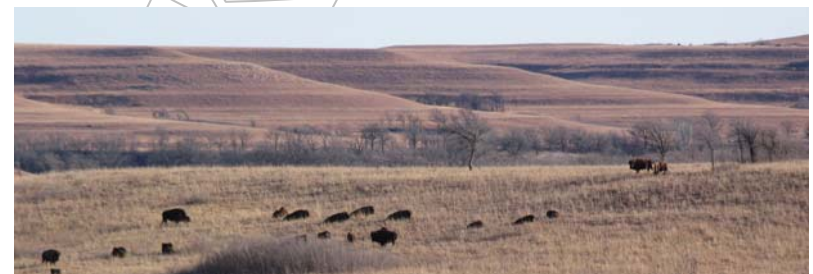


Flint Hills Heritage Conference

Rock Springs 4-H Center
Friday, April 18, 2008

We wish to thank our sponsors:

- **Manhattan CVB** - Registration
- **Flint Hills Aromatherapy** - Jim Hoy
- **Grand Central Hotel** - Morning Break
- **McDowell Creek Tourism** - John Cosgrove
- **Symphony on the Flint Hills** - Sue Pridemore
- **Kansas Park Trust** - Afternoon Break
- **Prairie Heritage, Inc.** - Judy Billings



Flint Hills Tourism Coalition

www.kansasflinthills.travel

Friday's Program

About our speakers

Judy Billings, Lawrence, KS

Lawrence Convention & Visitors Bureau

Most recently Judy has led the multi-year effort to develop the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and gain federal designation for that 41-county area in eastern-Kansas and western-Missouri. She spearheaded the grassroots initiative that now involves representatives from each of the 41 counties and is currently working with a Board of Trustees to help fund the development of a Management Plan for the area that will chart its future with the National Park Service.

John Cosgrove, Washington DC

National Alliance of National Heritage Areas

John is the Executive Director of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas which advocates, facilitates and celebrates excellence in cooperative regional initiatives that enhance the economic viability & the quality of life for citizens living & working within NHA regions; attract national and international visitors; and provide distinguished examples for sustainable heritage development for the nation.

Sue Pridemore, Omaha, NE

National Park Service

As the heritage area specialist for the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, Sue shares her skills through training, facilitation, technical assistance, planning assistance and organizational development of authorized and emerging heritage areas in a 13 state region throughout the US.

Dr. Jim Hoy, Emporia, KS

Center For Great Plains Studies

Jim is author of numerous books relating to Cowboy Heritage throughout the Flint Hills, including *Flint Hills Cowboys*, *Tales of the Tallgrass Prairie*. Dr. Hoy is a professor of English and director of the Center for Great Plains Studies at Emporia State University.

- **8:30 a.m.** Registration
- **9:00 a.m.** Welcome and Introductions
Dennis Toll, Moderator
Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau
- **9:15 a.m.** What is the Heritage of the Flint Hills?
Dr. Jim Hoy
Center for Great Plains Studies
- **10:15 a.m.** Break
- **10:30 a.m.** The Heritage Area Movement in America: What does it mean for me?
John W. Cosgrove, Executive Director
Alliance of National Heritage Areas
- **11:45 a.m.** Lunch & Entertainment by Western Singer *Jeff Davidson*, Greenwood Co. Extension & Flint Hills Overland Wagon Train
- **1:00 p.m.** Heritage Areas...Who decides what? Heritage Areas....A process not a product.
Sue Pridemore
National Park Service, Omaha, NE
- **2:15 p.m.** Break
- **2:30 p.m.** Flint Hills Tourism Coalition Update
Linda Craghead, Executive Director
- **3:00 p.m.** Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.... How did they make it happen?
Judy Billings, Director
Lawrence CVB
- **3:30 p.m.** Questions & Answers – Panel Discussion
- **4:00 p.m.** Adjourn