# Kansas Green Schools & Environmental Education Conference

**Building a Stronger EE Community**

Sponsored by the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE)

**November 3-4, 2017**

Dillon Nature Center, Hutchinson, KS

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

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2017 Conference Schedule at a Glance

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<td>Lunch and Keynote: C. Parker McMullen-Bushman</td>
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**LODGING INFORMATION**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the [Hampton Inn Hutchinson](#), 1401 1/2 East 11th Street, Hutchinson, KS 67501. A discounted rate of $91 for a single or double room is available until October 27, 2017. Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations (620-665-9800) – be sure to tell them you are part of the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education Group to get your discount.

**Dillon Nature Center - Kansas Water Office - Midwest Energy, Inc. - Kansas Forest Service**

Acorn Naturalists - Coleman Company, Inc. - Franklin County Conservation District - Cowley County Conservation District – Geary County Conservation District - Kansas Grassfed Beef Company - Morris County Conservation District – Ness County Conservation District

10/2/2017
2017 Conference Schedule TENTATIVE

NOTE: This year we were inspired by the North American Association for Environmental Education’s (NAAEE) Guidelines for Excellence: Community Engagement (download here). We have correlated all our conference experiences with key characteristics for excellence in community engagement. So watch for the gold boxes and see how your experiences help to model best practices for community engagement and then join the national/international conversation on eePro here.

Thursday, November 2, 2017

El Portillo, 2301 N Main St, Hutchinson, KS

6:00 pm   Dinner with Friends and the Director of the Dillon Nature Center!

Join us in Hutchinson for Dinner and Conversations with Mary Clark, Director of the Dillon Nature Center. We’ll be meeting up at El Portillo for great food, great conversation and an opportunity to network with other environmental educators! Meal not provided in conference registration

1.1 Get to know and understand the community

Friday, November 3, 2017

Dillon Nature Center, 3002 E 30th Ave, Hutchinson, KS

9:00am-3:30pm   Pre-Conference Workshop—Nature in Your Community!

Learn how to use the environment to engage children in learning - both outside and indoors! Learn how Environmental Education can help you with the Kansas College & Career Ready Standards! You’ll receive Project WET, Leopold Education Project, Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, and Project WILD Aquatic

NOTE: 2 Hours of Additional Online Coursework for Graduate Credit

4.1 Integrate environmental education with complementary communication, education, and social-change approaches
2-3:30pm  Meet Up at the Dillon Nature Center and Explore! – Foyer

Surround yourself with the beauty of the great outdoors on this 100-acre “wild arboretum” designated as a National Urban Wildlife Sanctuary. Discover more than 300 species of woody plants, hundreds of varieties of wildflowers and native grasses, 200 species of birds, and a large variety of other wildlife along three miles of National Recreation trails. Join staff from the Dillon Nature Center for a great pre-conference walk about!

3:00-4:00  Registration Opens/Exhibitor Set-Up - Display Hall

4:00-6:00 pm  Conference Kick-off! - Display Hall

Join us as we kick off our 18th Kansas Environmental Education Conference and help us shape the future of the conference using some great problem solving tools that you can use at your workplace!

Welcome: Gina Penzig, KACEE President

Understanding the EE Landscape in Kansas: We’ll collaboratively create a systems map of the who, what and where of EE providers in Kansas.

World Café: Your dedication to professional development and networking makes us a stronger EE community and we want to do our part. In a “café” type atmosphere, we’ll explore the question of what needs to shift and change to best meet your needs. Enjoy a beverage, have some snacks and learn a new strategy for collective and creative thinking.

6:00-7:00  Dinner - Display Hall

Enjoy a meal and network with friends, old and new ~ included in Friday conference registration.

7:30pm  Dessert & Hospitality Suite - Hampton Inn Hutchinson, 1401 1/2 East 11th Street, Hutchinson

Sponsored by the KACEE Board of Directors

Join us back at the hotel for a complimentary Dessert bar, refreshments and networking!
Saturday, November 4, 2017

Dillon Nature Center, 3002 E 30th Ave, Hutchinson, KS

8-9am  Breakfast

Kick start your day with breakfast and networking ~ included with Saturday conference registration.

8:40  Conference Day 2 Welcome
Gina Penzig, KACEE Board President

Workshops and Showcases!
We’re working on making sure that you get what you need from the conference so each showcase session will have an opportunity for community dialogue about taking away the lessons from the presentation and applying them to your work. In addition, during each of the showcase sessions, you will have an opportunity to choose a “Maker’s Space” where you get to share your ideas and get feedback from others. So bring ideas you’ve been tossing around that you’d like to get some out of the box thinking on!

9-10:20  Workshop Session 1 - Classrooms 1 & 2
Diversity and Inclusion Strategies for Teaching and Learning—Making Science Instruction Compelling for All Students: Classroom 1

How can science instruction be meaningfully connected to the out-of-school lives of students? What role do students’ cultures play in science learning? How might teachers use formative assessments to root science learning in students’ cultural contexts, interests, and identities? This session is designed to help educators develop cultural formative assessments that build on students’ pre-existing interests, identities, and experiences.

This session highlights cultural dimensions of science learning and showcases a general instructional technique for checking on student learning called “self-documentation”—where students collect information related to a particular theme in their everyday lives. It describes an example use case of a self-documentation activity and how it was incorporated into a culturally diverse classroom. The session also highlights different assessment approaches and guides educators in thinking about particular goals for incorporating cultural formative assessment into their own practice

Presenter: Lizette Burks, Kansas State Department of Education

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

2.3 Use appropriate instructional strategies and 3.2 Value and incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion
Profound Self Care: Stress Busting Strategies to Raise Resilience & Banish Burnout! Classroom 2
You do important work. Take care of your most important asset – YOU! Go beyond the basics—and the buzzwords—to harness the power of profound self-care in your life.

Eliminate stress AND still show up to work? Yes! Learn how to identify and stop the downward spiral stress that can erode resilience and lead to burnout. Bring balance back into your life with profound self care strategies. You’ll learn—and practice—specific in depth profound self care exercises. Praised for her easily understood and accessible style, Dr. Clark will provide you with practical, actionable knowledge and tools that you can use in your life and practice right away. Presenter: Dr. Heather Clark, Vibrant Again

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

1.5 Reach beyond usual partners and program delivery modes

10:20-10:30 Break, Exhibits and Silent Auction – Exhibit Hall

10:30-11:50 Workshop Session 2 - Classrooms 1 & 2

KACEE Facilitator Program 2.0—Facilitate Workshops for Other Educators! Classroom 1
Interested in leading environmental education professional development and sharing your passion with others? Connect with KACEE and learn more about our facilitator program. Whether you’re a seasoned facilitator or interested in becoming one, come see what’s new and shaking in the facilitator environment. Bring your ideas to take our KACEE Facilitator Program 2.0 to the next level.
Presenter: Ashlyn Kite-Hartwich, KACEE

Audience: Green Schools, Elementary, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Educators Working with Children with Special Needs, Nonformal Educators, Program or Project Administrators

4.2 Support and build community capacity and 5.2 Invest in building capacity for engagement

Introducing the new Community Engagement Guidelines for Excellence from NAAEE Classroom 2
These guidelines were created by environmental educators, for environmental educators, who want to work in partnership with communities to strengthen the underpinnings of well-being - environmental quality, social equity, shared prosperity, and the capacity to pursue these goals together. They draw on best practices honed by scholars and practitioners in diverse fields including education, environmental education, social change, community development, communication, sociology, management, government, and business. Whether you work with youth or adults, on behalf of an organization, or as an individual, these guidelines and the accompanying resources can help you design programs that strengthen the interwoven strands of environment and community.

Presenters: Laura Downey and Melissa Arthur, KACEE

Audience: Elementary, Middle, High School Teachers, Green Schools, College and University Educators, Project and Program Coordinators, Nonformal Educators

3.1 Build coalitions and partnerships strategically and 3.2 Value and incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion
11:50-1:05pm Lunch, Keynote and Business Meeting - Display Hall

**Keynote Speaker C. Parker McMullen Bushman ~ A Virtual Presentation**

**Pick-up games, cookouts, and summer block parties:** Using cultural competence to examine ways people of color connect to the outdoors.

Anyone who cares about protecting the integrity of and access to great outdoors spaces should care about the issues of diversity and inclusivity. People have trouble protecting places they don’t feel a connection to. As environmental educators connections are important to further our work. People of color connect to the outdoors every day, in many ways, but sometimes the ways that they connect are excluded from the greater dialogue. During this keynote learn about the importance of providing an inclusive, welcoming environment that honors and celebrates the ways people of color connect to nature.

**About C. Parker McMullen Bushman:** Born in Bronx, New York, Parker’s love of nature developed after a family move from the metropolitan New York area to rural southern Georgia. Through the local 4-H club, she participated in everything from poultry judging to backwoods camping and spent her summers at Rock Eagle 4-H Summer Camp as a camper, a counselor, and Director of the Special Interest Program.

Parker truly believes in the importance of environmental education because she feels that teaching people about their integral connection to the world around them is the key to the earth’s continued survival. She has had many experiences participating and working in all aspects of camp life and youth programming. Each one of these unique experiences has helped to shape her world view and made her the manager she is today. In the last 18 years, she has been a counselor, instructor, challenge course director, director of programming, and environmental educator. She has also worked at several other camps, nature centers, non-profits, youth agencies, and outdoor education centers over the years including the Boys and Girls Club, Thousand Pines Outdoor School, YMCA Storer Camps, the Gads Hill Center, and the Coastal Wonders Environmental Education Program.

Most recently, Parker spent 8 years on the coast of Virginia where she was the Education Director for the Chincoteague Bay Field Station. She is currently the Vice President of Programs, Interpretation and Exhibits at the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster, Colorado. Founded in July 1995, the Butterfly Pavilion is the first stand-alone non-profit invertebrate zoo in the nation. Parker holds a Master of Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, with a focus in Interpretation and Environmental Education. She is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Association of Nature Center Administrators and the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. She currently serves on the National Board for the National Association for Interpretation, where she heads the Diversity and inclusion Committee.

2.5 Match engagement strategies and tools to the interests, issues, and capacities of your partnership and community and 3.2 Value and incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion

**Business Meeting, Lunch, Exhibits and Silent Auction**
Showcase Session 1 - Classrooms 1, 2 & 3

**WILD: Taking Student Engagement in the Outdoors to Whole New Levels!! Classroom 1**

*WILD is a new organization in Kansas schools that brings a wide variety of outdoor activities together to increase learning, engage students in their natural environment, provide students with another way to be involved with school, provide ways to network with other schools and students, and develop leaders. Picture an organization like FFA or FCCLA only for outdoor activities such as gardening, sustainable agriculture, hiking, camping, fishing, green energy, archery, ecology, trapshooting and hunting. If you are interested in getting your school and students excited and involved in the great outdoors – this is for you!!*

**Presenter: Steve Woolf, Erie School District**

**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

2.1 Build on interests, issues, and settings familiar to the community and 4.2 Support and build community capacity

**Start Them Young--Early Childhood Green Schools in Kansas**

*The wait is over! The Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Green Schools Program is here! Our early childhood green schools pilot testers are coming to share the roll out of their experiences, investigations, and tips and tricks for implementing this amazing project at your facility or at a location near you.*

**Presenters:** Marie Kelley, Oak Grove School & Jamie Ringel, USD 322 Preschool

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

2.3 Use appropriate instructional strategies and 2.4 Select, adapt, or develop effective educational materials

**Maker’s Space—Classroom 3**

*What’s next for you and your school or organization in Environmental Education? Bring ideas you’ve been tossing around that you’d like to get some out of the box thinking on. In peer learning circles, each participant will have time to share an EE challenge or opportunity and work with a small group of colleagues to puzzle through, problem solve, and find new inspiration to help you make progress. You will walk away from this session with fresh inspiration for your work, new connections in the EE field, and a model for peer learning circles that you can use at home to help support your group to make progress.*

**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

3.3 Plan and implement collaboratively and 5.3 Incorporate learning, improvement, and adaptation
1:50-2:30  Showcase Session 2 - Classrooms 1, 2 & 3

Work In Water – Classroom 1
What would a day in your life without water look like? Not very pleasant, right? Over the next ten years a large number of water utility staff will be retiring, taking years of experience and know-how with them. Who will replace them at the treatment plants and out in the distribution system? The Work in Water program’s goal is to get high school students interested in careers in the water industry. Through hands-on lessons, field trip experiences and paid internships, students get a full picture of the importance of drinking water and wastewater treatment to our communities!

Presenter: Tonya Bronlewee, Wichita State University

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

| 2.5 Match engagement strategies and tools to the interests, issues, and capacities of your partnership and community and 4.2 Support and build community capacity |

EE From Kansas to the Amazon Rainforest! – Classroom 2
Have you ever dreamed of stepping into the pages of a National Geographic article about the Amazon Rainforest? Do you ever wonder what another country is doing to educate their youth on environmental issues? Have you considered planning a group trip but need a little inspiration? Come see how you can partner with Pittsburg State University on a trip to see the Peruvian Amazon, receive professional development, and see EE from a whole new perspective!

Presenter: Delia Lister, Pittsburg State University

Audience: Elementary Educators, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Green Schools, Nonformal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations, Program or Project Administrators

| 1.5 Reach beyond usual partners and program delivery modes |

Maker’s Space—Classroom 3
What’s next for you and your school or organization in Environmental Education? Bring ideas you’ve been tossing around that you’d like to get some out of the box thinking on. In peer learning circles, each participant will have time to share an EE challenge or opportunity and work with a small group of colleagues to puzzle through, problem solve, and find new inspiration to help you make progress. You will walk away from this session with fresh inspiration for your work, new connections in the EE field, and a model for peer learning circles that you can use at home to help support your group to make progress.

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

| 3.3 Plan and implement collaboratively and 5.3 Incorporate learning, improvement, and adaptation |

2:30-2:45 Break, Exhibits and Silent Auction Closes - Display Hall
**Showcase Session 3 - Classrooms 1, 2 & 3**

**Going Green... District-wide! - Classroom 1**

Teachers from across USD 383 gathered together this past summer to try something that has never been accomplished before. We wanted to incorporate environmental education at all grade levels, in every building, by the end of one school year. With the help of KACEE, we have established a district-recognized, Green Champion Committee, composed of teachers from every school in our district. Through this committee we have established a network of help and community relationships that promise to create a culture of environmental stewardship within our district that will last a long time to come.

**Presenters:** Noah Bush and Clancey Livingston, Manhattan/Ogden School District

**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

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**Let’s Move Wichita! - Classroom 2**

**Presenter:** Lori Spencer, YMCA Wichita

The "Let's Move Outside Wichita" presentation will be about working within a community to share resources and get people participating in activities outside. The presentation will discuss how the initiative came into existence, what steps have been instituted and where the program is heading.

**Audience:** Green Schools, Elementary, Middle School and High School Educators, Educators Working with Children with Special Needs, College and University Educators, Nonformal Educators, Program or Project Administrators

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**Jackson Heights Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site Past Present and Future – Classroom 3**

**Presenters:** Gary Keehn & Jackson Heights High School Students

Our outdoor learning site started with a FFA hay field and the ordinary open grass school yard with no landscaping. Over the years we have added landscaping all over the grounds with two working waterfalls that the students designed and built. We have also modeled one as a wetland / bog that we can even grow garden plants in if we wanted to. We moved from the school grounds to implement a hiking / cross country trail throughout the hay field and riparian areas. We have turned the small pond in the hay field to a Walk in Fishing pond with an aerator windmill and an artificial spring. We designed and built a wetland below the school pond that can be fluctuated by the school pond. All of this system is set up to filter and control most of the schools runoff from rains on the south side of the buildings. The whole OWLS site is used by most of the life science classed in the High School including a specialized Wildlife Management Class.

**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
Conference Closes - Safe Travels!