
From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director, June-July, 2019
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Dear Flint Hills Friends,

Telephone number change for the Foundation office - Many of you know by now that the City of Manhattan did a system wide change of their telephone system. As a result of the change, the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation's telephone number is now (785)748-1275. The Discovery Center telephone number is still the same at (785)587-2726. If you have experienced any difficulties reaching the Discovery Center or the Foundation you may be calling from an AT&T system carrier and it is not as compatible with the new system. The Foundation and the Discovery Center's telephone numbers are listed on our separate Facebook pages if you need a quick reference.

It seems like Mother Nature was not very friendly in June and our friends at the **Symphony in the Flint Hills** had to cancel the 2019 performance set for June 15. We were saddened that for the first time ever, the show would not go on. Symphony has a tremendous staff, wonderful volunteers and loyal supporters, and we can understand how devastating this was to everyone. We extend a welcome to Leslie Von Holten as she takes over the reins from Christy Davis during this unusual transition period and we wish them both the very best.

Congratulations to **Annie Wilson**, the Flint Hills Balladeer, who was recognized by Ingram's Kansas City Business Magazine, in "50 Kansans You Should Know". Annie showcases our Flint Hills in many different ways from performing with her Tallgrass Prairie String Band to being one of the developers of the Flint Hills Map & Education program. The Maps program was recognized by the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) in 2018 for Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education.

The **Foundation's NEXT VISTAS Comprehensive Campaign**, in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center, continues to move forward in the public phase launched in April. The three major initiatives of the campaign are (1) the development of the second-floor mezzanine area to become KID-SCAPE, a youth focused, interactive experience immersing children into the place, the people, and the promise that is the Kansas Flint Hills; (2) new technology to replace out dated technology; and (3) development of endowed funds to support expansion of educational programs and learning activities for children and adults. Funding will also be generated for exhibitions and community days of celebration hosted by the Discovery Center.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation held a special "Meet and Greet", on June 14, with **Mark Nutsch** who is the **NEXT VISTAS Honorary Campaign Chair**. It was a red, white and blue event since it was Flag Day and the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest Final Round was immediately following Mark's Meet and Greet. Over 200 guests came to meet Mark, get a photo, or have him autograph a book or DVD of "12 Strong", the story of the unprecedented military campaign he led into northern Afghanistan after the 9/11 attack on America.

Mark joined an **outstanding celebrity panel of judges** for the 9th Annual Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest. Chief Judge was former **Senator Nancy Kassebaum**; the panel was made up of **Mike Dodson**, Mayor of Manhattan; **Lynne Hinrichsen**, USDA Rural Development Director; **Brooke Lennington**, KSNT Anchorwoman; **Megan Moser**, Manhattan Mercury Executive Editor; **Lawton Nuss**, Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court; **Mark Nutsch**, Next Vistas Honorary Campaign Chair; and **Bill Snyder**, retired KSU Football Hall of Fame Coach.

Winners of the 2019 Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest were Scott Wiswell, Valley Center, KS in the Serious Division and Danny McCurry, Ash Grove, MO in the Humorous Division. A big hats off thank you to **Ron Wilson, Chair of the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest, Jeff Davidson and Brad Hamilton** who made this a special night for everyone. See more about the Meet and Greet and the Poetry Contest at the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation's Facebook page.

Washunga Days at Council Grove, June 21-23, was a big success especially with a sellout crowd of 6,500 on Friday night to watch Cody Johnson perform at the Riverwalk. Council Grove may becoming a slightly smaller version of Country Stamped!

Mark Saturday, July 27, on your calendars to attend the ever popular **National Day of the Cowboy** celebration at the Discovery Center. This year's event is made possible by the following sponsors: **Dan and Beth Bird; Visit Manhattan, Kansas; Wrangler Vanderbilts; and Grass & Grain.**

You can use your membership to attend this event for free and if you don't have a membership, then the regular price of admission applies. This year, a large portion of the event will be held inside the Discovery Center based on the uncertain weather conditions that summer in Kansas may produce! Wagon rides will be held outside from 11am to 2pm.

This is the 6th year that the Discovery Center has celebrated the National Day of the Cowboy which recognizes the contributions of the numerous cowboys and cowgirls of the Flint Hills who helped develop this region.

The Foundation just received notification that the **Caroline Peine Charitable Foundation/The Manhattan Fund** has awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation to support the development of an **Outdoor Classroom** for the Discovery Center. The Outdoor Classroom Project has been a vision since the Discovery Center opened in 2012. The space is located in an existing plot in the southeast portion of our landscaping, between an existing sidewalk and a retaining wall of the prairie garden. The Outdoor Classroom will become an educator led workshop space for such activities as kids Adventure Camps, Preschooler programs, adult nature education programs, live animal demonstrations, astronomy nights and programs that encourage outdoor exploration. When the space is not in use by the FHDC Education department, it will be free and accessible to the public for such things as reflection, exploration and activities like birdwatching, wildflower identification and star gazing. Thank you Peine Charitable Foundation for helping us reach our goals!

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

315 S. 3rd Street, Manhattan, KS 66502 (785) 748-1275, fhdcfoundation1@gmail.com.

VISTAS, a monthly 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. www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/151/FHDC-Foundation