

From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director, December 2019
Volume 3, Issue 12

Dear Flint Hills Friends:

The Flint Hills Discovery Center received the Kansas Museums Association Award of Excellence for the Prairie Garden Terrace & Trail project on November 8. The Award of Excellence is “given to an institution whose project or achievements are worthy of special recognition”.

The Prairie Garden Terrace and Trail grand opening took place in April 2019, and since then numerous visitors to the Discovery Center have enjoyed this new feature. Visitors can gaze at spectacular views and see native wildflowers and grasses during the spring and summer growing seasons. The rooftop space on the 3rd level is part of the City of Manhattan’s park system. The unique green roof channels water into custom landscaped beds that mirror the uplands, slopes and bottomlands of the Flint Hills.



The interpretive trail panels provide information about the flora and fauna of the prairie in addition to cultural and historical facts about Manhattan and the Flint Hills region. The project was developed over two years and included the work of professional interpreters, university interns, community consultants and private business partners.

Funding for the project was made possible by the **Caroline Peine Charitable Foundation/The Manhattan Fund**, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee; **Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation**; **McCown Gordon Construction**; **City of Manhattan and Manhattan Parks & Recreation**.

On Veteran’s Day November 11, the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation had the privilege to provide funding for free admission at the Flint Hills Discovery Center for 224 Veterans and their families who came to visit. The Foundation has carried on this tradition for seven years and is always honored that so many Veterans and their families choose to visit this wonderful Flint Hills attraction.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation is holding its **3rd annual yearend fund drive, Our Flint Hills, Our Future**, to provide funding for educational programs. The education staff at the Discovery Center will be developing curriculum to present at the **Prairie Garden Terrace and Trail in addition to the Outdoor Classroom. Both of these locations will be new additions for the 2020 educational programs.**

You can make your donation online by going to www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/468/Giving, or by mailing your check to **FHDC Foundation, 315 S. 3rd Street, Manhattan, KS 66502.**

The Kansas Flint Hills lost two dear friends and longtime advocates earlier this month. Pat Sauble, Cedar Point, passed away December 7th at 98 ½ years of age. Pat was a rancher and veteran and his stories were recorded and published in a book, *Stories of the Flint Hills*, in collaboration with Dr. Bonnie Lynn- Sherow, Director of the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University.

Jerry Karr of Emporia passed away December 8th. A farmer, Jerry served 18 years in the Kansas State Senate where he represented counties in the heart of the Kansas Flint Hills. He served on the Governor's Task Force which recommended the prevention of wind turbines in the heart of the Flint Hills. He served on committees for the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and the advocated for the national park which now encompasses the original Z BAR homestead. We celebrate these two men's lives for their contributions to the Flint Hills.

You have just a few more weeks to enjoy the entertaining 4D movie, **"Sleigh Ride", showing in the Horizon Ranch Immersive Experience Theater**. The movie has special effects both kids and adults will enjoy. The movie is included with the price of admission, so you really need to see it before Santa heads back North! The ability to show movies such as Sleigh Ride is possible from the theater projector and technology upgrades made possible last year by Marty Vanier. **Thank you so much Marty!**

End of year educational activities are still available through the Discovery Center. **Adventure Camp is a great way for kids to stay engaged with the STEM fields over the holiday season when school is not in session**. The Discovery Center has camps about food science, holiday science, astronomy and more! See <https://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/172/Adventure-Camp> for more information.

As is the Discovery Center tradition the final educational event for yearend is **Family New Years Eve**, December 31, from 6:30-9:00pm. This year's theme is **"Mad Science"** and will include the **iconic balloon drop** which is always a crowd pleaser! There are still some tickets left and for more information please go to www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/394/Family-New-Years-Eve.

You can become a **Flint Hills Discovery Center Volunteer** and avoid a long and boring winter. Volunteers help with special events, education programs, interpret exhibits and more. Go to www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/450/Volunteer-Opportunities for more information.

Beginning on **January 25, 2020, the new traveling exhibit "American Adventure" will open** taking us back to the year 1607. Settlers landed in America not knowing of the challenges they would face as they built their new home and hoped for a better future. During your visit you can take on the life of a colonist in this interactive exhibit. The choices you make will determine your fate and if you're lucky, you just might survive the first year!

Wishing you a wonderful Flint Hills holiday season.

A special thank you to all our supporters in the entire Flint Hills region and beyond for making this such a very special year for the

Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation!

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.

Read VISTAS Memo, now online at the FHDC website, <https://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/467/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.