



Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc.

P O Box 442073 • Lawrence, Kansas 66044

**Friends of Hidden Valley
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 with 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. The Biochar Team consisted of Camp Manager Durand Reiber, Gwen Macpherson, Margaret Townsend and FHV Board Members Ken Lassman and Melinda Black. 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.

The FHV Annual Meeting was held on Sept. 20th 2018 where continuing Board Member Cindy Riling and new Board Members Jill Baringer, Ken Lassman and Alex Weston were elected to serve 3-year terms by ballot vote. Music was provided by Zydeco Tougeau. A special presentation was made for outgoing Chair Christine Graves, whose name was added to the Honor Bench.

Some other activities this year at the camp that FHV contributed to include repairs to the Yurt and the Cabin, three new bricks at the Memorial Brick Pathway, a record-breaking Trails Day, replacing pollinator plants and tree removal. Our membership numbers remain steady, our financial position continues to strengthen and three workdays with almost 400 volunteers combined (both adults and kids) occurred, the most recent being last weekend on Sept. 14th. 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.

Secretary's Report: Cindy Riling

Minutes from the following Board meetings were transcribed, distributed to Board members, and filed with Archives for August 16, 2018, September 20, 2018 (Annual Meeting), October 18, 2018, November 15, 2018, February 21, 2019, March 21, 2019, May 16, 2019, June 20, 2019 and July 25, 2019. A meeting

was not held in December 2018 or January 2019. Important notes from the April 18 meeting were incorporated into the May minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Robin Robertson

Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV) enjoyed a profitable year. The contributions from our membership were strong again at nearly \$12,000. This enabled us to fund several projects throughout the camp. Friends of Hidden Valley contributed \$2,700 for yurt repairs. FHV is funding the cooperator contribution portion of a biochar grant awarded by the Great Plains Biochar Initiative. During this last fiscal year, FHV contributed a little over \$4,000 towards this cooperator portion. The camp will receive up to \$40,000 from a Kriz Charitable Fund grant for the Southern Shade Fireplace. FHV has budgeted \$10,000 in additional funds for the fireplace project. FHV had a positive cash flow this year thanks to our membership, investment returns, donations to our DCCF Endowment fund and several generous donations from a few of our members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraising: Chair - Robin Robertson, Jill Baringer, Cindy Riling, Margaret Verhage, Marcia West
One of our on-going programs, Brick For Bricks (B4B), offers people/troops/businesses the opportunity to purchase a brick with an engraving. The money raised by this program has been used to fix the Ar-ca-loo-ka cabin chimney. The next project partially funded by this program will be building a stone fireplace and grill at the Southern Shade Shelter south of the cabin. Friends of Hidden Valley has an AmazonSmile account set up. We get .5% of eligible sales. This works with Amazon Prime as well. Users must go to smile.amazon.com, then sign in and look for FHV in the drop-down list and select. The user must shop through AmazonSmile for FHV to get the donation. Friends of Hidden Valley has recently joined the Dillons Community Rewards system. Users can help Friends by shopping at Dillons and linking their Plus card to Friends of Hidden Valley.

Membership Committee: Brigid Murphy (Chair), Claudette Johns (Database Manager), Lisa Barnes, Robin Robertson, Jill Barringer

The Membership Committee works to retain current members and to increase the number of new members in Friends of Hidden Valley. The committee's annual budget covers the cost of printing letters for solicitations, sending acknowledgement letters, printing renewal membership forms, mailing solicitations, and reorders for letterhead stationery and matching envelopes.

Committee members assisted with the planning and activities associated with work days, Eagles Day, Earth Day, and Trails Day. These events enable committee members to interact with both current and prospective members, to promote Friends of Hidden Valley, and to encourage participation in camp activities.

In November the committee sent out 110 renewal letters. This mailing included a revised Renewal Membership Form. Members also worked to eliminate names on the membership master list who are deceased or who no longer respond to solicitations. Robin Robertson developed a spread sheet of prospective new members who live on Tiffany Drive and Alvarado Drive to whom a letter specifically targeted to these neighbors inviting them to join Hidden Valley was sent. The Membership Committee sponsored a "walk-about" on May 18 for interested board members who wanted to learn more about camp and share stories from our collective history of Hidden Valley. Membership numbers remain consistent for the last five years: 2015: 131 members, 2016: 118, 2017: 138, 2018: 136, and 2019: 135. The membership committee is requesting \$700 for our budget next year which will allow us to purchase

additional stamps for the multiple mailings and thank you notes that are posted. Two new address stamps were purchased and will be put to good use for the 2019 Fall Membership Drive.

Final Membership Numbers for 2018-2019

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

Recognitions Committee: Marcia West (chair) Durand Reiber, Cindy Riling, Alex Weston, Margaret Verhage

This year the Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV) Recognitions Awards for Troop Rewards and Marianna Remple Recognitions, were presented Monday, April 15, 2019 at the Douglas County Service unit meeting, SU 716. The meeting was held at Biggs Barbecue, 2429 Iowa Lawrence, KS.

Troop Rewards

Every year Troop Rewards are given from the Friends of Hidden Valley (FHV). This recognitions program was established with the goals in mind to seek and encourage volunteerism at Hidden Valley which is a unique wildlife area. By having girls and adults involved in the development and maintenance of Hidden Valley, they will learn commitment, responsibility and stewardship of the camp for now and in the future. The Recognitions for Troop Rewards this year were given for participation in activities that started 4/1/2018 and ended 4/1/2019.

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. Four troops received \$50 for Troop Rewards and one troop received honorable mention.

Jessica Hensley's Brownie Troop 5606 worked the four Work Days and did a special project in October, with 5 to 10 girls attending, depending on the date. Among the highlights of their experiences were pulling 137 bag worms from trees, spreading mulch around saplings, at Redbud and along Osage Orange trail and clearing dead trees from around Sumac. They also straightened rocks in the flower bed along the sidewalk from Redbud to Presbyterian Manor. The girls wrote out cards about what they enjoyed most about work day and/or spending time at Hidden Valley, here is what some of them said:

"I like doing the fire job. I like nature because it looks so cool. My favorite part of Hidden Valley, are the hiking trails."-Bristol

"The most fun I ever had at Hidden Valley is Day Camp!"-Margot

"Hidden Valley makes me feel happy because I like nature and wildlife."-Annabelle

Jenny Gleason and Jackie Stancil's Junior Troop 5607 worked the September Work Day, with 6 out of 14 girls attending. One of the girls wrote "why I like Hidden Valley" ...I like the zip line and monkey bridge and other activities you can do at Hidden Valley. I like Day Camp and sleeping for one night." They also completed a special Take Action Project, to set up geocaches at Hidden Valley.

In September the troop had 14 girls attending. They planned a geocaching day for Juniors on April 13, 2019. Some of the girls wrote about what skills they used, observations made, and what was learned during their geocaching project at Hidden Valley.

Margaret Milburn's Cadette Troop 7494 did a variety of Independent Service Projects and in three out of four projects had 17 girls attending. The projects were in March and August, 2018.

In March, they worked two different days for a total of 8 hours on stream restoration. They used trimmers and equipment their parents did not normally let them use. They were amazed at what they accomplished together as a troop for the finished results and cannot wait to see what it looks like at camp this summer.

Jaime Hay's Ambassador Troop 7579 did one Work Day in September and an Independent Service project in May. In May, they practiced team work, innovation and resourcefulness by working together to gather tools and hang lights with clips in the Yurt. They wanted to help light the Yurt so that troops can use these battery powered lights to brighten a rainy day at camp or evening camping trips.

Special Thanks

This year we gave a Special Thanks to Shari Anderson's Junior Troop 1599, who applied for the Troop Rewards and participated in work days. Shari's troop worked the September Work Day and they also sent pictures of their girls while at the work day.

Marianna Remple Recognitions Awards-None this year.

Volunteer Committee: Chair - Durand Reiber; Jill Giele-Hiking Patrol, Brigid Murphy, Cindy Riling, Margaret Verhage, Marcia West, Alex Weston

The Volunteer Committee organizes volunteer efforts at the camp, primarily through routine workdays and the Hiking Patrol. Friends provide planning, tools, oversight and refreshments for workdays, which draw volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life! This year our FHV-sponsored workdays and Hiking Patrol members brought in about 407 volunteers representing nearly 1000 estimated hours of service to Hidden Valley! Committee members also attend LHVC Site Committee meetings. This year the Site Committee made an effort to establish more frequent and routine meetings to keep ahead of future needs.

Three workdays were sponsored by FHV (September 16, 2018, November 11, 2018, and April 27, 2019), each concentrating on a different area of camp. Workdays were coordinated by the above committee, and the help of many other project leaders. The September event almost doubled with a record turnout of 202 volunteers, primarily due to the addition of monarch butterfly tagging, led by Brigid Murphy. Unfortunately, very few butterflies are out in the afternoon, so we have moved it to Saturday morning, when the monarchs are more likely to be sipping nectar. A special project in November was dismantling the big Mary's Meadow Bridge in preparation for its replacement. Our spring workday started with KU Big Event students, followed by GS and community volunteers in the afternoon, planting nearly 100 saplings. Due to the popularity of our workdays, we now phase in GS troops at different times to better accommodate the numbers. We no longer have our June workday, as trail maintenance can be accomplished during the other workdays or by GS for service projects. We thank Marcia West for her many years of coordinating this workday!

Hiking Patrol: Former board member Jill Giele has taken the reins of Hiking Coordinator from Sandy Beverly, who had turned the patrol into a smooth operating system. We thank Sandy for her years of commitment. These hikers provide valuable monitoring of the camp, often delighting others with their inspiring photos and reports. Many other members hike spontaneously, filling out the registration cards at the camp. This year we had 29 people hiking over 70 times, helping to keep an eye on the camp year-round.

Bluebird Trail Monitoring: Jill Baringer, assisted by Margaret Verhage, continued to monitor the five-box eastern bluebird trail at Hidden Valley. We are proud to announce we had one of the best years in recent memory, with two active boxes, one of which produced two sets of fledglings, for a total of three nests and 13 new baby bluebirds being brought into the world. Also, this summer, over a dozen bluebirds were sighted at once. Our efforts of increasing quality wildlife habitat are paying off!

Friends' members continue to direct other community volunteer groups as well, although many events were cancelled this year due to weather. Six events brought 54 volunteers (primarily KU and junior or high school students) who gave over 100 combined hours of service. The hard-working Honeysuckle Warriors met on 15 occasions to cut, haul and burn honeysuckle down to biochar, representing over 170 hours. Mike Huslig once again worked independently, clocking an additional 130 hours cutting large shrubs with a hand saw! These volunteer hours are a large part of our contributions to the Biochar Grant.

All told, Hidden Valley Camp was the recipient of over 1,400 hours of service from Friends, Girl Scouts, and the community! Thank you to ALL of our wonderful volunteers that help keep Hidden Valley a well-maintained camp and a valued natural green space.

Public Relations Committee: Chair - Durand Reiber; Lisa Barnes, Melinda Black, Claudette Johns, Ken Lassman, Brigid Murphy

The Public Relations committee serves to spread awareness about Hidden Valley Camp and the Friends organization to the community at large, through public outreach, social media and newsletters. We published three newsletters this year, with spring, summer and fall issues. Events were highlighted on our Facebook page, where many wonderful pictures of nature and wildlife were posted. We are pleased to add Melinda Black to the team to share her graphic design and social media expertise. The PR committee was instrumental in promoting our workdays for the Volunteer Committee and with the Biochar Grant and burn demonstration for the public in April. Three outreach events led by the PR Committee this year were:

Eagles Day was a little different this year, due to a change in location and our unusually snowy and brutal winter causing it to be rescheduled to February 16, at Billy Mills Middle School. This allowed a more intimate feel, as Friends joined nearly 30 local non-profit organizations in a smaller space, with exhibits highlighting nature, wildlife habitat, ecology, and other environmental and conservation matters. The event allows for considerable networking among the organizations and a way to inform the public about Hidden Valley

Earth Day was held April 20, 2019 at South Park, after the parade downtown, hosted by the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department. The event brought together 55 organizations and exhibits to celebrate and promote a healthy and sustainable environment. FHV Board members had a table with FHV information and shared the importance of Hidden Valley within the Lawrence community, while also promoting Hidden Valley Trails Day.

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. We revamped the day, moving it to the cooler morning hours, and added 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. In spite of many other Trails Day events around town, we had 114 guests hiking our trails! We feel that getting people inside the camp is the best way to connect with the public. Next year we hope to coordinate with several other organizations to make the event even better!

Friends of Hidden Valley

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

July 2018 through June 2019

	TOTAL	
	Jul '18 - Jun '19	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
43400 · Direct Public Support		
43420 · Mariana Remple Memorial	175.00	100.00
43425 · Other Memorials	505.00	100.00
43470 · Friends HV DCCF Endowment	3,790.00	2,300.00
43475 · Parnassus Fund	717.91	
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	5,187.91	2,500.00
45000 · Investments		
45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities)	3,267.75	1,900.00
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	61.50	100.00
Total 45000 · Investments	3,329.25	2,000.00
46400 · Other Types of Income		
46430 · Miscellaneous Revenue	818.65	700.00
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	818.65	700.00
47200 · Program Income		
47230 · Membership Dues	11,791.66	11,130.00
47250 · Brick for Bricks Program	300.00	300.00
Total 47200 · Program Income	12,091.66	11,430.00
Total Income	21,427.47	16,630.00
Gross Profit	21,427.47	16,630.00
Expense		
62100 · Contract Services		
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	80.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	0.00	80.00
63000 · Investment Fees	1,180.39	1,200.00
65000 · Operations		
65005 · Membership	529.89	650.00
65010 · Newsletter	704.36	950.00
65030 · Annual Meeting	440.95	500.00
65040 · Camp Expenses	3,491.77	3,000.00
65050 · Administration	455.22	400.00
65060 · Volunteer	291.49	350.00
65070 · Public Relations	187.03	200.00
65090 · Fundraising	67.31	100.00
65095 · Recognitions & Awards	208.47	400.00
Total 65000 · Operations	6,376.49	6,550.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses		
65110 · M. Remple Recognitions Awards	0.00	300.00
65115 · Troop Rewards Distributions	223.69	300.00
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	223.69	600.00
70700 · Vegetation Renewal Project	4,210.68	5,000.00
70800 · Brick for Bricks Project	105.31	200.00
71000 · Southern Shade Fireplace Proj	0.00	10,000.00
Total Expense	12,096.56	23,630.00
Net Ordinary Income	9,330.91	-7,000.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
70600 · Unrealized Gains and Losses	-2,973.51	
70650 · Realized Gains and Losses	4,872.24	
Total Other Income	1,898.73	
Net Other Income	1,898.73	
Net Income	11,229.64	-7,000.00