
From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director, October 2019
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Dear Flint Hills Friends:

The Bison, Beef and Bourbon fundraising event is almost here!

Proceeds will benefit the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation and its support of educational initiatives at the Discovery Center.

Grab your boots and hat and join us on Saturday night, November 2, from 6:30-9 p.m. for an evening of fun with your friends from the Flint Hills region. Bison and beef heavy hors d' oeuvres, along with sides, complimentary wine, beer, and two signature cocktails made with Mark Nutsch's Horse Soldier Bourbon, will delight your palate and inspire your taste buds!



We extend our thanks and appreciation to the Kansas Buffalo Association, Munson Angus Farms, American Freedom Distillery and The Fridge for their product donations to make this such a tasty and spirited event!

Attire for the evening? Flint Hills cocktail with a western flair, creased jeans, fringed skirts, boots and hats are all acceptable (but not necessary)! Be creative and festive in your attire and enjoy the evening!

Be sure to browse through the silent auction items and make your bids. At the end of the evening we will have a special selection of **live auction** items that you won't want to miss! Watch the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation Facebook for continuing event updates! Must be 21 to attend and you can **purchase your tickets online at:** www.auctria.com/auction/FHDCFBisonBeefBourbon2019

Musical entertainment at BBB will be presented by the **Robert Rodriguez Instrumental Trio** and, **Derrick Doty** from Chase County who will perform his own style of Flint Hills music on the fiddle. **Cory Reeves, General Manager at KMAN Radio, Manhattan**, has graciously agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and we look forward to his engaging personality to keep things lively!

The year end is rapidly approaching - have you considered using your IRA to make a charitable gift? Individuals 70 ½ years of age or older may make contributions directly from their IRA (or retirement funds) to a charity of their choice annually, up to \$100,000. You can support as many nonprofits as you desire with a gift from your IRA each year. Visit with your IRA custodian and ask about the Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD. There can be multiple tax benefits when making a gift from your IRA. Your philanthropy helps build a more vibrant and dynamic community!

Friday night October 4, **Susan Adams, Director of the Discovery Center**, spoke to a large gathering at the Buttonwood Art Space, Kansas City, during the opening reception of ***Visions of the Flint Hills***. Susan was chosen the Honorary Chair by the **Friends of the Konza Prairie** (FOKP) for this year's event. Previous Honorary Chairs for this event have been **Jim and Cathy Hoy and Dave Kendall and Laura Mead**. The Buttonwood Art Space generously brings together prairie lovers and art lovers to benefit Flint Hills regional artists and FOKP. The sale of the art at this annual event is split 50-50 between the artist and the FOKP. The Buttonwood exhibit runs through November 21.

Speaking of art, at the time of this writing the Flint Hills Discovery Center just became the honored owner of an **Oscar Larmer painting called "Flint Hills Grazers"**. Oscar graciously donated the beautiful painting to the Discovery Center to be its new home. Thank you so much Oscar; your art will live on forever!

The Flint Hills Discovery Center has an online Flint Hills learning resource at its website, <https://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/243/Flint-Hills-Learning-Resources>. This one-of-a-kind Flint Hills learning website contains teacher lesson plans, map exhibits, toolbox, project based learning, field trip and place-based education resources. There is so much educational information about the Flint Hills at this site that you can spend days reading about different topics. The **Flint Hills Map & Education Program** is a grass-roots, teacher-led program.

The program began from the dream and vision of Emily Hunter Connell (Matfield Green, Kan.) and Annie Wilson (Elmdale, Kan.). In 2015, the **Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation** agreed to act as fiscal agent for the project. Emily and Annie organized a group of teachers and joined together to create a map for schools in the Flint Hills, so students would realize they live in a very special place. From the map grew the online learning resources. It's worth your time to visit this site and learn more about the Flint Hills this very special place where you live!

It's hard to believe but the Discovery Center has tickets on sale already for **Breakfast with Santa** and the **Family New Year's Eve** event! Because these two events are in such popular demand each year, those people with memberships to the Discovery Center have the first opportunity to purchase tickets.

Zoo In You - The Human Microbiome is the exhibit open in the Tallgrass Gallery until January 12, 2020. The companion exhibit **"Eat Well, Play Well"**, for younger guests, is open on the Mezzanine. Be sure and stop by the Immersive Experience Theater and take in the **"Micro Monsters"** film and see the super powers that exist beneath our feet like beetles, spiders and other bugs - the kids will love it!

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

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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