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2006 Field Guide, 2007 & 2008 Almanac - A Field Guide, Evidence of Magic

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Teal Crick
Zak Barnes

2006, 2007, 2008

A FIELD GUIDE, EVIDENCE OF MAGIC

EMILY HUNTER CONNELL

Emily Hunter Connell, Kathy Miller and Phil Miller were instrumental in founding Symphony in the Flint Hills. Their tireless efforts, often involving late nights and candid discussions, were crucial to establishing and growing the organization and the Signature Event. This short piece, written by Emily, offers a glimpse into the early days and the stories that launched the organization.

Back in 2006, we knew Symphony in the Flint Hills might only happen once. It was risky business; after all, Nature was our partner and there were no guarantees.

As the first Symphony production took shape, the question arose: What about a program, perhaps a Field Guide to the event? It needed to be a “keeper” — tangible evidence of an ephemeral event, a co-creation of thousands of yeses from individuals and organizations. The program would be hard-copy evidence that for a few hours in time, in an extraordinary place, we all showed up to be part of whatever was to be.

To be evidence, it must be true, although evidence is not itself the greatest truth. Evidence points to a greater truth: our lives are a continuous co-creation; we can do together what none of us can do alone.

As time passed, establishing evidence of the event faded in importance. The Field Guide evolved into the Field Journal and with it the commitment to create a perfect-bound book with its

own ISBN number. Once it was given a spine and hard cover, I knew it would be a safer encasement for all the knowledge and love and intention enfolded within its pages — an actual book with all the potency of a prairie rattlesnake coiled on a flinty ledge, capable of changing a life in a split second, opening minds and hearts to reveal new surfaces now vulnerable to revelation.

Emily Hunter Connell was part of the ad hoc group that founded Symphony in the Flint Hills. Emily served first as the organization's event coordinator and then as director, taking the Signature Event through its first seven years.

As time passed, the Field Journal became an event all its own, informing and re-forming our understanding of our place in the world, as powerful as the Tallgrass, blade by blade transforming stardust into life itself. In all of these volumes, all of these pages, we leave behind the tracks of hearts and minds. Put your nose close to the ground. There are things to be learned.



2006 Field Guide, 2007 and 2008 Almanacs