

V I S T A S



From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director

WEDNESDAY MORNING JULY 12, 2017
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation serves to advance the mission and work of the Flint Hills Discovery Center through dynamic and vibrant development programs which identify, cultivate, solicit and express appreciation to donors of the Foundation. The Foundation is a sanctioned 501c3 nonprofit organization. The Foundation seeks capital, and programming gifts, along with deferred and endowed gifts, to support the Flint Hills Discovery Center. In the last five years, the Foundation has raised more than \$1.2 million in support of the Discovery Center. We are grateful to everyone who makes the Foundation a focus of their philanthropy.

The **Flint Hills Discovery Center** participates in celebrating the **National Day of the Cowboy** on **Saturday, July 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the Flint Hills Discovery Center and Blue Earth Plaza in Manhattan. This will be the 4th year that the Discovery Center has joined in the nationwide celebration of Cowboy heritage and culture.



Sunset looking out from Miller Ranch sub-division on the west side of Manhattan, looking west toward Scenic Drive. Photo courtesy of Sue Maes, Manhattan, Kan.

This year's **premier sponsors** are **Dan** and **Beth Bird** of Manhattan.

Dan and Beth's sponsorship allows for this day—a family favorite—to occur. The day includes kids' calf roping, bull-riding, and learning about cowboy tools of the trade such as saddles, blankets, chaps, gloves, spurs, hats and ropes. There will be branding demos using the **FHDC brand**, a Buffalo Soldier Station and other educational activities for all ages. Put on your boots and hats, and head on over to the Discovery Center to enjoy your day as a cowboy and cowgirl! *Regular Discovery Center admission rates apply.*

FHDC Community Day is Sunday, August 6, 12:00-6:00p.m., enjoy **free admission** to the Discovery Center, learn about other community partners and participate in family fun activities!

Celebrations and events are always a part of June in the Flint Hills. As the longest-running event in the Flint Hills, our hats are tipped to the **80th Annual Flint Hills Rodeo** in Strong City which was held

June 1-3. It is the oldest consecutive rodeo in the state of Kansas—and these folks know how to do rodeo!

Friday, June 9, the **Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation** was lead sponsor for the 4th annual **Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest**, final round of competition, which was held at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Thirteen contestants competed in the finals for the coveted trophy belt buckles given in the serious and humorous divisions of the competition.

Danny McCurry of Ash Grove, Missouri, took home the serious division award, and **Tim Keane** kept the humorous division award right here in Manhattan. A special thank you to my colleagues who served on the judges' panel: **Lawton Nuss**, Chief Justice, Kansas Supreme Court; **Dr. April Mason**, Provost, Kansas State University; **Richard Felts**, President, Kansas Farm Bureau; **Usha Reddi**, Mayor of Manhattan; and **Kasey Huston**, morning radio host at B104.7FM. Turnout exceeded the contest organizers' expectations. A special thank you to the **Flint Hills Discovery Center** for the use of the facility. It was the perfect venue.

The Dirty Kanza 200 left and returned to downtown Emporia on Saturday, June 3. More than 2,000 cyclists, representing 40 states and more than a dozen countries, participated in this year's 200-mile bike race. Participants are drawn to this race because of the Flint Hills as it is the perfect geography for such a competition. An Italian magazine has ranked it one of the **Top 10** bike races on the planet. The downtown street celebration, which is an integral part of the race, is a uniquely Kansas affair.

The **FHDC Foundation** would like to extend congratulations to **Symphony in the Flint Hills** organizers for providing another wonderful opportunity for folks to enjoy an afternoon and evening on the Kansas prairie. A special thank you goes to **John and Mary McDonald**, owners of the **Deer Horn Ranch**, for opening up the gates to their property on June 10th and allowing some 8,000 visitors to take in the breathtaking views and a magnificent setting sun on the Kansas prairie! And, if that wasn't enough, drovers herded approximately 85 head of longhorn steers for spectators as part of the Symphony's "musical script." We thank the Board members, staff, volunteers and donors to the Symphony who make this a remarkable annual event!

Council Grove's annual Washunga Days was June 16-18. The hot temperatures did not to keep folks away. Attendance was tremendous. This is an annual **celebration** honoring the **Kaw Nation**, the community, families and friends. With a parade, live music, **Kaw Nation** intertribal powwow, fireworks, car show, arts and crafts, and 5K run/walk, there was something for everyone.

DID YOU KNOW ... Since opening the doors in April 2012, the Flint Hills Discovery Center has been visited by over 325,000 guests hailing from Kansas, the nation and around the world! People enjoy visiting this one-of-a-kind science and history museum dedicated to the last stand of tallgrass prairie in the North American continent!

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation
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The VISTAS MEMO is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. We thank and celebrate all those investing in the Center's unique and dynamic mission.