

CONNECT

| CONNECTING YOU TO THE MINISTRY OF HIDDEN ACRES |

Prepare the way

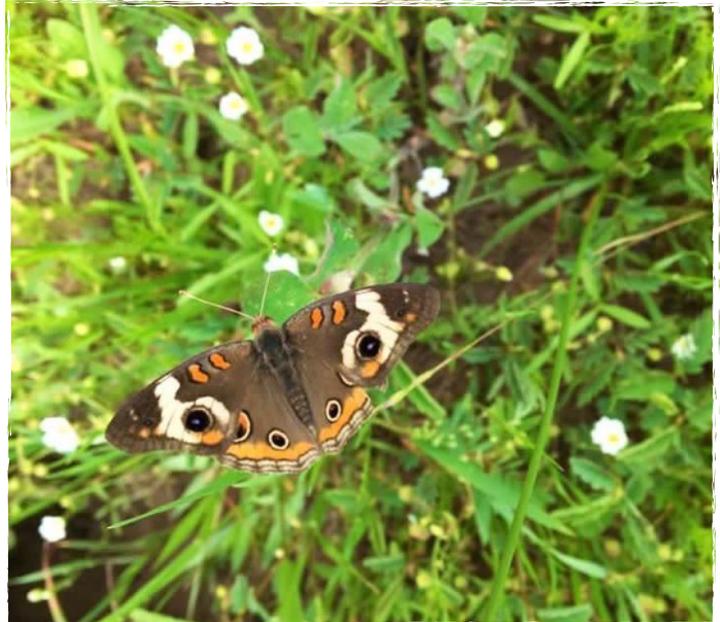
"a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Mark 1:3

Hidden Acres has two gates; the first is off Hidden Acres Lane, now used primarily as the service road entrance, and the main gate with a long, winding road about a mile long. Last fall elementary age children from the Outdoor Academy at Kaufman (OAK) program planted seeds to beautify an open field along the main gate road.

Though we travel both ways into Hidden Acres, lately we have been taking the scenic route in order to see if new wildflowers are blooming. I was telling the children that once upon a time this road was woods, and to imagine all the hard work it must have been to clear the path to make this new entrance to Hidden Acres. As I was explaining this to the kids, the phrase, "prepare ye the way for the Lord" came to mind. I don't know if you know the song with this phrase, but it has been playing off and on in my head. It started to dawn on me that as we work unto the Lord, we, like John the Baptist, are preparing the way for the Lord.

Little did those workers cutting down brush and branches know that years later these roads would carry bus loads of refugee children to come to camp to learn about Jesus and His love for them. Sometimes we forget that in the mundane activities of camp like cleaning buildings, home improvement projects, and maintenance work that we are preparing this place to be a haven for kingdom work. I hope that the work at Hidden Acres is a fragrant offering unto the Lord and a song of praise that says "Holy Spirit, you are welcome here. Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere." At Hidden Acres it seems like we are moving forward slowly sometimes. We would like to take big steps, like build a large dining hall that we have been dreaming about for so many years. Lately I'm finding the beauty of preparing the way for the Lord in the small steps, such as planting wildflower seeds so that our Hidden Acres guests can enjoy the flowers. Maybe, like me, they will pause a moment and see a butterfly land on a flower and think, "Wow, God, you are awesome, your works are wonderful."

-Rebeca Carpenter



This butterfly landed on a crimson clover growing from seeds planted in the fall

Gifts to Hidden Acres in Memory of

In Memory of Imogene Baker

Amanda & Nate Smith

In Memory of W.W. Hughes

Jack & Nancy Watson

Terry & Doris Carpenter

Charles Diffee

George & Jimmi Jo Grogan

Laura Sheffield

Cathy Diffee

Garey & Vickie Kirchner

Charles & Sharon Hutchins

Rex & Shirley Ingram

Pairs & Spares Sunday School -
class of Myrtle Springs Baptist -
Church

In Memory of Mary Lassiter

Garey & Vickie Kirchner

In Memory of Norman Prothro

Terry & Doris Carpenter

In Memory of George Shanks

Terry & Doris Carpenter

Cathy Diffee

Vivian & Joe Hemphill

Jodie Pitre

In Memory of Duane Walbridge

Terry & Doris Carpenter

The Walbridge Family

*Surrounded by so great
a cloud of witnesses*

*Let us run the race
not only for the prize*

But as those

who've gone before us

Let us leave to those behind us

The heritage of faithfulness

passed on through godly lives

Oh may all who come behind us

find us faithful

May the fire of our devotion

light their way

May the footprints that we leave

Lead them to believe

And the lives we live

inspire them to obey

Oh may all who come behind us

find us faithful

*from the song, Find Us Faithful
by Steve Green*

Sent 2017

I have enjoyed attending the annual Christian Camp Conference Association's Texas Sectional where camp leaders gather to learn ways to grow and improve our ministry. It has been a time for me to renew my passion and vision for the work at Hidden Acres.



This year Rebeca and I attended the main sessions together and various breakout sessions on our own. The sessions covered topics like leadership training, fundraising, and insights on other aspects of camp ministry. During the main session the speaker challenged and reminded us that our ministry is to obey the Great Commission. At one point he asked us to raise our hands if we had been part of going to the ends of the earth. Few raised their hand, but he said that, indeed, we are a part of reaching the ends of the earth as we fulfill the Great Commission wherever God has us.

-Tim Carpenter

RIVERBEND INTERNS VISIT HIDDEN ACRES

By attending the Texas sectional we have made connections with other camp leaders. It was through one of these meetings that we began a friendship with Riverbend Retreat Center in Glenrose, TX. This spring a group of Riverbend interns came for five days to help with work projects around Hidden Acres. They began by sanding and replacing boards from a playground donated to us by the Spitzer family of Kaufman. They also refinished picnic tables and assisted in repainting the Comfort Station.



Riverbend Camp Interns team pose for photo-op

SAVE THE DATE

Lets Welcome Summer together
at Hidden Acres.

**Join us for Family Day
Saturday, May 20, 2017**

Doors open at 10 am
Lunch available for purchase
(cash only)

SUMMER CAMP DATES

June 11-15, 2017 - Jerry's Dream Camp I

June 18-22, 2017 - Elementary Camp

June 25-29, 2017 - Jerry's Dream Camp II

July 10-14, 2017 - Great Commission Camp I

July 17-21, 2017 - Great Commission Camp II

July 24-28, 2017 - Great Commission Camp III

TEACHING THE LEADERSHIP TRAIT OF DISCIPLINE

In March, Hidden Acres hosted the annual spring leadership retreat for middle schoolers. Jason and Heather Henry co-wrote our weekend curriculum which focused on teaching the importance of discipline to our young leaders. Amanda Smith directed the weekend with several summer camp staff returning to lead teams through group devotionals, fun activities, and work projects. It is exciting to see our middle schoolers growing in their leadership skills. Several have shown an interest in becoming summer camp leaders themselves. But for now, they are looking forward to this summer when they can return as campers.



Spring Retreat participants and group leaders

THE OAK HOMESCHOOL CO-OP

This spring at the OAKs program the elementary participants have been learning about the beauty of creation, focusing specifically on birds as part of their nature study. Participants enjoyed nature walks, nature journaling, and crafts

Older students have been involved in community projects around Hidden Acres which have included repairing benches and picnic tables, putting landscape dividers around the playground, and gathering cedar branches for mulch around the play area.



Homeschool students working hard at Hidden Acres

HIDDEN ACRES KITCHEN MAKEOVER

This spring the Leo Lodge kitchen has received some much needed improvements thanks to our board and monthly financial supporters. During the summer of 2016 one of our board members experienced what it is like to cook for a day of camp. The board member gave a report of the great need for upgrades to the kitchen. This resulted in some changes with the biggest improvements being a new commercial grade stove and a vent hood to accompany the new range. Charlotte Diffie, Hidden Acres Hospitality Director and camp cook, is very grateful to have these upgrades before the busy summer season.



New stove and vent hood at the Leo Lodge

CONSTRUCTION FOR NEW CABIN BEGINS

Ground has been broken for the construction of a new cabin, which is conveniently located near the Genesis Cabin. The cabin will mimic the Leo Lodge in that it will have two bunk rooms with an adjoining sitting area. Gifts from donors is funding the beginning stages of construction. We hope to raise more funds to purchase items that will be needed for this new building. Through God's provision this building will serve the purpose of giving us room for more campers and space to facilitate retreats for larger groups. We eagerly await its completion.

Hidden Acres is a Christian Camp and Retreat Center. Our mission is to serve individuals and the community by sharing Christ's love.

For donations, please make checks payable to Hidden Acres and mail to:
Hidden Acres
P.O. Box 851462
Mesquite, TX 75185-1462

Your gift makes a difference. Hidden Acres is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Hidden Acres is located at:
11350 Hidden Acres Lane
Kaufman, TX 75142

www.hiddenacres.org

Hidden Acres
P.O. Box 851462
Mesquite, Texas 75185-1462

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MESQUITE, TX
PERMIT NO 237

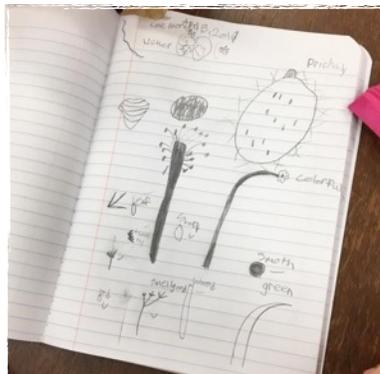
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SPRING '17



Leadership Retreat participants helping with projects and spring cleaning around Hidden Acres, including organizing a camp closet



OAK participants enjoying bazoooka ball; child's nature journal after a nature walk; flower growing from seeds planted in the fall