

# V I S T A S



From the desk of V. Marie Martin  
Foundation Director

WEDNESDAY MORNING JUNE 14, 2017  
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***"I've heard it said that ... communication is the essence of appreciation."*** It is in this spirit we welcome you to *VISTAS*, the monthly memo of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation. The memo name is inspired by the broad,



*beautiful vistas of the Flint Hills; and the long view we must take in our efforts to preserve the tallgrass prairie, and the vision we have to grow and advance the work of the Discovery Center. With your passion and support, the Foundation helps advance the unique mission of the Discovery Center!"*  
– Bruce Snead, Foundation Board President.

**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.

**The Flint Hills Discovery Center and Foundation celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 14, 2017!** The Foundation hosted its annual **Friend of the Flint Hills** recognition event on April 15, with this year's honor going to ***Symphony in the Flint Hills***. Annually, the Symphony brings more than 7,000 visitors during the second weekend of June to explore, experience and enjoy the Flint Hills. Previous Friend of the Flint Hills honorees include ***Nancy Kassebaum***, 2016; ***Jim & Cathy Hoy***, 2015; ***Kansas State University***, 2014; ***Brian Obermeyer***, 2013; and ***Jane Koger***, 2012. *We are grateful for these exceptional advocates of the last stand of tallgrass prairie in North America.*

**During the five weeks following the anniversary celebration** different segments of the Flint Hills region were spotlighted in the Discovery Center’s programming and activities.

- **Week 1: Feel the Earth** – celebrated the breathtaking ecoregion of the Flint Hills.
- **Week 2: Feel the Unity** – embraced Manhattan, focusing on local schools, partnerships and joining other local non-profit organizations in fundraising.
- **Week 3: Feel the Freedom** – provided, via the Foundation, free admission for active and retired military personnel and their families on Military Appreciation Day, May 6.
- **Week 4: Feel the Future** – congratulated graduating Wildcats and wished them well.  
**And the final week culminated on May 20 with:**
- **Week 5: Feel the Flint Hills** – brought the Flint Hills region together for the Flint Hills Festival held at the Flint Hills Discovery Center and Blue Earth Plaza in Manhattan. It closed out a great five weeks of programming to start the next five years! The **Flint Hills Festival** withstood very chilly spring temperatures, a bit of rain and strong Kansas winds for another successful event on Saturday, May 20, 2017! Families turned out to enjoy the activities and learn about Flint Hills culture, history and science. Over 2,600 guests attended this year’s event which was more than attended in 2016 on a perfect spring day. When guests are having fun they don’t mind the cold!

**“The Flint Hills Summer Roundup Concert”** is Saturday, June 24, 2017, 7 p.m. Emporia, Kansas. Supporters of **Camp Wood YMCA**, **Pioneer Bluffs** and **Symphony in the Flint Hills**, will join the **FHDC Foundation** to listen to the music of the **Diamond W Wranglers Band** (formerly the Prairie Rose Band). The Diamond W will perform a fundraising concert to thank us for the work we all do to educate and inspire folks to preserve our Flint Hills history, culture and tallgrass prairie. **Special Guest Appearance** by **Jim Hoy**, renown historian, educator, author, poet, songwriter, singer, guitar player and rancher. The \$40 tickets are available through Eventbrite ticket outlet at [FHSummerRoundup.eventbrite.com](http://FHSummerRoundup.eventbrite.com). The event will be held at **Albert Taylor Hall** located inside *Plumb Hall, 1 Kellogg Circle, on the beautiful campus of Emporia State University.*

**DID YOU KNOW...** In 2016, **874** children participated in **44** Adventure Camps delivered by the Discovery Center? Adventure Camps are for children K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, presented in half- or full-day sessions with many programs focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) topics as they apply to the Flint Hills!

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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.