

V I S T A S



WEDNESDAY MORNING
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From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director

The **Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation** is pleased to announce that **Scott and Carol Ritchie** (right), Wichita, Kan., will be recognized as the **2018 Friends of the Flint Hills**. The **Friends of the Flint Hills** recognition honors those who have contributed significant time, effort and resources to the cause of conserving the Flint Hills of Kansas and northern Oklahoma. Scott and Carol have spent most of their lives enjoying the great national treasure that is the Kansas Flint Hills. They promote sustainable range management practices and protect the Flint Hills region from invasive development; and they have supported a range of nonprofits who utilize and advocate for the Flint Hills. We are proud to acknowledge and recognize their love of the Flint Hills.



The **Friends of the Flint Hills** honor has been presented by the Foundation annually since the Discovery Center opened in 2012. Those previously recognized and honored: **Jane Koger**, 2012; **Brian Obermeyer**, 2013; **Kansas State University**, 2014; **Jim & Cathy Hoy**, 2015; **Nancy Kassebaum**, 2016; and **Symphony in the Flint Hills**, 2017.

The Ritchies will be honored on **Saturday, April 14, 2018**, at the Flint Hills Discovery Center, Manhattan. The social hour begins at 6 pm, followed by the program at 7 pm.

Other important Foundation events you will want to attend this spring: the three public screening of **Dave Kendall's latest film project, PRAIRIE WOMEN: Engaging Women of the Flint Hills**.

The first screening will be on **Sunday, March 11, 2018, 2 pm at the Granada Theatre in Emporia**. The second screening will be on **Sunday, March 25, 2018, 2 pm at the Wareham Theatre in Manhattan**, with a **reception immediately following** at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. During the reception, you will have the opportunity to **meet Dave, and his wife Laura**, and personally thank them for their dedication to capturing the various aspects of the Flint Hills region. The third screening is on **Sunday, April 15, 2018, 2 pm at the Great Plains Theatre in Abilene**.

Admission is free to Dave's public screenings, however, your contributions at the door help support Dave's outstanding work. Please go to Dave's website – **Prairie Hollow Productions** at <https://www.prairiehollow.net/events/> and register to attend one of the screenings in your area. The Foundation functions as the fiscal agent for Dave's film work, and processes its charitable gifts.

*“The Foundation’s first year-end fund drive, **OUR FLINT HILLS, OUR FUTURE**, received over \$10,000 in gifts. The drive’s Donor Marquee is enclosed. Supporters throughout the Flint Hills region and beyond participated in this inaugural drive. Your gifts to this fund drive are designated for educational programs. Please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation!” – Bruce Snead, Foundation President*

FHDC Foundation has received \$5,000 gift from the Westar Energy Foundation. The gift is designated for the FHDC Education Department for 2018 Youth STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) Night programs. Through community partnerships like this, FHDC is able to provide programing designed to educate students about the Flint Hills. **Thank you, Westar Energy Foundation!**

It’s here! The latest FHDC traveling exhibit, **Rainforest Adventure**, opened on January 27. It arrived none too soon after the challenging winter temperatures we’ve experienced! Also open this month is the **Butterfly House** on the 2nd floor mezzanine. You can stand among butterflies common to the Flint Hills region and view live Flint Hills reptiles and amphibians up close. Within the **Rainforest Adventure**, you can view an 8-foot common boa constrictor, along with tropical fish and poisonous dart frogs.

Please join us in thanking our exhibit partners: **Blueville Nursery of Manhattan** for providing the beautiful plants to enhance the butterfly house; the **Manhattan Sunset Zoo** for the butterflies, tropical fish, boa constrictor, and poisonous dart frogs; **Sunflower Natural Pets** for the speckled king snake; **Milford Nature Center** for the box turtle; **Fort Hays State University’s Sternberg Museum of Natural History** for the barred tiger salamander; and **Goodcents Deli, Manhattan** for the sandwiches at the members opening. We also extend our thanks to **Capitol Federal** for their financial support!

Did you know that The Flint Hills Discovery Center “touches” more than 3.5 million people annually? Its publications, digital platform, radio and television spots, car traffic, education outreach programs and visitors to the Center totals more 3.5 million touches, annually.

This vast market place awareness is specifically packaged for the businesses, persons or organizations wishing to serve as one of two annual **Signature Underwriters** for the Discovery Center. Each touch is less than .007 of a penny. The limit of two provides exclusivity and thus significant value to each signature underwriter. FHDC is seeking underwriters and sponsors so it can enhance the experience of visitors to the Center’s special events and traveling exhibits.

Would you like to be the 2018 Signature Exhibit Underwriter or the 2018 Signature Event Underwriter? To learn more, please call Katharine Hensler at 785-587-2729, ext. 207 or email her at katharine.hensler@cityofmnhk.com or contact me at the phone number or email below.

Read **VISTAS Memo**, now online at the FHDC website, <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/414/Vistas-Memo>. The Foundation’s pages are located within the FHDC website, so be sure and take time to browse other sections of the FHDC website to keep up with all the activities happening at the Foundation and the Discovery Center.

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.