding troops each received \$50 Troop Awards. Troop 486, Cammy Owens' Daisy Troop and Kristy Teska's Cadette Troop 1915 helped out at Hidden Valley work Day, Nov 2nd, 2014. Each girl wrote what she liked doing most at Hidden Valley, some of the comments were building fires, singing song, hiking and making s'mores. One girl wrote, "I helped trim branches and clear the area near the yurt by pulling up honeysuckle plants... which will allow other plants to grow and make the area better." Troop 1915 surprised Marcia West by giving her a package of gloves for small hands for FHV's work days.

Troop 7535, Lysette DeBoard's Cadette/Senior Troop worked at Hidden Valley April 12th and Sep 14, 2014. Some of the comments from troop members about Hidden Valley were..."Hidden Valley is fun in the Summer because you meet new people and do activities." "I love the creeks and the trees."

## In Memoriam

### **Carol Marie Buhler Francis** **February 9, 1928-March 21, 2015**

Carol Francis: writer, historian, preservationist, singer, swimmer, canoeist, hunter, business woman, dedicated wife and mother of four ... Carol was many things, and never stopped learning and creating. For us, she was Girl Scout extraordinaire and an amazing supporter of Hidden Valley Camp.

Carol joined Girl Scouts at age 10, and recalled during an interview that her favorite Christmas present in grade school was her GS uniform! As a young adult, Carol served as a counselor at local GS camps and taught swimming and arts and crafts, and was well known for her singing voice in leading camp songs. As an adult, she became the first Executive Director of the Lawrence Girl Scout Council in 1953, and in 1956, was instrumental in the negotiations and purchase of Hidden

Valley Camp. She later served on the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee Board of Directors, was a Girl Scout leader for her daughters, and served as Day Camp Director at Hidden Valley.

Carol is also well known for her devotion to historical preservation and active membership in the Lawrence Preservation Alliance. In 1978, she purchased the House Building in downtown Lawrence, and through her research found that it was the only downtown building to survive Quantrill's Raid of 1863. She has written two books on historical buildings of Lawrence and an iPod version of "Walking Downtown Lawrence".

Carol continued her support of local scouting as a "Founding Friend" of the Friends of Hidden Valley in 1996, and later became a Life Time Member of the Friends. Carol was named a Hidden Valley Honoree during the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Bash celebrations in 2006. A memorial brick will be placed at Hidden Valley on the Memorial Brick Pathway in her honor.

### **Ella Mary Yoe** **July 30, 1924 – March 9, 2015**

Ella Mary Yoe was a Girl Scout leader and from 1975 to 1977 was on the Kaw Valley Girl Scout Board. She was on the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee board (LHVC) from 1978 to 1982. She was a charter member of Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV).

Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV) was designated to receive donations in her honor. We received a generous donation on 3/31/2015 from Patrick Jones of University Heights, Ohio. A brick has been donated in Ella Mary Yoe's honor.

## Save the Date

**September 13:** Annual Cabin and Garden Workday from 1-3 pm. With luck, we'll also be hosting a Monarch Tagging event. Stay tuned...

**September 17:** Annual Members Meeting, 6:00-8:30 pm. Invitations will be coming soon.

**November 8:** November Work Day, 1:00-4:00 pm.

## Support the Friends of Hidden Valley

There are a number of ways to show your support for the Friends of Hidden Valley, including:

- Joining us on a Work Day,
- Maintaining your annual membership,
- Liking us on our new Facebook page



*Honeysuckle Warriors pause for a break while working this spring. From left: Jim Bresnahan, Dan Lonnquist, Bob Oakes, and Mike Huslig*



*Friends donations helped fund a new people gate and fencing on two sides of the property. Hedge posts were harvested from the camp.*



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