

VISTAS



From the desk of Lesley White, Foundation Director
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Mark Nutsch, 2023 Friend of the Flint Hill

Flint Hills native and national hero, Mark Nutsch, will be recognized as the 2023 Friend of the Flint Hills by the Flint Hills Discovery Center (FHDC) Foundation at its annual spring event on Friday evening, April 28. Nutsch has been an integral part of the growth and evolution of the FHDC Foundation.



The FHDC Foundation has given the “Friend of the Flint Hills” award to an individual, couple, non-government organization or public institution each spring since 2012. The award honors significant time, effort and resources devoted to the cause of conserving the Flint Hills of Kansas and northern Oklahoma.

In the Spring of 2019, the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation announced its NEXT VISTAS campaign, a \$3 million fund raising effort for the benefit of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Mark Nutsch served as our National Honorary Chairman for the Flint Hills Discovery campaign that raised \$3.2 million!

“Special Forces Major Mark Nutsch’s stellar career, his dedication to the Flint Hills Prairie preservation, and deep roots in horsemanship and ranching, are all laudable. We greatly appreciate his volunteer focus, helping us surpass our campaign goals and dedication to the Flint Hills Discovery Center over the past three years. His life’s work and dedication to Kansas and our nation made him the ideal honoree to be the 2023 Friend of the Flint Hills,” Foundation President Jack Lindquist, said. “We hope Flint Hills Discovery Center supporters will join us in celebrating Mark’s accomplishments and advocacy of the Flint Hills.”

To learn more about the Friend of the Flint Hills April 28th event or to become a sponsor, please contact Foundation Director, Lesley White at [fhdcfoundation1@gmail](mailto:fhdcfoundation1@gmail.com) or 785-748-1275.

Stepping Into the Prairie

A new permanent exhibit is being made possible by a \$200,000 challenge grant! The total project is estimated to be \$650,000. To-date, about \$62,000 has been raised toward the matching challenge portion of the project. Thank you to each of our donors! We are grateful for your support to our project and our children!

Our Flint Hills. Our Future

5th ANNUAL YEAR END APPEAL

Year-End Appeal! Thank You!

WOW, what an incredible year-end for the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation! This past December the FHDC Foundation held our annual OUR FLINT HILLS, OUR FUTURE annual fund drive, raising \$7,560. The year-end direct mail appeal serves to raise charitable support for educational programming conducted for kids each year at the Discovery Center. We thank all those who participated in the 5th annual drive!

Rose & Kent Bacon
Dan & Beth Bird
John & Lynn Carlin
Donald Cooper
Jeff & Kelley Davidson
Barb Downey & Joe
Carpenter
Joseph & Janette Gelroth
Gary & Carolyn Haden
Jim Hoy
Scott & Angie Husted

Julia Jilek
Elaine E Jones
Jeremy & Emily Lehning
Jack & Lindy Lindquist
Manhattan Surgical Hospital
V. Marie Martin
Marsha Miller
Carlin & Stephanie Murphy
Edward & Seliesa Pembleton
Loren Pennington
M. Chance Reay

William & Linda Richter
Joan Strickler
Sunflower Electric Power
Corporation
Daniel & Ronda Wassenberg
Oliver Weaver &
Gabrielle Thompson
Dave & Shelley Wichman
Keith & Sue Ann Wright

Lyle Butler, Newest Foundation Board Member

The Foundation is pleased to announce Lyle Butler's selection to serve on the Board of Directors.

"The Flint Hills Discovery Center draws more than 80,000 visitors downtown annually from dozens of counties and dozens of states," said Butler. It has become an iconic landmark and destination for learning about and celebrating the Kansas Flint Hills."



Butler retired in 2019 as the President/CEO of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, a position he held for 19 years. Butler also served as the Chamber President/CEO in Dodge City, Kansas and Greeley, Colorado. A 1982 Graduate of Leadership Kansa and a 2002 Graduate of the Flint Hills Regional Leadership Program, Butler was recognized by Team Kansas as the 2019 Governor Samuel J. Crawford Silver Stirrup Award recipient for leadership in economic development. Butler is a Bank Board Member for ESB Financial, with locations in Manhattan and Emporia, and a board member for Frontier Financial Partners.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

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VISTAS is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center