



KACEE

KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR
CONSERVATION &
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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www.kacee.org

Environmental education is a process directed at creating an awareness and understanding of environmental issues, leading to responsible individual and group actions.

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED KACEE THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS IN 2005

Agency/Organizational/Business Contributors

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Independent Insurance Agents of Topeka, Inc.
John Dewey Learning Academy
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Kansas Rural Water Association
Kansas Speedway
Kansas State Department of Education
Kansas State Research and Extension Reno County
Kansas Underground Salt Museum
Kansas Water Office
Lee Richardson Zoo
Lilacs on the Prairie
Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts
Midwest Energy
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Nestle Waters North America
New Belgium Brewing Company
Prairie Village Environmental Committee
Project WET
Republic Valley Ringnecks
Riley County Conservation District
Rolling Hill Wildlife Adventure
Salt Institute
Sedgwick County Zoo
Sedgwick County Zoo Docent
Shawnee County Commission/Shawnee County Recycling Dept.
Shawnee County Conservation District
Shawnee County Farm Bureau
SE Kansas Nature Center of Galena – Schermorhorn Park
Sprint
State Conservation Commission
Sunflower RC&D Area, Inc.
Wabaunsee County Conservation District
Walmart
Westar Energy
Westar Energy Green Team
Wild Territory
Wilson County Conservation District
Wilson State Park
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operation Corporation
Wyandotte County Conservation District

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Schanee' Anderson
Melissa Arthur and Mark Tomb
Terry and Ginny Arthur
Ray and Kathy Aslin
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Beth and Todd Carreno
Sandy Chandler
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Gayan Stanley
Roland Stein
John and Joan Strickler
Dee Turner
Judy Willingham
Dee Wilson
Shari L. Wilson and Senator Chris Steineger

President's Message



Dear Members of KACEE,

Let me begin by saying that it has been my honor and my pleasure to serve as your President over the course of the last two years. While at times it might seem like we focus on all the work that is ahead of us, it's also important to celebrate the gains that we have made as an organization. So with that, let me share with you a few of the accomplishments we've made over the last year alone that I am especially proud to share with you. In 2005 KACEE continued to focus on our mission of promoting and providing quality, non-biased, science-based environmental education, continuing to offer our foundational services and support to our membership as well as delivery of the quality programs like Project Learning Tree, Project WET, Project WILD and Project WILD Aquatic to more than 850 educators across the state of Kansas. In addition, KACEE continues to work on new programs and initiatives that are designed to provide enhanced environmental education opportunities that appeal to broader audiences. Toward that end we have accomplished much in the last year with the help of our many members across the state.

As you will see in this Annual Report, we made some great strides in 2005 on many fronts.

- ◆ KACEE has established a **Yellow Pages** for EE in the State - the growing On-line EE Community can be found by going to www.kacee.org
- ◆ KACEE served as a one of the conveners in the development of an EE Plan for Kansas that should be available for dissemination early this year and is currently available for review and comment at the website
- ◆ KACEE continues to expand offerings by working to establish new programs to expand and build on our existing strengths including:
 - ◇ The Leopold Education Project with the new and improved "Kansas" version created by Kansas educators
 - ◇ New place-based EE trainings with the new Project learning Tree "Places We Live" Module
 - ◇ Waterspout Garden Curriculum development

We have been involved in the development local leadership to create responsible environmental decision through a Community-based Environmental Decision-Making Institute in Wichita, Lawrence, Johnson County and Rossville. This project involved professional development along with a tool kit of resources to get community projects off the ground. We believe that this will be a great opportunity to provide relevant environmental education offerings to adults in communities across the state.

These are just some highlights of what has been another productive year for the organization—and it's been wonderful to see the organization continue to develop and grow throughout my term. I want to take this opportunity to thank our invaluable staff for their continued professionalism and all of our dedicated volunteers. Without you both KACEE would not be the organization it is today nor all it can be in the future. Stay involved!

Best Regards,

Kate Grover
President



KACEE STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Back Row L to R: Hank Ernst, John Strickler, Mike Radar, Kate Grover, Brad Loveless, Steve Swaffer, Rex Buchanan Front Row L to R: Laura Downey, Janet Loebel, Schanee' Anderson, Dolores Daniels, Cindy Ford, John Shidler, Dee Turner, Shari L. Wilson, Melissa Arthur
Not Pictured: Val De Fever, Gary Keehn, Bill McGowan, Kathy Sexson, Diane De-Backer, Janet Waugh, Kim Bomberger, Rodney Ferguson, Roland Stein, Sandy Chandler, and Jolene Amtower

2005 KACEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sedgwick County Zoo

Dolores Daniels
Kansas City Kansas Community College
Campus Childcare Center

Val DeFever
Educational Consultant

Gary Keehn
Jackson Heights High School

Bill McGowan
Ernie Miller Nature Center

Mike Rader
Wilson State Park

Kathy Sexson
Lee Richardson Zoo

John Shidler
Wyandotte County Conservation District

Steve Swaffar
Kansas Farm Bureau

Dee Turner
State Conservation Commission

Janet Waugh-Ex-Officio
Kansas State Board of Education

Diane DeBacker-Ex-Officio
Kansas State Department of Education

Janet Loebel-Ex-Officio Alternate
Kansas State Department of Education

Kim Bomberger-Ex-Officio
Kansas Forest Service

Rodney Ferguson-Ex-Officio
Kansas Department of
Health and Environment

Hank Ernst-Ex-Officio
Kansas Water Office

Roland Stein-Ex-Officio
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

KACEE STAFF

Laura Downey
Executive Director

Shari Wilson
Special Projects Coordinator

Beth Carreno
Coordinator of Education Programs

Melissa Arthur
Coordinator of Statewide Water
Celebration & Outreach

Sandy Chandler
Business Manager

Jolene Amtower
Office Manager

Introduction

From KACEE Bylaws amended and approved March 15, 2002:

We, as concerned citizens of Kansas, recognizing human dependency on natural resources and seeking to preserve, improve, and utilize the natural environment of our State for the benefit and enjoyment of all, do hereby agree to encourage citizen awareness and stewardship of natural resources and to direct our educational efforts to achieve these goals.

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) association, the sole purpose of which is the promotion of effective conservation and environmental education throughout Kansas. The Association does not become involved in specific environmental issues, but rather promotes a full understanding of environmental issues through the education process.

Environmental education is a process directed at creating awareness and understanding of environmental issues, leading to responsible individual and group actions. The focus of environmental education should be on processes that enhance critical thinking, problem solving, and effective decision making. Through these processes, individuals can better understand the complexities and interrelatedness of environmental issues and weigh the various sides to make informed, balanced, responsible decisions.

KACEE's MISSION

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) promotes and provides effective, non-biased, science-based conservation and environmental education to all Kansans.

KACEE's VISION

KACEE's vision is an environmentally literate Kansas citizenry, with KACEE as the recognized leader of the state's conservation and environmental education network.



KACEE 2005 Activities

Seventh Annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference Held



Participants who attended the Pre-conference Workshop was treated to a great tour of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

KACEE hosted the seventh annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference in November at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center in Hutchinson, Kansas. This year's conference, "Exploring EE: Underground to Outer Space" included naturalist and storyteller Al Batt, who regaled the crowd with his down-home Minnesota stories of human nature, as well as the Pejuta Mato Singers and Dance Troupe. Through dance, song, and an activity, this intergenerational Native American performance reminded us that we are all connected.

The conference also featured two field studies. A trip to the soon-to-be-open Kansas Underground Salt Museum was a definite hit, as was a trip to Obee Elementary School's OWLS site and the Dillon Nature Center. Dean Dennis Kuhlman and flight school

students Nancy Milleret and Will Klein mesmerized the audience with their account of the KSU-Salina role in this year's record-setting GlobalFlyer flight around the world.

Roy Beckemeyer and Rex Buchanan brought the intricacy and power of the natural world to the conference through their presentations on the biology and flight of dragonflies and last year's natural gas explosions and other natural features of the Hutchinson area. To wrap up the conference, Ann Birney's characterization of Rachel Carson was a contemplative reminder of the importance of seminal works such as Silent Spring.

Several participants took advantage to attend KACEE's pre-conference workshop on Flyways & Byways: Exploring the Places We Live. Participants experienced Project Learning Tree's new Exploring Environmental Issues in the Places We Live, with hands-on activities that help learners identify and develop a sense of place in their community. Workshop participants spent the day exploring Dillon Nature Center and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge where they prepared a butterfly walk.

Our thanks to the 2005 sponsors for making this event possible and helping to insure this conference is affordable to all. Make plans now to join us for the:

2006 Kansas Environmental Education Conference
"EE in the Balance: Lessons of the Land"
November 3-4, 2006 Pittsburg, Kansas



Roy Beckemeyer presented his survey of dragonflies and damselflies

Funding for KACEE Programs

In 2005, foundational funding for KACEE programs and activities was provided from the Kansas State Board and Department of Education. This funding continues to remain critical as it allows KACEE to leverage additional funding that totals nearly ten times the KSBE initial allocation. In addition to this support, the ongoing financial sponsorships for key KACEE programs was critical to continue to provide quality, non-biased EE in 2005. The Kansas Forest Service, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Bureau of Waste Management) and the Kansas Corporation Commission maintained their sponsorships of Project Learning Tree, PLT Secondary Modules and PLT Energy & Society programs. The Kansas Water Office also continued to sponsor Project WET in 2005, with support for WET In the City, an urban water education program, from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Bureau of Water) EPA 319 Grant funding. In addition to ongoing sponsorship of our EE programs, private sector support for EE in Kansas through Flint Hills Resources, Inc., a division of Koch Industries, New Belgium Brewing Company, Nestle Waters North America, The Finnup Foundation, Westar Energy and the Kansas Chapter of Pheasants Forever, to name just a few. Sponsorship for both the Kansas Environmental Education Conference and the Topeka Water Festival allow for continued success of these events. Additional funding for projects and programs was secured through grants such as a KDHE/EPA 319 Grant for the Statewide Water Celebrations Project, US Environmental Protection Agency Grants for programs such as the Community-Based Environmental Issues Forums and the Board-to-Board Summit which were wrapped up in 2005. It is through this public/private partnership that KACEE continues to maintain our financial stability and we are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our partners, as well as the support of our members.

Perhaps most impressive are the in-kind contributions from Board Members, volunteers, program facilitators, committee members and others that totaled more than **\$209,179.00** in value for time, travel and services. We also wish to acknowledge the contribution of office space in Manhattan provided by K-State Research and Extension.

2005 Environmental Education Workshop Totals

KACEE offered workshops around the state in Project Learning Tree, Project WET, WET in the City, Project WILD and Project WILD Aquatic. The following table breaks out the number of workshops and participants for 2005. In addition, a Facilitator Workshop on Playa Lakes and a Pre-Conference Workshop on Project Learning Tree's new Exploring Environmental Issues in the Places We Live, ongoing Energy and Society Workshops, and a Leopold Education Project workshop were offered.

Workshop Type	Number of Workshops	Number of Participants
Project Learning Tree (PreK-8)	12	245
Project Learning Tree Secondary Module	5	96
Project WET	11	215
WET in the City	4	68
Project WILD	13	218
Project WILD Aquatic	6	124
Specialty Workshops	11	231
TOTALS	62	1,197

Leopold Education Project—Kansas Edition

Based on the writings of Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Education Project (LEP) is a 6th-12th grade supplemental environmental education curriculum that uses the *Sand County Almanac* as a focus for a series of hands-on activities. KACEE became the state coordinator for LEP in 2005 and began revisions to LEP materials for Kansas Educators.

With generous funding provided through our Kansas Chapter of Pheasants Forever, KACEE gathered a team of educators to develop a Kansas specific supplement to the popular Leopold Education Project. Included in this supplement are background information for each activity with a Kansas focus, additional resources and literature connections, and connections to PLT, WET, WILD and Aquatic. In addition, the educator team correlated the LEP materials to the state core curricular standards in Reading, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies.



Online EE Community Launched

After much planning and preparation, the Kansas Online EE Community was launched in March. This one-stop shop for environmental education in Kansas features information on programs, projects, workshops, resources, events, and materials. A searchable database allows teachers, non-formal educators, parents, and others interested in EE to easily find the information they need. Presentations about the new Online EE Community have been made to numerous organizations and efforts to raise awareness about the new resource continue. The creation of the Online EE Community was funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 and can be accessed at: www.kacee.org

The 2005 Topeka Water Festival

On September 22, 2005, in every state across the nation, children were engaged in water festivals. KACEE was proud to host the water festival event in Kansas. Accomplishments of the Topeka Water Festival include:



Students participated in Water Olympics to investigate two properties of water, adhesion and cohesion

- ◆ 1100+ Topeka area Fourth Graders in attendance, accompanied by approximately 100 teachers and adults
- ◆ More than 150 volunteers, presenters, and exhibitors
- ◆ Community support and donations
- ◆ 26 hands-on activities and 10 exhibitors promoting an awareness and appreciation for water and water quality

Our thanks to Judy Boltman, Shawnee County Conservation District, and Beth Carreno, KACEE, for leading the organization of the event. We would also like to acknowledge more than 150 volunteers who worked so hard to make this event possible and the numerous sponsors who supported the event.



Fourth Graders learned about how water gets from rivers to the water treatment plant and then to their houses



The 2006 Topeka Water Festival will be held at Garfield Community Center in Topeka on September 22nd.

Environmental Education Plan for Kansas

For the past year, KACEE and six additional convening organizations have worked to develop an Environmental Education Plan for Kansas. This plan endeavors to improve coordination and communication among EE providers in the state, and to expand many of the initiatives undertaken by various members of the Kansas EE community during the past couple of years. Comments and suggestions from stakeholders have been received through several meetings in 2005, and a copy of the draft plan will be available for comment on the web in late 2005.

Approval of the final plan by conveners is expected in early 2006, with a kick-off planned in the spring. Convening organizations include KACEE; Kansas Farm Bureau; Kansas Natural Resource Council; Kansas State Department of Education; Kansas Water Office, representing the State's natural resource agencies; The Nature Conservancy; and Pheasants Forever. Partial funding for this project was received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Kansas Water Office has provided in-kind support, and Gary Flory, with the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution has provided facilitation. For more information about the EE Plan for Kansas, please contact Shari L. Wilson, Special Projects Coordinator.

Community-Based Environmental Decision-Making



In the Spring of 2005, KACEE, in partnership with K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Project and Office of Local Government, hosted the first Community-Based Environmental Decision-Making Forum. Teams from four communities, whose members included mayors, commissioners, council persons, citizen advisory committee members and more, gathered at Rock Springs for a two and a half day training that focused on development of skills, application of tools and access to resources for environmental decision-making. The four teams developed community plans to implement projects related to environmental decision-making which included engaging rural farmers and ranchers in watershed restoration planning, developing community goals and strategies for addressing air quality, exploring the impact of urban development on wildlife corridors and putting in place tools and resources at the local community level for addressing water quality and quantity issues within a community. KACEE hopes to be able to continue to offer this program and is currently seeking funding to support these efforts. For more information, contact Laura Downey, Executive Director.

Community-Based Environmental Decision-Making Forum participants in discussion on how to engage local elected officials in process. Photo by Dan Kahl



Other KACEE Activities in 2005

KACEE was involved in a variety of activities in 2005. The following represent just some of the highlights:

- KACEE hosted a Multi-State Facilitator Training on Play Lakes through a grant from the Playa Lakes Joint Venture.
- Educators from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico gathered in Dodge City for a 2-day workshop on playas and their importance to the ecosystem.
- The new Project Learning Tree "Places We Live" supplemental EE secondary curriculum was unveiled in Kansas as a part of the KS Environmental Education Conference Pre-Conference Workshop in Hutchinson this year. This new secondary module has a strong emphasis in place-based education and is ideally suited for middle and high school students with a variety of cultural, historical, geographical and environmental topics that are explored.
- KACEE, in cooperation with the City of Topeka, Water Pollution Control, hosted a series of workshops throughout the state that were focused on the use of waterspout or rain gardens as a tool for education in schools. These workshops provided educators with professional development on what a waterspout garden is, the benefits of waterspout gardens and ways to incorporate the planning and design of waterspout gardens at schools to support reading, writing, math, science and social studies state standards. The final version of this supplemental curricula will be available in 2006.
- Through funding from the Kansas Water Office, KACEE produced a draft version of the "Kansas Water Primer." This water primer is a resource for Kansas educators about water sources and issues in Kansas. The guide also includes numerous resources for further exploration and a guide to activities in Project WET and WET in the City that correspond to water and water issues in Kansas. The "Kansas Water Primer" is currently under review and will be available in 2006 at KACEE's website.
- KACEE continued ongoing outreach and development of support for EE in Kansas with staff and board members participating and presenting at a variety of meetings, conferences and events in Kansas. With the goal of strengthening support for EE in the state, as well as growing partnerships, KACEE participated in more than 100 events, meetings and activities in both Kansas and the United States.
- KACEE continues to represent Kansas EE nationally as a liaison to the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), National PLT, WET, and WILD, and additional national/international EE organizations, thus promoting continued collaboration and networking.

KACEE MEMBERSHIP 2005

The broad-based membership of KACEE represents an extensive network and groups of partners to work within promoting effective environmental education throughout Kansas. KACEE membership numbered 208 organizations and 223 individuals in 2005. To join, please use the membership form on the back of this report.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2004-2006

Kate Grover - President
City of Topeka-Water Pollution Control

Cindy Ford - President Elect
Pittsburg State University
Biology Department

Rex Buchanan - Secretary
Kansas Geological Survey

John Strickler - Treasurer
KACEE Fund Development Chair

Brad Loveless, Past President
Biology & Conservation Programs
Westar Energy

Schane' Anderson - At Large
Sedgwick County Zoo

Dolores Daniels - At Large
Kansas City Kansas Community
College Campus Child Care Center

Val DeFever - At Large
Educational Consultant

Gary Keehn - At Large
Jackson Heights High School

Bill McGowan - At Large
Johnson County Park & Recreation District
Ernie Miller Nature Center

Mike Rader - At Large
Wilson State Park

Kathy Sexson - At Large
Lee Richardson Zoo

John Shidler - At Large

Steve Swaffar - At Large
Kansas Farm Bureau

Dee Turner - At Large
State Conservation Commission

Diane DeBacker - Ex-Officio
School Improvement & Accreditation
Kansas State Department of Education

Janet Loebel - Ex Officio Alternate
School Improvement and Accreditation
Kansas State Department of Education

Janet Waugh - Ex-Officio
Kansas State Board of Education

Kim Bomberger - Ex-Officio
Kansas Forest Service

Rodney Ferguson - Ex-Officio
Kansas Department of Health &
Environment, Bureau of Environmental Field
Services

Hank Ernst - Ex-Officio
Kansas Water Office

Roland Stein - Ex Officio
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

KACEE STAFF

Laura Downey
Executive Director

Shari Wilson
Special Projects Coordinator

Beth Carreno
Coordinator of Education Programs

Melissa Arthur
Coordinator Statewide Water
Celebrations and Outreach

Sandy Chandler
Business Manager

Jolene Amtower
Office Manager

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Baker University
Biology Department

Barton County Community
College Library

Benedictine College
Education Department

Emporia State University
Division of Biological Sciences

Fort Hays State University
Department of Biological Sciences

Fort Hays State University
Sternberg Museum of Natural History

Friends University

Johnson County Community College

Kansas Biological Survey
University of Kansas

Kansas City Kansas Community College
Campus Child Care Center

Kansas City Kansas Community College
Department Biological Sciences

Kansas State University
College of Education
Secondary Education

Kansas State University
Department of Biological
& Agricultural Engineering

Kansas State University
Horticulture Forestry &
Recreation Resources

Kansas State University
Kansas Agricultural & Rural
Leadership Program

Kansas State University
PRIDE Program/Project PRIDE

Kansas State University
KCARE

Kansas State University
Office of Local Government

Kansas State University
Research and Extension
Agricultural & Natural Resources

Kansas State University
Pollution Prevention Institute

Pittsburg State University
Department of Biology

University of Kansas
Center for Science Foundation

University of Kansas
Facilities Operations

University of Kansas
Natural History Museum

University of Kansas
School of Education

Wichita State University
College of Education, C & I

ORGANIZATIONS

Acorn Naturalists

Audubon of Kansas

Blue River Watershed Association

Bridging the Gap

Earth Awareness Researchers
for Tomorrow's Habitat
E.A.R.T.H.

Exploration Place
Adolescent & Adult Education

Friends of Finney Game Refuge

Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America

Grassland Heritage Foundation

Great Plains Society of American Foresters

Hillsdale Water Quality Project

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands & Streams

Kansas Arborists Association

Kansas Association of Teachers of Science
(KATS)

Kansas Association of Biology Teachers

Kansas Cattlewomen

Kansas City Zoo

Kansas Earth Science Teachers Association

Kansas Energy Council

Kansas Geographic Alliance
Fort Hay State University

Kansas Geological Foundation

Kansas Natural Resource Council

Kansas Recreation and Park Association

Kansas Sierra Club

Kansas Tree Farm Committee
Kansas Forest Service

Kansas Underground Salt Museum

Kansas Wildlife Federation

Kansas Wildscape Foundation

Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance
Kansas Streamlink

Konza Prairie Biological Station

Mid-America Association of
Conservation Districts

Mid-America Regional Council

National Park Trust

National Wildlife Federation

Ogallala Aquifer Institute

Operation Brightside, Inc

Pheasants Forever

Playa Lakes Joint Venture

Project Learning Tree - Kansas

Project WET - Kansas

Project WILD - Kansas

Rock Springs 4-H Camp

Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure

Safari Club International
Kansas City

Science Pioneers, Inc.

Southeast Kansas Nature Center
Of Galena Schermorhorn Park

State Association of Kansas Watersheds

Sunflower RC & D Area, Inc

The Nature Conservancy

Topeka Audubon Society

Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

Wonderscope Children's Museum

Youth Friends of Kansas City Kansas

FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL AGENCIES

Board of Public Utilities
Kansas City Kansas

Bourbon County Conservation District

Butler County Conservation District

City of Overland Park

City of Overland Park
Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

City of Salina
Household Hazardous Waste

City of Topeka
Department of Public
Works/Water Division

City of Topeka
Water Pollution Control

City of Wichita
WATER Center

Cowley County Conservation District

Crawford County Conservation District

Dickinson County Water
Improvement Program

Dickerson County Conservation District

Dillon Nature Center

Douglas County Conservation District

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

Ellis County Conservation District

Flint Hills RC & D

Geary County Conservation District

Grant County Conservation District

Gray County Conservation District

Great Plains Nature Center

Harvey County Conservation District

Jackson County Conservation District

Jefferson County Conservation District

Johnson County Park & Recreation District
Ernie Miller Nature Center

Kan-Ed

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Kansas City District Corps of Engineers
Milford Lake Project Office

Kansas City Kansas Public Library

Kansas Corporation Commission

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Public Information Office

Kansas Department of
Commerce and Housing

Kansas Department of
Health & Environment
Bureau of Environmental Field Services

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Kansas Forest Service
Kansas State University

Kansas Geological Survey
University of Kansas West Campus

Kansas Rural Water Association

Kansas State Department of Education

Kansas State Historical Society

Kansas Water Office

K-State Research & Extension
Reno County

Lane County Conservation District

Lee Richardson Zoo

Milford Nature Center
Kansas Department Wildlife & Parks

Mitchell County Conservation District

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Neosho County Conservation District

Ness County Farm Service Agency
Ness County Conservation District

Phillips County Conservation District

Pottawatomie County Conservation District

Prairie Park Nature Center

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Rawlins County Conservation District

Riley County Conservation District

Rush County Conservation District

Salina Parks & Recreation
Lakewood Discovery Center

Saline County Conservation District

Sedgwick County Zoo

Shawnee County Conservation District

Shawnee County
Recycling Department

Soil & Water Conservation Society
Kansas Council of Chapters

State Conservation Commission

Sunset Zoological Park

Thomas County Conservation District

Topeka Zoo
Friends of Topeka Zoo

US Environmental Protection Agency Region
7 Environmental Education

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Geological Survey
Water Resource Division

USDA Forest Service
Cimarron National Grasslands

Wabaunsee County Conservation District

Wilson County Conservation District

Wyandotte County Conservation District

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BRB Contractors, Inc.

Bucher Willis & Ratliff Corp

Coleman Company Inc

Deffenbaugh Industries, Inc

Downey Ranch, Inc

Educational Credit Union

Family Books at Home

Hutchinson Convention Visitors Bureau

Independent Insurance Agents

Integrated Solutions, Inc

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association

Kansas Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Kansas Farm Bureau
Natural Resources Division

Kansas Gas Service

Kansas Land Improvement
Contractors Association

Kansas Petroleum Council

KIPCOR

Koch Industries, Inc

Mid-America Lumbermens Association

Midwest Energy

Monarch Cement Company

Nestle Waters of North America

Resources Administration and Management

Salt Institute

Science City at Union Station

Shawnee County Farm Bureau

Sprint

Sunflower Diversified Services
1st Step Recycling

Tall Oaks Conference Center

Taylor & Associates, Inc

The Development Company

The Pathfinder

Vulcan Chemical Company

Westar Energy

Western Resources/KGE

Wolf Creek Nuclear
Operating Corporation

**ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

Central Middle School

John Dewey Learning Academy

Lawrence Public Schools #497

Morse Elementary School

Smokey Hill Education Service Center

South Central Kansas
Educational Service Center

USD #202 Turner

USD #229
Blue Valley School District

USD #233 Olathe District Schools

USD #307
Ell-Saline High School

USD #335 North Jackson
Jackson Heights High School

USD #340 Jefferson West
Jefferson West Elementary

USD #355
Ellinwood Grade School

USD #368 Paola

USD #495

USD #500 Kansas City

USD #500 Kansas City
Professional Development Center

West Indianola Elementary School

Wichita West High School

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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Know someone who ought to be a member? Pass on the membership form found on the back page or tell them to join online at www.kacee.org. Help us grow in 2006!

KACEE'S FUTURE

As we move into 2006 and KACEE's 37th year of service to the field of environmental education in Kansas, it seems appropriate to look back at where we've been and then look forward to where we must go. The 2005 National Environmental Education Training Foundation (NEETF) report, *Environmental Literacy in America*, looks back in perspective to the origins of EE in our country, with the first Earth Day in 1970 through the subsequent 35 years (available at www.neetf.org--I'd encourage you all to read this). The report outlines both the progress and challenges within the field of EE, as well as offering direction based on the results of several years of environmental surveys of knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about the environment and environmental education. The report, for instance, provides evidence that despite 35 years of EE efforts, less than 1/3 of Americans can pass (with an A, B or C) a basic environmental knowledge test. The report also indicates that there is no significant difference in environmental knowledge among Americans and those making decisions at the local, state and national government levels. Finally, with the advent of No Child Left Behind and the heavy focus on reading and math testing in schools, there is some indication that for the first time in 30 years, there may be some decline in EE taking place in schools.

Alongside this less than encouraging news, there are strong indications that what we do with EE matters and that we need to continue and strengthen our efforts to provide quality, non-biased science-based EE. Encouraging news from the EE front includes research that indicates when the environment is used as an integrating context (EIC) in instruction, students do better on standardized tests across the curriculum and have better attendance and fewer disciplinary issues when compared to non-EIC schools. Also, recent studies have indicated that those who engage in EE are 30% more likely to engage in pro-environmental behaviors as adults. Also encouraging is that 95% of all Americans believe that EE should be a part of our children's school experiences. This strong support for EE was evidenced in Kansas with the recommendations put forth from the KS Natural Resource Legacy Alliance in their report of 2004 (at www.kacee.org).

Given these challenges and strengths to build upon, it is clear that KACEE's focus in 2006 needs to be in developing ways to make EE a more integral part of the classroom experience. Through the EE Plan for Kansas (at www.kacee.org), which was developed cooperatively and collaboratively with many partners, there are goals and strategies outlined that will provide strong direction toward this outcome. For instance, greater attention on ensuring the quality of EE programs and materials needs to be undertaken, professional development for EE providers in the cornerstones of what makes for quality EE must be implemented and increased opportunities for ongoing networking and collaboration must be provided. Through the strong public/private partnership of our membership, KACEE can provide leadership in seeing that these critical steps are taken in moving EE forward in our state—plans are underway to take these steps. We're exploring opportunities to include more reading-based EE programs in our offerings, provide professional development in program evaluation and looking at an EE program and materials review process, to name a just a few initiatives for 2006.

While we move into these areas of work, it will be critical to maintain the services KACEE currently provides, including the Kansas Environmental Education Conference, EE workshops, the Topeka Water Festival and ongoing workshop facilitator development. Building on this strong foundation, KACEE hopes to make further strides in promoting and providing quality, non-biased and science-based environmental education for all Kansans and ultimately, make sure that in 30 years from now, adults can and do pass a test on basic environmental knowledge. As a member of KACEE, we'll rely on your continued support and involvement as we work toward this mission—I challenge you all to take an active role at this critical juncture. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you more about all the exciting events to come in 2006, so please feel free to contact me and find out how you can be a part!

Laura Downey
Executive Director



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

2005 KACEE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

Membership Dues & Miscellaneous Donations	\$13,864.00
Meeting Registration	\$8,770.00
Interest	\$337.00
State Department of Education/Board of Education Partnership	\$35,000.00
Koch Industries Donation for General Support	\$5,000.00
New Belgium Brewery Donation for General Support	\$2,797.00
Administrative and Indirect Income	\$1,649.00
Project WET (Kansas Water Office Contract/State Water Plan Fund)	\$34,000.00
Project Learning Tree (Kansas Forest Service Contract)	\$2,202.00
Project Learning Tree (Kansas Department of Health and Environment Contract)	\$10,000.00
Project Learning Tree (Kansas Corporation Commission, Energy & Society)	\$20,000.00
Playa Lakes Joint Venture	\$5,541.00
Workshop Income	\$9,792.00
KDHE/EPA 319 Statewide Water Celebrations Grant	\$82,407.00
KDHE/EPA 319 WET in the City Grant	\$24,729.00
Kansas Environmental Education Conference	\$19,800.00
Topeka Water Festival	\$11,968.00
EPA National Grant-Four State Board-to-Board Summit	\$1,707.00
EPA Region 7-Online EE Community	\$2,731.00
EPA Region 7 Waterspout Gardens Project	\$0.00
EPA National Environmental Decision-Making Project	\$34,873.00
Finnup Foundation Grant	\$5,000.00
TOTAL 2005 * INCOME	\$332,167.00

EXPENSES

Spring Meeting	\$439.00
Kansas Environmental Education Conference	\$49,207.00
IYE Workshop Expenses	\$70.00
General Travel Expenses (Staff, Executive Committee and Volunteers)	\$5,795.00
Project Travel Expenses (Staff, Executive Committee, Volunteers, Speakers)	\$8,578.00
Miscellaneous General Operating Expenses (Phone, Office Supplies, Services)	\$15,028.00
PLT Operating Expenses (Supplies, Services, Activity Guides)	\$6,419.00
WET Operating Expenses (Supplies, Services, Activity Guides)	\$7,854.00
WILD Operating Expenses (Supplies, Services, Activity Guides)	\$3,122.00
Special Projects Expenses (Supplies, Services, etc.)**	\$64,571.00
Staff Salaries, Medicare, Social Security and Benefits	\$42,170.00
(General)	
(PLT)	\$38,273.00
(WET)	\$37,810.00
(Special Projects)	\$81,448.00
TOTAL 2005 EXPENSES	\$360,784.00

*This statement includes only the actual cash income and expenses reflected in the KACEE accounts. It does not reflect invoiced payments for services rendered in 2005 of \$29,000. Nor does it reflect the in-kind contributions by individual members, member organizations or volunteer workshop facilitators in time and services. **A conservative value of these in-kind contributions exceeded \$209,179.00 in 2005.**

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Join and manage your
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www.kacee.org

KACEE Membership & Request for Information

Organizational Membership (\$50/year)

Individual Membership (\$20/year)

Additional donation to support quality, non-biased, science-based environmental education in Kansas \$ _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization/School/Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail Address: _____

I am interested in the following:

Assisting and/or hosting a workshop in my area

Serving on a committee or working with a project

Providing educator scholarship in my community

Attending a workshop: PLT PLT Secondary WET WILD WILD Aquatic

Investigating Your Environment Other (please specify): _____

Becoming a project facilitator

Presenting at a workshop or conference

Becoming a school or district liaison

Becoming a corporate sponsor

Please return completed form to:

KACEE

2610 Claflin Road

Manhattan, KS 66502-2743

785-532-3322

Internal Use:

Membership Category: _____

Date Received: _____



KACEE

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