

Kansas Green Schools & Environmental Education Conference

From Inspiration to Impact: Power of EE

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

November 1-2, 2019

Sedgwick County Zoo ~ Wichita, Kansas

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



Evergry Green Team ~ Kansas Department of Agriculture

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section

Kansas Forest Service ~ Kansas Water Office ~ Acorn Naturalists ~ Franklin County Conservation District

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Midwest Energy, Inc ~ Morris County Conservation District ~ Wilson County Conservation District

Butler County Conservation District

2019 Conference Schedule at a Glance

	Thursday, October 31 st	Friday, November 1 st Sedgwick County Zoo	Saturday, November 2 nd Sedgwick County Zoo
7am			
8am			Breakfast
9am		Pre- Conference Workshop:	Concurrent Sessions 1-3
10am			
11am			
Noon			Lunch and Keynote: Eileen Everett, Transformational Leadership and KACEE Business Meeting
1pm			Tour the Sedgwick County Zoo
2pm		Registration	Concurrent Session 4
3pm			Concurrent Session 5
4pm		Opening Session: eeWorks! What's the Current Research about Environmental Education and How to Use the Research to Make Your Case!	
5pm			
6pm	Dinner with Friends	Dinner	
7pm			
8pm		Dessert & Hospitality at Hotel	

LODGING INFORMATION

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn Wichita Northwest, 10047 W 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67205. A discounted rate of \$94 for a room is available. Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations (316-925-6600) – be sure to tell them you are part of the KACEE Conference to get your discount. Deadline Date: October 18, 2019.



To Celebrate KACEE's 50th Birthday, we want to promote some cross pollination! We've given some special KACEE conference goers special bees, it's up to you to find them! Get to know all the buzz with your fellow conference goers and maybe you'll find the bees! Those who find and collect the most bees will get a special prize!

2019 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, October 31, 2019

6:00 pm

Dinner with Friends

Join us in Wichita for Dinner and Conversations. We'll be meeting up at Bella Luna Café - New Market Square (west), 2441 N Maize Road, Wichita, KS 67205 for great food, great conversation and an opportunity to network with other environmental educators! Meal not provided in conference registration. <https://www.bellalunacafe.com/>

1.1 Get to know and understand the community



Friday, November 1, 2019

Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 W Zoo Blvd, Wichita, KS 67212

9:00am-3:30pm

Pre-Conference Workshop—NGSS and EE In the Classroom!

Learn how to use the environment to engage children in learning science- both outside and indoors! You'll learn how Environmental Education can help you with the Kansas College & Career Ready Standards for Science and receive some great teaching resources! Project Learning Tree, Project Learning Tree's Next Generation Science Standards e-unit, Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, Project WET, Kansas Green Schools Program

NOTE: 2 Hours of Additional Online Coursework for Graduate Credit

1.5 Reach beyond usual partners and program-delivery modes, 2.3 Use appropriate instructional strategies and 4.1 Integrate environmental education with complementary communication, education, and social-change approaches



2:00-3:30pm **Meet Up at Sedgwick County Zoo – Cargill Learning Center – Rotunda**

Think you have what it takes to be a zookeeper? Try your hand at creating a meal for a chimpanzee based upon the age of the animal. Sedgwick County Zoo will set up their STEAM Career Kits throughout the Zoo and you can do a self-guided tour.

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



3:00-4:00 pm **Registration Opens/Exhibitor and Poster Set-Up – Foyer and Wetland Room**

4:00-6:00 pm Conference Kick-off! – Rotunda and Auditorium

Join us as we kick off our 20th Kansas Environmental Education Conference!

Welcome: Dr. Mike Hotz, KACEE President

Opening Session: eeWorks! What's the Current Research about Environmental Education and How to Use the Research to Make Your Case!

Dr. Nicole Ardoin, Stanford University

What is the capacity for environmental education to contribute to a more sustainable planet and society? Why is EE a meaningful complement to standard education? How do we demonstrate the evidence-based outcomes of EE without letting go of the passion and fervor that breathes energy and life into the field? eeWORKS is a project that seeks to answer these critical questions. Led by researchers at Stanford University in collaboration with the North American Association for Environmental Education, this work seeks to go from anecdotes to evidence—putting the research behind the great work we're doing in the field of EE.

About Dr. Nicole Ardoin



3.1 Build coalitions & partnerships strategically, 4.2 Support and build community capacity and 4.1 Integrate environmental education with complementary communication, education, and social-change

Nicole Ardoin, Emmett Family Faculty Scholar, is the Sykes Family Director of the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (E-IPER) in the School of Earth, Energy, and Environmental Sciences. She is an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education and a Senior Fellow in the Woods Institute for the Environment. Professor Ardoin and her Social Ecology Lab group research motivations for and barriers to environmental behavior at the individual and collective scales. They use mixed-methods approaches--including participant observation, a variety of interview types, surveys, mapping, network analysis, and ethnography, among others--to consider the influence of place-based connections, environmental learning, and social-ecological interactions on participation in a range of environmental and sustainability-related decision making processes. Professor Ardoin and her interdisciplinary group pursue their scholarship with a theoretical grounding and orientation focused on applications for practice; much of her lab's work is co-designed and implemented with community collaborators through a field-based, participatory frame. Professor Ardoin is an associate editor of the journal Environmental Education Research, a trustee of the George B. Storer Foundation, chair of NatureBridge's Education Advisory Council, an advisor to the Student Conservation Association and Teton Science Schools, among other areas of service to the field.

Exhibitors, Poster Sessions and Happy Hour – Wetland Classroom and Rotunda

Lyons Pride Recycling Program--Single Stream Recycling

Find out how this school group has designed and implemented a single stream recycling program and how you can do the same!

Presenter: Penny Blue, Lyons High School



What's New in Project WILD?

The new Project WILD Curriculum guide has some great new activities around today's hot topics including pollinators, monarchs, and more! Come see what's new with Project WILD.

Presenter: Ashlyn Kite-Hartwich, KACEE



Great Plains Nature Center: Solitary Bees and Music Videos! *The Great Plains Nature Center recently produced and released an educational remake of a popular song, all about solitary bees! Come here from the creator about the ideation and process!*

Presenter: Rachel Roth, Great Plains Nature Center

Friends of the Kaw: EE Rolling Down the River

Learn about how Friends of the Kaw supports environmental education efforts focused on the Kansas River and how you can get involved!

Presenter: Laura Calwell, Friends of the Kaw

Fishing's Future in the Classroom

Let Fishing's Future enhance your environmental education or WILD chapter! Learn how to become a certified angling instructor and bring fishing education to your school!

Presenter: Heidi Albin, Complete High School Maize

KACEE's 50 for 50

Learn about how you can help us to complete 50 activities for our 50th anniversary! Get your family, your friends and your co-workers involved and get entered to win some great prizes!

Presenter: Keri Harris, Franklin County Conservation District and KACEE Board Member

Environmental Education at the Kansas Wetland Education Center

Find out about the innovative and creative ways the Kansas Wetlands Education Center is engaging learners of all ages to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of wetlands.

Presenter: Mandy Kern, Kansas Wetlands Education Center

Junior Duck Stamp Competition

Come find out how K-12 students can engage in learning about migratory birds while using their artistic talents to compete for prizes!

Presenter: Lori Jones, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Plains Nature Center

1.2 Connect environmental education interests and capacities with community concerns, assets and aspirations.

6:00-7:00 pm Dinner - Rotunda

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

**Mark Your Calendars and Join Us for the
2020 Kansas Environmental Education Conference!
November 6-7, 2020
Lawrence, KS**

7:30 pm **Dessert & Hospitality Suite - Hampton Inn Wichita Northwest, 10047 W 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67205**

Sponsored by the KACEE Board of Directors

Join us back at the hotel for a complimentary Dessert bar, refreshments and networking! This year we have a special 1969 themed hospitality suite, so come dressed with your best late 60's outfits!



Saturday, November 2, 2019

Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 W Zoo Blvd, Wichita, KS 67212



8:00-9:00am **Breakfast**

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

8:40am **Conference Day 2 Welcome**

Mike Hotz, KACEE Board President

Concurrent Sessions: Ocean, Prairie and Auditorium

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.

Awareness to Action in EE: Ocean Classroom

Great environmental education takes students from learning to doing. Share your latest, greatest ideas, projects and programs that engage students in making a difference in our world.

Leadership in EE: Prairie Classroom

Building leadership in environmental education for today and tomorrow is a critical component in sustaining our work. Share your leadership tools, strategies, projects and programs for EE adult and student leaders!

Research and Evaluation in EE: Auditorium

Informed practice makes for best practice. Share your research, evaluation strategies and results, program design built on research, research which informs your practice and your ideas for further research in EE.

1.2 Connect environmental education interests and capacities with community concerns, assets and aspirations, 1.4 Focus on community assets and shared priorities, 1.5 Reach beyond usual partners and program delivery modes, 2.1 Build on interests, issues, and settings familiar to the community, 2.2 Facilitate broad accessibility. 2.3 Use appropriate instructional strategies. 2.4 Select, adapt, or develop effective educational materials, 2.5 Match engagement strategies and tools to the interests, issues, and capacities of your partnership and community and 4.1 Integrate environmental education with complementary communication, education, and social-change approaches.

9:00-9:50 am Concurrent Session 1

Engage Your Students in Citizen Science with a BioBlitz

Engage students in citizen science -- discovering the biodiversity around your school or community with a BioBlitz. Learn how to organize and conduct a BioBlitz using a variety of resources including iNaturalist, free videos, lesson plans, and other aids from National Geographic.



Presenter: Elaine Larson, National Geographic

Audience: Early Childhood Educators, Elementary Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators



Define Your Passion, Speak Your Truth, Calling Others to Action: Classroom

The time for Environmental Action is NOW, by defining your passion and speaking your truth allow you will become a leader in the Environmental Education Field. We will work together to define our own passion and truth and set ourselves into action.

Presenter: Kara King, Sedgwick County Zoo

Elementary Educators, Middle School Educators High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

Making the Case for WILD: Using Standards and Research to Make the Case for Starting a WILD Club

What are the health, social, emotional and academic benefits of having a WILD club at your school? We'll present you with a brief overview of the benefits supported by research to students as well as outline the connections to the College and Career Ready Standards. Then you'll hear from the students firsthand to hear what they think are the benefits of WILD.

Presenter: Leonore Enfield, Lyons/USD 405, Mandy Kern, Wetlands Education Center

Audience: Early Childhood Educator, Elementary Educators, Middle School Educators High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

10:00-10:50 am Concurrent Session 2

"Outside for a Better Inside" – Inspire Students through Outdoor Learning

Fishing, camping, gardening, hatching chicks, connecting science to character, survival skills, zombie apocalypse prep, and more! Find inspiration to take your classes into the real world by leveraging the

power of EE to impact students. Gain lesson plans, ideas, and free, ready-to-use resources to implement exciting activities into your classroom.

Presenter: Heidi Albin, Complete High School Maize, USD 266

Audience: Early Childhood Educators, Elementary Educators, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

Introduction to Equity and Inclusion

For environmental education to the impact that we desire, we need everyone involved. Without intentional efforts, we run the risk of leaving key audiences out of the work we're doing and therefore, never reaching our goals. In this session, you will get an introduction to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a foundation for beginning to explore how your program, project or organization can become more equitable and inclusive.

Presenter: Jeff Severin, KU Center for Sustainability

Audience: Early Childhood Educator, Elementary Educators, Middle School Educators High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

Education Everywhere: The Power of Online Outreach

How do you reach people that have never walked through your doors, or people that may not know you exist? Social media. It's a powerful tool when used correctly and we're here to show you how! From Twitter to Instagram or engaging stories on Facebook, each one has its purpose.

Presenter: Emily Davis and Nicole Brown, Great Plains Nature Center

Audience: Early Childhood Educator, Elementary Educators, Middle School Educators High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

10:50-11:10 am Break, Exhibits, Poster Sessions and Silent Auction – Exhibit Hall

11:10 am-12:00 pm Concurrent Session 3



The Kids About Water (KAW) Project

The Kids About Water (KAW) Project is a five-lesson water quality issues and actions curriculum that targets students in grades 6-12. The KAW project is a hands-on curriculum aligned with the Kansas Next Generation Science Standards that integrates water quality field experiences with school campus issues and actions.

Presenter: Laura Calwell, Friends of the Kaw

Audience: Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

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

Growing Green Leaders: Green Districts!

Come hear from the current president of the Manhattan/Ogden Green Champions, a district-wide effort at going green. Learn how the district got started, elected officers, grew the program, tied in the curriculum and the community, established green teams and more!

Presenter: Courtney Smith, USD 383/Manhattan-Ogden

Audience: Early Childhood Educator, Elementary Educators, Middle School Educators High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

Investigating Initial Environmental Thoughts and Beliefs of Elementary-Age Students

Research was conducted to investigate (1) the existing mindset that younger individuals have before exposure to environmental education (EE) and (2) how these mentalities differ from the perceptions that EE instructors may formulate regarding the environmental motivation(s) and opinion(s) of a younger audience to further the progression of EE implementation.

Presenter: Sarah Jackson, Kansas State University

Audience: Early Childhood Educators, Elementary Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

12:00-1:30 pm Lunch, Keynote, Poster Sessions, Exhibits Silent Auction and Business Meeting – Rotunda and Auditorium



Share all you're learning over lunch ~ included in Saturday conference registration

Keynote: Eileen Everett, Executive Director, Environmental Education Association of New Mexico—Transformational Leadership

What happens when we invest in ourselves and our peers as leaders? Often, we are focused on producing deliverables and don't prioritize what we need to show up as our best selves. Using a transformational leadership model, we'll each explore our own leadership and what we can do individually and collectively to support all students having access to environmental education at school and in their communities. Tapping into the strengths of environmental education like systems thinking and problem solving along with opening our minds to working in community, we can work together in new, more powerful ways.

In her role as Executive Director of the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico, Eileen Everett deeply values an abundance mindset, education designed for all students, and a more equitable and inclusive world. She has had the honor of supporting 25,000 New Mexican students in their own outdoor and environmental learning and serves as a Facilitator for the Santa Fe Community Foundation's Emerging Social Sector Leaders Program.

About Eileen Everett

Eileen began her career as a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after completing an MS in Wildlife Science. For over 15 years, she has worked as an environmental educator having personally taught over 25,000 New Mexican students around the state through mostly outdoor, multi-day programs! She has worked as an environmental educator for Audubon New Mexico and the Santa Fe Watershed Association, ran her consulting firm "Down to Earth

Education”, and was the climate change educator for the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. She deeply values an abundance mindset, education designed for all students, and a more equitable and inclusive world.

Eileen is an enthusiastic and supportive member of EEANM and has served on our Board of Directors in the past. She has strong nonprofit experience, having worked in the social sector for over 15 years and serves as an Associate Facilitator for the Santa Fe Community Foundation’s Emerging Social Sector Leaders Program. In the fall of 2016, Eileen became one of New Mexico’s first Certified Environmental Educators. Currently, she is the Chair-Elect of the North American Association for Environmental Education’s Affiliate Network Steering Committee. In her spare time, Eileen can be found hiking, gardening, and tending to her dog pack and goat herd.

1:30-2:20 pm Concurrent Session 4

Open Space: Or the Unconference Session—Awareness to Action in EE

Bring ideas for topics you’re wanting to discuss related to Awareness to Action in EE! It might be a continuation of a conversation or a brand new topic that you’re wanting to have some discussion around but don’t see it anywhere on the conference program!

Convener: Laura King

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

Building a Sustainable Outdoor Student Travel Program: Classroom

This session focuses on how to lead an outdoor program and create a sustainable place for it in a school by connecting to existing school goals such as college and career readiness. Moreover, it shows from a design perspective how at Ness City we have been able to cut expenses in the program while doubling student opportunities.

Presenter: Matthew Clay, USD 303/Ness City

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



All Hands on Deck to #RehabHABs: A Place-Based, Project-Based (PBL2) Learning Project

To understand the dynamics of the water quality and to predict the occurrence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Cheney Reservoir, the primary water supply for Wichita and surrounding communities, Biology students of Maize High School conduct primary water quality sampling in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the University of Missouri’s Reservoir Observer Student Scientists (ROSS) Project. Alongside of data from the USGS Water Data for the Nation, students’ primary-collected data is analyzed using the Concord Consortium’s Common Online Data Analysis Platform (CODAP) and the EDDIE Project’s R modules. These data suggest a reliable advanced indicator for the City of Wichita’s water treatment processes, as well as a significant cost saving measure for those systems. Students will demonstrate their water sampling techniques, their primary and USGS data analyses using CODAP and R,

and the monetary and healthcare value of no-till agricultural practices to farmers and to community and state stakeholders alike.

Presenter: Amy Hammett, Isaac Stanton, Jacob Hanna, Cora Bartlett, Ryan Fullerton, Aidan Leon, Carlos Cross, Noah Hale--USD 266 Maize Public Schools

Audience: Green Schools, Middle School Educators, High School Educators, College & University Programs, Non-Formal Educators, Program or Project Administrators, Non-Profit Organizations

2:20-2:40 pm Break, Exhibits, Poster Sessions and Silent Auction Closes – Rotunda and Wetland Room

2:40-3:30 pm Concurrent Session 5

Fireworks: Engaging Middle and High School Students in Learning about Fire Ecology on the Prairie

The Great Plains Fire Science Exchange worked with partners to develop a curriculum for middle and high schools students (and their teachers!) to explore the important role of fire in the Tallgrass Prairie. Come try out some activities and explore curriculum and technology tools that were developed.

Presenter: Laura Downey, KACEE

Audience: Middle School Educators, High School Educators, Green Schools, College and University Programs, Non-Formal Educators

Prairie Pocket Gardens: Stewards of Milkweeds, Monarchs, and Minds

Hands-on EE is not only fun, but it is inspiring and impactful. Educators consistently say that their teaching careers have been enriched by embracing the Kansas Earth Partnership for Schools Program. They become EE leaders in their schools through the process of creating prairie pocket gardens with their students that inspire learning about Kansas native flora and fauna

Presenter: Brad Guhr, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

Audience: Early Childhood Educator, Elementary Educators, Middle School Educators High School Educators, Green Schools

Facilitator's Meeting

Join KACEE to see what's new in EE resources and activities for Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WILD Aquatic, Project WET and the Leopold Education Project!

Presenter: Ashlyn Kite-Hartwich, KACEE

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

3:30 pm Conference Closes - Safe Travels!