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For one day in June over six thousand people gather in the middle of the prairie to celebrate the place we live, in the ways we know how...with music, food, thoughtful ideas, stories, and art. We can never know exactly what’s going to happen this day. We have a vision, a plan, but there is no guarantee when nature is our partner. Still, we all come to greet our lives...to acknowledge how fortunate we are to be alive in our world...to take our place in the midst of beauty.

Volunteers

There are many who come early and work hard to get ready for whatever happens...and stay late until the work is finished. We call them volunteers. Look around. They’re everywhere out here. They are all here to help make an offering of gratitude.

One among them is The Westar Green Team...

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* Years of Volunteering
♦ 5 years of volunteering
The Westar Energy Green Team

The Westar Energy Green Team is a group of employee and retiree volunteers that takes on environmental projects across Kansas. They help Symphony in the Flint Hills set up the annual concert each year, supplying hundreds of indispensable hours of leadership, labor, expertise, and good cheer.

Through our multi-year relationship Symphony in the Flint Hills has grown in trust and dependence upon the Green Team. Laying out, setting up and taking down a village of 145 tents is a huge task requiring the focused efforts of many team members.

Since 1989, the team has planted tens of thousands of trees in towns, built wetlands, restored prairie by planting native grasses and forbs, removed invasive trees, partnered on environmental education publications and built trails, bridges, boat ramps, and look-outs to enhance access and educational opportunities.

Completing 60-90 projects per year on weekends and evenings, the Green Team collaborates with schools, conservation groups and agencies, towns and individuals, and is always looking for new partners and opportunities to enhance the Kansas environment and foster its understanding.

Thank you, Green Team, Volunteers Extraordinaire.
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The Field Journal for Symphony in the Flint Hills 2010 is the result of the collaboration and cooperation among many writers, artists, designers, illustrators, and other contributors to this effort. Without this amazing teamwork, the journal would not have been possible.

I believe the key is that we all hold the Flint Hills - its people and prairies - with such reverence, and we want to share this feeling and appreciation with others. It has been my honor to participate in this endeavor.

Marty White, Editor
Home on the Range

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam
Where the deer and the antelope play
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the skies are not cloudy all day

How often at night when the heavens are bright
With the light from the glittering stars
Have I stood there amazed and asked as I gazed
If their glory exceeds that of ours

Where the air is so pure, the zephyrs so free
The breezes so balmy and light
That I would not exchange my home on the range
For all of the cities so bright

Oh, I love those wild flow’rs in this dear land of ours
The curlew, I love to hear scream
And I love the white rocks and the antelope flocks
That graze on the mountaintops green

Refrain
Home, home on the range
Where the deer and the antelope play
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the skies are not cloudy all day
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