

Fall 2005



KACEE News

North American Association
For Environmental Education Affiliate

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

Kansas EE Conference a Stellar Success!

What does it take to devour 15 pounds of chocolate generously cascading onto pretzels, wafer sticks, and strawberries? About 130 hungry participants of this year's Kansas Environmental Education Conference! After a long day of informative and entertaining keynote presenters, concurrent sessions, and field studies, conference attendees relaxed and learned about outer space and our underworld environment at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. The event topped off an Opening Session by naturalist and storyteller Al Batt, who regaled the crowd with his down-home Minnesota stories of human nature. A special treat this year was the Pejuta Mato Singers and Dance Troupe. Through dance, song, and an activity, this intergenerational Native American performance reminded us that we are all connected.

The conference also featured two field studies. A trip to the soon-to-be-open Kansas Underground Salt Museum was a definite hit, as was a trip to Obee Elementary School's OWLS site and the Dillon Nature Center. During the afternoon, Dean Dennis Kuhlman and flight school students Nancy Milleret and Will Klein mesmerized the audience with their account of the KSU-Salina role in this year's record-setting GlobalFlyer flight around the world.

On Saturday, Roy Beckemeyer and Rex Buchanan brought the intricacy and power of the natural world to the conference through their presentations on the biology and flight of dragonflies and last year's natural gas explosions and other natural features of the Hutchinson area. To wrap up the conference, Ann Birney's characterization of Rachel Carson was a contemplative reminder of the importance of seminal works such as Silent Spring.

The 2005 KEEC also provided 17 concurrent sessions from which to choose, and considerable opportunity for networking and discussing challenges and successes. KACEE would like to thank the sponsors of this year's conference, as well as the exhibitors. The 2006 Kansas Environmental Education Conference will be held in Pittsburg, Kansas. For more information about the conference, check out www.kacee.org starting early next year.



Laura King, Sedgwick County Zoo, let conference participants participate in a Wee Wiggler Class during one of the Concurrent Sessions.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Pre-Conference Workshop.....	2
Statewide Water Celebration.....	3
Topeka Water Festival.....	4
Membership Directory.....	Center Pullout
Resources.....	6-7



News

Flyways and Byways: Exploring the Places We Live The 2005 Kansas Environmental Education Conference Pre-Conference Workshop

On Thursday, November 3, 2005, 25 formal and non-formal educators arrived early to the Kansas Environmental Education Conference for the pre-conference workshop. This year's theme was Flyways & Byways: Exploring the Places We Live.

The first half of the workshop was held at the wonderful Dillon Nature Center, a 100+ acre National Urban Wildlife Sanctuary. Thank you to Jim Smith and the staff at Dillon Nature Center for hosting the workshop. Participants experiences Project Learning Tree's new Exploring Environmental Issues in the Places We Live, with hands-on activities that help learners identify and develop a sense of place in their community. Dee Wilson also led an activity on plant adaptations that had many applications to classrooms and nature centers.

In the afternoon the workshop moved to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Participants were treated to a great presentation on the 22,000+ acre refuge, engaged in activities that built on the morning's activities and increased their knowledge on the saltmarshes, listened to a colorful presentation by Al Batt, and assisted in preparing the refuge's butterfly walk. Participant all received copies of Project Learning Tree's GreenWORKS! activity guide for service learning. Thank you to Cindy Terry for her presentation and assistance at Quivira; to Gary Keehn for sharing his experience doing research at Quivira; and to Mike Rader for assisting participants during the afternoon session.



After the workshop was over, participants had some free time to explore and enjoy Quivira on their own. They chose from the many hiking trails and the driving tour. Participants were treated to an abundance of wildlife on a beautiful afternoon!

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



Statewide Water Celebration Workshop and Project Update

The third and final Water Celebration Planning Workshop in a three-year series was held on September 22-23, 2005 in conjunction with the Topeka Water Festival. From 2003-2005, this annual workshop provided tools for planning water celebration event logistics and curriculum, along with a behind-the-scenes water celebration experience. Funding for the workshop was provided through a grant from Kansas Department of Health & Environment's Bureau of Water and EPA 319 Funds. The workshop was organized by the Water Celebration Planning Committee, a statewide team of water celebration organizers.

This year's workshop hosted 23 alumni participants and 14 new participants. Day one featured observation and volunteer opportunities at the Topeka Water Festival, followed by a dinner presentation and entertainment by "Green Elvis". Day two featured a variety of general and concurrent sessions detailing various aspects of water celebration planning, followed by curriculum trainings in Project WET, Conserve

Water, and WET in the City. Each participant received a Kansas water celebration resource guide, packed with tips & templates for getting started on the planning process, along with Conserve Water, Project WET and WET in the City activity guides.

The Water Celebration Planning Workshop is just one of the water event planning resources available through KACEE's Statewide Water Celebrations Project. Project WET and WILD Aquatic: Focus on Festivals workshops, similar to those conducted in Galena in 2004 and Phillipsburg in 2005, can be organized for groups of water celebration planners state-wide. KACEE continues to accept applications for start-up grant funds, of up to \$2500.00 per county served, for water celebration events. The third edition of the Kansas water celebration resource guide will soon be available to water celebration organizers in an electronic format by request. KACEE's Statewide Water Celebrations Coordinator and the Water Celebration Planning Committee are available to assist with many aspects of the water celebration planning process. New networking opportunities for workshop alumni, as well as new editions of Idea Pool, and e-newsletter for water celebration planners, are also in the works. Visit the statewide water celebrations pages at www.kacee.org or contact Melissa Arthur at 785-597-5452 or marthur@kacee.org to learn how you can take advantage of resources offered through the Statewide Water Celebrations Project.



Environmental Education Plan for Kansas Draft Available Online

Earlier this year, KACEE, along with six other conveners, began work on an Environmental Education Plan for Kansas. The purpose of the plan is to take a look at issues affecting conservation and environmental education across Kansas, and to develop goals to address those issues. A public meeting to review a draft of the plan was held in Hutchinson on November 3. A good discussion ensued about environmental education in our state and numerous suggestions for improving the plan were offered.

Conveners for the Environmental Education Plan for Kansas are: KACEE, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Natural Resource Council, Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Water Office representing the State's natural resource agencies, The Nature Conservancy, and Pheasants Forever. To review and comment on the plan, go to www.kacee.org or contact Gary Flory, the facilitator for the planning process, at gflory@bethelks.edu.

News

Students Quench Their Thirst for Knowledge at the Topeka Water Festival

The sun was shining on the biggest (and possibly best) Make A Splash Topeka Water Festival ever! This year's festival was held on Thursday, September 22nd and attended by nearly 1,150 students and teachers from 52 classrooms representing 23 schools.

The festival is designed to increase student awareness, understanding, and knowledge of water. Students participate in exciting hands-on activities and games and explore informative exhibits that teach about how we use water and how to protect and conserve this valuable natural resource. Students went on Incredible Journeys; made the Long Haul; had Migration Headaches; and much, much more!

We couldn't do this without the volunteers who gave their time and talents to share water education with Topeka's fourth graders! More than 100 volunteers spent their time before and at the water festival to ensure that the day was filled with great, hands-on activities, interesting exhibits, and cold water!

The Topeka Water Festival is also lucky to have many great sponsors and partners so that all this can be provided at no cost to teachers or schools. It's fantastic to have a community that supports hands-on environmental education! The following agencies, organizations, and businesses sponsored the Topeka Water Festival: City of Topeka Water Pollution Control Division; City of Topeka Water Division; Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education; Project WET; Nestle Waters; Shawnee County Conservation District & State Conservation Commission; Shawnee County Commission & Shawnee County Recycling Department; Shawnee County Farm Bureau; Mid-America Association of Conservation Districts; Westar Energy Green Team; Independent Insurance Agents of Topeka, Inc; Educational Credit Union; Topeka Audobon Society; Cavanaugh Porter & Holloman P.A.



Environmental Literacy in America

What ten years of NEETF/Roper Research and Related Studies Say About Environmental Literacy in the U.S.



Environmental Literacy in America offers an assessment of environmental literacy in America that is both sobering and hopeful. This summary of almost a decade of The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) collaboration with Roper Reports provides a loud wake-up call to the environmental education community, to community leaders, and to influential specialists ranging from physicians to weathercasters. At a time when Americans are confronted with increasingly challenging environmental choices, we learn that our citizenry is by and large both uninformed and misinformed.

This report offers a wealth of data and analysis accompanied by recommendations intended for environmental educators, NGO leaders, funders, public decision makers, and professionals who are daily affected by environmental issues. To read this assessment in its entirety, please visit www.neeff.org

Keep America Beautiful Awards Koch Industries, Inc. 2005 *Vision for America* Award



Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the nation's largest nonprofit community improvement organization, awarded Koch Industries, Inc. its 2005 *Vision for America* Award at a gala dinner in New York City on November 16, 2005.

Keep America Beautiful recognized Koch - one of the nation's largest private companies, according to *Forbes* - for its commitment to continually improving its environmental stewardship and for the many conservation and community projects in which Koch companies participate. The *Vision for America* Award is presented annually to business leaders whose personal and corporate commitment has significantly enhanced civic, environmental and social stewardship throughout the United States.

News

2005 Kansas Environmental Education Conference Sponsors

KACEE would like to thank the following individuals, agencies, and companies for supporting this year's conference.

KANSAS LEVEL

- ◆ Flint Hills Resources, LP, a wholly owned subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc

PRAIRIE LEVEL

- ◆ Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

WETLAND LEVEL

- ◆ Kansas Corporation Commission
- ◆ Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Environmental Field Services
- ◆ Kansas Rural Water Association
- ◆ Kansas Water Office
- ◆ Midwest Energy
- ◆ Westar Energy Green Team

BISON LEVEL

- ◆ Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS)
- ◆ Kansas Biological Survey
- ◆ Kansas Department of Agriculture
- ◆ Kansas Farm Bureau
- ◆ Kansas Forest Service
- ◆ Kansas Geological Survey
- ◆ Kansas State Department of Education
- ◆ Eric Montgomery
- ◆ Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ Sprint
- ◆ State Conservation Commission
- ◆ Wyandotte County Conservation District

COTTONWOOD LEVEL

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- ◆ Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
- ◆ Salt Institute

MEADOWLARK LEVEL

- ◆ BRB Contractors, Inc
- ◆ Crawford County Conservation District
- ◆ Dillion Nature Center/Living Land Foundation
- ◆ Ellis County Conservation District
- ◆ Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society
- ◆ Kansas Underground Salt Museum
- ◆ Sunflower RC&D
- ◆ Wabaunsee County Conservation District

KACEE congratulates this year's Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Award recipients!

John K. Strickler Award Dr. Tom Eddy



Dr. Tom Eddy has been committed to environmental education from the very beginning of his career. A founder of KACEE and former board president, Tom has influenced many future environmental educators through his work as high school biology teacher, academic researcher, university professor, developer of Emporia State University's Ross Natural History Reservation, and workshop presenter. Tom was nominated by Alisa Kozlowski, a former student.



KACEE Award Hillsdale Water Quality Project, Inc.

Hillsdale Water Quality Project is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization working to improve water quality in Hillsdale Lake and its 144 miles of watershed. The Project works with local stakeholders and has been awarded more than \$2 million in grant funds. Programs include a quarterly newsletter, stream monitoring, lake and stream clean-up, and development of K-16 curriculum. The Project was nominated by board member Jessica Baetz Caylor of the Kansas Corn Growers Association/Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association.

Rising Star Award Carly S. Adams



Carly S. Adams is the recipient of the first-ever Rising Star Award. Carly has been instrumental in developing and implementing new programs for the Municipal Services Department of the City of Olathe. These programs include the Lake Olathe Watershed Protection Advisory Board, Olathe Aquafest, Earth News, Think WOW! (Wise Outdoor Watering), stream stewardship activities, and co-sponsoring teacher workshops. Carly was nominated by Carol A. McCoy, her co-worker.

Resources

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

Goldman Environmental Ethics Curriculum



Goldman Environmental Ethics Curriculum is now available for sale for only \$29.95 at www.envethics.org. The curriculum has been endorsed by nearly every major environmental organization in the country.

Also, you can join the Environmental Ethics Network, as well. This online community for teachers serves your needs by providing a venue for you to connect with one another and get support in teaching environmental education. More information, please visit www.envethics.org or contact Natalie Silverstein at natalie@videoproject.com.

Rainforest Workshops, Service Learning in the Amazon

Here are two exciting ways for teachers and environmental educators to travel to the Amazon Rainforest

- ◇ You can TRAVEL FREE while giving your students and their families the benefits of educational travel to one of the most diverse environments in the world. Bring a group of 6 and travel with all of your expenses paid during an 8-day Amazon Rainforest workshop June 15, June 25, or July 5, 2006.
- ◇ Experience a 1/4 mile Rainforest canopy walkway, get involved in a village service project, and see how indigenous cultures use the forest for medicine, food, and shelter. Land cost for students & families is \$1798, plus roundtrip airfare. For information on how teachers can TRAVEL FREE to the Amazon Rainforest, visit <http://www.travel2learn.com>.
- ◇ Sign up for the 14th annual Amazon Rainforest Workshop specially designed for K-12 educators, scheduled July 7-16, 2006. This 10-day event, co-sponsored by Selby Botanical Gardens, is a professional development opportunity for teachers to work side-by-side with a spirited faculty of scientists. Academic credit and an extension to Machu Picchu are available. Land cost for this educator workshop is \$1998, plus air. For expedition information or funding ideas call Dr. Frances Gatz at 1-800-669-6806, email fgatz@earthlink.net or visit the website <http://www.travel2learn.com>.

Earth Science Week



Earth Science Week includes lessons on faults, groundwater movement, petroleum exploration, earthquakes, building a weather station, soil, floods, volcanoes, hurricane tracking, thunderstorms, lightning, sinkholes, disaster supplies kits, caves, mud fossils, global change, acid mine drainage, mineral identification, water filtration, water cycle, fresh water and sea water, watersheds, water use at home, wetlands, and ocean currents. For more information please visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>.

Mars Exploration

Mars Exploration features four learning modules for students in grades 4-12. Topics include investigating Mars and its landforms, how sediment and drainage patterns provide clues to Mars' geologic history, how Mars' 3000-mile valley may have been formed, and whether water could exist on Mars today. For more information please visit <http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/classroom/resources.html>

National Energy Technology Laboratory's Cool Science



National Energy Technology Laboratory's Cool Science provides lessons and experiments -- created by teachers, scientists, and engineers -- on a range of energy-related topics: acid water from coal mines, biomass size reduction, clean air research, carbon dioxide sequestration, co-burning biomass and coal, fluidized bed combustion, fuel cell technology, gas vortices, landfill management, parallel computing, passive acid mine drainage, and phytoremediation (using plants to clean up the environment). For more information please visit their website at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/coolscience/teach.html> #LESSONPLANS

"Teaching Rivers in an Urban Environment"

Science Pioneers will be offering a class entitled "Teaching Rivers in an Urban Environment" on Saturday, March 4, 2006 8:30am-12:30pm. All details are on their website at www.spioneers.org.

Resources

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Stan Slaughter, The Eco-Troubadour



Kansas Department of Health and Environment has funded Stan Slaughter again for the 8th year to provide a recycling education program statewide for school year '05-'06. In the past seven years, the program has played to 505 KS schools and over 70,000 kids. Any Kansas school can have the program FREE by contacting Stan at www.stanslaughter.com and toll-free at 888-484-4477.

Guide to Playa Educational Resources Available Online

Teachers wanting to incorporate playa education into the classroom should check out the Playa Lake Joint Venture's Educator Resource Guide. The Guide is a detailed index to dozens of educational materials on playas and related bird habitats, including books, activity guides, audio/visual materials, articles, field programs and more. The Guide has recently been updated and there are more than 100 entries listed. If you know of a resource not listed in the Guide, please let us know. Please visit their web-site at <http://www.pljv.org/EduResources/index.html>

Congratulations to Dr. Emmett L. Wright

Emmett L. Wright, Professor of Science/Environmental Education at Kansas State University, has been awarded a 2006 Fulbright Scholar position. In March, he will join the faculty of the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technical Education, University of Malta, to conduct research and offer instruction on the pedagogy of various subjects relating to science, the environment and technology, taught at elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels, including the design of Science and Environmental Methodology Units and co-teaching an Environmental Issues Seminar adapted to address problems in Malta and the European region as compared to the same issues found in the U.S.

In addition, he will work on several European Union Environmental Education projects focusing on the design of a whole school/institution curriculum approach and the administrative structures necessary for successful implementation and evaluation. Dr. Wright will be returning to KSU in December from the National Science Foundation, Arlington, Virginia, where he is currently on Leave working as a Program Director in the ESIE Division and serving as the Teacher Professional Continuum Section Head.

Join the Fun on the Wild Side! Become a Published Artist or Writer!



The Great Plains Nature Center is compiling a collection of Kansas mammals illustrated and/or written by Kansas kids. Students submitting entries chosen to appear in the book will be invited to a special awards ceremony and reception at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas, where they will be recognized for their outstanding writing and/or art submissions and presented with complimentary copies of the book. For more information please contact Lorrie Beck at Lorrie_Beck@fws.gov or 316-683-5499, ext 108 or visit the website at <http://www.gpnc.org/critters.htm>

Teacher Resources

"Center for Innovation in Engineering & Science Education" provides inquiry-based activities & collaborative projects in science & math. Topics include real-time weather & climate data, air pollution, remote sensing data, the Gulf Stream, water use & testing around the world, boiling water, plants & animals in your schoolyard, measuring the circumference of earth, population growth, & tracking a real airplane in flight to see how vectors & trigonometry are used for navigation. <http://www.ciese.org/currichome.html>

"Global Warming Facts & Our Future" explores the latest scientific information from the National Academy of Sciences. Is our climate warming? Are humans causing it? What might be the effects? What can be done? Learn about the greenhouse effect, the carbon cycle, & past changes in our climate. See predicted changes & how they could affect sea levels, agriculture, & ecosystems. Find out about options for reducing CO2 emissions. <http://www.koshlandscience.org/exhibitgcc/index.jsp>

"Minerals Management Service Kids' Pages" offers activities for learning about tidepools, energy, sea water, ocean sand & gravel, drilling for oil in the ocean, & historic shipwrecks of the Gulf of Mexico. <http://www.mms.gov/mmskids/>

FOR MORE EE RESOURCES, EVENTS, & PROGRAMS

Visit the Kansas Online Community at www.kacee.org



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: _____

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I am interested in the following:

Assisting and/or hosting a workshop in my area

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