Kansas Green Schools & Environmental Education Conference
*Act Civically: Making a Difference through EE*
Sponsored by the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE)

November 2-3, 2018
Baker Wetlands Discovery Center (Fri.) ~ Liberty Memorial Central Middle School (Sat.)
Lawrence, KS

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

### 2018 Conference Schedule at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday, November 1st</th>
<th>Friday, November 2nd</th>
<th>Saturday, November 3rd</th>
<th>LODGING INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Pre-Conference Workshop:</td>
<td>Lunch and Keynote: Richard Mabion, KACEE Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7am</td>
<td>Pre-Conference Workshop:</td>
<td>Concurrent Session 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Tour the Baker Wetlands</td>
<td>Concurrent Session 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Concurrent Session 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Opening Session: The State of Civic Engagement in Kansas, Alina Laterman, Kansas Health Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Concurrent Session 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Concurrent Session 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LODGING INFORMATION
A block of rooms has been reserved at the University Inn and Suites, 2309 Iowa St, Lawrence, KS 66046. A discounted rate of $95.99 for a single or double room. Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations (785) 843-9100– be sure to tell them you are part of the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education Group to get your discount.
2018 Conference Schedule TENTATIVE

NOTE: We love 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 1, 2018

6:00 pm  Dinner with Friends and the Director of the Baker Wetlands
Join us in Lawrence for Dinner and Conversations with Irene Unger, Director of the Baker Wetlands. We’ll be meeting up at the 23rd St. Brewery for great food, great conversation and an opportunity to network with other environmental educators! Meal not provided in conference registration. http://www.brew23.com/

Friday, November 2, 2018
Baker Wetlands Discovery Center, 1365 N 1250 Rd, Lawrence, KS 66046

9:00am-3:30pm  Pre-Conference Workshop—Civics & EE!
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 the Leopold Education Project, Project WET, Science and Civics: Sustaining Wildlife, and the *NEW* Project WILD!

NOTE: 2 Hours of Additional Online Coursework for Graduate Credit

2-3:30pm  Meet Up at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center – Foyer
One of the most diverse habitats in Kansas, the Baker Wetlands encompasses 927 acres of rich, natural wildlife. Students, faculty, and nature lovers have identified 278 species of birds, 98 other vertebrate species, and 487 plant species at the Wetlands — and these counts grow with each adventure. This exceptional environment gives students the unique opportunity for increased exploration and education about biological and ecological processes. Join us for a walk about.

1.1 Get to know and understand the community
4.3 Move toward Civic Action
2.1 Build on interests, issues, and settings familiar to the community
3:00-4:00 Registration Opens/Exhibitor Set-Up - Foyer

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

Join us as we kick off our 19th Kansas Environmental Education Conference!

Welcome: Gina Penzig, KACEE President

Keynote: Creating an Environment that Breeds a Healthy Democracy
Elina Alterman, Kansas Health Foundation

Environmental health is key to improving health outcomes for all population and it depends on a robust and vibrant democracy as health and civic disparities are intrinsically linked. The success of factors that contribute to improved environmental health outcomes such as sustainable land-use planning, ecologically-sound economic development, sustainable agriculture, reduced emissions, and access to water is reliant on how policies are shaped and resources are allocated. Therefore it is critical that an engaged electorate be part of the decision-making process, have their voice heard and their vote counted. Elina Alterman, program officer at the Kansas Health Foundation, will share findings reported in the 2016 Kansas Civic Health Index, provide an update on the state of civic engagement in Kansas currently, and facilitate conversation about what’s needed to create an environment in Kansas that breeds a health democracy.

About Elina Alterman

Elina Alterman is a Program Officer at the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) where she leads KHF’s community and civic engagement portfolio. Her work includes short-term projects and multi-year, multi-million-dollar infrastructure and movement-building initiatives. As KHF Program Officer, Elina’s focus is building and strengthening nonprofits’ organizational capacity; advocacy efforts and grassroots organizing; movement building around health equity; and increasing voting and civic participation among historically marginalized communities.

Prior to joining KHF in August 2014, Elina was the Health IT Policy and Outreach Coordinator at the National Partnership for Women and Families in Washington, D.C., where she worked to reduce health disparities through federal health IT regulations and legislation. Elina previously served as a Legislative Fellow for Congresswoman Lois Capps (CA-24) in the U.S. House of Representatives where she developed policy and a legislative agenda representing the Congresswoman’s interests regarding health care and women’s and children’s issues. Before entering the policy arena, Elina worked in direct practice as a foster care social worker, maternity care coordinator and preconception educator. Elina began her career as a grassroots organizer at Planned Parenthood Massachusetts and NARAL North Carolina.

Elina earned her Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Latin American and Latino Studies from Brandeis University and dual Master’s degrees in Social Work and Public Health, with a focus on Maternal and Child Health, from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Elina currently resides in Wichita, Kansas and in her free time teaches yoga, rock climbs and does animal rescue work.
Poster Sessions and Happy Hour

Kansas City Zoo and Southland CAPS partnership: Collaborate, Innovate, Educate

The Zoo’s collaboration with Southland CAPS animal health science track is an example of how business, community and public education can partner to produce authentic conservation education learning that educates the workforce of tomorrow.

Presenter: Teresa Randall, Kansas City Zoo

The Whispering Cottonwood Education Center, where nature inspires across generations

The audience will be introduced to the Whispering Cottonwood Education Center and its unique use of an 88 acre wilderness area to support environmental education in the schools. This session will include information on school gardens, after school programs, our summer institute, and our unique use of inter-generational environmental education.

Presenter: Kirk Cusick, Executive Director, Whispering Cottonwoods Education Center

Controlling Bed Bugs In School Environments

This session covers the increasing problem of bed bugs in our communities and in schools. Controlling bed bugs in schools involves cooperation between school personnel, parents and students. Participants will learn how to identify bed bugs and how to control them and how to develop a "Bed Bug Action Plan for Schools."

Presenter: Mark Lesher, Environmental Scientist – Entomologist, U.S EPA Region 7

Physical Activity and National Parks: A Natural Connection

Research was conducted at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve to examine the benefits of physical activity within a park setting. In situ surveys and accelerometers were utilized. As a result of visiting the park, the participants spent 68.1 to 32.3 minutes executing physical activity and reported an 88.3% decrease in stress.

Presenter: Sarah Jackson, Kansas State University

Engaging Creatively with Nature: Lawrence BugBlitz & Youth Photography Competition

This poster presentation will summarize goals, implementation, process, and outcomes of the KU Natural History Museum’s new entomology-focused citizen science initiative -- the Lawrence BugBlitz & Youth Photography Competition. Successes and problems will be addressed, and input will be sought from conference-goers on improving the program and its community impact.

Presenter: Eleanor Gardner, Outreach & Engagement Coordinator, University of Kansas Natural History Museum

Teaching Environmental Sustainability: Model My Watershed

Model My Watershed is a free, web-based application that invites students to explore the condition of their local watershed with a scientifically valid watershed model.

Presenter: Karen Koch, Environmental Science Teacher, Blue Valley School District

1.2 Connect environmental education interests and capacities with community concerns, assets and aspirations.
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 - University Inn and Suites, 2309 Iowa St, Lawrence, KS
   Sponsored by the KACEE Board of Directors
   Join us back at the hotel for a complimentary Dessert bar, refreshments and networking!

Saturday, November 3, 2018
   Liberty Memorial Central Middle School, 1400 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044

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
   Liberty Memorial Central Middle Schools Gardens Tour

Concurrent Sessions: Classrooms 1-3
These sessions are organized into 3 strands, and color coded for your convenience. You may choose to follow one strand, or hop around based on your interest.

EE and Civics: Classroom 1
   When engaging PreK-12 students or adults in environmental education, the idea of taking what is learned and applying it to our schools, communities and state for long term community well-being, health, vibrancy, and resilience is a next logical step. Higher levels of civic engagement have been connected to stronger, healthier communities where people want to live, learn, work and play (Kansas Health Foundation, 2016). This strand will focus on the relationship between civics and environmental education, highlighting innovative programs, projects and educational strategies that connect environmental education and civics in schools and communities.

Act Civically: Classroom 2
   Innovative PreK-12 Programs, Projects and Resources: Activities and lessons which promote student engagement and action for greater environmental educational impact.

WILD and Growing Leaders: Classroom 3
   Engaging young people in learning, leadership and service for nature and the environment are the cornerstones of WILD, a school-based program started by superintendent, Steve Woolf. This strand focuses on growing youth leadership, understanding, engagement and service through school-based programs.
H2Know: Classroom 1

H2Know is a new digital and interactive case study developed by Nutrients for Life Foundation. Come learn more about the Case Study, the science behind algae bloom, watershed dynamics, Agriculture research and management practices, and solutions and strategies assessments that build on students’ pre-existing interests, identities, and experiences.

Presenter: Melissa Bigge, Nutrients for Life

Audience: High School Educators, College and University Programs

Free State Prairie: five years of student learning! Classroom 2

Free State Prairie is a 1.4 acre restoration and ecology experiment located at Free State High School, Lawrence, Kansas. We will summarize five years of activities at this site that emphasize high school student learning, as well as collaborations between high school students and both elementary students and university students.

Presenters: Helen Alexander, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas & Julie Schwarting, Free State High School

Audience: High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs

Escape into Nature: Classroom 3

Educational escape rooms and breakout boxes have become all the rage. Learn how to use and create your own as participants work together to solve a variety of puzzles and problems with a nature theme twist! Can you find the "key" to engaging youth in environmental education?

Presenter: Mandy Kern, Kansas Wetlands Education Center

Audience: Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators
10:00-10:50 Concurrent Session 2

Engage in Citizen Science with Monarch Watch: Classroom 1

Monarch Watch, https://www.monarchwatch.org, is a dynamic interaction of students, teachers, citizens and researchers who collaboratively investigate monarch conservation, education and research. This session will explore Monarch Watch resources for many avenues of citizen science.

Presenter: Carol Williamson, Monarch Watch

Audience: Green Schools, PreK/Early Elementary Educators, Elementary School Educators, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, College & University Programs, Educators working with Children with Special Needs, Educators working with English Language Learners, Non-Formal Educators, Program or Project Administrators, Non-Profit Organizations

2.2 Facilitate Broad Accessibility & 4.2 Support and build community capacity

Promoting Environmental Literacy using Best Practices in Education in Museums: Classroom 2

Museum education programs promote science learning across grade levels by using best practices in education for different audiences. This presentation, led by the KU Natural History Museum’s educator, will discuss how to use the appropriate education practices to successfully integrate environmental literacy and community during programs in a museum setting.

Presenter: Colleen MacGilvray, KU Natural History Museum

Audience: Non-Formal Educators, Program or Project Administrators

2.3 Use Appropriate Instructional Strategies & 2.4 Select, adapt or develop effective educational materials

Leading Student Trips in the Rocky Mountains: Classroom 3

This session will share practical lessons from USD #303's summer field geology course and student trips to Rocky Mountain National Park while helping participants plan their own student trips.

Presenter: Matthew Clay, USD #303 Ness City Schools

Audience: Elementary School Educators, Middle School Educators, High School Educators

5.2 Invest in building capacity for engagement

10:50-11:10 Break, Exhibits, Poster Sessions and Silent Auction – Exhibit Hall
National Geographic’s Geo-Inquiry Process in Action: Classroom 1

Geo-Inquiry is an integrated, project-based process that connects real-world environmental challenges with student action. In this interactive session educators will learn new strategies to help students develop the critical thinking skills to ask questions, collect information, visualize data, create a compelling story, and ultimately become advocates for change.

Presenter: Elaine Larson, National Geographic Society

Audience: Green Schools, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Non-formal Educators, Program or Project Administrators

People and the Planet: Human Ecology Activities for Civic Engagement - Classroom 2

Discover interdisciplinary, hands-on activities to prepare Kansas students to think critically and creatively about environmental challenges – resource demands as population grows, climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss – and individual actions that can pave the way to a sustainable future. Engage in games, role-playing, concept mapping and more.

Presenter: Sarah Powell, Grantham University

Audience: Middle, High School Teachers, Non-formal Educators, Non-Profit Organizations

Engaging Local Communities in their Natural World: Lessons from the East – Classroom 3

The Appalachian Mountain Clubs (AMC) A Mountain Classroom program provides the foundation for successful, place-based environmental/outdoor education initiatives set in the rural communities in northern NH and in the Moosehead Lake Region in Maine. This talk will highlight the programs model, along with efforts to engage local communities with their outdoor environment through the Families Healthy Together program.

Presenter: Michael Brunson, Kansas State University

Audience: Green Schools, PreK/Early Elementary Educators, Elementary School Educators, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Educators working with Students with Special Needs, Non-Formal Educators, Program or Project Administrators, Non-profit Organizations
Keynote: Designing a Community Engagement Strategy

Richard Mabion, Community Organizer

Community engagement is the process of building relationships with stakeholders, citizens and interest groups to work side-by-side as long-term partners—building a coalition of support on a range of programs and service issues—with the end goal of making the community an equitable sustainable better place to live.

- It encompasses a wide variety of government–community interactions ranging from information sharing to community consultation and in some instances, active participation.
- Engagement can be formal or informal, direct or indirect.
- Effective community engagement allows the citizens to better understand the government processes and builds their capacity to participate in the processes by gaining confidence, skills, knowledge, and experience, which in the long run will help the government and the community to improve the quality of its decision making.

In order for a community organizer to produce a process for building a grassroots movement involving the community, a common set of values, and work ethics will need to be established to achieve a common goal. This workshop or presentation will show a strategy used in Kansas City, Kansas to facilitate (to make easier - help bring about) a first step.

About Richard Mabion

Richard Mabion was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. He served a 2-year tour of duty for the United States Army during the Vietnam Conflict (66-68), after which he graduated from college in 1971 with a BS in Education and a minor in Psychology. He then spent the next three decades as a self-taught urban social engineer and businessman, in both Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri. Since 2006 he has worked as an independent community organizer in the environmental movement, in Kansas City, Kansas. In 2007 he founded an Environmental Literacy organization called Building A Sustainable Earth Community. He has since then been recognized for his commitment to involve more people of color in environmental causes; a commitment that lead to the creation of an Environmental Literacy conference called Breaking The Silence. As a result of his efforts, the Pitch News organization selected J-14 Inc., an organic farm and the “Q” Brew Coffee Shop, two Black owned Quindaro businesses that Richard personally promoted, as their choice for ‘the best of’ in Kansas City in 2007, and then Richard himself as their 2008-Activist of the year for the state of Kansas. In 2011 Building A Sustainable Earth Community was one of two organizations selected by the Midwest Sociological Society for its’ annual Social Action Award, given to exceptional grassroots organizations working to further social justice in the Midwest. In January 2012, the Kansas Sierra Club elected him as their first statewide Black Board member. Then in 2013, the National Sierra Club, selected Richard as their 2013 Achiever of the Year. In 2014, The Kansas City, Kansas NAACP Branch elected Richard as the president of their Branch. He ran on an Environmental Literacy ticket. The in 2016 he along with Margaret May were selected as the man & women of the year for the EPA Region 7 Environmental Justice department.
Concurrent Session 4

3rd Party Environmental Certification: Why Millennials, GenY & Z Care - Classroom 1

3rd Party social and environmental certifications are now a daily part of our lives as consumers. Many of the certifications we see daily such as Fair Trade, B-Corp, Energy Star, USDA Organic, Rainforest Alliance, FSC, SFI, etc. What do these certifications mean to us as consumers? What is the research, auditing, and credibility behind these? Why should we select products with these certifications? This workshop will educate educators on how to teach students on selecting products responsibly.

Presenter: Ken Purdue, Affinity Sustainability Partners, LLC

Audience: Green Schools, PreK/Early Elementary Educators, Elementary School Educators, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, College & University Programs, Educators working with Children with Special Needs, Educators working with English Language Learners, Non-Formal Educators, Program or Project Administrators, Non-Profit Organizations

Engaging Students in Campus Improvement Activities through Meaningful Work – Classroom 2

Learn to engage students in caring for their campus through Meaningful Work (student-centered "jobs" for which students apply, interview, and hold for a specific period of time.) Jobs include groundskeeping, gardening/botany, and other campus improvement activities.

Presenters: Katie Henning & Belinda Tummons, Stucky Middle School/ Wichita Public Schools

Audience: Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Educators working with Children with Special Needs, Educators working with English Language Learners, Non-Formal Educators, Program or Project Administrators

WILD is Colorado Bound! ~ Classroom 3

Schools across the state of Kansas from elementary to high school are starting WILD clubs and have been for the past three years. With Steve Woolf’s exodus to Colorado, WILD is also making the move. Steve will tell you about what is happening there and discuss with participants about possible collaboration between the two states that may involve coming to Colorado and Colorado to Kansas.

Presenter, Steve Woolf, Superintendent of Schools, Woodland Park CO

Audience: Elementary School Educators, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Non-Formal Educators, Green Schools
2:20-2:40 Break, Exhibits, Poster Sessions and Silent Auction Closes - Display Hall

2:40-3:30 Concurrent Session 5

Teaching Environmental Sustainability Using a Free Place-Based Watershed Model – Classroom 1

Model My Watershed is a free, web-based application that invites students to explore the condition of their local watershed with a scientifically valid watershed model.

Presenter: Brandon Gillette, Pembroke Hill School
Audience: Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Green Schools

2.1 Build on interests, issues and stings familiar to the community

ZooED Adventurous Learning: creating conservationists and critical thinkers in KC– Classroom 2

Get a hands-on look at the Kansas City Zoo’s signature curriculum program, ZooED. This unique partnership between the Zoo and local schools is making a tangible impact on conservation education while meeting standards across content areas. Learn how it works and consider opportunities for partnerships with conservation organizations near you.

Presenter: Megan Sevedge, Kansas City Zoo
Audience: Green Schools, Elementary School Educators, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Educators working with Children with Special Needs, Educators working with English Language Learners, Non-Formal Educators, Program or Project Administrators, Non-Profit Organizations

3.1 Build coalitions & partnerships strategically

WILD & Brave ~ Classroom 3

A student presentation on school-wide WILD activities at Bartlett Elementary School. Learn directly from students and their WILD Club sponsors about the possibilities for and benefits of WILD clubs.

Presenters, Melinda Littrell & Carolyn Waugh, WILD Club Sponsors & their students

Audience: Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Non-Formal Educators, Green Schools

4.1 Integrate environmental education with complementary communication, education, and social-change approaches

3:30 Conference Closes - Safe Travels!