

**Kansas Green Schools & Environmental Education Conference**  
**November 6-7, 2015**  
**Lindsborg, KS**

Special thanks to our sponsors for helping to make this event affordable to educators!



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**2015 Conference Schedule at a Glance TENTATIVE**

	Thursday, November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday, November 7 <sup>th</sup>
7am			Breakfast
8am			Concurrent Sessions
9am		Pre- Conference Workshop: Kansas Green Schools KICKSTART!	
10am			Lunch and Keynote: Kathy Richardson
11am			Concurrent Sessions
Noon			
1pm			Registration
2pm		Taste of EE/Exhibits	
3pm		Keynote: Iudv Braus	
4pm		Cocktails/Dinner	
5pm			
6pm			
7pm	Dinner with Keynote	Hospitality Suite back at the Hotel	
8pm			

**LODGING INFORMATION**

*A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Suites, 715 W Shilling Rd, Salina, KS. A discounted rate of \$83 for single or double room is available through October 23, 2015. Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations (785-404-6944) – be sure to tell them you are part of the KACEE Group to get your discount.*

## 2015 Conference Schedule **TENTATIVE**

### **Thursday, November 5, 2015**

7pm Dinner with Keynote Speaker, NAAEE Executive Director, Judy Braus

*Join us in Lindsborg for a Swedish Dinner and meet our keynote speaker, Judy Braus! We'll be meeting up at the Swedish Crown (<http://www.theswedishcrown.com/>) for great food, great conversation and an opportunity to network with other EE'ers! **(Meal not provided in conference registration)***



### **Friday, November 6, 2015, JO Sundstrom Conference Center, 102 N. Main, Lindsborg, KS**

8:30-4:30 **Pre-Conference Workshop—Kansas Green Schools KICKSTART!**



*The Kansas Green School Mentor Program is a new source of support for teachers, school staff and volunteers! KACEE staff will serve as mentors to guide you through becoming a Kansas Green School, completing a Green School Investigation, and applying for recognition. More information at: <http://www.kacee.org/2015keec>*

2:30-3:30 **Registration Opens/Exhibitor Set-Up**

3:30-4:30 **Taste of EE and Exhibits**

*What a great way to get started! Join us in a walk about with presenters and exhibitors, pick up some great ideas for EE and tools and resources too! You'll learn about Tools for Schools from EPA, salsa gardens, and great hands on activities that can be used with students in lots of different settings!*

4:30-5:30 pm **EE 3.0--Working Together to Create Change with Judy Braus, Executive Director of North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)**

*Looking for some inspiration coupled with practical and effective strategies to do something bigger? Judy Braus, Executive Director for the North American Association for Environmental Education will share exciting initiatives taking place throughout North America and beyond to advance EE. She will also highlight how NAAEE and others are using the collective impact model to create change—from advancing early childhood and EE to demonstrating what “works” in EE.*



5:30-6pm **Cocktails and Exhibits**

*Stop by and see the exhibitors, network with colleagues and enjoy a cocktail (cash bar). Don't forget to check out the Silent Auction!*

6-7pm **Dinner (Meal included in Friday conference registration)**

7:30pm **Donor Reception/ Hospitality Suite, Comfort Suites, 715 W Shilling Rd, Salina, KS  
Sponsored by the KACEE Board of Directors**

*Join us back at the hotel for a complimentary Dessert bar, refreshments and networking!*

**Saturday, November 7, 2015 JO Sundstrom Conference Center, 102 N. Main, Lindsborg, KS**

*NOTE: Concurrent Sessions Times are Tentative*

**7:15-8am Breakfast (Meal included in Saturday conference registration)**

*Kick start your day with breakfast and networking!*

**8-8:50 Concurrent Session 1**

**Strand A: Prairie Pocket Gardens: Stewards of Milkweeds, Monarchs, and Minds**

*Establishment and enjoyment of native prairie gardens on school grounds can be fun and easy with the right preparation and strategies. Learn best management practices for planning, creating, tending, and monitoring micro-schoolyard prairies. See how prairie gardening and phenology studies can be important for species conservation and practicing EE learning principles. Presenter: Brad Guhr, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains*

**Audience: Elementary, Middle, High School Teachers, Green Schools, College and University Educators, Non Formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations**



**Strand B: Healthier Schools Through Integrated Pest Management**

*For successful Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs in schools, cooperation and coordination between students, teachers, school administrators, maintenance & custodial staff and parents is needed. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management options possibly including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides. This presentation will share what's new in IPM and strategies to foster a teamwork approach to pest control using safe non-toxic and economical methods to protect people, property and the environment. Learn how this ties into strengthening your Kansas Green Schools Healthy School Investigation and/or the US Department of Education's Green Ribbon School Recognition! Presenter: Mark Leshner, Environmental Protection Agency.*

**Audience: Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle and High School Teachers, Green Schools, College and University Educators, Non Formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations, Project and Program Coordinators**

**8:50-9:40 Concurrent Session 2**

**Strand A: Using GIS Technology to Make Climate Change Locally Relevant**

*Through its ConnectEd Initiative, esri is making ArcGIS Organizational Accounts free to K-*

12 schools. This session provides an overview of the informational resources available connecting schools to geographic information systems (GIS) technology that is increasingly being integrated into business and industry. The specific application illustrates how GIS technology can engage students in exploring local impacts of global climate change. Links to community and/or county GIS coordinators will also be explored. Presenter: Dr. Jacqueline Spears, Kansas State University

**Audience: Elementary, Middle, High School Teachers, Green Schools, College and University Educators, Non Formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations**

### **Strand B: Community Collaborations for Environmental Literacy**

Learn about the collaboration between Wyandotte High School, Friends of the Kaw, US Green Building Council, EPA, and a local non-profit group to engage students in hands-on-STEAM learning while connecting their local community. The session will include lessons learned and brainstorming for community collaborations and share ideas for incorporating environmental literacy into the curriculum through school gardens, energy audits, water quality and watershed explorations, and more! Presenter: Dr. Michael Hotz, Wyandotte High School

**Audience: Middle, High School Teachers, Green Schools, College and University Educators, Non Formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations, Project and Program Coordinators**

**9:40-10:10 Break, Exhibits and Auction**

**10:10-11:40 Roundtable Discussions**



Collective Impact: When efforts are combined and a common vision or goal brings partnerships and collaborations together, the impact of those efforts is greater than individuals and individual organizations could otherwise achieve.

### **Portal to the Public Network: A Model for Collaboration**

This session will explore the framework used by the Portal to the Public Network to connect scientists with public audiences through informal science education institutions around a common goal. Sunset Zoo successfully deployed this framework in April 2015, and is now working with other Kansas sites on joining the network. Join in a discussion of how we can help make this a powerful network in Kansas for environmental education. Presenters, Jared Bixby, Sunset Zoo and Nicole Wade,

### **Cooperatively Enhancing Water Conservation Education in Kansas**

**Under Governor Sam Brownback's leadership and with input from more than 15,000 Kansans, a long-term vision for water in Kansas has been developed. Vision implementation has begun, much of which revolves around water conservation education. During development of the long-term vision for Kansas water, there were many calls for the need for additional water conservation education – from elementary**

*school to community college and undergraduate learning opportunities and lawmakers and other community leaders. While environmental education initiatives and organizations exist in Kansas, action items highlighted through the Vision process provide the opportunity to connect existing education resources with new opportunities to create a more impactful and broader water conservation education environment in the state. Join this session discussion and be a catalyst for these core Vision initiatives!*  
Presenter: Mary Soukup, Kansas Department of Agriculture

**11:40-1pm Lunch (*Meal included in Saturday conference registration*) and Keynote Speaker, Kathy Richardson on Jim Richardson, National Geographic Society Photographer**

Many of us are familiar with the work of National Geographic photographer, Jim Richardson. He gave people from around the world a powerful image of Kansas through his work on the Flint Hills (<http://tinyurl.com/avglkz>) and Cuba, KS and has traveled and photographed places and people from around the world. But what goes into these photos? Kathy Richardson, his wife and business partner, will give us a different perspective on Jim's amazing work and how he takes on issues using the lens of his camera.



**Business Meeting, Lunch, Exhibits and Silent Auction**

**1-1:50pm Concurrent Session 3**

**Strand A: Analysis of Biomass Combustions to Demonstrate the Carbon Cycle**  
*Teachers from different Kansas high schools translate their research experience, at the University of Kansas, into a 4-part unit for high school students, which focuses on 4 methods of collecting data while demonstrating the carbon cycle. The lesson concludes with an inquiry/engineering design research project to compare different biofuel sources.* Presenters: Kacey Ford, Hutchinson High School and James Burk, Trego Community High School

**Audience: Middle, High School Teachers, Green Schools, College and University Educators, Non Formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations, Project and Program Coordinators**

**Strand B: Solutioneering!**

*Feeling like you're stuck, like there's a challenge that you can't quite work around? Join us for this interactive session with our first class of the Kansas Solutioneers to learn some ideation strategies and techniques that can help you think about challenges and obstacles in a new way! You'll get the chance to learn about and practice some of these strategies and add some tools to your toolkit that can help you work more creatively and effectively. Learn how you can become a Solutioneer!* Presenters: Kansas Solutioneers

**Audience: Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle and High School Teachers, Green Schools, College and University Educators, Non Formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations, Project and Program Coordinators**

**1:50-2:10 Break, Exhibits and Silent Auction Closes (2pm)**

*Last chance to bid on some great auction items!*

**2:10-3:00 Concurrent Session 4**

**Strand A: Using Social Media to Expand Learning & Community Engagement**

*Social media builds connections. Properly used, it can connect students to parents, the community, scientists, and other classrooms around the world and expand learning opportunities. It's applicable to urban, suburban, and rural schools districts regardless of size or budget. Bring your devices loaded with Twitter, Periscope, and Voxer. We'll use them to connect with educators, scientists, and others around the world in real time to demonstrate the power of social media to connect your classroom with others to expand learning and bring your classroom to the community.*

Presenter: Gary Kannenberg, The Tellus Group

**Audience: Elementary, Middle, High School Teachers, Green Schools, College and University Educators, Non Formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations, Program and Project Coordinators**



**Strand B: Get Going with Green Schools for Early Childhood!**

*Participants will learn about the brand new GreenSchools! Program for Early Childhood developed by Project Learning Tree. Find out how to get young children engaged in greening their learning spaces through hands-on, engaging activities. Participants will receive the Early Childhood GreenSchools! Investigations and begin discussion on how to implement this program in Kansas.* Presenters: Laura King, Sedgwick County Zoo and Laura Downey, KACEE

**Audience: Early Childhood and Early Elementary Teachers, College and University Educators, Non Formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations, Project and Program Coordinators**

Thanks for Joining Us! We'll be sending out an evaluation to you and would appreciate your input and insights on how we can make this conference meet your needs! Also, mark your calendars for November 4-5, 2016, Location, TBD