

Fall, 2004



# KACEE

North American Association  
For Environmental Education Affiliate

KACEE promotes and provides quality, non-biased and science-based environmental education for all Kansans

## Get Energized at KACEE's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference!

November 5-6, 2004

Dodge House Hotel & Convention Center, Dodge City

Join us for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference and find yourself in the midst of an energizing experience! This year's conference has something for everyone, including energy education curriculum and hands-on demonstrations; the Energy Hog; Dr. Seuss; discussions on the No Child Left Behind Act and implications for Kansas; an update on the Kansas survey of reptiles, amphibians, and turtles; multicultural performances; and more!

Presenters added since September 27 include the Pejuta Mata Singers and Dance Troupe, which will give a presentation and performance on Friday morning. This group will present the meaning and relationships of Mitakuye Oyasin, the Native American concept that we are all related. This will be an interactive experience so make sure to be there! Also, we are privileged to have the Folkloric Dance Club from the Dodge City School District. Performers are aged 14 to 18. This is a fun group with a lot of flair, so be sure to join us for dinner Friday night.

Returning for a second time, by popular demand, is Dr. Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer with the Native Waters program. Dr. Sachatello-Sawyer gave a very moving and thought-provoking presentation in Atchison in 2002. This year she will speak about a new exhibit and film currently showing at the Haskell Indian Nations University Cultural Center in Lawrence. Her presentation will take place on Saturday morning.

By now you should have received your conference registration form in the mail. If you did not receive one, or if you need additional copies, go to [www.kacee.org](http://www.kacee.org) or contact Shari Wilson at: [sharilea@kc.rr.com](mailto:sharilea@kc.rr.com) or 913-287-6879. Don't miss this year's conference—it's our best one yet!

### Pre-Conference Workshop to Explore Playas

*Playa Lakes: The Role of Seasonal Wetlands in Natural and Classroom Environments* will be the theme of this year's pre-conference workshop at the KS Environmental Education Conference in Dodge City. The purpose of this workshop is to provide professional development in the process and problem-solving approach to learning, using playa lakes as a teaching tool.

The workshop is designed to take a hands-on approach to learning about the playas, a vital Kansas natural resource. Participants will engage in field experiences at playa locations near Dodge City to get a first hand understanding of these unique natural phenomena and their importance in the local environment. The workshop will be held on November 4th. For more information or to receive a complete agenda, please contact Beth Carreno at: (785)233-4721 or [bcarreno@swbell.net](mailto:bcarreno@swbell.net)

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# News

## Online Environmental Education Community—Watch For It This Fall!!

KACEE members can look forward to a new tool for environmental education coming this fall. We're in the process of working with the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) through their project, EE-Link, to put the finishing touches on what will be a "one stop shop" for environmental education in Kansas. Organizational members will be able to develop, through an easy to use online form, a tool that will help educators to quickly locate and access information about their programs, resources, training tools, educational events and more! In addition, there will be a single event calendar for all the environmental education related events in Kansas. This will not only enable educators and others to quickly and easily see what events, trainings and meetings are taking place across the state, but will assist environmental education organizations in enhancing coordination and collaboration as they plan these events.

Currently, KACEE staff and volunteers are in the process of reviewing the test site and tailoring it to our specific needs in Kansas. Once completed, KACEE members will begin field testing the site and final revisions will be made. We expect the "Kansas Online Environmental Education Community" to be up and running by the end of the year and will notify members of this resource as soon as it is available.

This tremendous EE resource for Kansas is made possible through a generous grant from the US EPA Region 7 Environmental Education Grants Program. For more information on the Kansas Online Environmental Education Community or to be involved in field testing, please contact Shari Wilson at: 913-287-6879 or [sharilea@kc.rr.com](mailto:sharilea@kc.rr.com)



The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education publishes KACEE News quarterly to communicate with environmental educators. KACEE News is a medium of information exchange on a wide range of Environmental Education topics. Inclusion of an item in KACEE News does not indicate an endorsement of an organization's stance on environmental issues.

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# News

## 2004 Topeka Water Festival Brings in 1 000 Area Fourth Graders!

The Fifth Annual Topeka Water Festival was the largest so far with 1,000 school children and more than 100 volunteers who gathered at Garfield Park on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

The festival, "Make a Splash with Project WET," was part of a national festival in more than 110 communities reaching 60,000 children across the United States making it the nation's largest single-day water education event. Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is an international, interdisciplinary, water science education program for formal and non-formal educators of K-12 students. The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) provides Project WET in Kansas.

"The festival was targeted at fourth graders, who participated in several hands-on activities designed to help them learn how to be 'good watershed neighbors'" said Beth Carreno, Coordinator of Education Programs for KACEE. "They took the 'Journey of the Water Drop;' learned how American pioneers lived with less water than we do today; how plants filter water; and the importance of wetlands, to name a few."



Students watch a play by the Topeka Civics Theater—new this year!

New events this year included a play produced by the students of Topeka Civic Theater's acting program for students attending the festival all day. Those students also participated in some large group activities, including making their own Kansas thunderstorm.

The event was offered free of charge. Sponsors of the Topeka Water Festival include the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE); the City of Topeka's Water Pollution Control and Water Divisions; Kansas Project WET; Shawnee County Commission and the Shawnee County Recycling Department; the Westar Energy Green Team; the Kansas Water Office; the Shawnee County Conservation District and State Conservation Commission; Nestle Waters North America; Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts; Shawnee County Farm Bureau; Topeka Audobon Society; Independent Insurance Agents of Topeka, Inc; and Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Water.

For information on Project WET workshops and the Topeka Water Festival, please contact Beth Carreno, Coordinator of Education Programs for KACEE at 785-233-4721 or [bcarreno@swbell.net](mailto:bcarreno@swbell.net)

## CONSERVATION EDUCATOR: LINDA PHIPPS

The Kansas Wildlife Federation honored KACEE member Linda Phipps with the award of Conservation Educator of the Year for 2003. Linda Phipps was honored for her hard work in establishing the Southeast Kansas Nature Center Foundation of Galena. The center was founded with the purpose of providing an environmental resource for surrounding schools, environmental educators, and the community. Her efforts in this new nature center also lead to the purchase of 10 acres of land through donations. Linda and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks also arranged for an additional 32 acres of land to be purchased by the State. The Kansas Wildlife Federation describes Linda as, "a nature loving lady with a vision, perseverance, and a personality that can elicit a favorable response to a request for help." Please join us in congratulating her!



# News

## Celebrating 40 Years of Wilderness

By Shari L. Wilson, KACEE

If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning . . . .

President Lyndon B. Johnson, upon signing the Wilderness Act, 1964



Recently I returned from a marvelous encounter with wilderness. While visiting Alaska, I was amazed by the spirit and resilience required by the “sourdoughs” who settled this Great Land. I was also reminded that 2004 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act. This law, signed by President Lyndon Johnson on September 3, 1964, provides a mechanism for the American people to protect wilderness areas as legacies to future generations. Since the Act was signed, 106 million acres of wilderness in 662 Wilderness Areas have been designated, in areas as small as the five-acre Pelican Island in Florida to the nearly 10 million-acre Wrangell-St. Elias Wilderness in Alaska. Wilderness, said Aldo Leopold, is “the very stuff America is made of.”

I have visited numerous wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, national forests, and national parks in the United States. But being in Alaska, with its 59 million acres of designated wilderness area plus numerous other public lands, really brings home the importance of preserving wild places. There is nothing that compares to seeing a sea otter pair roll over and over in the Prince William Sound, looking at you with such curiosity and lack of fear that you wonder if they are trying to figure out who you are and what you are doing there, in their backyard. Or the sight of more than 25 bald eagles sitting in tall spruce trees in Kenai Fjords National Park, so close to you that with their superior vision, they can see what color your eyes are. And what about the huge Steller sea lions, bellowing as they cling to a rock outcropping in the flying snow of Resurrection Bay?

As environmental educators, an important part of our work is to provide experiences that encourage children and adults to appreciate the environment and our natural resources. Visiting our wilderness areas and other national and state public lands can provide the “a-ha!” moment, a time of solitude and reflection, and the excitement of discovering scenic beauty and wildlife in its own habitat. Environmental education can create the context for fully appreciating these wonderful moments, and understanding the complexities of our ecosystem and how complicated it is when human needs and those of the environment clash. Environmental education can provide the tools necessary to think through these situations and create solutions that allow human society to progress while preserving public lands for future generations. The foresight shown by laws like the Wilderness Act ensures that mechanisms exist allowing citizens to initiate a process for setting the most pristine lands aside. Vigilance is required to make sure these lands stay protected.



Photos by Shari L. Wilson

As we enter a busy fall season, take some time to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Read an essay by Aldo Leopold, Wallace Stegner, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Rachel Carson, Terry Tempest Williams, or Walt Whitman. Reflect on your own thoughts about wilderness and put them on paper, either in words or pictures. Spend some time with a child and rediscover the wonder of nature through their eyes. And best of all, get outside!

## Have EE News to Share?

Send your articles, pictures and resources to Laura Downey at: [ldowney@oznet.ksu](mailto:ldowney@oznet.ksu)



# News

## YOUNG KIDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Submitted by Todd Courtney-Decker

Last school year Todd Courtney-Decker's eighteen first graders from Jefferson West Elementary learned a lot about the environment, both locally and around the world. On Earth Day they planted a tree that the students hope will be thriving in the fall when they return. The three combined first grades and business members of the Meriden community helped to raise \$450 which adopted an outstanding 10 acres of rainforest in San Rafael, Paraguay through Earth's Birthday Project. Raising this money worked into the classroom learning environment; the students enjoyed learning about the rainforest and how important and endangered it is.

Finally Mr. Courtney-Decker challenged his class to earn a 1,000 Accelerated Reader Points. They achieved this in record time and spent the day at Daniel and Beverly Broxterman's home northwest of Meriden, Kansas. The students enjoyed nature walks where they identified trees and

plants, saw a garter snake, a nesting goose, and many different kinds of birds. They were also able to experience a ball python. Students were given fishing lessons by JWES Physical Education Teacher Jay Jackson, and each student caught at least one fish! Other activities included jumping on a trampoline, a pony ride, bottle feeding a calf, and learning about bee keeping. A great time was had by all and it was a fitting reward for their hard work. It was very exciting school year and the students were left with many wonderful memories.



## 2004 Water Celebrations Planning Workshop Held September 23-24, 2004 in Topeka



A water celebration is an educational, interactive, and fun event that will increase awareness and appreciation of local water resources and issues. The Water Celebration Planning Workshop is designed to provide tools for planning water celebration event logistics and curriculum, along with a hands-on water celebration experience. The 50 participants in this training event also had "behind the scenes" access to the Topeka Water Festival, along with workshop sessions covering all aspects of conducting educational and sustainable water celebrations.

Experienced water celebration planners from across the state shared their expertise and resources to help local leaders plan a water education event that serves the unique needs of their school or community.

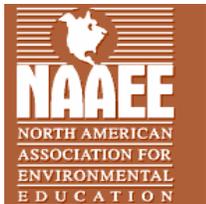
Each participant received a Kansas Water Celebration Resource Guide, packed with tips and templates for getting started on the planning process along with Project WET and Conserve Water activity guides. After attending the workshop, participants became eligible to apply for start-up grant funds for water celebrations of up to \$2500 per county served.

**Interested in having a water celebration in your community?** Training events are already being planned for 2005 and opportunities for start up grant funding are still available! If you'd like more information about water celebrations, planning tools and resources or grant funding, please contact Melissa Arthur at: 785-597-5452 or by email at: MelisArth7@aol.com. Also, check out the KACEE website ([www.kacee.org](http://www.kacee.org)) for more information.

**NOTE:** Funding for the Statewide Water Celebrations Project is provided the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Water, Non-Point Source Pollution through US EPA 319 Funds.

# Resources

\*\*\*\*\*KACEE does not necessarily recommend or endorse items and programs on these pages\*\*\*\*\*



## NAAEE 2004 Conference Biloxi, Mississippi

NAAEE's 2004 Annual Conference is slated to go November 6-10, 2004 in Biloxi, Mississippi. This year you can register online and get regular updates at [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org). KACEE is an organizational member and can take an additional 3 individuals from KS at the member rate. Please consider becoming a member of NAAEE; it's a great way to stay informed and to join kindred spirits. Contact Laura Downey at 785-532-3322 or [ldowney@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:ldowney@oznet.ksu.edu) for questions about NAAEE.

## MONARCHS IN THE CLASSROOM

[www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)



This beautiful and fascinating insect provides many educational opportunities in the classroom. See this website for a wealth of information about these majestic insects, including details on the monarch life cycle, instructions on how to rear monarchs and grow milkweed, and opportunities for students to participate in research projects with scientists.

## The Water Sourcebooks

[www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/wsb](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/wsb)

Created by the Environmental Protection Agency, The Water Sourcebooks contains 324 activities for grades K-12. This environmental education program explains the water management cycle using a balanced approach, showing how it affects all aspects of the environment. All parts of the program may be printed or copied.



## Nonformal Environmental Education Programs: Guidelines for Excellence

The newly released *Nonformal Education Programs; Guidelines for Excellence*, from the Environmental Education Coalition is now available through NAAEE. This straight-forward guide provides information on developing and evaluating informal programs. Modeled after NAAEE's "Guidelines for Excellence" series, this resource includes clear outlines, targeted examples and useful appendices. Needs assessment, organizational needs and capacities, program scope and structure, program delivery resources and evaluation are just some of the topics that are covered in this publication.

Appendices focus on writing objectives, developing rubrics, creating age-appropriate programs and using logic models. A concise glossary defines key environmental education terms and a compilation of selected references suggests where to find additional information.

To order your copy of this resource, please visit NAAEE's Online Bookstore at [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org) or call (202)419-0412.

## Environmental Careers

Environmental Career Center (ECC) has been helping people work for the environment since 1980. ECC assists individuals and employers alike, in matching potential employees with employers.

With 25+ years in the field, ECC has extensive experience to help guide you. In addition to the website, ECC publishes a monthly journal, the National Environmental Employment Report, which contains articles and hundreds more job listings every month, giving you yet another valuable tool in advancing your environmental career. [www.environmentalcareers.com](http://www.environmentalcareers.com)



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## Treesearch

A new database, Treesearch, has been launched to allow access to Forest Service research publications online. With Treesearch, customers can locate and download Agency-authored or sponsored publications, including those in journals, books, and conference proceedings. The research results behind these publications have been peer reviewed to ensure the highest quality science. The publications in Treesearch can be accessed from [www.treesearch.fs.fed.us](http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us), as well as the R&D Website, and the Websites of the six Research Stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry. The database supports searches by author, keyword, originating organization, or date; and returns the abstract and, if selected, the full text of the publication, including tables, figures, and citations. With over 7500 publications currently online, Treesearch is already the largest freely available collection of online forestry research in the world.

## EPA EE GRANTS—APPLY TODAY

Application Deadline November 15, 2004

The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Education has announced the request for proposals for grants beginning in 2005. This grant program offers opportunities for funding of environmental education projects and awards grants of up to \$150,000, with the average grants in the range of \$10,000-\$25,000.

KACEE has been the recipient of several EPA EE grants and is currently working on 4 projects related to those grants.

To access the RFP, Grant guidelines and grant writing assistance, please visit EPA's EE Grants website: [www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants](http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants)



## EETAP Resource Library Moves to EE-Link

The EETAP Resource Library was started by Ohio State University to make EE resources more accessible to environmental educators. A major component of the Library is Info-Sheets (1-2 page descriptions that summarize a specific EE topic and identify resources for additional reading). The Info Sheets help educators better understand specific topics related to EE and are organized into 8 major categories: History of EE; Resources for Teaching; Academic Resources; Public Understanding of EE; Capacity Building; Assessment and Evaluation; Decision-making; and Environmental Topics. New Info Sheets continue to be added to the EETAP Resource Library collection. For more information please visit: <http://eelink.net/eetapresourcelibrary.html>

## MY HERO

MY HERO is a not for profit educational web project that promotes literacy and cross cultural communication by celebrating the best of humanity. MY HERO took first prize in the not-for-profit category of the 2001 CHILDNET INTERNATIONAL AWARDS. The MY HERO web site hosts thousands of stories of remarkable individuals written by children and adults alike. These stories serve to remind us that we all have the potential to overcome great obstacles and achieve our dreams by following in the footsteps of our heroes.

[www.myhero.com](http://www.myhero.com)

## Youth Garden Grants

Application Deadline: November 1, 2004

The National Gardening Association awards grants to 500 schools and community organizations throughout the US. Grant recipients receive seeds, tools, garden products and educational resources generously donated by companies in the lawn and garden industry. Selection criteria include: leadership, need, sustainability, community support, innovation and educational, environmental, and/or social programming. Application at: [www.kidsgardening.org/grants.asp](http://www.kidsgardening.org/grants.asp)

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_ 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
- Investigating Your Environment

- PLT Secondary
- WET
- WILD
- WILD Aquatic
- 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  
Manhattan, KS 66502-2743  
(phone 785-532-3322)

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