

From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director, November 2019
Volume 3, Issue 11

Dear Flint Hills Friends:

Thank You! It couldn't have been more fun! The Foundation's inaugural signature event, BISON, BEEF & BOURBON, drew over 150 participants and raised nearly \$30,000 to support the educational programming developed and presented at Flint Hill's Discovery Center!

Our event sponsors ensured that more than \$6,000 was raised before the evening started. Please help us in extending our thanks to The Trust Company of Manhattan, Allegro Creative LLC, Educational Printers, KS State Bank, Mitch & Susan Adams, Randall & Elaine Anderes, Roger & Kathleen Lanksbury, V. Marie Martin, Karen & John McCulloh, John & Mary Beth Reese, Jim & Bonnie Lynn Sherow, and Bruce & Leslie Sneed.

The evening's FUND-A-NEED helped in the acquisition of an Augmented Reality Sand Table! Attendees were able to "play" with the Augmented Reality Sand Table before the bidding began at \$1,000! Three bidders joined in at \$1,000 each and the auctioneer worked his way down to \$100 bids. By the time he ended nearly \$10,000 has been raised! Thanks to all of these donors, this digital table will be ordered!



The Augmented Reality Sand Table combines 3D visualization applications with a hands-on sandbox exhibit to teach earth science concepts. It allows users to create topography models by shaping real sand, which is then augmented in real time by an elevation color map, topographic contour lines, and simulated water. The system teaches geographic, geologic, and hydrologic concepts such as how to read a topography map, the meaning of contour lines, watersheds, catchment areas, levees and other interesting scientific applications. Our education department is excited to utilize this new hand-on exhibit in its curriculum!

We extend our thanks to all those providing items to our silent and live auction, 48 items in total! A golf outing with Bruce Sneed at Colbert Hills; the Vanier Family Skybox at Bill Snyder Family Stadium; an airplane flight over the Flint Hills and two bottles of Horse Soldier Bourbon made for some fun, live auction bidding.

Our evening of "bison, beef and bourbon" was made possible because of the generosity of the Kansas Buffalo Association; National Bison Association; Black Kettle Buffalo and Thunder of the Plains. Munson Angus Farms and Munson Premium at Junction City provided exceptional Angus beef! Refreshments were donated by American Freedom Distillery-Horse Soldier Bourbon, St. Petersburg, FL and The Fridge, Manhattan, KS. Our Master of Ceremonies was Corey Reeves of Wamego and our auctioneer was Allen Dinkel from Junction City. Our thanks to these two gentlemen for their assistance!

It's November and the Holiday Season has begun. If you are wondering about something fun to do and see, check out the Flint Hills events below (and go visit the websites of all our Flint Hills communities).

November 29th - 7:00p.m. **Festival of Lights**, at Manhattan's Blue Earth Plaza, south of the Flint Hills Discovery Center: A community free event that features the lighting of the **largest holiday tree in Kansas!** Go to <https://www.mhkfestivaloflights.com/>. The Flint Hills Discovery Center doors will be open free of charge for those who want to avoid the cold. The exhibits and Horizon Ranch Immersive Experience Theater will not be accessible.

November 30th - The Flint Hills Discovery Center will begin showing the short animated film "Sleigh Ride" for kids and fun loving adults. This film will alternate with the iconic "Tides of Time" during each hour in the Horizon Ranch Immersive Experience Theater.

November 29th and 30th - **Annual Chase County Country Christmas**: Activities take place throughout the county over this two-day celebration. There will be music, shopping, dining, visit with Santa and his reindeer. Enjoy the **Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve** and watch historic characters preparing for a holiday party. The historic **Chase County Courthouse** will be lite for the season and there will be a Holiday Homes Tour and Silent Auction on Saturday. Also, there will be a parade followed by the annual Contra Dance held at Swope Park, Community Building. See all activities at <https://chasecountychamber.org/country-christmas/>.

December 3rd, 6:30 - **42nd Annual Emporia Community Christmas Parade**. A Christmas Dedication is in front of the Trusler Business Center and the Parade begins at 7:00 on Commercial and runs from 4th Ave North to 12th ending at Emporia State University. December 12th the **84th Annual Seasonal Celebration** will be held at the White Civic Auditorium in downtown Emporia. This high school musical event has become a tradition for Lyon County and the Flint Hills. While you are in Emporia, check out the sales of paintings, photography, jewelry, pottery and more from local artists at the **Emporia Arts Council's gift shop!**

December 7, 5:30 - 8:00 - **Pioneer Bluffs. Dinner from Argentina** is the theme of this year's dinner at the historic Rogler home near Matfield Green. A locally sourced fine dining experience prepared by Guest Chef Dr. Tracey Graham of Emporia will be presented. **Only 20 seats are available.** Contact Lynn Smith at lynn@pioneerbluffs.org or (620) 753-3484, for more information.

December 19, Is the last day to order the **Symphony in the Flint Hills** holiday gift experience and receive a wrapped personalized gift which includes: 2-General Admission tickets to the 2020 Signature Event which includes the performance by the Kansas City Symphony, 2020 Field Journal focusing on Stone, and other interesting Flint Hills items. Go to SFH Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SymphonyInTheFlintHills/.

December 31, 6:30 - 9:00 - **Annual Family New Year's Eve at the Flint Hills Discovery Center**. Come celebrate the New Year with our Family friendly kid's event. Kids can experience science, play games, enjoy music, see live animals, launch rockets and enjoy food and dancing! Experience the FHDC's iconic Balloon Drop at "kids midnight" (8:30PM). All children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets go fast so visit <https://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/394/Family-New-Years-Eve> to see details and order tickets.

The Foundation's Year-End-Annual Fund Drive Appeal will be arriving at your homes soon and we hope that you will take a moment and make a charitable gift to benefit our 2020 educational programs at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. The FHDC Education Staff works hard to develop new and innovative programs that will create a lifelong love of the Flint Hills in today's youth!

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