

Pioneer Bluffs

Center for Flint Hills Ranching Heritage



March 2022

New Leadership Takes the Reins

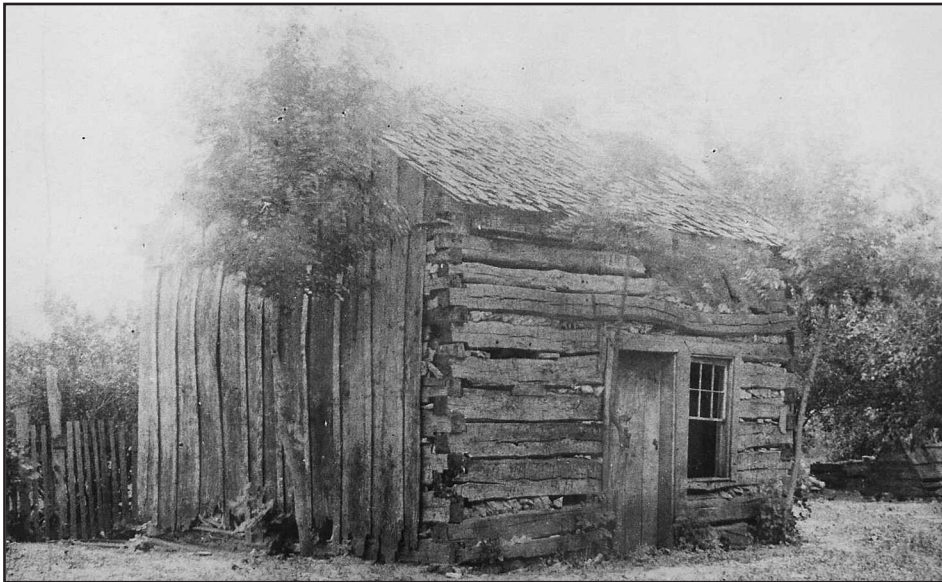
Welcome to our new Board president, Nancy Mattke, of Andover.

Nancy is the 4th generation to grow up on their 140-year-old family farm. She met Frank, her husband, at a dance when both were students attending K-State. Since then, they have been dancing throughout their nearly 48 years of marriage, three sons, and six grandchildren.

Nancy, a Certified Public Accountant, missed cattle. She and Frank both had cattle growing up. Now retired, they manage a small cow/calf herd of Red Angus near Matfield Green.



We are grateful to outgoing president, Dave Leiker, who continues to be an important volunteer – taking care of our technology needs, creating exhibits, and working on projects like the Nature Trail.



The original cabin built by Charles Rogler in 1859. Funds are being raised to replace the current commemorative cabin with one similar to this original.

Will You Help Build a Log Cabin?

Visitors are surprised to learn our log cabin is not original to the site and one of the few structures not in our National Register Historic District.

What we have is a commemorative cabin, brought in by the Rogler family in 1960 as a tribute to their pioneer heritage. The log cabin is the first thing visitors see when they enter our grounds. It is one of the most intriguing, and sadly, the most dilapidated building on our property.

We are raising funds to replace this with a new cabin, similar to the original cabin built here by Charles Rogler in 1859. While the exterior will have the appearance of a historic log cabin, the interior will be

a Visitor and Education Center, providing travel information, educational exhibits, and space for children's programs. It will balance virtual content with real touch-the-dirt adventures.

We are close to our goal! If you would like to help build a new log cabin, send your contribution with the enclosed card and mark "Property improvements."

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Nancy Mattke, Andover

Vice President - Tom Brill, Leawood

Treasurer - Justin Garr, Strong City

Secretary - Mary Harwood, Matfield Green

Anna Bassford-Woods, Cottonwood Falls

Larry Crouse, El Dorado

Mark Dobbins, Olathe

Tracey Graham, Emporia

Eileen Sieger, Marion

Our mission is to preserve the ranching heritage of the Flint Hills.

Signs Coming to the Trail

Development of our grounds as an outdoor resource is an ongoing project. Coming this Spring: educational, interpretive signs along our Nature Trail, thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the MFA Oil Foundation.

The signage will include informational content and will be incorporated into the curriculum of “A Day on the Prairie,” when children come on school field trips.



Our grounds are free and open every day during daylight hours. The Nature Trail meanders through a wooded area along Crocker Creek, offering a natural space for hiking, exploring, bird watching, photography, and reflection.



It builds on our self-guided tour, available on QR codes placed around the property, which provides information on the area's cultural heritage and history. The tour is online at: tour.pioneerbluffs.org.

Join our happy band of volunteers!



Volunteers make it happen!

At Pioneer Bluffs, we have a variety of opportunities for you to be involved and share your talents. You can make a difference volunteering for:

• First Saturdays

We gather on the first Saturday of most months. Beginning around 8:30 a.m. with coffee, snacks, and a chat. Then around 9:00 a.m. we break into teams for gardening, yard work, cleaning, maintenance and more.

• Events

Be a host, provide or serve food, park cars, or be a docent.

• Youth day

Help children experience “A Day on the Prairie,” creating memories for the next generation.

• Technology & editing

Take photos or edit newsletters. Help keep our social media fresh and current by posting comments and photos.

Contact Lynn if you would like to learn more.

Women of the Ranch

Last year, our Women of the Ranch project shared stories of women who have been ranching in the Flint Hills for nearly a century. Mark Feiden and Farrell Hoy conducted the interviews, preserving important heritage. It was funded by Humanities Kansas.

Women of the Ranch will be featured this month in Humanities on the Hill, an annual advocacy event with members of Congress. They will learn of the positive impact the Humanities – and Pioneer Bluffs – make in our communities.



Eula Barrett & Donita Rogers

Mark Feiden is committed to capturing stories from farmers and ranchers before it's too late. His ongoing project – including the highlight reel from Women of the Ranch – can be seen at redmonscow.org.

Upcoming Events at Pioneer Bluffs:

Except when noted, donations are requested (but not required) for these community events. We will follow the latest CDC guidelines and may need to change scheduling or limit attendance; please check pioneerbluffs.org or [facebook.com/pioneerbluffs](https://www.facebook.com/pioneerbluffs) for updates on specific events. For reservations or questions, contact Lynn@pioneerbluffs.org

12:00 Noon | Saturday, April 2 Digitization Day

Preserve your family heritage. Bring your photos and letters (up to 15) to be scanned by students with the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University. You will leave with your original documents and a thumb drive with the digital files.



Mike Holder

2:00 p.m. | Saturday, April 2 Prairie Talk: History of the Flint Hills

Mike Holder, Kansas State University Extension Agent (retired), begins at the beginning of the Flint Hills, “why it is what it is,” says Holder. He will discuss formation of the Flint Hills, the Native American presence, and the influence of ranching. Holder is known as a good storyteller and draws on 47 years with the Extension Service for his stories.

2:00 p.m. | Saturday, April 30 The Music of Patsy Cline Concert

2:00 p.m. Appetizers and beverages
3:00 p.m. Concert

Kim Coslett and her 4-piece band perform all of Patsy’s hits, while including biographical information, history, and the stories behind the songs. Sponsored by an anonymous donor, this is a fundraising event to support future music programs at Pioneer Bluffs. Reservations are recommended.

Cost: \$50 per person

6:30 p.m. | Saturday, May 21 Barn Dance, by the Land Band

6:00 p.m. Beginner dance instruction
6:30 p.m. Barn Dance in historic barn



It’s an old-time Barn Dance in the loft of a 1915 barn. Wear your dancing shoes - the 7-member Land Band provides lively music for contra and two-step dances.

3:00 p.m. | Saturday, July 9 Prairie Talk: Hatcher family story

Stories from six generations of ranching in the Flint Hills, by Jeanne Hatcher.

6:30 p.m. Butler County Brass
Concert with patriotic music for the whole family to enjoy.

1:00 p.m. | Saturday, July 23 Day of the Cowboy

(See next page for a complete list of activities for this celebration.)

10:00 a.m. | Saturday, July 27 Girl Scout Day on the Prairie

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pioneer Bluffs will host a Girl Scout Day on the Prairie; a day exploring the creek, hiking the trail, playing old-time games, and learning about ranching in the Flint Hills. For girls grades 2-12. Registration required. Contact Lynn@pioneerbluffs.org.

TBA | Saturday, August 27 Great Plains Jazz Orchestra

The Great Plains Jazz Orchestra, an 18-piece band, performs “music from the Great American Songbook,” including Glen Miller Big Band, Rat Pack, and Frankie Valli.

(Time to be announced at a later date.)

Cost: \$25 per person, includes appetizers and concert



Butler County Brass at Pioneer Bluffs

All possible because of volunteers and supporters like you!



Saturday, July 23

Day of the COWBOY

Honoring Flint Hills cowhands of yesterday & today

1:00 p.m. Prairie Talk:

The Story of Branding Cattle

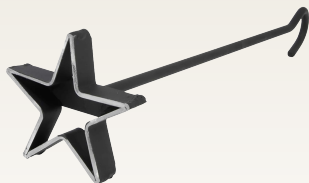
Mariah Louderback of the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture shares the history and purpose of brands.



Dennis Hague

2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Branding Demo

Watch branding done on wood, by Dennis Hague, a true cowboy. You are invited to bring your iron to add your brand to a future display at Pioneer Bluffs.



2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Fun & Games

for young cowpokes (activities for children)

Cowboy Poetry

2:00 - Scott Wiswell

2:30 - Ron Wilson, KS Poet Lariat

History of Cowboy Music

3:00 - Orin Friesen - Book talk



Orin Friesen

Orin Friesen explores the rich history of music in Kansas and highlights songs and performers from the early days of the state up to the present time in this talk from his new book, "Honky-Tonkers and Western Swingers - Stories of Country Music in Wichita, Kansas." Orin is a well-known radio personality, musician, author and historian, perhaps best known for his career at KFDI radio and his performances at the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon Supper and Ranch.

Cowboy Music

4:15 - Jeff Davidson

5:15 - Tallgrass Express

6:15 - Cowboy Chili Feed



Jeff Davidson

Pioneer Bluffs welcomes back Jeff Davidson who will perform songs of the Old West. Let this musician and educator take you back in time to the days of the open range, to covered wagons and cowboys. It's a good place to be!

THROUGHOUT THE DAY Irons in the Fire Branding Iron exhibit

Irons in the Fire will honor the uniquely cowboy tradition of branding. A series of exhibits in Chase County will display local and national branding irons and their story.

May 16 - July 23

Exhibit at Pioneer Bluffs,
Chase County Historical Society, and
Chase County Chamber of Commerce

June 2 - June 4

Exhibit at Flint Hills Rodeo

Sponsored by Porter Cattle Co.