



Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc.

Post Office Box 442073
Lawrence, KS 66044

The Friends of Hidden Valley Board (FHV)

Cindy Riling, chair; Gwen Macpherson, vice chair; Laurie Martin-Frydman, secretary; Patsy Moody, treasurer; and Amanda Atkins, Jenny Gleason, Karen Lassman, Mindie Paget, Gayle Sigurdson, Marcia West, Lily Yu

Annual Report for 2023-2024

Friends of Hidden Valley had a remarkably busy and productive year. We had a good year in member donations, which continue to be our greatest resource for contributions of money and labor. We would not exist without our members. These members gave donations that allowed us to upgrade the solar energy system and batteries in the cabin and Evelyn's Attic, thus enabling Hidden Valley in its mission to promote the Girl Scout program. Turning on the lights really helps, as does turning on the ceiling fan in 90-plus-degree weather during day camp. Kudos to everyone who gave their time and money to Hidden Valley this year.

Friends of Hidden Valley also had a record year of grant funding. We received two grants from the Kriz Charitable Foundation, which are detailed in the Fund Development Committee's report. We also raised \$1,550 from the Douglas County Community Foundation's Annual Giving for Good campaign. This money has enabled us to build a critter-free cage for storing boots and supplies used for educational purposes at the vernal pond.

Our successes do not stop there. With a new board member, Mindie Paget, we have moved into this century. You will notice our newsletter looks different and is predominantly sent via email rather than post so that we can better steward our membership funds. Mindie also has taken over website administration, relieving Cris Bandle, who has done a wonderful job for countless years.

The EPEC Committee continues to work to maintain Hidden Valley as an environmental treasure, remaining as true to its original makeup as possible. Their report details their goals and what they have been able to do already. It is imperative that Hidden Valley remain an environmental haven where future Girl Scouts and youth can learn.

The Recognitions Committee continues to support the Girl Scout program with awards and scholarships, including, of course, the Marianna Remple Scholarship. Without Marianna, where would we be? We have become an organization that uses the phrase WWMorDD (What would Marianna or Durand do?).

Please read in detail all the accomplishments your donations and grants have allowed us to complete at Hidden Valley.

— Cindy Riling, Chairperson

Secretary Notes

Minutes for the following board meetings were transcribed, distributed to board members and filed in the FHV Google Docs drive: Aug. 15, 2023; Sept. 21, 2023; Oct. 26, 2023; Jan. 20, 2024; Feb. 15, 2024; March 21, 2024; April 18, 2024; May 15, 2024; June 6, 2024; July 18, 2024; and Aug. 15, 2024. No meetings were held in November or December of 2023.

— Laurie Martin-Frydman, Secretary

FHV Volunteer Committee Report, 2023-2024

Chairperson: Gwen Macpherson.

Members: Amanda Atkins, Karen Lassman, Ken Lassman, Durand Reiber, Laurie Martin-Frydman, Cindy Riling, Marcia West

Volunteer Day Coordinators: Sept. 16, 2023, Cindy Riling; Nov. 4, 2023, Cindy Riling and Gwen Macpherson; April 20, 2024, Karen Lassman

Bluebird Monitoring: Jill Baringer, Cindy Riling

Honeysuckle Warrior Coordinator: Durand Reiber

Valley Gardeners Coordinator: Durand Reiber

Hiking Patrol Coordinator: Jill Giles

Assistance with Hiker Registrations: Nancy Jorn, Cris Bandle (online)

OVERVIEW

The Volunteer Committee organizes three official Volunteer Days (September, November, April) and reports on camp use by 1) the Hiking Patrol (through Jill Giele), 2) other camp walkers through the onsite and online registration (assisted by Nancy Jorn and Cris Bandle), 3) Honeysuckle Warrior efforts (coordinated by Durand Reiber), 4) Valley Gardeners (coordinated by Durand Reiber), and 5) bluebird monitoring (by Jill Baringer and, more recently, Cindy Riling). Like other board members, we also assist with Trails Day in June as needed. We also organize or participate in service projects on days other than Volunteer Days, as needed.

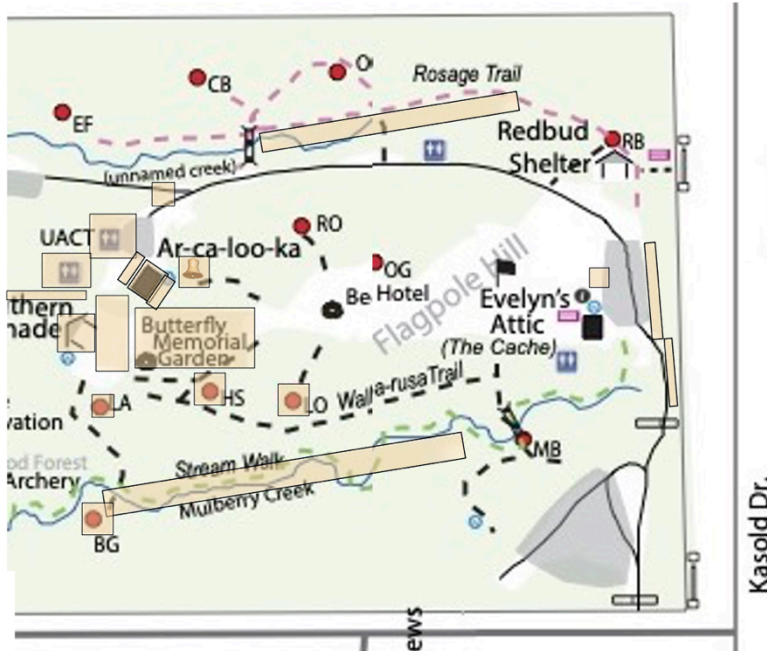
Below are maps of Hidden Valley showing the areas where work was done during the three Volunteer Days. As originally conceived by former camp manager Durand Reiber, the September event focuses on the east-central part of the camp (cabin and surroundings), the November event on the west-central part of the camp (Mary's Meadow and surroundings), and the April event on the east side of the camp (entrance and Flagpole Hill vicinity).

Besides the project leaders, Scouts, other volunteer workers, and LHVC and FHV board members, we are also very grateful to the volunteers who provided first aid for the Volunteer Days (Mary Beth Petr, Margaret Townsend), and to the many who helped with refreshments, parking, and other crucial jobs.

VOLUNTEER DAYS

Sept. 16, 2023 Volunteer Day

Tan boxes show areas worked (not to scale)



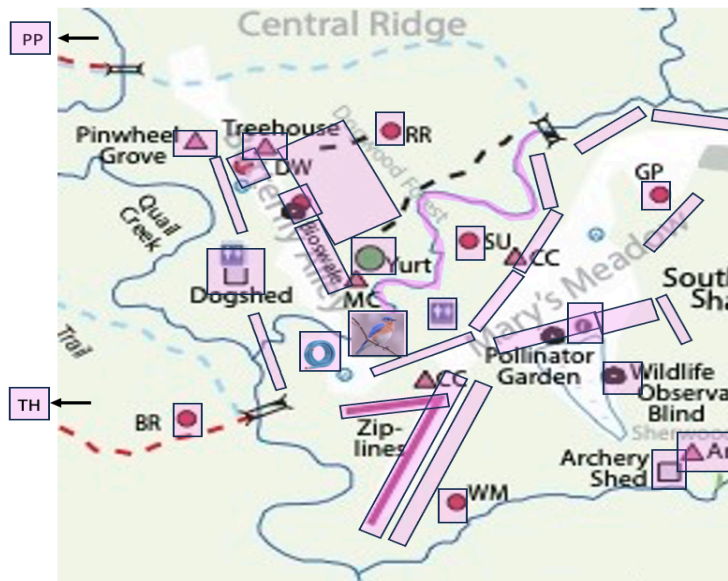
Volunteer Day Coordinator: Cindy Riling

For the September Volunteer Day, we had 113 volunteers doing a splendid job working in the “middle” of the camp. They comprised 6 Girls Scout troops with 50 girls and 11 adults; 7 FHV Board members; 7 members of Friends; 4 LHVC Board members, one of which also brought her troop; 17 students from the LHS Thespian Society with their sponsor; and 16 students from KU and Eudora High School. Tasks accomplished included cleaning the cabin; cleaning the rooftop solar panels and sealing the chimney; scraping and repainting the bell tower; weeding and mulching the Friends Memorial Garden and East Garden; weeding and sweeping the brick patio while replacing damaged bricks and installing newly named bricks; cleaning the three-hole latrine and UACT (Universally Accessible Composting Toilet), including roof-top solar panel; sweeping and washing the Southern Shade (SS) floor; adding dirt and grass seed to the “mud pit” in front of SS; digging out protruding rocks and reseeding the yard between the cabin and SS; trimming back encroaching branches and brush in the front and back yards of Arcalooka; and restocking several woodpiles. Volunteers with personal equipment cut up large, downed branches and a dead tree into firewood; others cleared out below the cedars by the upper parking lot to make the fence line more accessible.

We had enough volunteers to get a few to pick up trash in some of the streams, burn brush, and work on unit-site maintenance. All in all, a very productive day!

Nov. 17, 2023 Volunteer Day

Pink boxes show areas worked (not to scale).



Volunteer Day Co-Coordinator: Cindy Riling, Gwen Macpherson with Durand Reiber

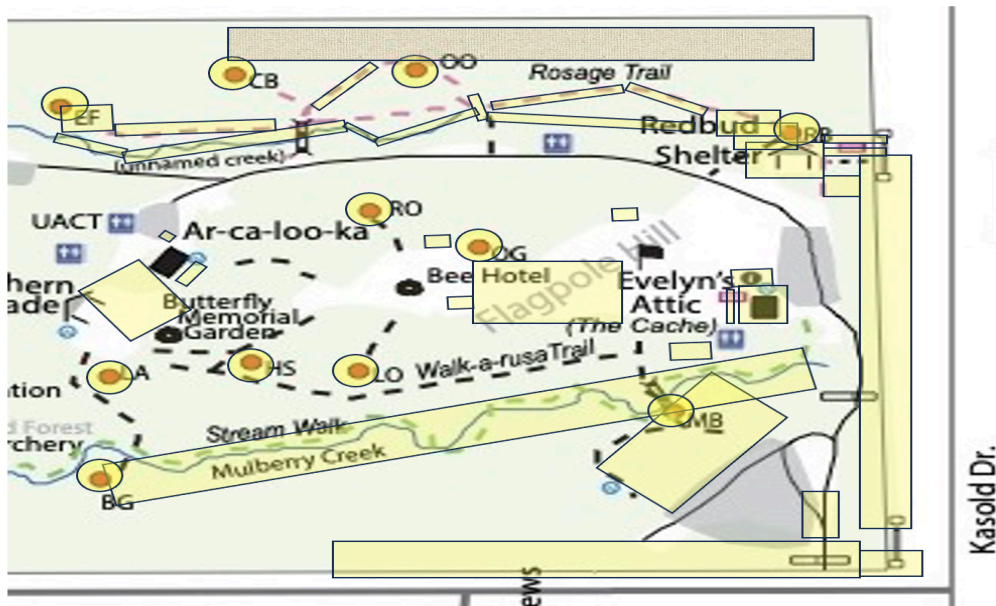
This Volunteer Day was perfect for doing hard work — a bit cool (temperatures in the upper 50s) with just a little rain. A total of 198 people came to help, comprising 4 Scout troops (7 Girl Scouts, 6 adults, 7 unregistered adults), 112 KU Tri Delta sorority members, and 61 others. Of the 61, 18 were project leaders, one provided first aid, two made and served S'mores and hot chocolate, one person directed parking, and others worked. Among these were 11 FHV Board members and 4 LHVC Board members. This is the Volunteer Day covering the largest area, so we divided it into 11 project zones: Gathering Place area, Mary's Meadow edges, wetland, pollinator garden and pond, ziplines, bluebird boxes, Sherwood Forest, stream litter cleanup, unit sites (9 of them!), hose repair (ugh, but necessary!), and Dogwood Forest. Dogwood Forest itself, supervised by Durand Reiber, comprises six project areas: Dogshed interior and

exterior, yurt interior and exterior, trail maintenance, mulching of saplings and small trees, Bioswale maintenance, and mulching Pinwheel Grove and Treehouse.

Everyone worked hard, and we are so appreciative! On a side note, an accounting of the saplings by the Gathering Place (GP) and the walnut grove (WG) next to one of the ziplines had excellent survivorship, with GP at 100% and WG at 91%. This is amazing considering Lawrence only had 71% of the long-term average precipitation by the end of October 2023 and subsequent rain did not add anything to that total.

April 20, 2024 Volunteer Day

Yellow boxes show areas worked; brown patterned boxes are areas where saplings were planted; yellow circles identify unit sites tended (not to scale).



Volunteer Day Coordinator: Karen Lassman

There were 162 volunteers at the lovely spring day that was the April Volunteer Day. These volunteers included 10 Girl Scout troops of all levels (62 Girl Scouts, 37 adults accompanying GS troops, 4 minors accompanying troops), 16 KU student volunteers from the Big Event, 12 project leaders and project organizers, and community volunteers (20 adults and 11 minors). Of the total, there were 7 FHV Board members and 3 LHVC Board members.

Tasks, in no particular order, included cleaning Evelyn's Attic; cleaning the kiosk; tending gardens at Evelyn's Attic, the Redbud Sidewalk Gardens, and gardens around

the cabin and overseeding the cabin yard; moving the firewood rack away from the cabin wall; cutting back brush along trails; renovating 11 fire rings (MB, RO, OG, OO, CB, EF, LO, HS, LA, BG) and transplanting sedge to try to ameliorate the mud problem at EF; cutting back vegetation on trails between unit sites; moving cut firewood to unit sites; planting 75 saplings and tending previously planted saplings; clearing out debris from the small footbridge between the road and Osage Trail near the chemical toilet; removing trash from the unnamed stream; removing unwanted growth along the road and fence lines; picking up trash along fence lines and in creeks; removing sticks in mowed areas; and thoroughly cleaning Redbud Shelter, where refreshments were served.

This was a BIG day with a LOT of work accomplished. We are so grateful for our volunteers!

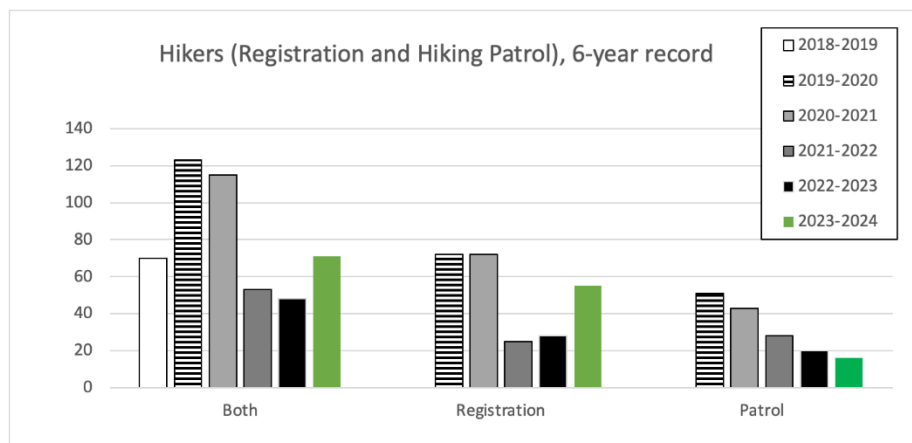
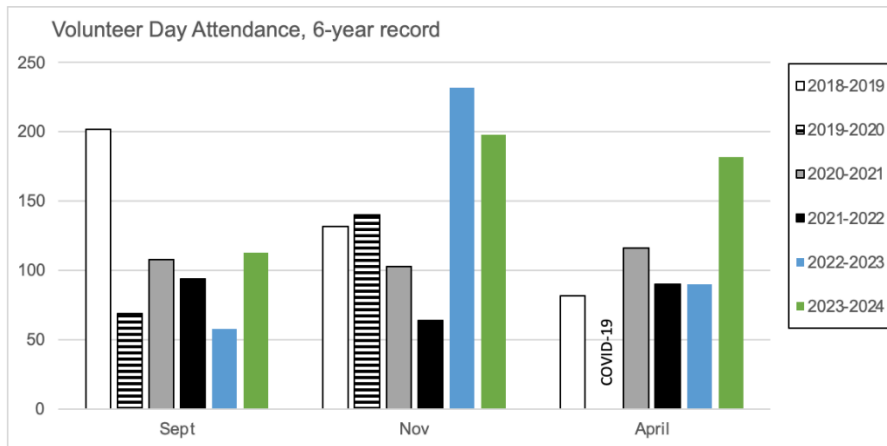
CAMP USE

Below are graphs comparing this year's camp use numbers with previous years.

Volunteer Day attendance is shown in the first graph. Remember that the April 2020 workday was canceled because of the first COVID-19 outbreak, and there was no differentiation between spontaneous hikers (using on-site registration) and hiking patrol. We had a record number of volunteers for the November 2022 Volunteer Day; November 2023 also saw a high attendance. Attendance at the April and September Volunteer Days in 2023-2024 was higher than in the previous year.

Hikers are tallied in the second graph, with Hiking Patrol hikers and others who filled out registration cards. Hiker numbers are low, possibly because of Morning Song Forest School use of the camp.

We are so grateful for all the help in keeping the camp in top shape! Forty acres is a big area to maintain, and each of our volunteers who observe and report or volunteer their time and skills in the endless maintenance work are best friends of Hidden Valley Camp!



Again this year (2023-2024), Morning Song Forest School held K-9 school at the camp from September through May, the same times Lawrence Public Schools met. Therefore, the camp had high occupancy Monday-Friday initially and then M-W-F, morning to early afternoon, for most of the year. They will not be returning next year.

Special Reports from the Volunteer Committee

BLUEBIRD REPORT

Cindy Riling has taken over monitoring the bluebird boxes from Jill Baringer. Hidden Valley currently has six bluebird boxes. Of those six, only two were nested and produced eggs. We had only one successful nest this year. The box in Mary's Meadow produced two families of birds, but the first four hatchlings died for reasons unknown. That nest with deceased babies was removed; bluebirds built a second nest and had four hatchlings that successfully left the nest in late July. The nest on Flagpole Hill produced four eggs that were, unfortunately, victims of a predator. The door on that box

was better secured, but another nest was not built. We need to relocate and reposition three boxes. The boxes at the front and the one at the end of Butterfly Alley face forests that have grown since the boxes were originally established. This is also true of the box in the Pollinator Garden next to Mary's Meadow. It now faces trees and needs to be facing a more accessible area not facing trees. This is a goal for next year.

HONEYSUCKLE WARRIORS

The Honeysuckle Warriors continued their battle against the invasive shrub honeysuckle this winter for the 13th season since 2011. Under the coordination of Durand Reiber, this group met 11 times between December 2023 and April 2024. The volunteers covered areas all over the camp, including around unit sites, stream banks and the fence line. Thirteen individuals volunteered more than 185 hours cutting, hauling and burning the wood into biochar that is then used on our trails and for plantings. An average of 5-6 individuals came each week, including three of notable mention: Mike Huslig, Tom Guba and Dan Lonnquist. Other warriors this year included: Jeff Erikson, Bob Oakes, Joe Douglas, Bob Topping, Bob Dinsdale, Patsy Moody, John Topping, Bruce Nightengale and Jan McElwain. Additionally, Mike Huslig consistently volunteered more time on his own, including many hours looking for and collecting the invasive garlic mustard plant. All participants are greatly appreciated! They have made tremendous progress over the years. Along most of the trails, one can see tens of feet or more into the forests; whereas before, the thick honeysuckle made the trails seem like tunnels with no view but the trail itself.

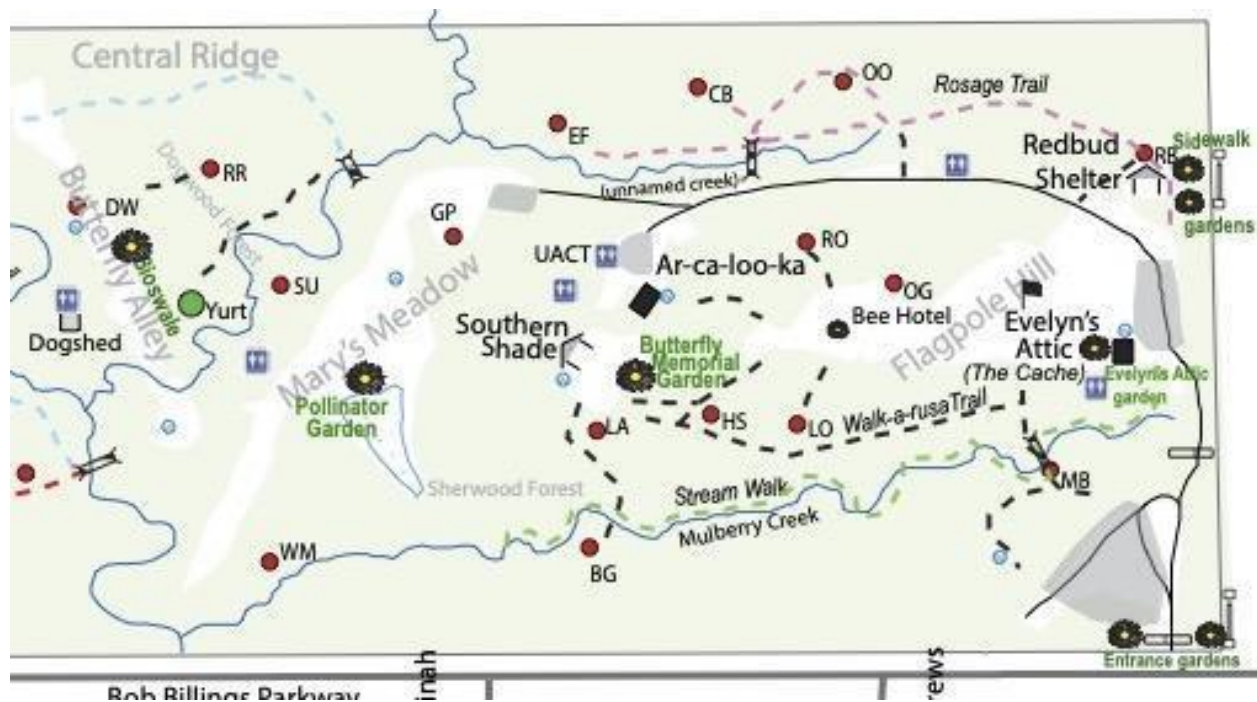
VALLEY GARDENERS

The Valley Gardeners — entering their second season this year and once again under the direction of Durand Reiber — were organized to help maintain the Butterfly and other pollinator gardens installed across the camp. Our first event this spring began April 15, working in the Friends Memorial Butterfly Garden and transplanting a native ground cover, *Packera obovata*, onto an eroding hillside. We also dug up a flat of this groundcover for a Daisy troop to transplant in the sidewalk gardens bordering the walkway to Redbud Shelter. The small yet productive group continued garden chores on three more occasions, working in the butterfly garden and wetland pollinator gardens. Unfortunately, the long, flowering bioswale in Dogwood Forest was inadvertently cut down by an unknowing mower, so we decided to let that rest for a

season and see what comes back. Our volunteers consisted of Durand Reiber (coordinator), Susan Iverson, Patsy Moody, Liz Miller and Shannon Gorres. Five employees of Clark & Enersen also volunteered for a service event focusing on the wetland gardens. All told, we had five service events focusing on three gardens, for a total of 10 individual volunteers collectively volunteering approximately 38 hours, in addition to the Daisy troop service event.

For your information, below is a map showing the gardens at HVC (the same as in last year's annual report). Garden names are in green; gardens are designated by a daisy-like flower. (The Butterfly Memorial Garden marker includes the garden on the southeast side of the cabin and the Madison Smith Memorial at the northwest corner of the cabin). The gardens are tended by the Valley Gardeners and by volunteers at the Volunteer Days (people power and time permitting) as follows:

- Valley Gardeners: Primarily the Butterfly Memorial Garden, Pollinator Garden, and Bioswale
- April Volunteer Day: Entry gardens, Evelyn's Attic garden, Redbud Sidewalk gardens, Butterfly Memorial Garden (spring cleanup)
- September Volunteer Day: Butterfly Memorial Garden (fall maintenance)
- November Volunteer Day: Pollinator Garden and Bioswale



SUMAC REMOVAL CREW/PRAIRIE PRESERVERS

Gwen Macpherson led a group of one to two others in cutting and treating the smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) that is trying to invade our native prairie on Flagpole Hill. We worked four days for about an hour each time in mid-October when the leaves were bright red, making the baby trees easy to spot. Invasion of woody vegetation is all too common in the native prairies and, left untended, will take over. This fall, we will do it again, and probably remove some dogwood that is also trying to invade. If anyone would like to join this effort, please contact Gwen. The sessions are short, and she supplies tools, dropper bottles of herbicide and work gloves if you do not have your own.

2023-24 Non-Girl Scout and FHV Volunteer Service Events

KU Super Service Saturday: Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023, 11:25 a.m. – 2 p.m. Facilitators: Gwen Macpherson, Cindy Riling, Sarah Meinershagen. Fourteen KU students worked hard and finished these projects: moved the telephone pole that had rolled down the hill at the cabin parking lot back up to the edge of the gravel and installed rebar stakes to anchor it and other poles lining that side of the parking lot; scrubbed the mold and dirt off the outside of the yurt with a cleaning solution, then rinsed well and threaded new rope around the top; serviced the Dogwood Forest fire ring; moved all the mulch from the pile near the entrance to Pinwheel Grove (PG) into PG after trimming back branches there; removed brush from a cut tree in front of the yurt; and moved stacked firewood to the Gathering Place and restacked the wood pile there.

KU Big Event: Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, 10 a.m. – noon. Facilitator: Durand Reiber. Thirteen members of the Black Student Union came to volunteer at the camp. They worked in the Memorial Butterfly Garden redefining the mowing trench around the front edge of the garden; raised the rocks along the garden edge and the trails through the garden; cut back the goldenrod that had crept into the bee balm and spiderwort areas of the garden; and cut back woody brush on the forest side of the garden. They also trimmed back the cabin gardens, weeded between the steppingstones and mulched trees in the mowed area

Bishop Seabury Heritage Day: Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, 9 a.m. – noon. Facilitators: Gwen Macpherson, Cindy Riling, Patsy Moody. Eight 7th- through 10th-grade students came to learn about public service. We taught them about the invasive honeysuckle. On the

east side of the Evelyn's Attic parking lot, they worked on cutting back large bushes, using the honeysuckle popper to pull out cut stumps and hand pulling the small honeysuckle starts. From the same area, they removed a pile of kindling that had been stacked there and then went for a hike around camp, with Cindy Riling narrating the history of the camp.

KU Big Event: Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10 a.m. – noon. See April Volunteer Day summary.

KU Big Event Hosting Rotary Youth Leadership Award Program: Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 8:40 – 9:40 a.m. Facilitators: Gwen Macpherson, Patsy Moody, Cindy Riling. Nine youth and one staff member, divided into two groups, made quick work of spreading out the big mulch pile to create a nice flat pad for cushioning under the monkey bridge and moving biochar from three different fire rings to the trails.

Thank You!

We are so very grateful to our volunteers for helping us with the never-ending routine maintenance that is needed. We cannot thank all our volunteers enough. Hidden Valley Camp remains a safe, educational, inspiring, educational and beautiful place because of you!

Non-Girl Scout and FHV Volunteer Service Events That Did Not Occur

(i.e. We were contacted and responded but either got no response or dates were canceled or did not work for the group)

College & Career Center/The Academy: Student inquired about service in early December 2023. Contact person said they were not able to bring students off-site but will keep us in mind in the future.

Douglas County Youth Service Coalition: Canceled on April 15, 2023, because of lack of participation, then canceled because of weather on May 13, 2023.

Teen Services at the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence: Requested service opportunity between June 5, 2023, and July 28, 2023. No response to my response to their request.

— Submitted by Gwen Macpherson, Chair, Volunteer Committee

Annual Report, Environmental Preservation & Education Committee (EPEC), 2023-2024

This ad hoc committee of the Friends of Hidden Valley met once in 2023-2024. It also met on July 9, 2024, which is briefly mentioned because of its significance to the direction of the committee. Despite the small number of meetings, committee members made significant progress. EPEC established two missions along with SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time bound) for each mission. The two missions are in line with Hidden Valley Camp founders' directives:

- 1) Provide as many opportunities as possible for Girl Scouts and others to learn about nature firsthand; and
- 2) Restore and maintain native habitat in harmony with the developed areas of the camp that support Girl Scout programs.

The SMART goals are available upon request.

To those ends, members of the committee compiled names of experts in different ecological areas that can assess the "state of the camp" at this time. We have also digitized prior surveys of various types of life at the camp for comparison with the current state. Prior surveys include undated lists of mammals, animal tracks, amphibians and reptiles; dated lists of edible plants (1978), native grasses (1978), summer birds (1968), native wildflowers (1968), and a Kansas Biological Survey list of vegetation and breeding birds. Information about the 2003 Biodiversity Day findings will be incorporated once it is converted from PDF to text.

In particular, the following areas of investigation have made notable progress and are on the FHV Google Drive:

- Bird species lists, updated with Jill Baringer's and Jim Bresnahan's current list as well as earlier lists and the list for all of Douglas County
- Mammals, Douglas County list
- Snakes, reptiles and amphibians, Douglas County list
- Spiders, Douglas County list

Other progress:

Updated soils map: The map was made by Dr. Terri Woodburn but needs labels. The map will be uploaded to the Google Drive once the labels are finished. This is a big improvement over the SCS map made in 1977, although our map is modified from the online NRCS interactive soil map with latest update in 2023.

The seep and dead-vegetation zone between the Mulberry unit site and Evelyn's Attic: This was the capstone project of a KU professional science master's student, Sam Belding, under supervision by Dr. Blair Schneider and Dr. Marcia Schulmeister (program director). Sam defended successfully. When we receive a copy of the project writeup, we will share it on the Google Drive. He concluded that only waterlogging was killing the vegetation; no suspicious items were imaged by the geophysical tools used. We suspect the necessary removal of honeysuckle in the area is requiring an adjustment in groundwater use by the vegetation.

The trail camera project: Funded by the Kriz Foundation, the trail camera project now includes six trail cameras observing different parts of the camp. Selected videos and images from those cameras are posted on the Friends of Hidden Valley Facebook page and the Girl Scout Families Facebook page (GSKSMO SU #716 Families). The next phase of the project is to get the Girl Scouts involved in learning about the wildlife at Hidden Valley. That will begin with a presentation at the first Service Unit 716 meeting in late August 2024.

"Natural History Guide to Hidden Valley" is nearly finished. The purpose of this document is to provide information to Scouts, their leaders, board members and others interested in understanding the camp from an ecological/historical perspective. The intention is for this to be a living, expandable document that will grow as we collect additional info.

Early in July 2024, EPEC met with Laura Phillips and other LHVC Board members to begin work on an overall management plan for Hidden Valley Camp. More will be reported on this in 2024-2025.

Recognition Report for 2023-2024

Chairperson: Marcia West

Members: Karen Lassman, Gwen Macpherson, Mary Murphy, Cindy Riling

2023-2024 was a good year for Friends of Hidden Valley Recognitions. We were pleased to have three applications from the Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas & Northwest Missouri (GSKSMO) Service Unit 716.

Troop Rewards

Daisy Troop 4481 and Cadette Troop 3290, \$75 each: Troop members picked up logs and sticks on Flagpole Hill that could get caught in the mower and cleaned up O-gi-na-li campsite. They contributed time and labor to camp upkeep.

The Mariana Remple Award

Laurel Stancil received the special Mariana Remple Award (\$150). We so enjoyed her essay, "Why I Love Hidden Valley," which highlighted the joy, learning, leadership and memories Hidden Valley has provided her. She will use the award for her future Girl Scout Gold Award.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Much appreciation for all the volunteers that help at Hidden Valley, starting with the two boards:

The Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee 2024 (LHVC): Jeff Bandle, chair; Sarah Meinershagen, vice chair; Cris Bandle, treasurer; Emily Boedeker, secretary; and Kyra Flummerfelt, Ann Marie Boncella, Cassie Donahey, Charlie Evans, Tina Imbrogno, Tracey LaPierre, Laura Phillips (from 2023) Cami Torres and Lysette DeBoard.

The Friends of Hidden Valley Board (FHV): Cindy Riling, chair; Gwen Macpherson, vice chair; Laurie Martin-Frydman, secretary; Patsy Moody, treasurer; and Amanda Atkins, Jenny Gleason, Karen Lassman, Mindie Paget, Gayle Sigurdson, Marcia West, and Lily Yu (from 2023).

A big thank-you to the many other volunteers who helped make this year a success at the camp, including:

Hidden Valley Hiking Patrol: Every year we are thrilled to have the continued volunteer commitment of **Jill Giele** monitoring and facilitating the Hidden Valley Hiking Patrol, with the help **Nancy Jorn** working with spontaneous walkers. They set up walk-throughs by volunteers who help keep our camp secure. They make sure all buildings are secure and in good condition. They send out a follow-up email report on their experiences. These are fun reports to read, and many times include pictures of the wildlife at Hidden Valley: birds, deer, turtles and other wildlife. We often put those stories on our websites.

Honeysuckle Warriors: **Durand Reiber** and the Honeysuckle Warriors are troopers with an average of five to six individuals eradicating honeysuckle. The three most notable were **Mike Huslig, Tom Guba and Dan Lonquist**. Other warriors this year included **Jeff Erikson, Bob Oakes, Joe Douglas, John Topping, Bob Topping, Bob Dinsdale, Patsy Moody, Bruce Nightengale, Jan McElwain and Gwen Macpherson**, along with other occasional volunteers **Cindy Riling and Susan Stahl**.

Valley Gardeners: **Durand Reiber** started the Valley Gardeners volunteer group with support work from **Susan Iverson** to help maintain the butterfly and other pollinator gardens across the camp.

Bob Topping was appreciated for his work with the Morning Song Forest School older kids.

Jill Baringer monitored the bluebird boxes at Hidden Valley for many years. We now have six bluebird boxes. This year Jill turned over the care and tending of the boxes to **Cindy Riling**.

Volunteer Days

The Girl Scouts and troop leaders of GSKSMO 716 have been stellar in their help at Volunteer Days, doing special projects, earning badges and patches, and even doing Bronze Award projects that focus on eradicating invasive species like garlic mustard.

The **KU Big Event Programs** have been amazing with support from **Delta Gamma** in April and **Tri Delta** in November at Volunteer Days. They did a fabulous job.

We had student volunteers from **Lawrence High School, Free State High School and Bishop Seabury Academy** help at Volunteer Days at Hidden Valley every year. They always work hard but still have smiles on their faces.

We had an amazing April Volunteer Day this year on Saturday, April 20, 2024. A big thank-you to event coordinators **Karen Lassman and Gwen Macpherson**, FHV Board members and volunteers themselves, who organized and coordinated multiple projects, including the cleanup of camp sites and planting new trees. We had 162 people on this volunteer day, the fifth highest number for this event since 1997.

The Environmental Preservation & Education Ad Hoc Committee (EPEC): This year was the beginning of a very special group of volunteers, the Environmental Preservation & Education Ad Hoc Committee (EPEC).

The following are names of 12 scientists and highly knowledgeable individuals who are doing research and studies about our Hidden Valley Camp: **Terry Woodburn** on soils; **Caleb Morse** on plants; **Jill Baringer and Jim Bresnahan** on birds; **Gwen Macpherson, Margaret Townsend and Marcia Schulmeister** on hydrology and geology; **Sherry Kay** on fungi; **Hank Guarisco** on spiders; **Doug Eifler** on the Italian wall lizard; **Courtney Masterson** on forbs; and **Suzanne Collins** on herpetology.

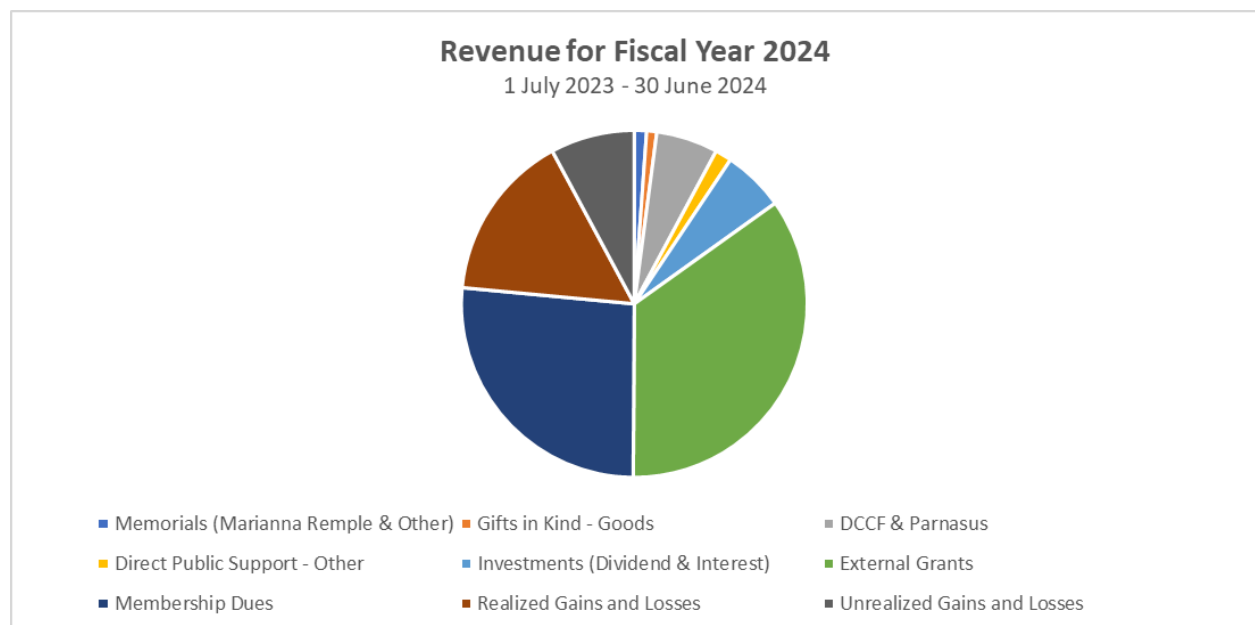
Annually we are blessed with our amazing volunteers who continue to help keep our Hidden Valley camp for current and future generations to enjoy a special place for a great outdoor experience.

— Submitted by **Marcia West, Chair, Recognitions**

Financial Report for 2023-2024

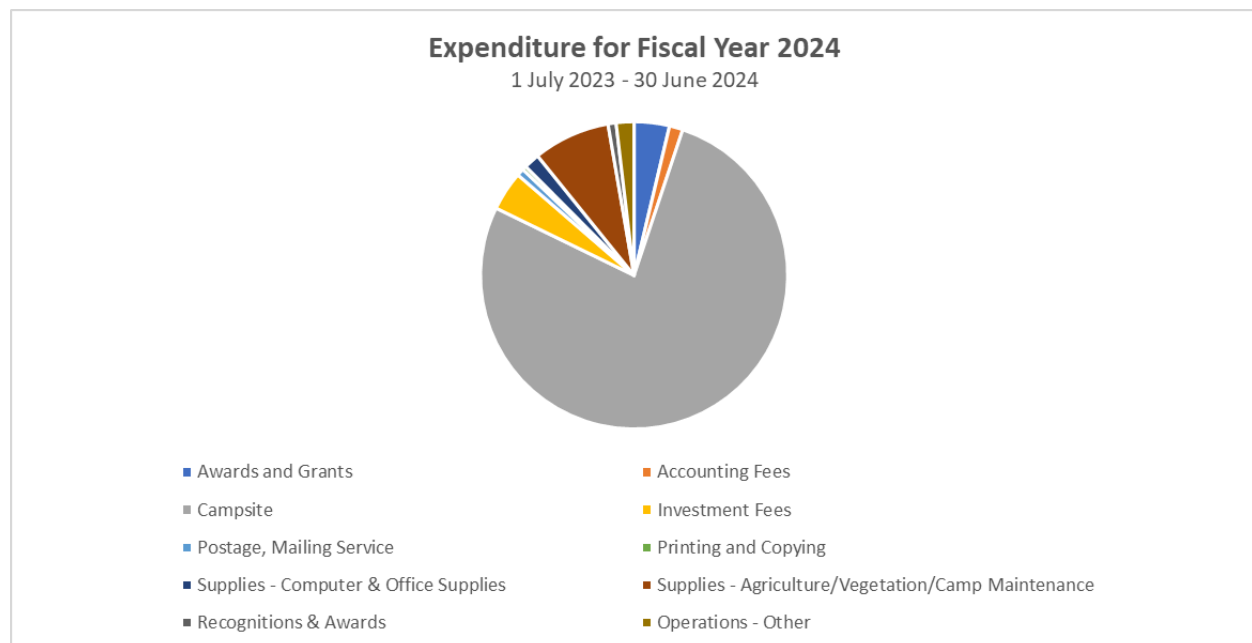
Chairperson: Patsy Moody, Lily Yu

Financial records were reviewed by a CPA for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2023.



Memorials (Marianna Remple & Other)	845.00
Gifts in Kind - Goods	696.20
DCCF & Parnasus	4,266.00
Direct Public Support - Other	1,138.32
Investments (Dividend & Interest)	4,255.90
External Grants	25,840.00
Membership Dues	19,512.80
Realized Gains and Losses	11,568.18
Unrealized Gains and Losses	5,814.06
Total Revenue	<u>73,936.46</u>

Grants and Memorials: Friends of Hidden Valley received two grants from the Kriz Foundation to fund the rebuilding of Brookside Bridge and to set up and maintain trail cameras. We received a grant from the DCCF Giving for Good Campaign to buy boots and build rodent-proof storage for them. FHV was awarded a grant from Cans for the Community. We received memorials for the Mariana Remple Scholarship Fund and others.



Awards and Grants	1,360.31
Accounting Fees	519.28
Campsite	28,232.07
Investment Fees	1,513.31
Postage, Mailing Service	281.84
Printing and Copying	155.52
Supplies - Computer & Office Supplies	601.17
Supplies - Agriculture/Vegetation/Camp	2,966.62
Recognitions & Awards	310.00
Operations - Other	687.44
	<u>36,627.56</u>

We reframed the financial structure so we can report by expense type and committee for greater clarity. Financial reports for the fiscal year are available on the Friends of Hidden Valley website friendshv.org.

FHV Expenditures by Committee

1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024

Administration - Annual Meeting	175.06
Administration - Treasurer	929.71
Administration - Other	2,416.26
Total Administration	3,521.03
EPEC	1,558.48
Fundraising - Brick to Brick	71.16
Fundraising - Other	0.00
Total Fundraising	71.16
LHV Campsite	29,367.17
Membership Committee	174.23
Public Relations - Newsletter	198.00
Public Relations - Other	49.95
Total Public Relations	247.95
Recognitions & Awards - Marianna Remple	150.00
Recognitions & Awards - Troop Rewards	75.00
Recognitions & Awards - Volunteer Awards	1,010.00
Recognitions & Awards - Other	75.00
Total Recognitions	1,310.00
Volunteer Committee	377.54
	<u><u>36,627.56</u></u>

Friends of Hidden Valley

Statement of Financial Position Accrual Basis

as of June 30, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

DCCF- Endowment 158,355.98

US Bank- Checking 57,677.50

US Bank- Savings	11,312.74
10180 · Parnassus	<u>21,354.06</u>

Total Checking/	<u>248,700.28</u>
-----------------	-------------------

Total Current	<u>248,700.28</u>
---------------	-------------------

TOTAL ASSETS	248,700.28
---------------------	-------------------

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

31000 · Restricted Endowed Funds	36,856.94
----------------------------------	-----------

32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	87,196.81
---------------------------------	-----------

32100 · Unrestricted Endowed Funds	87,337.63
------------------------------------	-----------

Net Income	37,308.90
------------	-----------

Total Equity	248,700.28
--------------	------------

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	248,700.28
---------------------------------------	-------------------

Fundraising Committee Report for 2023-2024

For 2023-2024, the Fund Development Committee has been active, with the following highlights:

Kriz Foundation: Cindy Riling and Gwen Macpherson submitted two grant requests in June 2023 to the Kriz Charitable Foundation to start a wildlife monitoring project at Hidden Valley Camp and replace Brookside Bridge. These two grants were awarded in February 2024.

Kriz Charitable Foundation grant for trail cameras and monitoring of these

cameras (\$11,640). There are six cameras (three different types) deployed around the camp that have been taking short videos or images of wildlife. Cameras were phased in, a pair at a time, from April to June 2024. We purchased a dedicated mobile phone (refurbished) to oversee the camera apps and imagery. To date (Aug. 5, 2024, when this report was drafted), there are 2,869 videos or images downloaded to the phone. Of those, from April to June 30, 2024 (end of fiscal year), 51 were posted to the Friends of Hidden Valley Facebook page and 24 to the Girl Scout Service Unit 716 Families Facebook page (Gwen was added to that page in early June 2024). Next year, we will begin finding ways to involve Girl Scouts in the project, which is one of the stated goals of the grant proposal.

Kriz Foundation grant for bridge replacement at Hidden Valley (\$13,200). The Kriz Charitable Foundation gave Friends of Hidden Valley funds to replace the Brookside Bridge, which had been built in the early 2000s by a Girl Scout troop. The final cost of the bridge was \$16,980.58; this exceeded the original estimates and grant amount. The construction company, Priority Solutions Inc., upgraded the original plans to enhance the stability of the structure with concrete forms. Poles for the structure were sourced by Evergy; however, because of spring storms they were unable to place the poles after the concrete forms were completed. The contractors had to rent equipment to install the poles to complete the job before day camp began. The bridge was completed one day before the first session of day camp.

Anonymous Donor: An Anonymous donor gave close to \$10,000 for improvements and/or projects of our choosing at Hidden Valley. In consultation with the Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, the donation was used to upgrade, repair and replace solar panels and batteries in Arcalooka and Evelyn's Attic.

DCCF grant for boots at Hidden Valley: Friends of Hidden Valley participated in the Douglas County Community Foundation's Annual Giving for Good campaign, which occurs each year during the holiday season. We were seeking funds to replace boots used in the vernal pond that have been chewed on by critters, and to build a secure storage area that allows ventilation while being secure from critter damage. Donors contributed \$1,550. This amount was 50% matched by DCCF to be invested in the DCCF Friends' account.

For 2024-2025, the Fund Development Committee hopes to raise additional funds for ongoing projects at the camp, as well as locate a new funding stream to replace the Amazon Smile stream. Amazon Smile provided approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 annually in the last several years.

Membership/Public Relations Committee Report for 2023-2024

Chairperson: Gayle Sigurdson

Members: Cindy Riling, Mindie Paget, Amanda Atkins, Durand Reiber, Lily Yu

Members continue to be the primary source of support for Friends of Hidden Valley. Their contributions of time, talent and funds provide the base of support needed for growth. There were 108 active memberships for the 2024 membership year, representing 146 individuals and including 16 lifetime members.

The committee completed two membership drives in November and February. The third drive had a historically low response and was discontinued. Additional sources of new members included the Giving for Good campaign and public events.

Two significant changes in the public face of FHV are an electronic newsletter and website updates. The digital newsletter format allows for interactive features and expanded content, including larger photo collections, videos and links to longer stories on the website. The change reduces printing and mailing expenses. Current members may request a printed version or print a PDF from the website. Gradual changes to the website will result in easier navigating and timely content updates.

The database of members continues to be updated at the conclusion of each membership year. Increased use of digital communication will continue to reduce expenses of traditional mailing.

Friends of Hidden Valley joined other environmental groups for the Earth Day celebration in South Park on April 20. Trails Day on June 1 welcomed the public and scout families to camp.

Speakers and tours are available for community groups who want to learn more about Friends of Hidden Valley.