

WEDNESDAY MORNING
MARCH 14, 2018
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) announced their 2018 honors recently. The **Flint Hills Map and Education Program** and **Flint Hills Discovery Center staffer, Amber Myers**, who is the Programs and Education Animals Supervisor at the Discovery Center, are slated to receive awards.

Our **Congratulations to the Flint Hills Map and Education Program** which was developed and implemented by **Emily Hunter Connell** and **Anne Wilson**. Their project was nominated for recognition by **Tracey Graham (Emporia)**, who is a passionate supporter of the Flint Hills region. The Map Program will be awarded the **Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Award**.

The Map Education Program has provided for map displays to be placed in over 180 schools, universities and organizations throughout the Flint Hills region. Educational classroom teaching materials are available on the Discovery Center website at <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/243/Flint-Hills-Map-Education-Program> where teachers and the public can access lesson plans, classroom activities, and information about Flint Hills science, history, culture, arts, music, and other topics. FHDCF acted as fiscal agent for this project. On January 1, 2019, the Flint Hills Discovery Center will assume the Maps Program. Information will be released throughout the year about how your school will be able to participate in this exciting program.



Congratulations also to Amber Myers of the FHDC Education Department for her dedication to the field of environmental education and her willingness to share her love and passion for nature with audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Amber will receive the **“Connie Elpers Rising Star Award”**. This award is named after Connie Elpers, who was among the most influential environmental educators in Kansas. The Rising Star Award recognizes those passionate individuals who are new to the conservation and environmental education field in Kansas, but who are already making an impact. Amber was previously employed by the Milford Nature Center, near Milford Lake. She is a graduate of Kansas State University with a BS in Park Management and Conservation. Prior to receiving her degree, Amber served as a volunteer, intern, and part-time educator at the FHDC. In 2016, she joined the education department full time and currently holds the title Programs and Education Animals Supervisor. Amber truly does loves all creatures great and small!

Be sure to attend the **second screening** of Dave Kendall's "**Prairie Women: Engaging Women of the Flint Hills**" at the Wareham Theatre, 410 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, Kan., on Sunday, March 25, beginning at 2 p.m. **Admission is free**, however, your contributions at the door helps support Dave's outstanding film work. A reception at the Flint Hills Discovery Center, 315 S. 3rd Street, will be held immediately following the film presentation. Here you can meet Dave and his wife Laura Mead and thank them for capturing some of the notable women of the prairie on film. You will have one more opportunity this spring to see Dave's film which will be shown at the **Great Plains Theatre, 401 Cottage Ave., Abilene, KS on Sunday, April 15, at 2 p.m.**

Seeing Dave's film would be a wonderful way to conclude the weekend after **Scott and Carol Ritchie** are recognized as the **Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation Friends of the Flint Hills for 2018** on Saturday evening April 14, at the FHDC in Manhattan. This is a grand weekend to celebrate the Flint Hills region!

Meet the Makers week is coming to FHDC March 19 – 23, during most schools' spring break. See the following: Flint Hills Woodturners; Pottery demos; Dance demos-Ballroom; Highlights from "Prairie Women" film production; Demonstrations of polymer clay jewelry; Watercolors for kids and adults; Oil painting; Henna body art; Basket weaving; Charcoal sketching; Pen & ink drawing; Interactive painting demos. For the complete listing by day go to: www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/186/Meet-the-Makers.

The FHDC will be launching their **first ever annual membership drive on April 2, 2018 and it will run through May 31, 2018**. The goal of the drive is to educate our community about the amazing programs, events, activities, and exhibits the FHDC provides to our members on an annual basis. Memberships also generate revenue for the Center, which allows it to produce the high-quality programming mentioned above. If you or someone you know needs a new membership, or to renew an existing one, please consider doing this between the above dates.

Remember, FHDC has a very busy season with **Be the Dinosaur** opening on **May 12**, the **Flint Hills Festival on May 19**, **National Day of the Cowboy on July 28**, and so much more. FHDC members have their admission fees waived for these programs so now is a great time to join or re-join! Memberships also make great gifts for the people who already have "everything," and they are a great way to introduce new residents to our community. Thank you for your continued support!

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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