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Untitled
Mark Feiden

SYMPHONY IN THE
FLINT HILLS

FIELD JOURNAL
VOLUME XII, 2020

THE FLINT HILLS:
ROOTED IN STONE

*With appreciation and thanks, the Field Journal
is made possible in part by a generous grant from
the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation.*

PREVIOUS SPREAD

All She Ever Wanted Was Everything
Laura Berman



Symphony in the Flint Hills Field Journal, Volume XII

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IN MEMORY

Catherine June Hoy 1944–2019



Photo by Laura Mead

Cathy Hoy, a devoted and loving wife and mother, served as an ardent supporter and protector of the Flint Hills. Reserved but eloquent and deliberate in speaking her mind, Cathy was equally graceful on horseback, on the dance floor with husband Jim, or in a heartfelt discussion of her values. Among her many contributions to this *Field Journal* was the vision and accomplishment of securing the Library of Congress designation for the series. Ad astra, dear Cathy.

FOLLOWING SPREAD

Fent's Prairie, Spring

Terry Evans





Rhythms 4
Kelly Yarbrough

SYMPHONY IN THE FLINT HILLS, INC.

OUR MISSION

*Heighten appreciation and knowledge
of the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie*

Symphony in the Flint Hills, Inc., works to build awareness for the last stand of tallgrass prairie. Those of us who live in the Flint Hills know this: the land dictates the terms and beauty of our lives, and our culture is shaped by this landscape. Its stone, soil, flora, and skies above pull on our souls and care for us, and we are called to care for this place in return.

We answer this call to stewardship with education. As the premiere Kansas arts organization that directly engages with the land, we collaborate with musicians, artists, historians, scientists, and community members to provide transcendent experiences that open our minds to both the traditions of today and the future of the Flint Hills of tomorrow.

The bedrock of our work is found here in our annual *Field Journal*. In this issue we explore the theme of Stone. The flinty stone underneath the hills kept them from being plowed. In excavating them, we built schools for our children, barns for our animals, and halls for our government. Today the beauty of limestone attracts visitors from all over the world to marvel at the fortitude of people who carved tools, erected fences, and made a life from this earth.

At Symphony in the Flint Hills, we envision a future where our efforts inspire people to strengthen the Kansas prairie by sustaining the region's unique culture and landscape. You can learn about ways to join us at symphonyintheflinthills.org.



BNSF
Jason Keller

MAJOR PRESENTING SPONSOR



As the Major Presenting Sponsor for Symphony in the Flint Hills through 2021, BNSF Railway is honored this year to celebrate Stone in the Flint Hills. Shallow deposits of limestone, the foundation rock in the Flint Hills, are a critical element of prairie conservation, thus preserving the rich ecological diversity. BNSF’s commitment is strong in Kansas, partnering to build the state’s economy by accessing markets around the world. BNSF is proud to partner with Symphony in the Flint Hills to educate and celebrate the role of stone in protecting the prairie.



Some Treasures from the Tallgrass Prairie
Steve Snell

THE FLINT HILLS: ROOTED IN STONE

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Fences
Scott Bean

FOREWORD

If there's a defining feature of the Flint Hills, it's the rock that underlies the soil—the limestone and flinty chert that saved the uplands from the settler's plow and thus saved North America's last intact swath of tallgrass prairie.

We're celebrating this stony underlayment in the first two sections of this *Field Journal* with articles about stone—what's been built with it, how it got here, what it's composed of, and how it has impacted life today in the Flint Hills. Included are Q&A interviews with two Flint Hills residents whose life work is derived from the stone.

The third section of the *Field Journal* is devoted to the area surrounding Wabaunsee and neighboring counties. Through time, early residents had to be tough as stone as they carved out lives for themselves in these rugged Flint Hills.