

Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp

Annual Report 2020-2021

Chair's Report

Written by Ann Marie Boncella, LHVC, Inc. Chair

The mission of The Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee, Inc. (LHVC) is to use its assets and annual income from the Alfred H. Bromelsick Trust to promote and provide supplemental support to the Girl Scout movement in Douglas County. All registered adult Girl Scouts living in Douglas County are members of the Committee. The business of the corporation is managed by a twelve-member, duly elected Board of Directors. The major asset of the LHVC Inc. is Hidden Valley Camp, a 40-acre camp located at 3420 Bob Billings Parkway, Lawrence, KS, 66047. The Committee works closely with the Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc. (FHV) to preserve and enhance the physical property. Among the many outdoor activities available at the camp are hikes, cookouts, campouts, structured stream walks, pond life observation as well as organized Girl Scout events. We have two enclosed structures: a propane heated cabin and a 30-foot diameter yurt. We also have a large storage building off of the main upper parking lot named "Evelyn's Attic," a storage shed known as the "Dogshed" down by Dogwood Forest, and the "Sherwood Shed" by the archery range in Sherwood Forest.

Once again change has come to Hidden Valley. The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to disrupt our "business as usual" and true to Girl Scout form, we have adapted and prepared ourselves to live with a new normal – whether that is holding more troop meetings outside at Hidden Valley or remembering to wear a mask while indoors at camp. One major change was the retirement of our long-time Camp Manager, Durand Reiber. Her many hours of dedication and loving care put in at Hidden Valley have helped make it the beautiful and amazing place it has become. Our new Camp Manager, Kristin Suter, has hit the ground running and has begun her work at the camp with enthusiasm and just as much dedication and love for the natural landscape as her predecessor. Our camp is in good hands and I am excited about the vision she brings to Hidden Valley.

Despite the pandemic, Day Camp was held this year in June 2021 and though it was only half capacity, it was a raging success and the girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We have also opened up the challenge course again and camping for troops.

A few unexpected and major projects popped up in late spring/early summer – the culvert at the entrance to camp continually overflowed during heavy rains and posed a risk to cars driving into the parking area. This was temporarily fixed by digging a trench south along the road to catch the overflow runoff from the Evergy substation. And a major leak in the waterline along Bob Billings was identified, patched and a larger replacement of the entire 800 feet of waterline was completed in late August 2021.

We continue our good relationship with the Friends of Hidden Valley board and the members of Presbyterian Manor. Thanks to the Board Officers and individual Committee Chairs who wrote the included reports and served Hidden Valley so well. We strive to maintain a strong, ongoing working relationship with our council, Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri, Inc. We welcome and encourage all Douglas County Scouts to use and take an active role at Hidden Valley Camp. The Board meets on the second Monday of most months at 7:00 PM at Southern Shade, weather permitting or via Zoom. The meetings are open to everyone to share ideas and concerns. Additional information can be obtained on our website: www.lhvcamp.org. We also thank Cris Bandle, who serves as webmaster.

A Year in Review...

Site Committee report written by Jeff Bandle, Committee Chair

Purpose: The primary function of the Site Committee is to ensure the maintenance and development of the camp, as directed as by the LHVC Board, as an urban wilderness area for local Girl Scouts. Maintenance and development with native plants and wildlife in mind has been a central theme since the camp began in 1956, and we strive to achieve a balance between human and wildlife needs.

This past year has been one of monumental change. After 20 years of extraordinary and dedicated service, Durand Reiber, our longtime camp manager, decided it was time to pursue other interests and retire from the position of Camp Manager. Receptions by both the Friends of Hidden Valley and the Lawrence Hidden Valley board were held at the camp to honor Durand and all she has given to us.

LHVC set out to find a new camp manager. Once discussions of the position started, it became clear that the activities of the camp could be broken into two areas. The first was the Camp Site Manager position, which oversaw the camp property and the assets there, which included the cabin, Evelyn's attic, Southern Shade, the zip and archery course and other buildings and structures. The second was a position as the Camp Admin Manager. This new position would handle tasks such as dealing with 3rd party vendors, making sure the website was up to date and accurate, and provide an avenue for outreach to the community of volunteers.

We are very pleased that Kristin Suter accepted the role as Camp Site Manager and Ella Spillman accepted the role of Camp Admin Manager.

Continued restrictions due to COVID-19 reduced our volunteer workforce from KU and other large groups, but increased individual volunteers from the community. Given all of that, the following is a condensed list of activities completed at Hidden Valley from July 2020 – June 2021.

- Goats from Barnyard Weed Warriors came to attack invasive growth near Flag Pole hill down to the cabin. The clearing of that area showed it would be a possible newer destination spot for activities. Future use of the goats will be evaluated.
- Laura Teska's Gold Award project of building a multi-tiered hammock stand in Dogwood Forest was completed, including meeting with Kyra to finalize equipment storage and the reservation process.
- Repairs from a June 2020 vandalism incident were completed, including repairing the cabin door by Laura O'Neil, replacing of the kicked out door panel on the yurt by Stuart Beals and replacement of a kicked in door at the Dogshed by Dan Klinknett.
- Other projects from Senior GS Maya Sabatini, and Nicky Johnson, with his dad, tended to the pollinator garden and cleaning of downed branches and saplings.
- MD Craig Construction completed the replacement of the concrete driveway entrance.
- September 2020 workday, stretched out over two days for social distancing, went well with most tasks completed.
- Shamrock Tree Services completed extensive work around the camp.
- UACT battery was replaced.
- Propane tank is 57% full, so plenty for the year.
- Two volunteers needing hours helped stained the north side shutters of the cabin, collected and cleaned native seed, mulched trees, picked up litter in streams, worked in unit sites, hauled wood, cut off cattail heads before they bloomed, cleaned buildings, transplanted grass clumps into unit sites, helped prep for the workday, and more.
- The November 2020 work day, which is a big one, was completed with much success. Volunteers accomplished projects all around Mary's Meadow, the wetland/pollinator gardens, Windmill/zipline area, and Dogwood Forest.
- Honeysuckle mist blowing occurred on November 4, 2020. This was the first fall window hit in 3 years.
- PawPaw's bridge had rotting boards replaced. The bridge needs to be rebuilt at a higher level.

- Honeysuckle warriors started their weekly work early and continued through the winter.
- Lots of work put into updating the Camp Manager's Maintenance Manual and maintenance schedule.
- The extended site committee met to discuss issues such as bridge naming, the culvert near Evelyn's attic where there are major runoff issues during heavy rains and updating of the maintenance manual.
- Gwen Macpherson completed repairs on the UACT solar system and it is operational again.
- Durand started training with Kristin, focusing on camp management responsibilities and philosophy as well detail on building structures.
- Maria Gunselman tested, repaired and reorganized the large amount of hoses at Evelyn's attic.
- April workday was planned and completed. Activities included plantings of saplings for erosion control and biochar on the trail.
- The solar upgrade to the cabin was completed with a new AC system with new lights and fans.
- The lighting in Evelyn's attic was also updated with new light boxes and replacement with non breakable bulbs.
- Erosion control straw mats installed to keep seed in place near the cabin.
- Butterfly alley reseeded after water line excavations and repairs the previous season.
- Honeysuckle Warriors were able to start up again after the deep freeze in March and April 2021.
- KU Pre Med students provided assistance in stream bank stabilization near Sumac and Windmill.
- Volunteers from Turning Point in Perry help by painting the front gates and mulching multiple plantings.
- Ken Lassman and Michael Morely started repair of the treehouse with help from Phil Baringer.
- Major water line leak was discovered and Chaney installed a cutoff near the main cutoff near the entrances. Planning started for a permanent solution involving pipe replacement of this ancient pipe.
- A new path created to replace the path where waterline work will tear up. Once the waterline replacement is completed, the old path will be covered with the new path being used.
- Preparations for Day Camp are started.
- Big trim of a tree near Evelyn's Attic that dropped a large branch. Tom, one of the Honeysuckle Warriors, was of great help.
- Glen Bohmann dug a water holding ditch along the entrance road to help with water handling during large storms where runoff is a problem at the culvert. Hay blankets were laid to cover new seeded areas.
- T-shirt fundraiser went very well with items ready to be picked up in July
- Volunteer mowing helped keep the camp in great shape for Day Camp 2021
- Trails Day was a big success
- Day Camp was a great success, given it wasn't held at the camp in 2020 due to COVID concerns.
- Planning started for the September 2021 work day.
- Bob Lyon, a structural engineering professor at KU met with Kristin to discuss the new bridge to Paw Paw site.
- Many changes to Evelyn's Attic. New shelving along with cleaning out unused/broken equipment. Troop cooking boxes were assembled for troop future use.
- Discussion ongoing about the waterline replacement with RD Johnson. Early August is the scheduled time.

2020-2021 Camp Use Numbers: (people per day)

Day Use	1604	Overnight Camping	74
Girl Scout Day Camp	1570	Friends of HV Work Days	598
Honeysuckle Warriors	65	Hiking Patrols	115
Outside Rentals	60	Tours/Other Events	208
Adult Trainings	54	Total	4348

Choose Your Challenge...

Challenge Course Committee report written by Kyra Flummerfelt, Committee Chair

Purpose: The purpose of the challenge committee is to provide the Hidden Valley Board with the information needed to maintain and enhance the equipment and safety standards for the various challenge course activities throughout Hidden Valley. In addition, the challenge committee provides annual training for all challenge course facilitators.

Beyond Ropes based in Norman, OK, conducted our annual training, the inspection of our equipment and the zip lines in April of 2021. This year Jon Godsey, the owner of Beyond Ropes, conducted a two day training. It was very informative and we learned a lot of new things. After our inspection and training we submitted our permit information to the State of Kansas to renew our permit, which was granted.

This year we zipped 143 kids, 47 participated in archery and 10 participated in the team building challenge activities. Considering that we only allowed half capacity during day camp I believe this was better than we expected in a time of uncertainty. The kids seemed very happy to be back at camp and participating in our challenge activities. There were a lot of smiles and laughter which is why we do what we do.

We are still observing the Covid-19 protocols but are happy to back to facilitating these wonderful activities. We hope that many more groups will want to participate in these activities as we continue through this pandemic. We encourage all troop leaders to sign up for troop challenge activities to help sustain our wonderful camp and the activities the kids love.

Reaching Out to Others...

Public Relations Committee report written by Emily Boedeker, Committee Chair

Purpose: The purpose of the public relations committee is to promote the Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp to make it more familiar and visible to Lawrence area Girl Scouts. In addition, the public relations committee helps to inform and educate the Douglas County community about the origin and function of LHVC and camp.

This year the Public Relations Committee has implemented a social media presence for Hidden Valley Camp. We are utilizing Facebook, Instagram and Twitter in order to connect with our community and highlight our wonderful space. We are in the process of updating our webpage to better reflect and connect with the troops and leaders in Douglas County. The Public Relations Committee has also continued to send correspondence to donors and volunteers with the input of the Camp Manager.

Remembering Where We Have Been...

Archives Committee report written by Ann Marie Boncella, Committee Chair

Purpose: The archive committee's purpose is to preserve the history and management of the late Alfred Bromelsick's bequest to the Girl Scouts of Lawrence, Kansas. To do such, the committee gathers and collects documents (e.g. maps, meeting minutes, flyers, etc.) in a central location where they can be accessed for research and reference purposes.

The Archives committee continued its focus on gathering, identifying and sorting key past and current Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee materials such as minutes, treasurer's report and other documents, flyers of special events, etc. for deposit and storage in appropriate archival sites and for current reference. Some archival, original, copies are stored at the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas. Copies of some materials are intended to be available for reading at the Watkins History Museum in downtown Lawrence.

We have begun discussion on transitioning to a more digital storage for documents and have also begun thinking about a potential collaboration with the Friend's of Hidden Valley's Archives Committee in the future.

Helping Others Who Have Helped Us...

Scholarship Committee Report Written by Jessica Hensley, Committee Chair

Purpose: The Scholarship Committee's purpose is to provide financial assistance to troops for activities and events that may otherwise be prohibitive due to the costs. In addition, the committee provides financial assistance to graduating Girl Scouts who are seeking to further their education at a post-secondary educational institution. All individual applicants go through an application and interview process to determine their eligibility and the final decision from the committee.

This committee awards High School Merit scholarships and special requests for financial aid. This year the High School scholarships were in the amount of \$500. The awards were presented to Laura Teska and Ryleigh Leon who were both graduates of Lawrence High School. Additionally, one Troop Start Up Fund request was granted to Alexandra Cottrell in the amount of \$50.

Unfortunately, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to interview the applicants or present the awards in person. *If your troop needs a scholarship for troop start-up funding, requests must be made as close to the start of the school year as possible. Requests for Day Camp scholarships cannot be combined with Council funding unless special circumstances exist.*

Helping Empower Future Leaders of Change...

Scout Award Project Committee Report Written by Jessica Hensley, Committee Chair

Purpose: The Scout Award Project Committee's purpose is to provide a pathway for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts looking to earn higher awards by completing a project for Lawrence Hidden Valley Camp; and, to ensure that those projects are not only in line with the needs of the camp, but also follow the requirements set out by the specific Scouting organization involved.

This year the committee approved three higher award projects at camp. The first project, completed by Girl Scout Troop# 5177, was the installation of unit site marker signs at each campsite as a Girl Scout Silver Award Project. The second project, completed by Girl Scout Troop# 1112, was the installation of a "Nature Nook" library at the front kiosk as a Girl Scout Bronze Award. The third project, approved in the 2020-2021 fiscal year and finished in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, completed by Girl Scout Troop# 5606, was the installation of two, game-top, picnic tables in the far west of camp near the Thorn Hill campsite.

Bromelsick Blast!

Bromelsick Committee report written by Rod Hoffer, Committee Chair

Purpose: To honor the late Mr. Alfred Bromelsick and carry out the instructions in his will, the Bromelsick committee, jointly with the Boy Scouts and 4-H Club, hosts an annual Christmas party and his memorial service for the Lawrence area Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H Club members. Each year the organizations take on certain responsibilities for each event.

This year (2021) the Girl Scouts and Lysette Deboard's Troop 7535 did the Bromelsick Memorial service to honor and tell the story of the late Alford Bromelsick. The Christmas party planned for 2021 is to take place on December 5, 2021 at the Community Arena at the 4 H grounds. The Girl Scouts are in charge of the program and have chosen to do a carnival theme with games, bounce houses and pedal cars. The Bromelsick Committee did decide if COVID-19 numbers increased and the Douglas County Health Department was not to allow large events that the event would be canceled.

The Nitty Gritty...

Policy and Procedures Committee Report Written by Lysette DeBoard, Committee Chair

Purpose: The purpose of the Policies/Procedures committee is to maintain documents and policies that give the Hidden Valley Board a historical overview and procedural reference for Hidden Valley. In addition, the policies/procedures committee maintains and distributes current copies of the Hidden Valley Board manual and SOPP (standard operating policies and procedures) to necessary parties.

The Policies and Procedures Committee (P/P) has been working on updating the Board of Directors operating manual as well as reviewing the Bylaws and Standard Operating Policies and Procedures (SOPP) documents. Within the Board Manual, the P/P has been working on updating the various Committees and the duties that each committee oversees. The new "Scout Awards Project Committee" was approved and added to the committees list that Board and community members may be part of.

Some of the updates that the P/P has recommended and been approved by the LHVC Board are:

- A phased updating of the locks and entrances to Hidden Valley Camp. In addition to the phasing timeline, the committee presented a policy around how to access the camp and handling of keys and access codes.
- An updated pricing and fee structure for all activities (e.g. archery, zip, hammocks, etc.) as well as camp sites and buildings.
- A formal policy on dogs on the Hidden Valley Camp property and steps that will be taken by users of the camp should they encounter a dog on the property.

Board Members

Nominating Committee report written by Kyra Flummerfelt, Committee Chair

Purpose: The purpose of the nominating committee is to nominate members of the Douglas County Girl Scout community to the Lawrence Hidden Valley Board, Inc. Each year, the nominating committee presents the slate of nominees to the Douglas County Girl Scout community at the Annual Meeting. The community then votes on accepting the slate of nominees.

2020-2021 Current Board Members

Ann Marie Boncella, Chair	Kyra Flummerfelt
Jessica Hensley, Vice Chair	Maria Gunselman
Jeff Bandle, Treasurer	Rod Hoffer
Lysette DeBoard, Secretary	Virginia Musser
Joanne Altieri	Laura O'Neil
Emily Boedeker	

Slate of Nominees for 2021-2022

Renewing Board Members:

Rod Hoffer

New Board Members:

Cris Bandle

Tina Imbrogno

Sarah Meinershagen

Emma Milburn

Cami Torres

Behind the Scenes...

Finance Committee Report Written by Joanne Altieri, Finance Committee Chair

Purpose: The finance committee's purpose is to monitor and review the various financial investments that affect the maintenance and upkeep of Hidden Valley. To do so, the committee works with a financial advisor who helps to make recommendations for current and future investments. In addition, the committee works with the treasurer who maintains the financial documents and pays any necessary financial obligations. Committee members for 2020 include: Jeff Bandle, Treasurer; Ann Marie Boncello, LHVC Chair; Maria Gunselman; and Joanne Altieri, Finance Committee Chair.

This was Year 2 of COVID-related issues, but the world kept spinning and the camp (and finances) came through better than we had feared. Several issues of importance occurred this year as follows:

1) LHVC received a non-renewal notice from our former insurance company, K&K, which required us to change our insurance company to Secura for our liability and building coverage through Calvin Eddy Kappleman, our long time local insurance agency. The major change in insurance will require LHVC to complete a yearly audit of paid attendees, which will affect our final yearly cost, although it is not expected to affect our bottom line severely. In addition, we had several lengthy discussion with our agent, Norman John, which culminated in our ability to continue to charge for camp use based on our published rates without requiring each organization to be insured for \$1 M and add LHVC as an additional insured. This requirement will continue for those groups whom are able to provide such coverage, but for small/local/non-formal groups will still be allowed to use and pay for their camp usage. All users will still be required to sign our Assumption of Risk forms;

2) LHVC received our "2021 Annual Notice of Value" from the Douglas County Appraiser's Office, which included a new classification for the land and building used under our lease agreement for the cell tower with T-Mobile. The new classification for the cell tower land and building was coded as "Commercial Use" and therefore, will be taxed at a significantly higher rate. Previously, all of the LHVC land and buildings were under the non-profit category, and were not taxed. Fortunately, our contract for the cell tower requires the tax to be paid by T-Mobile through Crown Castle. A "Landowner Property Tax Form" must be submitted to Crown Castle when we receive our tax notice. The tax may be paid directly by Crown Castle or reimbursed to LHVC with proof of payment. A copy of this form will be posted on Google drive.

3) The stock market continued to favor LHVC and prevented us from what otherwise might have been a truly dismal year financially. Our investment gains resulted in more than \$15K. In addition, FHV contributed substantially to our needs for several emergency repairs, resulting in contributions of more than \$13,000.

Questions or comments should be directed to Finance Chair, Joanne Altieri (515) 451-7488 or Treasurer, Jeff Bandle (785) 979-6420.

Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc

Condensed Annual Report compiled by Cindy Riling, FHV Chair

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.

2021 is a year in which it appears not a lot happened; however, behind the scenes there really was so much going on at Hidden Valley. We are working on updating our database of members to meet new technology needs to better serve our membership. We also developed a technologically better way for our volunteers to participate in the three workdays using SignUp Genius. All of this has been done while navigating volunteering during the pandemic with face masks and social distancing, and waivers and notices, and oh so many things necessary to stay safe and healthy. Members of both Friends of Hidden Valley Board and Lawrence Hidden Valley Committee stepped up to the plate to work to continue to keep Hidden Valley a wonderful environment for all.

Finance Chair Report

Statement of Financial Position as of July 31, 2021

DCCF- Endowment 148,195.94

US Bank- Checking 26,347.18

US Bank- Savings 9,379.71

Parnassus Fund 21,589.83

Total Current Assets 205,512.66

Membership and Public Relations Committee

Our members keep the camp going with their contributions of time, talent and funds. Current efforts to create a database will improve our communication with each member. Appreciation of Hidden Valley and a commitment to all it offers the community is shared by 127 memberships representing 154 members, including 27 new members in 2021. Contributions from new, renewing and gift memberships including a new lifetime membership, raised over \$14,500. Public events were limited due to coronavirus guidelines. Trails Day returned in June with guided hikes featuring birds, wildflowers, geology and more. Outreach continued through Facebook and the newsletter-including an issue delivered to neighbors bordering the camp.

Recognitions Committee:

Even with Covid in full swing, Chair Marcia West reported that FHV received four Troop reward applications and one award application. Troop rewards were given to Cadette Troop 5607, Cadette Troop 1599, Ambassador Troop 1915, and the Mariana Remple Recognition Award to Senior Girl Scout Allie White. All of them contributed labor and time to the camp

Volunteer Committee Report

Workday Coordinators: September 2020, Cindy Riling; November 2020, Cindy Riling and Gwen Macpherson; April 2021, Karen Lassman and Ken Lassman; Bluebird Monitoring: Jill Baringer; Honeysuckle Warrior Coordinator: Durand Reiber; Hiking Patrol Coordinator: Jill Giele; Assistance with Hiker Registrations: Nancy Jorn

The Volunteer Committee organizes three official workdays (November, April, September) and reports on camp use by the Hiking Patrol (through Jill Giele), other camp walkers through the onsite registration forms, Honeysuckle Warrior efforts (coordinated by Durand Reiber), and bluebird monitoring (by Jill Baringer). We also assist with Trails Day in June.