



DIRECTIONS

From Strong City, 7 miles east or from Emporia, 10 miles west on US Hwy 50. Go north on Z Rd for one mile, turn left (west) on 240 Road, continue for two miles. At X Road, turn right (north), approximately 3.5 miles to the site entrance.

TREAD LIGHTLY

- Bring a refillable water bottle.
- Pack out what you bring in, including trash and recyclables.
- When necessary, use recycling containers.
- Carpool

BE PREPARED

- This remote location requires driving on gravel. Making your way from parking to the main site includes walking on the natural terrain of the pasture. Please plan accordingly.
- Upon arrival, allow up to one hour to access main event site.
- Wear comfortable closed-toe walking shoes.
- The picturesque walking trail is the best way to access the main event site. If needed, transportation options are available: golf cart rides from the parking area to the Wait & Ride wagons to the ticket gate at the main event site. Expect long lines.

REMEMBER TO BRING

- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Hand sanitizer
- Insect repellent
- Valid ID for Alcohol Wristband

DO NOT BRING

- Alcoholic beverages (wine and beer available for purchase)
- Glass containers
- Pets, except service animals
- Large coolers

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Coolers and bags inspected at the ticket gate.
- Casual dress recommended.
- Chair rental available for \$5 each.
- Recording or videotaping of the Kansas City Symphony performance not allowed.
- Smoking allowed only in the smoking tent.
- No soliciting.

SYMPHONY IN THE FLINT HILLS

20th Anniversary
Grand Finale

SIGNATURE EVENT GUIDE

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

Lisa Grossman

2025 FIELD JOURNAL

Prairie Sunset: An Anthology | Volume XVII

This year marks the 20th anniversary celebrating the Symphony in the Flint Hills organization. Twenty years since the genesis of the idea for an almanac, a guide, an actual book was hatched by those fearless original visionaries. Over the years, various themes highlighted remarkable and singular characteristics of our beloved Flint Hills – with an aim to educate and enlighten.

Celebrating 20 glorious years of Symphony in the Flint Hills writing, art, events and music, the 2025 Field Journal, themed “Prairie Sunset,” marks a significant moment. We’ve striven for a well-rounded anthology, showcasing one piece of writing from each of the previous years’ Field Journals, chosen by individuals with strong and significant ties to the Hills. Reviewing two decades’ worth of thoughtful contributions, the common theme of respect for the land and all her inhabitants remains a constant.

2025
Major Presenting
SPONSOR

BNSF
RAILWAY



©CaseyWilson.com

PRAIRIE SUNSET

Presentations



©CaseyWilson.com

SUNFLOWER TENT • *Wildly Inspired*

SPONSORED BY KOCH FAMILY FOUNDATION

- 2:00 **Cattle Ranching & the Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem**
Barb Downey & Joe Carpenter
- 2:30 **How the Flint Hills Changed Kansas**
Rex Buchanan
- 3:00 **Prairie Boomers & Dancers: Prairie-chicken Biology & Conservation**
Jackie Augustine
- 3:30 **Cattle Ranching & the Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem**
Barb Downey & Joe Carpenter
- 4:00 **Community-based Conservation in the Flint Hills**
Anthony Capizzo
- 4:30 **How the Flint Hills Changed Kansas**
Rex Buchanan
- 5:00 **Prairie Boomers & Dancers: Prairie-chicken Biology & Conservation**
Jackie Augustine

PURPLE CONEFLOWER TENT • *Our Community*

SPONSORED BY KOCH FAMILY FOUNDATION

- 2:00 **Pioneer Bluffs, Center for Flint Hills Ranching Heritage**
Jeff Davidson
- 2:30 **Camp Wood, YMCA**
Brad Murray
- 3:00 **What has 50 Years of Research Taught Us About the Flint Hills?**
John Blair & Jesse Nippert
- 3:30 **Inspire, Educate & Play: The Flint Hills Discovery Center**
Stephen Bridenstine
- 4:00 **Humanities Kansas: It's a Movement of Ideas**
Julie Mulvihill & Tracy Quillin
- 4:30 **Land Acknowledgments**
Eric Anderson
- 5:00 **Hidden Opportunities of Living & Visiting Rural Communities**
Marci Penner

BLUE WILD INDIGO TENT • *Our Friends & Partners*

SPONSORED BY EVERGY

- 2:00 **Symphony in the Flint Hills Stories from Staff**
Sandy Carlson & Kelly Tastove
- 2:30 **Home on the Range Cabin**
ElDean Holthus, Mitch Holthus & Tami Holthus
- 3:00 **Our Volunteer Story: Symphony in the Flint Hills**
Emily Coffin, Moderator
- 4:00 **The Green Team, an Extraordinary Group of Volunteers**
Ben Postlethwait
- 4:30 **Home on the Range Cabin**
ElDean Holthus, Mitch Holthus & Tami Holthus
- 5:00 **BNSF & Symphony in the Flint Hills**
Andy Williams

EVENT BASICS

- Event Date:** Saturday, June 14, 2025
- Refund Policy:** No refunds or exchanges. If the Signature Event is cancelled due to weather, GA tickets will be eligible for a refund.
- Last-minute Updates:** SymphonyInTheFlintHills.org, Facebook,
- Location:** Chase County, between Strong City & Emporia

BUTTERFLY MILKWEED TENT • *Art & Performers*

SPONSORED BY UMB FINANCIAL CORPORATION

- 2:00 **Native Land: Native People**
Dennis Rogers
- 2:30 **Cowboy Poetry**
Ron Wilson
- 3:00 **Emil Redmon's Cow, Stories from the Farm & Ranch**
Mark Feiden
- 3:30 **Symphony in the Flint Hills Prairie Art Winners**
- 4:30 **Glad Astra: Poems of Kansas**
Traci Brimhall
- 5:00 **Cowboy Poetry**
Ron Wilson

STARGAZING TENT • *Solar Observations*

- 2:00 **Tonight's Constellation Tour**
Dorothy Hanna
- 2:30 **Sundials**
David & Janet Hanson
- 3:00 **Colonizing the Moon**
Mark Ingelin
- 4:00 **Life Cycle & Structure of a Star**
Jerelyn Ramirez

LIVE MUSIC TENT • *Flint Hills Blend*

- 2:00 **A Blend of Timeless Oldies & Fresh New Sounds**
Lora McDonald
- 3:00 **Prairie Plains & Flint Hills Strains**
Porter Wilkes
- 4:00 **Heartland Harmonies**
Eric Nelson

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

TICKET GATE OPENS AT 1 P.M.

AFTERNOON EXPERIENCES

- Community Painting with Sabina Bolinger
- Food & Drink Available
- Flint Hills Store
- Guided Prairie Walks
- Instrument Petting Zoo
- Meet & Greet
- Prairie Art Artists
- Roping with Outriders
- Roving Music by Tallgrass Express String Band
- Prairie Sunset
- Talks & Presentations
- Solar Observations

Kansas City Symphony
Performance – 6:00

EVENING EXPERIENCES

- Harmonica Performance by Keith Burditt
- Stargazing with High-Powered Telescopes
- Dance Music by Logan Mize
- Trail Music by Lora McDonald
- Powwow Dancers by Lead Horse LLC

PRAIRIE ART EXHIBIT & ONLINE AUCTION

- April 26–June 17
- In Person: Symphony in the Flint Hills Gallery, Cottonwood Falls, KS
- Bid online: kcauctioncompany.com